



# THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

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## AGM Kicks Off Year to Celebrate Canada

York Pioneers gathered for their annual meeting January 29 at John McKenzie House in Toronto, the head office of the Ontario Historical Society. During the meeting, members reviewed the activities and financial transactions for 2016 and elected a board of directors to lead the Pioneers in 2017.

A highlight of this year’s meeting was a special presentation to John Marshall, who retired from the board of directors. John was appointed Honorary Hresident of the society. To mark the occasion he was presented with a copy of a 19th century member’s certificate and a copy of the 1909 annual report. John Marshall was first elected a director of the York Pioneers in 1986 and served twice as president. He oversaw the transfer of Sharon Temple to the Sharon Temple Society in 1991, an important milestone in the history of the York Pioneers. He has served as chair for both programme and publicity committees, and for many years as archivist.

Following the meeting, Gay Gooderham enthralled York Pioneers with her telling of the story of the Gooderham family, and explaining how she developed a genealogical site online to link descendants of the Gooderham family.



Past President Audrey Fox and President David Raymont present John Marshall with a certificate celebrating his appointment as Honorary President of the York Pioneer and Historical Society.  
*Photo Credit: Benjamin Gorgan*

**Launch of the 2017 *York Pioneer* and *Dare to Do What is Right***  
May 18th, 7:30PM at Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas St.  
RSVP’s REQUIRED (space is limited):  
Email: [yorkpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpioneers@gmail.com)  
Telephone: Cindy at 416-618-9084.  
See Page 3 for Details

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## More from the Annual General Meeting



President David Raymont talks with members about the activities to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday. *Photo Credit: Audrey Fox*



New Honorary President John Marshall with his 19<sup>th</sup> century membership certificate and 1909 annual report. *Photo Credit: Audrey Fox*



This year's annual general meeting put smiles on the faces of York Pioneers. *Photo Credit: Benjamin Gorgan*



President David Raymont (far right), Past President Audrey Fox (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), and former presidents (left to right) John Marshall, Diane Reid, Paul Litt, Patricia Robertson, and George Duncan. *Photo Credit: Benjamin Gorgan*

# Launch of the 2017 *York Pioneer* and *Dare to Do What is Right*

Join us for the launch of the 2017 edition of the *York Pioneer* magazine and *Dare To Do What is Right*, the memoirs of Father of Confederation and York Pioneer Sir William Howland. We are meeting at Lambton House, the last remaining building of Howland's industrial site on the Humber River.

Meet authors & editors of the 2017 *York Pioneer* and enjoy readings by Neil Ross and music by William & Polly.

Copies of the magazine and memoir are free to members of the York Pioneer & Historical Society, and are also available for sale to non-members.

Publication of the Howland memoir is a Canada 150 joint project by the York Pioneer & Historical Society and Heritage York.

Time: May 18th, 7:30PM  
Location: Lambton House, 4066  
Old Dundas St.

RSVPs are required as space is limited. To RSVP please contact us:

By Email: [yorkpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpioneers@gmail.com) (Please write "Launch" in subject line)

By Telephone: Cindy at 416-618-9084

Note: Parking in the area is limited. TTC bus 55 Warren Park runs from Jane subway station and stops at the front door of Lambton House.



Sir William Pearce Howland, Father of Confederation and York Pioneer member, whose memoirs have been published as *Dare to Do What is Right*.



Lambton House, the location of the launch of the 2017 *York Pioneer* and *Dare to Do What is Right*.

# Promoting the Howland Memoir

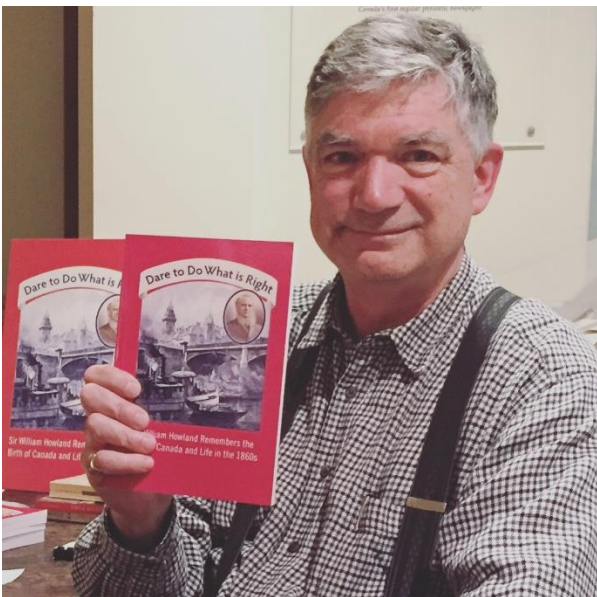
In honour of Canada’s 150th birthday, the York Pioneer and Historical Society joined with Heritage York to publish *Dare to Do What is Right*, the memoirs of Sir William Howland, a Father of Confederation and York Pioneer. In advance of the official launch of the memoir on May 18<sup>th</sup>, York Pioneers have been promoting the memoir at events across Toronto.



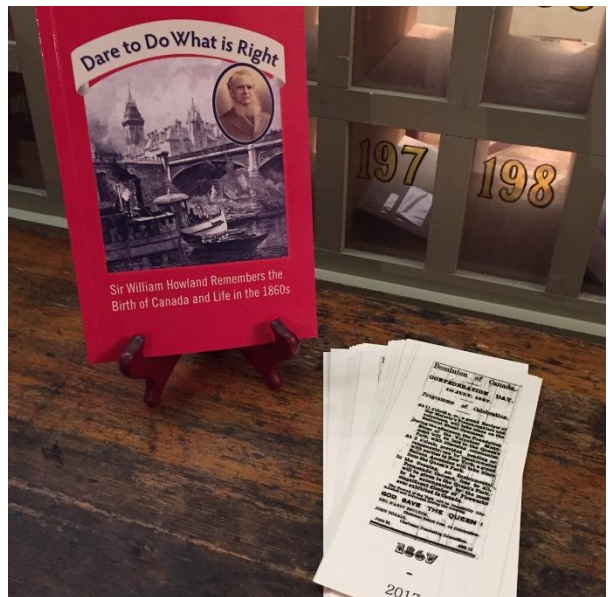
Elizabeth Dowdeswell (r), Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, receives a complimentary copy of *Dare to Do What is Right* from Mary Louise Ashbourne, Vice-President of Heritage York and lifetime member of the YPHS, at Heritage York’s annual fundraising dinner on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. *Photo Credit: Liam Peppiatt*



York Pioneers (l-r) Liam Peppiatt, Audrey Fox, and John Marshall with Lieutenant-Governor Elizabeth Dowdeswell. *Photo Supplied by the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor*



In April President David Raymont gave a reading from *Dare to Do What is Right* at Toronto’s First Post Office. *Photo Credit: Kat Akerfeldt*



A display at Toronto’s First Post Office of the Howland memoir and an article from 1867 on confederation. *Photo Credit: Kat Akerfeldt*

## Society Events

### Steamwhistle Tour

York Pioneers gathered at Steamwhistle Brewery on April 9<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the former John Street Roundhouse, and as the photographs below attest a good time was had by all. *Photo Credits: Benjamin Gorgan*



### Doors Open Toronto

On May 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Scadding Cabin will be open to visitors as part of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Doors Open Toronto. To celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation special items from the archives will be displayed at the cabin, such as the embroidery below produced in 1927 to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. *Photo Credit: David Raymont*



### Support Bill C-323!

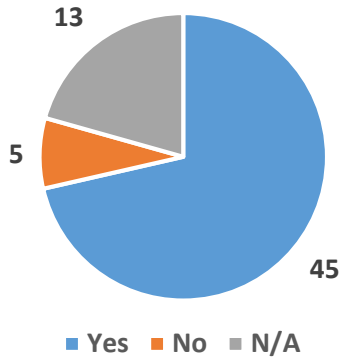
You can help preserve Canada’s heritage buildings and landmarks! Parliament is debating Bill C-323 An Act to create tax incentives for the rehabilitation of Historic Property. The Bill is now being discussed by the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. Please contact Members of Parliament and tell them that this Bill is essential to preserving the landmarks that celebrate Canada’s story, our people and the values we share.

For more information about Bill C-323 please visit:  
<https://openparliament.ca/bills/42-1/C-323/>

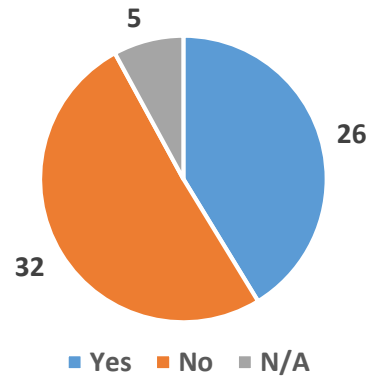
# Member Survey

Early this year your executive circulated a survey to York Pioneers, seeking the input of members on the types of events they would like to attend, their experiences as a York Pioneer, and other topics. The survey results have been collated and the executive is discussing how to take action on the feedback as the society looks towards the years ahead. The executive would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey. In total sixty-three responses to the survey were received, and below are some of the more interesting results.

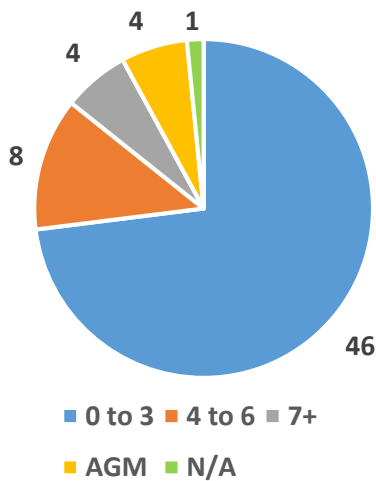
Should the York Pioneers take a more active role in local heritage issues?



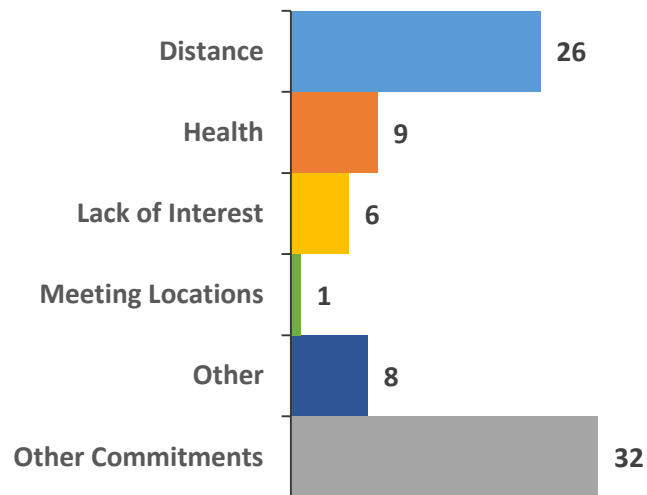
Should the YPHS charge a higher membership fee?



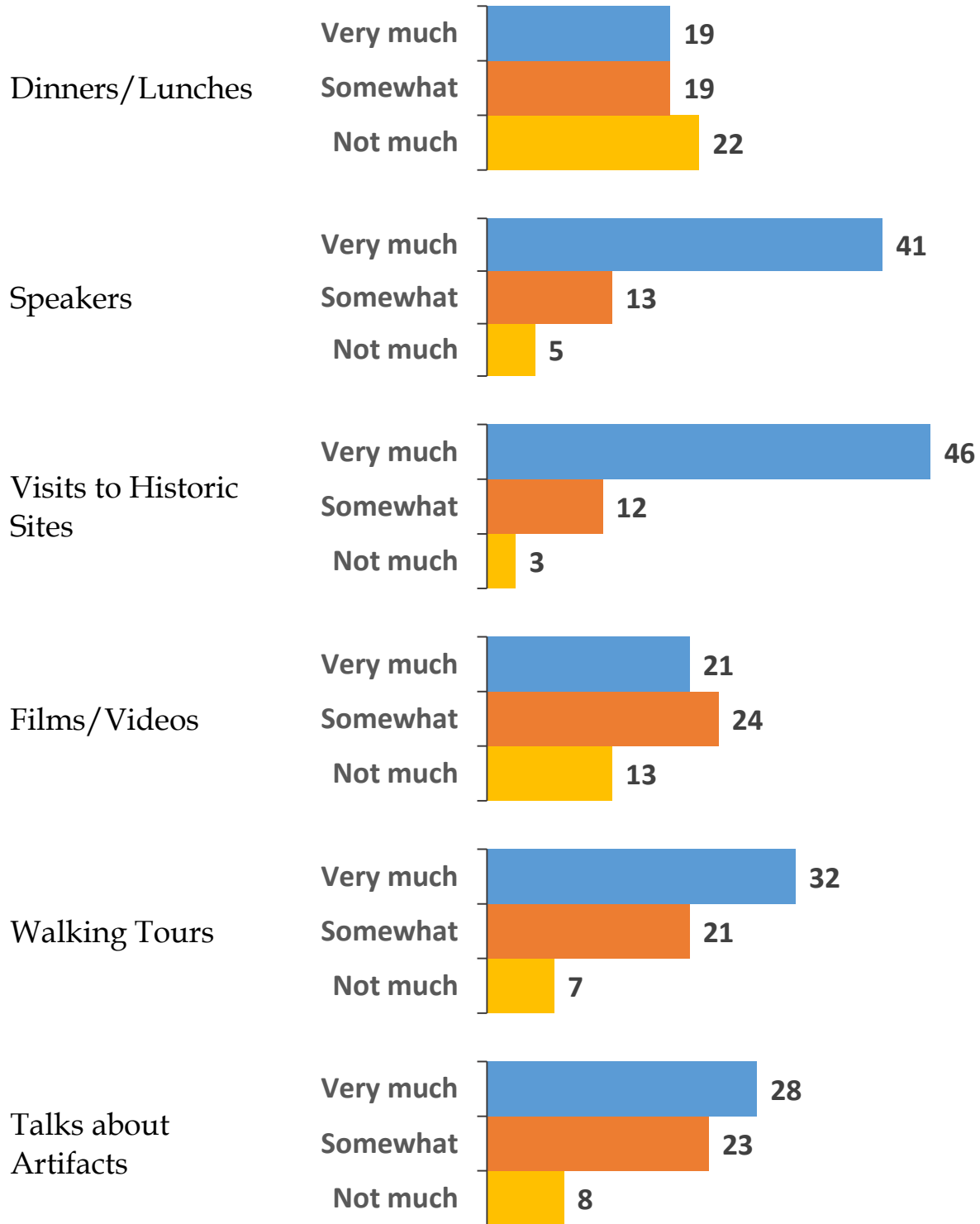
How many events did respondents attend in the past two years?



Number of Respondents who Identified Reasons for Not Attending Events



## How interested are respondents in the following types of events?



# Member News

Since Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> the following individuals have joined the York Pioneer and Historical Society. Welcome!

## New Life Members

Dawn Ayer  
Liam Peppiatt

## New Annual Members

Flavio Volpe  
Stewart Wideman  
Faryal Aslan  
Gillian Moorecroft  
William Reimer  
Beth Alaksa  
Madeleine McDowell  
Ari Kulidjian  
Catherine Waine  
Anukul Sharma  
William E. Jarman  
James Young  
Carol Simmons  
Fred Simmons  
JoAnn Clark  
Rita Turner  
Robert Taylor

## In Memoriam

Long-time York Pioneer Doris Ramsay died at her home in Sharon on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at the age of 97. She and her husband Bruce Ramsay first joined the York Pioneer and Historical Society in 1969, and remained members for over forty years.

The YPHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Sport.