



THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

PO Box 186, 260 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, ON M5N 1N1
www.yorkpioneers.com
yorkpioneers@gmail.com

The 2022 Annual General Meeting Special Provisions

Date: Saturday April 2nd, 2022

The York Pioneers wish to comply with public health measures to protect our members and the public-at-large. Page 2 explains in greater detail how we will conduct business this year, very similar to how we conducted business last year.

Seeking a Volunteer with Quickbooks Expertise

Do you or someone you know have expertise or hands-on experience using Quickbooks? Would you be willing to offer an hour per month to help training and basic record keeping with Quickbooks? If so, the Board of the YPHS would love to hear from you! Send us your portfolio or contact us at yorkpioneers@gmail.com.



Above: Scadding Cabin in light snow, October 2020. Photo: Grant MacDonald

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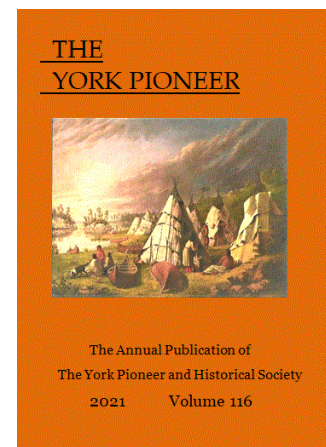
The Annual General Meeting will be virtual this year

This year's Annual General Meeting will be very similar to how we conducted business last year. Respecting gathering limits and provincial, regional, and municipal restrictions, the Board has decided instead to use a mail-in ballot for AGM 2022.

Our plan for the AGM is as follows:

Friday February 18, 2022

- Deadline to be a Member in Good Standing who is eligible to vote at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.
- If your membership is paid up for 2021, or if you renewed already for 2022, you are eligible to vote using the mail-in ballot.
- We must receive your renewal by February 18th if you wish to be eligible to vote at the AGM. Renew online on our website, <https://www.yorkpioneers.com/membership/> or send your renewal by mail as detailed on Page 13.
- This is also the deadline for us to receive any further nominations for positions on the Board of Directors. See details on Pages 14 and 15 of how to put yourself forward as a candidate below the report of the Nominating Committee.



Friday March 11, 2022

- Ballots will be mailed to all Members in Good Standing, and a return postage paid envelope will be included.
- Included with the ballot will be:
 - Year-end financial statements for approval
 - Board of Directors slate of candidates from the Nominating Committee, together with information about anyone else also seeking election to a Board position
 - Other background information for additional votes to take place

Friday April 1, 2022

- Deadline for ballots to be received by us. Please allow plenty of time when mailing back your ballot.

Saturday April 2, 2022

- Date of record for the Annual General Meeting (no meeting to be held)
- Ballots will be counted.
- Elected candidates will be notified.
- Results will be announced by email and also in the next Update newsletter.

REPORT FROM THE WOODBIDGE FALL FAIR: THANKSGIVING WEEKEND 2021



*Above: Diane Reid and Lionel Collier work the booth.
Photo: Fred Robbins.*

This was our second opportunity to participate in the Fall Fair. This year the York Pioneer and Historical Society were asked to help demonstrate rope making and butter making, with a churn. We were willing to help with this and added some pioneer crafts and other artifact displays from the Scadding Cabin.

Our location at the fair was again in the section with other pioneer displays. This included a blacksmith with an operating forge. The blacksmith was demonstrating tool making on an anvil. Next to this display was pioneer outdoor cooking over an open fire. We were able to taste scones and cake and saw a full turkey roasted during both days.

Fair organizers kindly provided a large marquee tent, 20 by 20 and a few tables. The rope making machine was set up on a couple of saw horses in front to engage the

crowd. Our society volunteers were Lionel Collier, Diane Reed and Fred Robbins. All of them were dressed in pioneer outfits. Lionel brought along a pioneer game for the younger folks which proved very entertaining. Diane used a small jar to shake some cream and show a different way of making butter. Also during the noon hour, how to use a churn was demonstrated using real cream. After a tiring ten minutes of churning, the cream was converted to butter.

The first day, Saturday was damp and a bit of rain. However the exciting event of the Fall Fair was the Giant Vegetable Growers (GVG) display in the morning. To everyone's surprise a Canadian record was set with a large pumpkin weighing in at 2006 lbs.! This was a father and daughter team from Quebec. The pumpkin was delivered all wrapped up in blankets and tarps. They had said that it could lose weight from being dehydrated during the drive down.



Above: Assorted artifacts. Photo: Fred Robbins.

The next two days were very busy and the volunteers hardly had time for a lunch break. The crowds peaked about 12:30 and lasted till about 4:00. The other draw which helped our location was we were across from the petting zoo which had a good variety of farm animals. This was a great experience and well worth doing again.



Above: Canadian record setting pumpkins at Woodbridge Fall Fair.
Photo: Fred Robbins.

CNE Ghost Walks - Resurrected 2021!

In the August edition of The Update, we forecasted that the CNE Ghost Walks were unlikely to be a feature this year.

Happily, we were dead wrong! And a small group of volunteers including Fred Robbins, Diane Reid, Beth Alaksa, and Brent Cunningham hastily managed to represent the YPHS for this favoured event that passed us over last year.

As in the past, the 1 hour walk is held every Friday night in October until Hallowe'en and covers some 200 years of haunted history of the grounds. The walk begins at the Princes' Gates and ends at the Scadding Cabin. However this year, in keeping with physical distancing precautions, visitors did not enter the Cabin, nor were apple cider and snacks served. But visitors didn't leave empty handed, with small mementoes distributed by the YPHS volunteers at the end of the tour.

Heavy rains and lightning on at least two evenings added an extra spooky aura to the event. Having resurrected this event on short notice, following the long COVID-19 shut-down, our volunteers hope that – just maybe – things will resemble normal next October...



Above: Diane Reid as distraught Mrs. Scadding and Fred Robbins as a workman delivering the bad news of the tragic event he witnessed. *Photo:* Beth Alaksa.



Top left: Fred Robbins casts an eerie shadow on the Scadding Cabin. Top right: Diane Reid and Fred Robbins. Bottom: Neither rain, nor snow, nor COVID-19 could spook this crowd away from Ghost Walks 2021. Photos: Beth Alaksa.

THE SHARON TEMPLE 2021



Above: The Sharon Temple as it appeared in 2020. Photo: David Raymont

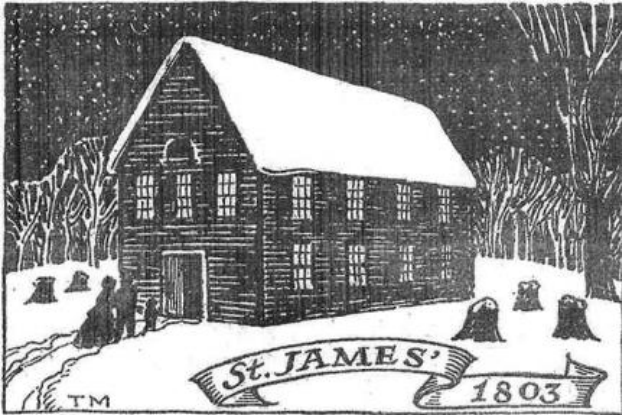
It's an opportunity to see Sharon Temple fully illuminated with beeswax candles lighting the entire first storey, while being treated to musical entertainment and experiencing the space as it was meant to be enjoyed. The celebration of hope was the focus.

The annual Illumination of the Sharon Temple remains one of our most popular local events. Historically it has been held on the first Friday of September each year since 1831, its purpose was to celebrate the success of the community's harvest.

This year it was expanded to include a Pig Roast, Food Trucks, Market Brewery & more. It started at 4:00 PM featuring Patrick Fockler, Glenn Marais, Bernadette Connors and The Grady Brothers. The music was enjoyed on the front lawn before the featured artist.

Illumination began at 8:00 PM featuring Christopher Dallo. You were able to watch the event inside the Temple, others watched on a large screen outdoors on the front lawn of the site.

The York Pioneer members present this year were Lionel Collier, who brought some friends for the experience. Diane Reid, Kayoko Smith and Fred Robbins enjoyed dinner at the tables outside. There was time to mingle and share stories about the part that the York Pioneers had in moving the other buildings to the site and all the restoration work done with volunteers. Diane shared, "The evening was much better than the year before. It was a 180 degree turn around." A thanks to member Lionel for his work as the chauffer for the ladies was appreciated.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN MUDDY YORK 1834

*Image: Thoreau MacDonald illustration,
Source: Storied York, Toronto Old and New
1931.*

Transcribed by Katherine Williams.

Background Note: *Harriet Ayre Stabback (1810-1862) lived in London, England prior to her arrival in Canada in 1835. She moved to York to be with her brother James and his wife Mary Harvey (Pengelly). Harriet is listed in the 1835 City Directory as operating a dress-making business under her own name. Shortly thereafter she married Edward Cooper, a local merchant, and began to raise a family. One of their children, Matilda Ann Cooper, married James Lumbers, son of William Lumbers.*

In the letter below, Mary Stabback writes to her sister-in-law Harriet, addressed: Miss Stabback, 82 East Street, Manchester Square, London. The original letter was sealed with red wax, and most likely mailed at Toronto's first post office at 260 Adelaide Street East. Mary reveals her loneliness and her desire for Harriet to come to Canada to keep her company. It is Christmas Day and Mary mentions the lacklustre spirit of the festive day, along with the onset of her first Canadian winter. Her

husband and Mr. Cooper have gone hunting for small game, but have not returned home yet for the Christmas meal that Mary has prepared and is ready to serve.

Further Note: *The language, punctuation, and content has been retained as originally transcribed from the 1834 source.*

Toronto Dec 25, 1834

My dear Harriet,

Doubtless you have long since heard of our safe arrival after a tedious passage of the ten weeks from London to this Place. We are now got settled in a wood house containing 3 Rooms up stairs for which we pay 12 £ a year the rents are very high here, but provision is Low, Beef 4, Pork 2./ & 3 Mutton Do [ditto] Butter 8 & 9 Gees 2/6 &c so you perceive it does not cost so much in living as at home.

I went to a Milliners to enquire about bonnets, the shapes are all Paper and they charge 2/6 for making a bonnet the shapes are very old last winters shapes at home are now new here. I should be glad if you were here as it is very lonely for me having no one to speak from the time James leaves in the morning, until his return at night, which is 9 oclock so I am 12 hours alone.

This is Christmas day – but I can scarcely believe it, so very Lonely, they made no more preparation for it than any other time. Home we always had carols sung Christmas-eve and went Christmas morn to the Chapel where there was a

Prayer-meeting held at 5 o'clock & the Place Decorated beautifully with Laurel Box &c here there is nothing of the kind, the winter is now set in & it is very cold. Last night we had snow so it is a white world, - It is much better now than when we had rain, the streets were so dirty that it was impossible to cross without being over the shoes in mire.

James boards the house or partially he breakfasts & sups home, his salary is 65 £ a year. He says the Place is not near so comfortable now as formerly. Mr. Ware's brother is come up from Montreal so things are ruled according to his pleasure.

If you have any thoughts of coming, I would advise you to come with Mr. Steer the voyage is so much for any female to undertake alone, if he comes without you, I shall give up all hopes of ever seeing you in Toronto.

We are often favoured with Mr. Coopers company. I am convinced nothing would give him greater pleasure than to see you. James & him are gone a shooting they promised to come & dine at 4 o'clock it is after that time & they are not arrived I have roast-Goose & a Plum-pudding ready waiting for their arrival. I hope they will soon be home I feel anxious when any one is after the appointed time. We are anxiously expecting a letter from home, it appears almost an age since I have heard from them, I am often thinking something has happened to some of them, and it disturbs me beyond measure.

We have been blessed with health, thank God, though the weather was never better than it has been since I have been here. Please remember me kindly to your dear Mother, Brothers & Sisters, James unites me in Love to all. Mr. Cooper desires to be kindly remember to you & Mrs. Stabback - he is quite well.

I suppose you have had a letter from my sister Eliza, I desired her to write when they received my Letter. The basket James brought was thrown overboard by one of the sailors, if you come, I should be glad if you would bring me one, there is nothing of the kind to met with here.

Mr. Steer left Toronto for England about a month since, he has a parcel for you addressed to Mr. Cooper at Holborn Bridge, containing letter &c, one letter containing 2 sovereigns for you to purchase some things for Mr. Cooper.

If you come, I should thank you to bring me a collar, the newest patters, a quart of scotch cambria, about 2/. Hopping this finds you well, I must conclude

Believe me to remain your affectionate sister.

Adieu. Adieu. Adieu. M.H.S.

P.S. If you should not come, don't send me those things that I have mentioned.

Source:

The Harriet Stabback portfolio contains 18 original letters written between 1833 and 1835. The series consists of correspondence between Harriet Ayre Stabback, Mary Harvey Pengelly, and James Stabback (Mary's fiancé and Harriet's brother). James came to Canada in 1833 where he found employment in York. He returned to England and wed Mary in the spring of 1834. He planned to return to Canada with Mary and his family, however Harriet did not accompany them. Mary's missives from York encourage her sister-in-law Harriet to join them; she frequently describes her great sense of isolation in her new home York. The letters document the difficult voyage and the harsh elements of the "New World." The originals donated to the City of Toronto Archives were in the possession of Matilda Ann Lumbers and her decedents.

The above letter is labelled Series 452, Item 13, City of Toronto Archives. Records have been reviewed, and are available to the public with no restrictions.

The Tinsmith - Part Six

After seven hours of marching, the order was given to halt and make camp for the night. The apprentices (that's correct, they were ordered to come along) and I set up by a tree. Zeke unhitched the horses and got them settled for the night while Caleb gathered wood and started dinner. As for me, I had to start on some replacement canteens and plates that had mysteriously disappeared since leaving Fort York. After finishing with the horses I had Zeke start cutting out pieces for the canteens. Just as we sat down to dinner, the Sergeant-Major came over asking how we were fairing after the march. I reported that all was well and the canteens and the plates would be finished in a couple of hours. He moved on to the next campfire after a little more small talk. After dinner, Caleb started on the plates while Zeke and I continued with the canteens. We delivered the finished pieces to the Sergeant-Major where I asked him about replenishing our supply of tin sheets and he said that he would look into it.

It seemed that I had just closed my eyes when the bugler sounded revelry and I had to get up. Apparently that cider has more of a kick than I'd remembered. Zeke put some water on the fire while I pulled out some of the preserves and bread. Caleb fed and watered the horses. After breakfast the boys cleaned up and then packed the wagon while I went to the officer's call. We were informed that we should arrive at Fort George by mid-afternoon and we would be there for about three or four days. I was told that when we arrived to leave the wagon loaded and make use of the Artificer's building if necessary. As the meeting broke up I was informed that our skills would be needed at the fort as their tinsmith was very ill and the kitchen and soldier's equipment were in need of repair. After telling the boys what to expect at the fort they finished clearing our site and hitched up the horses. While waiting to move out, the lieutenant came up asking if we had any spare room for an injured soldier. Apparently he had twisted his ankle and could not walk any further on it. I had Caleb make some room and put down our tent as a cushion for the soldier who was placed into the wagon. Along the way we learned that the soldier's name was Claude Gillingham and he had enlisted three years ago when he could not find work in Prescott where he had been born. When asked about his ankle, Claude turned away and mumbled something about trying to impress a certain young lady back at Fort York before we left. The marching had made it worse and that's why he was with us. The rest of the trip was spent talking about what we wanted to do after being released from our military duties. It was late afternoon when we entered Fort George and dropped the soldier off at the fort's hospital. We parked the wagon next to the Artificer's building and took the horses over to the stables for the night.

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 member Barry Mapes is a volunteer at the Tollkeeper's Cottage and your YPHS Representative at the CNEA. He has been learning about tinsmithing.

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 31st. Memberships that are renewed after October 31, 2021 will be carried forward through to the end of 2022.

In 2021, our Membership Structure is as follows:

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

Individuals will receive a charitable donation receipt for membership fees paid.

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 186
260 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5N 1N1

Thank you!

**CONSIDER MEMBERSHIP
AS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFT IDEA...**

REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2021 Nominating Committee members:

- From the current Board: David Raymont, Stefanie Lem, Kayoko Smith,
- From the general membership: John Marshall, Richard Fiennes-Clinton, Madeline McDowell

The Committee hereby reports, proposing the following slate of candidates for the 2022 Board of Directors:

Officers:

Past President: David Raymont

President: Fred Robbins

Vice President: Beth Alaksa

Treasurer: Lionel Collier

Recording Secretary: George Duncan

Corresponding Secretary [Social media]: Melissa Vella Singh

Archivist: Gerry Lee

Committee Chairs:

Editorial: vacant

Membership: Sarah Gossip

Programme: Stefanie Lem

Publicity (newsletter): Brent Cunningham

Scadding Cabin: Kayoko Smith

Representative on the Board of Sharon Temple: Fred Robbins

Members at Large: Angus D. Palmer, Michael Nettleton, Richard Fiennes-Clinton

Appointment, Canadian National Exhibition: Angus D. Palmer

In addition to the above slate of candidates, any member of the organization in good standing is free to put his or her own name forward and to stand for election to any Board position.

If you wish to stand for a Board position, please complete the form below and return to us by email to yorkpioneers@gmail.com or by regular mail to the address on Page 13. Deadline for us to RECEIVE is Friday, February 18th, 2022.

Anyone declaring as a candidate by Friday, February 18th will be included on the ballot going out to all Members, and the mail in vote will determine the outcome of the election.

For further information, contact Cindy Ewins at 416-618-9084.

I wish to stand as a candidate for the Board position of _____
for the year from the AGM April 2, 2022 until the AGM in 2023.

My name: _____

My address including postal code: _____

My phone number: _____

Brief bio, including information about your association with the York Pioneers and why you wish to be considered for the Board position (50 - 100 words):

If submitting by mail, please send to: The York Pioneer and Historical Society
PO Box 186
260 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
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SCADDING CABIN VOLUNTEERS - PAST & PRESENT

Everyone looks forward to our summers working at the Cabin. Health measures this year have kept the doors and windows closed. However, Kayoko maintained the garden as colourful and butterfly friendly through the spring and summer as usual. Fred has seen to several necessary repairs throughout 2020 and 2021. All of us are hopeful for a safe reopening and "spring cleaning" in early 2022.

Can the rest of us use this unexpected free time to do some reminiscing, with a pen? Can you share a short story of the interesting memories you have enjoyed at the Cabin? Perhaps recalling who or what inspired your participation?

Our visitors always have the most surprising information to enrich our experience. So often visitors compare Cabin life with their own, when growing up in various locations around the world!

Please everyone, tell about the fun of your summers at Scadding Cabin. These stories will be another treat waiting for us when we reopen in 2022.

yorkpioneers@gmail.com

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In Memoriam

Lillian Tanizaki was a member of the YHPS from 1998 to this year. She was a volunteer at the Scadding Cabin from 1994 to 2017, a full four years before she became a member:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thestar/obituary.aspx?n=lillian-tanizaki&pid=199901524>

The York Pioneer & Historical Society offers our condolences to Lillian's family.

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND BEST WISHES IN 2022 FROM THE
YORK PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY!!!