



# THE UPDATE

## York Pioneer and Historical Society

PO Box 186, 260 Adelaide Street East, Toronto ON M5A 1N1

[www.yorkpioneers.com](http://www.yorkpioneers.com)  
[yorkpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpioneers@gmail.com)

### Doors Open 2023 – Spring into Spring as a Scadding Cabin Volunteer!

Dates: Saturday May 27, 2023  
Sunday May 28, 2023  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., both days

The Scadding Cabin is accepting volunteers for this year’s Doors Open Toronto.

This year’s theme, is ‘Sound!’

1. A display of sheet music reflecting the musical tastes of the people living in Toronto from 1820 to 1920 will be displayed. This will include two transcriptions of Scottish tunes by Ely Playter, an early York settler whose brother John lived in the Cabin between 1796 and 1820.
2. On Saturday and Sunday, fiddler Alana Cline studying early Scottish music will play at the Cabin between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Learn more about Alana here: <http://alanacline.com>.

Sarah Gossip whose article is featured herein on Page 4, will be demonstrating the spinning wheel both days.

Interested volunteers are asked to contact Kayoko Smith at (416) 488-7853 or [kayoko.ca@live.ca](mailto:kayoko.ca@live.ca) to make arrangements.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring their cell phones and cameras, and to share photos and memories of their volunteer experience at [yorkpioneers@gmail.com](mailto:yorkpioneers@gmail.com).



*Above: Montgomery’s Inn, venue for the 2023 AGM.  
Photo: Bob Krawczyk, Architectural Conservancy Ontario*

### NOTICE TO VOLUNTEERS

The State of Emergency measures taken by the Province of Ontario, have been lifted. Volunteers are encouraged to check safety protocols in advance before representing the YPHS as a volunteer.

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## REPORT FROM THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



*Above: President Angus Palmer chairing the AGM.  
Photo: Brent Cunningham*

It was a bright, sunny, optimistic day on April 16, 2023, and 36 intrepid members the York Pioneer and Historical Society met at the historic Montgomery's Inn to participate in the first in-person Annual General Meeting since January 26, 2020. One thousand, one hundred and seventy-six days had passed since we last met at John McKenzie House.

President Fred Robbins opened with a Land Acknowledgement, and some personal reminiscences; the Minutes of the last AGM were considered and approved; and the members heard a report from outgoing Treasurer Cindy Ewins with respect to the status of the audited financial statements, and conditionally approved draft statements of profit and loss to October 31, 2022.

The members had the benefit of written reports from the President Fred Robbins; Archivist Gerry Lee; Corresponding Secretary Edward Fenner, on behalf of Melisa Vella Singh; Membership Chair Angus Palmer; Kayoko Smith on Scadding Cabin activities; and Brent Cunningham with respect to publication of The Update, among others.



*Above: The Community Room of Montgomery's Inn served as the venue for the first in-person AGM in over three years. Photo: Brent Cunningham*

The members then heard a report from the Nominating Committee which presented a slate of candidates for the Board. Paul Litt acted as pro tem Chair, and George Duncan as pro tem Recorder.

The position of President was contested by Angus Palmer and Fred Robbins, and by secret ballot, Angus Palmer was elected as President for the 2023-2024 term.

Fred Robbins remains on the Board as Past President, and the members passed a motion thanking him for his contribution to the YPHS.

Newly elected members include Carolyn Collie, Treasurer; Alexander Coomes, Recording Secretary; Edward Fenner, Corresponding Secretary (social media); Archivist, Erin Baxter; Editorial, Bruce McCowan; and Program Chair Matthew Campbell. The new appointee to the Sharon Temple Museum Society is Glenn Bonnetta.

There is much that we must do in the coming year to ensure the York Pioneer and Historical Society grows and thrives.

Clearly our new Board has the energy and enthusiasm to build on the hard work and commitment of its predecessors.

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I want to start by thanking the membership for electing me as President at the Annual General meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I am honoured by your strong support.

I also want to thank the outgoing Board members – George Duncan, Richard Fiennes-Clinton, Sarah Gossip, Gerry Lee, Stephanie Lem, Michael Nettleton, David Raymont, and Melissa Singh. A big thank you to all of you for your contribution to the continuing success of the York Pioneer and Historical Society!

And finally, I want to thank Fred Robbins who has served on the Board as President for the past four extremely challenging years. It isn't easy being President of any volunteer organization, and that was especially the case during the pandemic. I look forward to your guidance as our Past President.

I let my name stand as President because I believe that we have much to do. Among the priorities that I feel strongly about are:

1. ensuring that the "York Pioneer" is published annually
2. expanding our charitable fundraising, including the "President's Circle" of larger donors, and raising funds to repair Scadding Cabin, an initiative which is expected to cost tens of thousands of dollars
3. identifying and applying for government and foundation funding opportunities
4. expanding the number of member and public engagement activities; and
5. investigating the possibility of obtaining employment and training dollars to hire a staff person in order to amplify the efforts of our volunteers.

It's increasingly hard for charities to survive, and this is particularly true for small (albeit mighty) charities like the York Pioneer and Historical Society. We have a great team on our Board, with 7 new members, and 7 returning Board members. I look forward to working hard with every Director and Officer in the year ahead and seeing the York Pioneer and Historical Society not only survives but grows and thrives.

Respectfully,

Angus D. Palmer, President

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE SCADDING CABIN - THE 2022 APPLE CROP

By: Sarah Gossip

This article is a report on a recent apple picking adventure at the Cabin in October, 2022.

Those of us who love the cabin look forward to our time in it, but we don't always partake of all it has to offer. For the years that I have been visiting the cabin I have always had my eye on those lovely apples, hanging way up high, so in the Fall of 2022 I decided to explore what forage the cabin's bounty might be able to produce.

On October 11, 2022, Kayoko Smith, Beth Alaksa, and myself (aka "the Team") met up at the cabin on a beautiful, sunny Fall day, with a plan to pick Pippin apples at the cabin.

We started off gathering up the best lower lying fruit, i.e. apples that weren't in too bad shape which were lying on the ground. Then we advanced to a full-on, ladder-up, yanking-tool-in-hand assault on the upper branches where there was still plenty of fruit available.



*Above: The Team: Beth Alaksa and Kayoko Smith.  
Photo: Sarah Gossip*



*Above: Sarah picking apples  
Photo: Kayoko Smith*

To encourage the apples to drop, we experimented with several approaches, but the ticket turned out to be an iron rod with a nice hook at the end. The rod was plenty strong - definitely strong enough to jiggle the tree branches around to encourage the apples to drop off.

Beth very kindly supported the ladder while I held on to the closest tree branch for dear life, and Kayoko very kindly then picked up the apples that tumbled down to the ground (with a satisfying "smash"). Unfortunately, with this method there was damage to all of the tree-top apples, and the Team discussed how future similar harvests might avoid this result.

With the apples then picked, the next part of the project was making the apple butter.

I used a public domain recipe, found on the Simply Recipes.com website:

[https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/apple\\_butter/](https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/apple_butter/)



*Left: Beth holds the ladder for Sarah. Photo: Kayoko Smith. Right: Fruits of our labours. Photo: Sarah Gossip*

The recipe recommended a simple wash and chop of all the fruit, leaving the skin, cores, pips, and stems intact (above right). According to the recipe, the pectin in the cores helps with jelling, and the flavour in the peels adds to the overall delicious-ness of the butter.

Before washing the apples, all of the damaged and bruised apple parts were removed. The fruit was then given a good wash and, now prepped and quartered, eventually made its way into my largest pot.

The initial cooking of the butter required a covered 20-minute simmer with apple cider vinegar and water to soften the apples, producing a frothy, chunky mush.



The next step was to run the apple mush mixture through a food mill, forcing the apple pulp into a bowl below and leaving the skin, pips, stems and cores in the mill for disposal (too bad there was no pig to feed!). The total volume of apple pulp was then measured. One third of a cup of white granulated sugar was added, 1/3 cup to each cup of pulp. The sweetened apple pulp was then poured back into the cooking pot with cinnamon, ground cloves, allspice, lemon zest and a pinch of salt. The sweetened and spiced pulp was then simmered for about 2 hours until thick, with plenty of stirring, and then ladled into sterilized jars.





8.5 pounds of apples produced approximately four 500 ml jars of butter. The Team then got to sample the result, which we all decided was delicious.



IN MEMORIAM

**Josephine Boos**, was a life member having joined in 1980, passed away peacefully February 6, 2020 in Barrie:

<https://www.steckleygooderham.com/obituaries/hester-josephine-boos>

**Rev. Brian Freeland**, also a life member since 1983, and Associate Priest at St. Thomas's Anglican Church passed away December 8, 2022:

<https://www.legacy.com/ca/obituaries/thestar/name/brian-freeland-obituary?id=39780185>

**Barbara Wright**, long-time member and volunteer at the Scadding Cabin passed away February 13, 2023:

<https://www.smithsfh.com/memorials/barbara-wright/5140452/index.php>

The York Pioneer & Historical Society offers our condolences to families of Josephine, Brian, and Barbara.



## Call for Papers - Sharpen Your Digital Pencils

Members and friends are invited to write articles for *The York Pioneer*, one of the longest-running local history journals in Canada.

Oral histories and transcriptions of old documents that relate to Toronto or anywhere else in York County (a.k.a. Region) are fair game. Artificial Intelligence bots are not.

For the other (very few) guidelines, please email the editor, **Bruce McCowan**, [bmccowan@netrover.com](mailto:bmccowan@netrover.com).



## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The York Pioneer and Historical Society is on the move, with much planned for 2023.

If you've been a member previously, and haven't renewed yet, there's no better time to renew your membership than today. Our affordable membership categories are as follows:

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

*Membership is made even more affordable by the fact that individuals 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" that members receive for free; helping to preserve Scadding Cabin for future generations; and ensuring that Ontario's oldest historical society grows and thrives.

You can renew your membership today on-line 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  
M5A 1N1

The York Pioneer and Historical Society has been in existence now for over 150 years. We are still here. And we want you to be with us as we move forward, continuing to preserve the past for the future.

Please, renew your membership today

Thank you!

## 2023 Board Members

### Officers

**Past President:** Fred Robbins

**President:** Angus D. Palmer

**Vice President:** Beth Alaksa

**Treasurer:** Carolyn Collie

**Recording Secretary:** Alexander Coomes

**Corresponding Secretary [Social media]:** Edward Fenner

**Archivist:** Erin Baxter

### Committee Chairs

**Editorial:** Bruce McCowan

**Membership:** Angus D. Palmer

**Programme:** Matthew Campbell

**Publicity/Newsletter:** Brent Cunningham

**Scadding Cabin:** Kayoko Smith

**Representative on the Board of Sharon Temple:** Glenn Bonnetta

**CNE Association Representative:** Angus D. Palmer

### Members at Large

Lionel Collier

Cindy Ewins

#### **Welcome New Members!**

Erin Baxter      Beatriz McCowan

#### **Recent Renewal as Life Members!**

Doreen Moor-Mapes

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