



# THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

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## Join us for our 2019 York Pioneer Magazine Launch!

**Date:** Sunday April 28, 2019  
**Time:** 3 to 5 PM  
**Location:** Owen Staples House  
 69 Hogarth Avenue

Join us to celebrate the 2019 *York Pioneer Magazine* launch! This year's event will be held at the historic residence of the artist Owen Staples, whose work is featured on the magazine's cover.

Pick up a free copy of the magazine, mingle with your fellow York Pioneers and explore the beautiful home that was once a hangout for Toronto's artistic elite. Attendance is free for York Pioneer members.

**Directions:** By TTC: Take subway to Chester Station, walk south along Hampton Ave to Hogarth Avenue (about seven minutes).

**Admission:** \$15 for guests or become a member for \$20.

It is *imperative* to let us know if you plan to attend by April 19, by emailing [yorkpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpioneers@gmail.com) or contact Audrey by phone at: 416-656-0812.

**Space is limited we encourage you to RSVP early to reserve your seat!**

Those in need of accessibility assistance, please let us know in advance!



*Above: The 1904 Owen Staples house and studio on Hogarth Avenue; artists C.W. Jefferys and Staples designed the Arts & Crafts-style house. Photo credit: Toronto Public Library, photographer unknown.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Page 2

Jane's Walk, Sat May 4, 7-9pm  
 Doors Open Weekend, May 25-26, 10am-4pm

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## REPORT FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



*Above: Fred Robbins and Sarah McCabe  
Photo: Audrey Fox*

Those in attendance were treated to a talk by Megan Houston from the Sharon Temple. The talk's focus was Mrs. O.B. Sheppard, the first woman member of the YPHS. Incoming president Fred Robbins presented Sarah McCabe of the Ontario Historical Society with a \$1000 donation on behalf of the YPHS to the Dorothy Duncan Library.



*Above: Past president David Raymont presented incoming president Fred Robbins with the official pin confirming his appointment. Photo: Audrey Fox*



*Above: Your 2019 Board of Directors (see page 6) were also confirmed at the AGM. Photo: Leo Fox*

## SCADDING CABIN UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2019 season for the Scadding Cabin will begin **Saturday May 4** for **Jane's Walk** from 7-9pm. The Cabin will open **Sat-Sun May 25-26** for **Doors Open Toronto** from 10am-5pm. Kayoko Smith will be seeking volunteers for both events, and Roland Smith and la Société d'histoire de Toronto will co-operate during Doors Open.

### Volunteer Appreciation Event

In addition, Kayoko will be holding a volunteer appreciation event for Cabin volunteers.

The event will include training about the Cabin and its furnishings. It is an excellent opportunity for those contemplating volunteering for Jane's Walk or Doors Open to learn about the artifacts ahead of these events. Contact Kayoko at (416) 488-7863 or [kayto.ca@live.ca](mailto:kayto.ca@live.ca) to make volunteering arrangements for any or all of these events!

### Photos from Jane's Walk and Doors Open

Volunteers are also invited to submit their photographs of Scadding Cabin from the Jane's Walk and Doors Open events to [yorkpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpioneers@gmail.com).

## Congratulations to Ralph Berrin – 66 years as participating Life Member of the YPHS!

Ralph was a keen student in his history class. His history teacher recommended a worthwhile investment: buy a Life Membership in York Pioneers. He joined us 1952. Moreover, he has been an active contributor to the YPHS and community-at-large:

- 1966 Chm. Standing Committee - Membership
- 1967 Chm. Standing Committee - Membership
- 1968 Member, Committee of Management
- Author: 1964 *The Pioneer - How Henry Died*
- 1969 Book Review - *The Story of Albion by Hester Hayes*
- 1970 *The Pioneer - Major Boylen*

A 60-year-old manuscript titled *The Rise of the Toronto Jewish Community* has been found in the archives of Beth Tzedec Congregation. Ralph Berrin, a volunteer in the Beth Tzedec Museum, brought the manuscript to the attention of Bill Gladstone, the publisher of Now and Then Books.

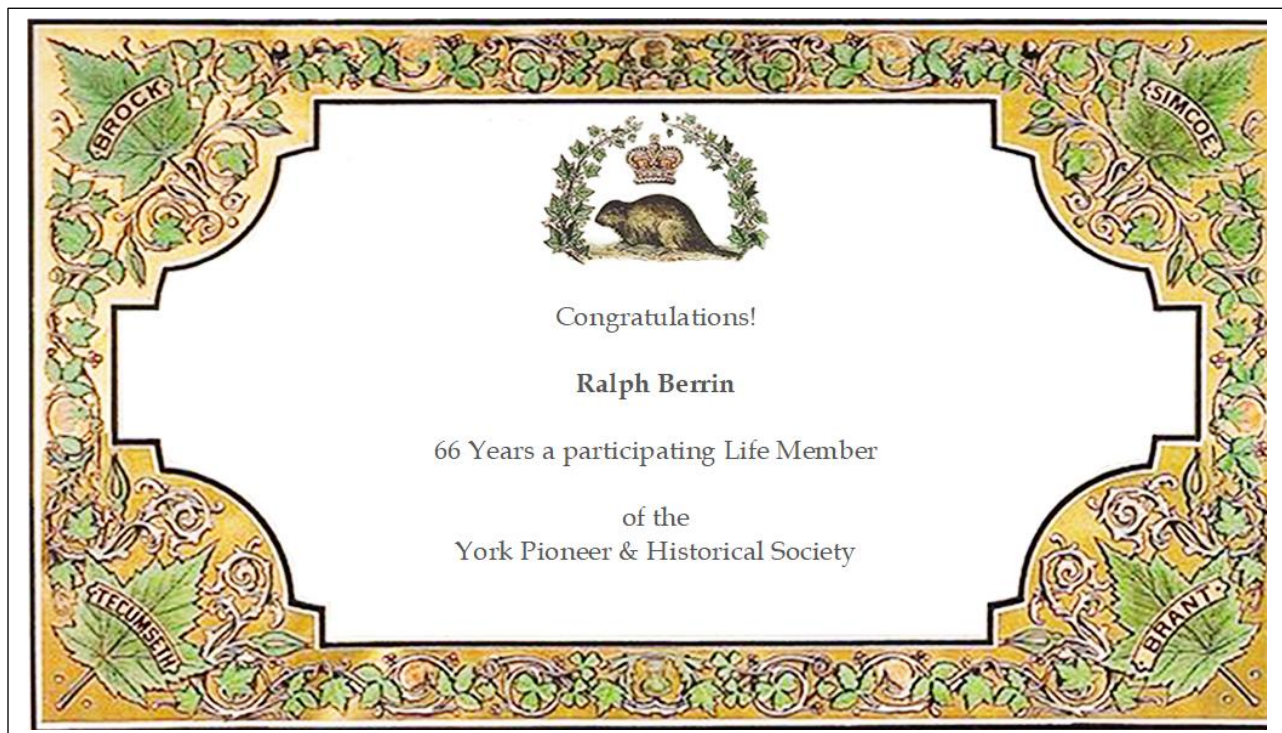
Gladstone identified the author as the late Shmuel Mayer Shapiro, the editor and publisher of the Hebrew Journal, Toronto's main Yiddish newspaper for half a century. Shapiro stopped working on the manuscript about 1950. He died in 1958 and never saw it published. Gladstone received permission from the author's daughter to publish the manuscript under the author's original title.

"When the manuscript was brought to my attention, I was excited and intrigued, recognizing it as an important historical document highlighting the strong immigrant and Yiddish quality of the early Jewish community," Gladstone says. He told The CJN that he is "very proud" to be the editor and publisher of the book.

"I consider it a valuable addition to the limited material available about the early years to about 1950 of the Toronto Jewish community."

The *Rise of the Toronto Jewish Community 2010* includes 90 old photographs and illustrations, some of which are quite rare.

*Credit: "Cynthia Gasner's story: Pre-1950 Jewish Toronto manuscript published."*



*Certificate courtesy of: Gerald Lee*

## Pioneers in the News

Long-time member Joyce Crook was featured in this 13 December article in the Toronto Star.

# Celebrating the 'bridge to nowhere'

2018 13 DEC TO STAR

Residents and politicians mark viaduct's 100th year

**DAVID RIDER**  
CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF

Bundled against the cold, Joyce Crook, 92, could not stay away from a birthday party for a bridge.

"I wouldn't miss it," Crook said Wednesday after watching the unveiling of a Heritage Toronto plaque marking 100 years since the opening of the Prince Edward Viaduct that connects Bloor St. to Danforth Ave.

Crook, who grew up in East York, heard from her father Albert about returning from the Great War to see a magnificent structure connecting Toronto's core to what was, in 1918, an agricultural and industrial suburb isolated by the Don Valley and Rosedale Ravine.

"He said it was great, that it changed the whole east end, it just opened it up," Crook said after the ceremony. "Before



ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE TORONTO STAR

Joyce Crook, 92, talks to Mayor John Tory at a ceremony on Wednesday about her father, who marvelled at what a change the Prince Edward Viaduct was for the east end of the city.

that you had to cross at Gerrard or walk through the valley. It's a marvellous construction. The architect had so much vision."

The bridge, named after future King Edward VIII but pop-

ularly called the "Bloor St. viaduct," was a monumental architecture, engineering and construction feat costing \$2,480,349.05, or about \$36 million in today's dollars.

R.C. Harris, then-public works commissioner, insisted a lower deck be included for a subway connection that would not be built until 1966 — foresight that saved the city a fortune in fu-

ture costs and headaches.

Mayor John Tory said the lesson in the fact that what is now a celebrated Toronto landmark, immortalized in film by Michael Ondaatje's 1987 *In The Skin of a Lion*, was ridiculed by many as a doggle "bridge to nowhere."

"Thankfully the naysayers the day did not win out... said, adding he hears criticisms about city projects. "Even today it's the same — 'too big, too bold, too expensive, too soon.'"

The bridge does, however, have a tragic side. It has long made it a magnet for people who jumped to their deaths.

Councillor Paula Harris paid tribute to the "Le Veil," a suicide barrier: public art installation first named in 2015. "That's new thinking — to take a bridge that had such a sad history and make something so beautiful out of it."

With files from Jack Hauen

Local Stouffville Historian and York Pioneer President **Fred Robbins** will lead a walk for *Jane's Walk*, May 4th at 10:30am and again at 1:30pm, downtown Stouffville. The walk is titled "Saturday in the Park."

**Fred Robbins** is also doing a walk for Doors Open Whitchurch-Stouffville, "A *READ Letter Day*," reading a few historic letters in the downtown core. June 1st at 10am. [www.townofws.ca](http://www.townofws.ca)

**Katharine Williams**, long-time pioneer, life member & frequent contributor to *The York Pioneer* journal, has been hospitalized after a bad fall January 12. We wish her a full and speedy recovery!

To send Kathy a note or card, please mail it in care of her sister:

Mrs. Nancy Blackie  
173 Walby Drive  
Oakville, Ontario  
L6L 4C9

## The Tinsmith – Part Two

As I slowly came back from the Land of Nod, I realized how cool it had become during the night. The snow was the first thing I saw when I poked my head out of the tent. The next was that the coals from last night's fire were still glowing so it would not be long before the fire was roaring and the coffee boiling.

Since I didn't have to worry about Chestnut ( she was safely boarding at the McNamara's farm), I got dressed, stoked the fire and had a leisurely breakfast. While I was working on my second cup of coffee, Moses wandered over to say hello and ask for some help fixing the gate. After an Irish coffee, we returned to the cottage and started on the gate. It only took half an hour to replace one of the hinges. After tea and scones, I went back to my camp and started on some Christmas trinkets that would be going on sale soon.

While grabbing another cup of coffee, I realized the morning had slipped away and the afternoon was creeping up on me very quickly. So I finished my coffee and walked over to the McNamara farm to say hello and check on Chestnut. Seeing her in the field with the other horses, romping around and enjoying the bright, cool day, put a huge grin on my face. I called to her and she trotted over, knowing I was bringing a treat for her.

I found Mr. McNamara and paid him Chestnut's boarding fee for the next month. We went back to the house for a drink and to warm up. While sitting by the fire, Mr. McNamara looked quietly around to make sure his wife wasn't nearby -- he had something to ask me but he didn't want his wife to hear. He was wondering if I could make a large teakettle and a 28-inch reflector oven for him to give his wife for Christmas. I asked him for a pencil and a piece of paper to sketch out the items. He liked what he saw and we settled on a price. I left to begin work on the pieces. A few days later McNamara dropped by to see how his wife's presents were progressing and he was pleased with the results. After some tea, he went home and I went back to repairing a lantern and a washtub for the Baldwins up the hill.

Christmas finally arrived. On the pretense of visiting Chestnut, I delivered the presents to Mr. McNamara. Mrs. McNamara loved the new kettle and oven. After a brief visit, I walked out to the barn to spend some time with my mare. While brushing out her coat, I reflected on the good (and profitable) times I've had here – and thought as well about all the fantastic people I have met.

But I also couldn't help wondering if I should be getting a move on and head on up to Fairbanks Village like I had intended to do all those months ago. Should I stay or should I go?

Barry Mapes, Esq., Tinsmith



*From Wikipedia: A tinsmith, sometimes known as a whitesmith, tinner, tinker, tinman, or tinplate worker is a person who makes and repairs things made of tin or other light metals. By extension it can also refer to the person who deals in tinware, or tin plate. Tinsmith was a common occupation in pre-industrial times.*

*York Pioneer Barry Mapes is a volunteer at the Tollkeeper's Cottage museum at Davenport and Bathurst; he has been learning about tinsmithing. Part One of The Tinsmith appeared in the December 2018 Update.*

## 2019 Board Members and Contact Information

### Officers

**Past President:** David Raymont

**President:** Fred Robbins

**Vice President:** VACANT

**Treasurer:** Cindy Ewins

**Recording Secretary:** Audrey Fox

**Corresponding Secretary [Social media]:** Bob Georgiou

**Archivist:** David Duncan

### Committee Chairs

**Editorial:** Christina Friend Johnston

**Membership:** Michael Nettleton

**Programme:** Adrian De Souza

**Publicity (newsletter):** Brent Cunningham

**Scadding Cabin:** Kayoko Smith

**Representative on the Board of Sharon Temple:** Fred Robbins

### Members at Large

Benyamin Gorgan

Liam Peppiatt

Angus Palmer

### **Reminder: Existing Members – RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

A friendly reminder to all existing members that annual memberships extend from Jan 1 through Dec 31. If you wish to receive your 2019 issue of *The York Pioneer*, you may do so in-person April 28 at the launch by cash or cheque. Or you may renew online by PayPal: <https://www.yorkpioneers.com/membership/>

1869 – 2019

**150<sup>th</sup>**

### **Welcome New Members!**

Polly Windsor Dany Gergees Anne Stewart  
Sarah Gossip Tim Forster Daniel Barker  
Christina Friend-Johnston David Patterson  
Teresa Gard

### **Elevated to Life Members!**

Frederick Cane Russell Smith

### **New Life Members!**

Sheila Tejpal John Petrosoniak  
John T. Firstbrook – John's great-grandfather,  
also John Firstbrook was a life member from  
1911 to 1939.

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