

THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

PO Box 45026, 2482 Yonge Street, Toronto ON M4P 3E3

www.yorkpioneers.com
yorkpioneers@gmail.com

Join us for our Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday February 3, 2019
Time: 2 to 4 PM
Location: John McKenzie House
34 Parkview Ave Willowdale

GUEST SPEAKER: Megan Houston, (Education and Program Coordinator for Sharon Temple National Historic Site and Museum) will join us to speak about Julia Sheppard, the first woman to become a member of the York Pioneers. Megan’s presentation won applause at last year’s Ontario Women’s History Network Conference. Her presentation will be a great way to kick off the 150th anniversary of the York Pioneers.

NOTE: For anyone who has not been to this location, exercise caution as Google may try to send you to Mackenzie House in downtown Toronto.



Above: the oldest known photo of John McKenzie House, taken circa 1919; now the home of the Ontario Historical Society and the venue for our AGM

IN THIS ISSUE

- Proposed slate for 2019 Board 2
- Scadding Cabin closed for the season 2
- Member news 3
- Enter our Design Contest! 3
- Nut Man plaque fundraising 4
- The Tinsmith - a short story 5
- Photos from our Annual Dinner 6



REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2018 Nominating Committee members:

- from the current Board: Cindy Ewins (chair), Fred Robbins, Kayoko Smith
- from the general membership: Gerald Lee, Brent Cunningham

The Committee hereby reports, proposing the following slate of candidates for the 2019 Board of Directors:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • 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 |
| • Editorial | Christina Friend-Johnston |
| • Program | Adrian De Souza |
| • Membership | Michael Nettleton |
| • Publicity (Update) | Brent Cunningham |
| • Scadding Cabin | Kayoko Smith |
| • Sharon Temple | Fred Robbins |
| • Members at large | Benyamin Gorgan Liam Peppiatt Angus D. Palmer |

In addition to this 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. Do this by declaring as a candidate at the Annual General Meeting coming up on February 3, 2019. At that point there would be a vote to determine the outcome of the election. For further information, contact Cindy Ewins (chair of Nominating Committee) on 416-618-9084.

SCADDING CABIN CLOSED FOR SEASON

Your board held its November meeting at the Cabin after packing up all the artifacts and taking the valuable ones to storage.

Thanks to David Raymont, Fred Robbins, Adrian daSouza, Cindy Ewins, Kayoko Smith and Audrey Fox for braving the chilly weather!



Above: the bare looking Cabin after the furniture and artifacts were packed

Below: a cold & dreary November day



Another successful year at the Cabin

“Not Far From the Tree” picked pounds of apples from our trees; many participants enjoyed the Ghost Walks that ended at the Cabin; and hundreds visited during the 18-day CNE.

Some minor repairs will be undertaken before the snow flies.

Design Contest

Wanted: Design for commemorative pin for our 150th anniversary in 2019

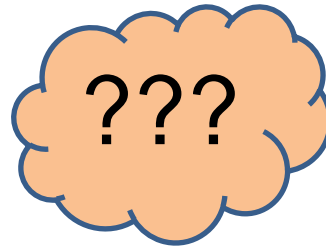
Style: 1.25" enamel lapel pin
up to 4 colours in design
choice of metal for outlines
(check out artik.com for examples of this type of pin)

Technical: We are looking for design concept only
Can be hand drawn or digital (any generic format)

Deadline: January 11, 2019

Prize: Small cash prize for creator of selected design

Submit: by email only yorkpioneers@gmail.com



Welcome to new members

Chris Drew
Michael Fitzpatrick
David York
Russell Smith

and also: Angus D. Palmer, who joined taking out a life membership.

Deaths

David Willson McMACKON

May 11, 1930 - December 31, 2017

YPHS Life Member; descendant of the Willsons founders of the Children of Peace, builders of Sharon Temple.

A kind, caring and considerate man, he was quick with a joke or funny line and quicker with a helping hand. He was good, loyal and generous to family and friends.

Philip William Bruce CREIGHTON, FCA, ODT, died at 89 on August 4, 2018, in South Muskoka Memorial Hospital, Bracebridge. Philip was an honorary Life Member of the YPHS and our accountant for many years.

He was born on May 18, 1929 in Toronto, son of Donald Grant Creighton and Luella Sanders Bruce Creighton, treasured brother of Cynthia Flood; beloved husband and best friend of Phyllis (nee Manning), loving father of Lisa Creighton (Tim Hyslop), Jane (deceased), Angus, and Stephen (Elizabeth Sillett), and grandfather of Margaret, Shannon, Victor, and Ross Hyslop, Jack and Claire Creighton.

Philip was an accountant, a teacher of accounting and an accomplished author. He contributed 16 entries to the Dictionary of Canadian Biography and wrote an engaging history of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.

He maintained his own practice as a public accountant, focusing on charities and not-for-profits, until October 2016. Witty, perceptive, gentle, inimitable, he is deeply missed by many.

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

Help Etobicoke Celebrate Local Pioneer

You can play a big part in helping the Etobicoke Historical Society (EHS) establish a plaque to celebrate local athlete, teacher, vegetarian and farmer George Corsan. An article about George by Denise Harris appeared in the 2016 York Pioneer magazine.

To help Etobicoke history buffs achieve their goal, the York Pioneer and Historical Society will match each dollar donated by York Pioneer members – so you can double your donation!

Just send an email to the York Pioneer gmail account outlining the amount of money you have donated, and upon confirmation of receipt by the EHS, the York Pioneers will send matching funds directly to the Etobicoke Historical Society.

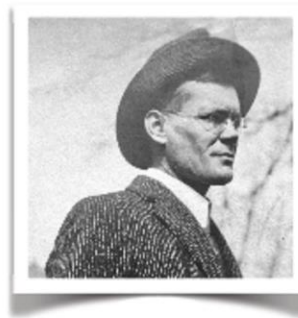
A plaque for George Corsan “The Nut Man of Islington”



The Etobicoke Historical Society has received approval from Heritage Toronto to install a plaque for George Corsan, one of our prominent citizens.

We are seeking donations to cover the cost of \$6500.

George Corsan was born in Ontario in 1867. He was an accomplished swimmer, and in the early 1900's became renowned as an innovator in techniques for swimming instruction and lifesaving widely used throughout North America.



Corsan was an early advocate of vegetarianism and healthy eating. He established a unique nut tree farm where Echo Valley Park is today (Kipling & Burnhamthorpe). Over 400 varieties of nuts were grown, some the result of experiments in breeding hybrids. A few of these trees have recently been recognized by Forests Ontario as having made a unique contribution to our forests.

To read the complete story of this amazing man, go to: www.etobicokehistorical.com/george-hebbon-corsan.html

YES, I would like to contribute to the George Corsan plaque fund. Enclosed is my contribution of:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other

Thank you! All donations will receive a tax receipt. Please include this slip and mail to:

Etobicoke Historical Society 4709 Dundas St. W. Etobicoke, ON M9A 1A8

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



The Tinsmith - Part One

Looks like the sun is getting ready to set so I better look for a place to set up camp for the night. There's a nice spot, clear but with a tree to give some shelter to Chestnut. So I turned off Davenport into the field, parked the wagon close to the tree and unhitched my horse so she could graze.

After setting up my camp for the night and putting water on to boil, I noticed the little cottage at the crossroads. It had a gate that closed off the road going south into Toronto. A toll gate, similar to the ones I passed on my way west.

After a quick meal and a second mug of tea, I walked over to the cottage to talk to the tollkeeper. I introduced myself as Barry, a travelling tinsmith and I met the tollkeeper, Moses Hannah, and his wife. I explained that I had been heading to the hamlet of Fairbanks from Moffatt Corners when I had spotted the tree in the field – and that it had looked like a perfect place to set up my camp for the night. But it was then that the thought hit me that the field belonged to Hannah; I asked if it was okay to camp there and he said I could stay as long as I liked.

It was then that I heard grumbling coming from the washing up area where Mrs. Hannah was doing the evening dishes. Her washtub was rusted on the bottom and leaking. So when the dishes and pots were done, I took a look at the tub. I told Mrs. Hannah it could be repaired and that I was happy to do it for free. After tea and scones, I bid them good night; taking the washtub with me, I returned to my camp, restocked the fire and checked on Chestnut.

I looked over the tub and decided the best fix was to remove the rusted tin and replace it with new. Within a couple of hours the repair was completed and I filled the tub with water – the repair held, no leaks.

In the morning, after tea and a light breakfast, I fed and watered Chestnut and let her loose. Then I strolled to the cottage with the tub. Mrs. Hannah looked it over and thanked me for the great job. She poured me coffee and fixed a terrific hot breakfast in appreciation for my effort.

Sitting at the table, Moses and I talked about how busy the road is and that if I was not in such a hurry to get to Fairbanks, I might set up shop here for a little while. There were plenty of people in the area or passing by that needed new tinware or needed an old piece repaired. After thinking it over, I decided, what the hell, and started making plans with the Hannahs about where to set up and how to attract customers.

Since that day I have been here providing tin goods and services for the people of the area and those who travel by. Both the Hannahs and I believe traffic through the gate has increased also.

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 has been learning about tinsmithing.



Annual Dinner
at Free Times Café
28 Oct. 2018
A sold-out crowd of
36 enjoyed great
food and an
engaging
presentation by
Angie Littlefield.

