



# THE UPDATE

## York Pioneer and Historical Society

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### The 2020 York Pioneer Magazine Launch

Given the State of Emergency measures taken by the City of Toronto and Province of Ontario, we regret that our annual release of the 2020 York Pioneer Magazine will not involve our public Launch this year. However, the YPHS wishes to assure all members that our Editorial Committee is working diligently to send out our magazine by mail by end of April.

### OHS Launches Ontario History Digital Journal Archive

As York Pioneers and Ontarians at-large find ourselves confined to our homes during this time of physical distancing, the YPHS is pleased to promote the launch of the Ontario Historical Society's *Ontario History Journal Digital Archive*. The OHS has digitized over 120 years of journals, and over 2000 articles and book reviews into the largest collection of resources about Ontario's history online:

<https://ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/back-issues/>

The OHS have been loyal and faithful partners of the YPHS, sharing a common heritage through the efforts of Rev Henry Scadding, and the YPHS are delighted to promote this fascinating repository. The YPHS encourages all of our members to stay home, stay safe, and feed our love of history productively through regular visits the OHS Ontario History Journal!



*Above: John McKenzie House, home of the Ontario Historical Society, circa 1919.*

### NOTICE TO VOLUNTEERS REGARDING UPCOMING EVENTS

Volunteers are advised that due to State of Emergency measures taken by the Province of Ontario, all volunteer events are postponed until further notice. See Page 2.

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## REPORT FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



*Above: President Fred Robbins convenes the AGM*  
*Photo: Brent Cunningham*

Those in attendance were treated to a talk by author Jane Fairburn with excerpts from her 2013 book *Along the Shore*. President Fred Robbins also unveiled the latest artifacts donated to our historical society, treasures from the descendants of Scadding family themselves: the Scadding Family Bible, tea caddy set, and silver spoons; these items were gifts from Lt Governor John Graves Simcoe to the Scaddings. Fred's article (overleaf) examines these silver spoons in finer detail.



*Above: Jane Fairburn, author of Along the Shore.*  
*Photo: Sue Roden*



*Above: The latest donations to the YPHS: the Scadding family tea caddy set, family Bible, and silver spoons.*  
*Photo: Brent Cunningham*

## IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON UPCOMING EVENTS

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, the City of Toronto cancelled all event permits until 30 June as a necessary State of Emergency safety measure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, we regret that *Jane's Walk* and *Doors Open Toronto* are impacted and will not take place this year.

Also impacted are **Heritage Toronto's** unveiling of the *Scadding Estate 150<sup>th</sup>* plaque and the *Sharon Temple Gala*, both originally scheduled for mid-June. These events may or may not be re-scheduled within this calendar year depending on when the State of Emergency measures are lifted by the Province of Ontario. The YPHS will endeavour to keep all members up-to-date on these and other events ahead of the August publication of *The Update*.

The YPHS values the health & safety of all of our volunteers and members and will always respect and follow the directives of public health authorities. While it is impossible to forecast what the state of the pandemic will be in the coming months, volunteers are also encouraged to listen to the advice of public authorities and to reach out to the YPHS as the dates for summer events approach.

## Scadding Collection/Donation – Silver Spoons

By Fred Robbins

As displayed at the Annual General Meeting, we were the recipient of a kind and generous donation. It included three silver spoons. We are told that the Simcoe family gave these for the christening of each of the Scadding boys, John, Charles and Henry.

The English language expression “silver spoon” is synonymous with wealth, especially inherited wealth. Some are said to be born “with a silver spoon in their mouth”. In pre-modern times ownership of a silver spoon was an indication of social class, denoting membership in the land-owning classes. For farmers and craftsmen who worked long hours and frequently got their hands dirty, it was important to not be mistaken for a “serf” or “slave”. Under these conditions a silver spoon served the functional equivalent of passport, driving license and credit card.<sup>1</sup>

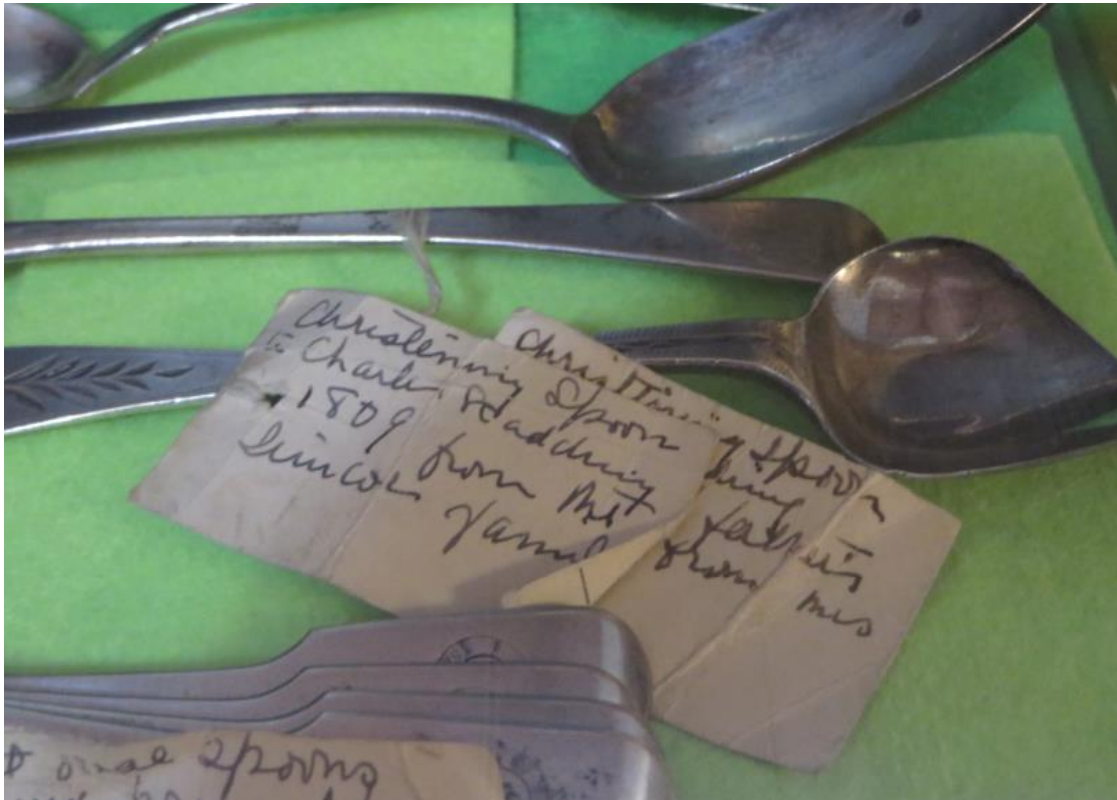
Silver spoons because of their weight and number were often among the most valuable tangible assets of a middle-class household. A late 18<sup>th</sup> century spoon can still today be bought for less than £10 (pounds sterling; approximately CDN\$17.50).



Photo: Gerald Lee

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia –Silver spoon, p.1,2

This collection of spoons has certain maker's marks stamped into them. Each spoon is unique and has a different set of marks. *Silver Standard marks* (Lion Passant in rectangle) means it is sterling silver .925. *City Marks – London, England* uses the crowned leopard's head from 1487 – 1822. *The City – Exeter, England* uses a three castles mark. The *Date of Tax* marking letter changed annually in May the cycles of the date letters were usually in strings of 20. Each cycle was differentiated by a font, letter case and shield. King George III 1786 – 1821 was the reigning monarch who the duty was paid to. The mark was a side profile of his bust.



*Photo: Brent Cunningham*

The spoons in our collection have one with "G" therefore 1802, "H" therefore 1803, "O", therefore 1809. The boys were born as recorded in their Scadding Family Bible:

*John Scadding was born March 5<sup>th</sup> 1807*

*Charles Scadding born October 10<sup>th</sup> 1809*

*Henry Scadding born July 29<sup>th</sup> 1813*

This would indicate that the spoons were made in a certain year and location then given to the Scaddings at the appropriate time. The family history mentions they were christening spoons. They are a large table spoon size with a crest of a stylized "S" in the handle.

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

This is a friendly reminder to all existing members that annual memberships run from January 1st through to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

In 2020, we have a **new membership structure** as follows:

- Students: \$20
- Individual: \$30
- Family: \$50
- Life: \$300

**Individuals taking out a life membership will receive an income tax receipt.**

*Your membership fee will be put right to work*, supporting the publication of "The York Pioneer"; helping to preserve our City's heritage; and making it available for all to enjoy.

Won't you please continue your support of Ontario's oldest historical society?

Please renew your membership today online through PayPal at:

<https://www.yorkpioneers.com/membership>

or send us your cheque or money order today to:

The York Pioneer and Historical Society  
PO Box 45026  
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Toronto, Ontario  
M4P 3E3

Thank you!

## 2020 Board Members and Contact Information

### Officers

**Past President:** David Raymont

**President:** Fred Robbins

**Vice President:** Michael Nettleton

**Treasurer:** Lionel Collier

**Recording Secretary:** Gerry Lee

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

**Archivist:** Jennifer Gray

### Committee Chairs

**Editorial:** vacant

**Membership:** Angus Palmer

**Programme:** Beth Alaksa

**Publicity/Newsletter:** Brent Cunningham

**Scadding Cabin:** Kayoko Smith

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

### Members at Large

Sara Gossip

Cindy Ewins

### **Welcome New Members!**

L.L. Beverley Kuchera   G. A. Robinson Kuchera   Tenzin Lhundup  
Mel Lorimer   Paul Marquis   Marilyn Roberts   Lisa Wheeler

### **New Life Members!**

Carol McArthur   Benjamin J. Palmer

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

