



THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

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Celebrating the Launch of *York Pioneer* and Howland Memoir



Well-deserved honours! Former president Patricia Robertson presents Audrey Fox with a bouquet to celebrate the launch of the 2017 *York Pioneer* and Sir William Howland's memoir *Dare to do What is Right*. Photo: Lance Gleich

Pioneers gathered at Lambton House, the heritage centre administered by Heritage York, on May 18 to launch the 2017 edition of the *York Pioneer* magazine and celebrate the publication of Confederation-era politician Sir William Howland's memoir *Dare to Do What is Right*, a joint project by Heritage York and the York Pioneers to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday.

Mary Louise Ashbourne, a member of both Heritage York and the York Pioneers, chaired the formal presentations. Nearly 50 people attended and were entertained by the musical trio "William and Polly," and dramatic readings from the Howland memoir and the *York Pioneer* by Neil Ross and Corrine Brown. The event was so well received that at the end of the evening several people had signed up as new members of the York Pioneers.

For more details see page 3.

Visit Scadding Cabin during the CNE!

Aug. 18th through Sept. 4th
See Page 4 for Special Events

YPHS Annual Dinner

Oct. 22nd, 6-9pm
Free Times Café, 320 College St.

Contents

More on the Launch of the <i>York Pioneer</i> and Howland Memoir	2-3
Scadding Cabin and the CNE	4
At the Cabin	5
YPHS Annual Dinner	6
Stand Up for Heritage	6
Promoting the Society	7
A Message from the Mayor	8
Member News	8

More from the Launch of the *York Pioneer* and the Howland Memoir



Mary Louis Ashbourn (r), a member of Heritage York and a *York Pioneer*, chaired the official program for the launch of the 2017 magazine. As part of the program, Neil Ross, president of the Junction Triangle Historical Association, gave a dramatic reading from Sir William Howland’s memoir. *Photo: Lance Gleich*



Corrine Brown not only contributed an article to the 2017 *York Pioneer*, she also participated in the launch by reading from the diary of a young girl recalling fireworks to celebrate Confederation, July 1, 1867. *Photo: Lance Gleich*



The musical trio “William and Polly” – Andrew Merzetti, Denise Anderson, and John Zytaruk – entertained with traditional songs from the early settlement days. *Photo: Lance Gleich*

Highlights of the 2017 *York Pioneer* include Fred Robbins' account of mud-brick buildings in Toronto and York Region, and a description of the recently demolished Lewis House in Whitchurch-Stouffville. There's also a description of the French fur trade post Fort Rouillé by award-winning author Phillipa Dowding, Doug Taylor's description of the 19th century cyclorama and Dr. John Carter's account of the jailing of participants in 1837 rebellion.

Lambton House is the last remaining building of the Lambton Mill industrial site, which was the source of much of Sir William Howland's fortune. This made the house a natural location for the launch of *Dare to Do What Is Right*.

An honorary York Pioneer, Sir William Howland was a friend of George Brown and participated in the 1866 London Conference that drafted the constitution for the new Dominion of Canada. Only a few scholars of 19th century history had any knowledge of his lively first-hand account of Confederation and the politics of the 1860s.

Its publication encouraged Charlotte Irvine to travel from British Columbia to attend the launch. Charlotte is the grand-daughter of William Ford Howland - a nephew of Sir William - who in the 1930s had prepared a typed transcription of the memoir and so provided the copy used in *Dare to Do What is Right*.

Historian Christopher Moore praised *Dare to Do What is Right*, writing "it's good to be able to take note of newly-published information on a minor, but interesting, confederation politician."

The evening's activities were coordinated by Audrey Fox with the help of Fred Robbins, Cindy Ewins, Faryal Aslam, Tamara Gligorevic, Adrian De Souza, David Raymont and Heritage York volunteers.

Editorial coordinator Tamara Gligorevic challenged York Pioneers to start thinking about articles for the 2018 *York Pioneer*. Given the quality of work in this year's magazine, there's much to look forward to!



Madeleine McDowell of Heritage York, Charlotte Irvine, David Raymont and Audrey Fox celebrate the launch of Sir William Howland's memoir, *Dare to Do What is Right*. Photo: Lance Gleich

Scadding Cabin and the Canadian National Exhibition

Get ready for an amazing series of events at Scadding Cabin this year. Isn't time you visited the cabin during the CNE?

Friday Aug 18 - Building Scadding Cabin (1-3pm)

Saturday August 19 - Peek at the York Pioneer Archives (1-3pm); Spinning Wheel Demonstrations (1-3pm)

Sunday August 20 - Spinning Wheel Demonstrations (1-3pm)

Monday August 21 - Scadding Cabin for Kids (1-3pm)

Tuesday August 22 - Building Scadding Cabin (1-3pm)

Wednesday August 23 - Tales of Toronto Transit (1-3pm); Exploring the Pioneer Garden (3-5pm)

Thursday August 24 - Sharon Temple: Making a Museum Exhibit (1-5pm)

Friday August 25 - Honouring our Treaties (1-3pm); Exploring the Pioneer Garden (3-5pm)

Saturday August 26 - Yoga in the Pioneer Garden (1-2pm & 3pm-5pm)

Sunday August 27 - Dreamcatcher Making Workshop (1-2pm & 3-4pm)

Monday August 28 - Scadding Cabin for Kids (1-3pm)

Tuesday August 29 - Visit from John and Elizabeth Simcoe (1-3); Building Scadding Cabin (3-5pm)

Wednesday August 30 - Tagging Monarch Butterflies in the Pioneer Garden (1-5pm)

Thursday August 31 - Tagging Monarch Butterflies in the Pioneer Garden (1-5pm)

Friday Sept 1 - Yoga in the Pioneer Garden (12-1pm & 3-5pm) Spinning Wheel Demonstrations (1-3pm)

Saturday Sept 2 - Spinning Wheel demonstrations (12-1pm) The History of Scadding Cabin (1-3pm)
Practical Uses for Sinew (Deer Tendon)(3-5pm)

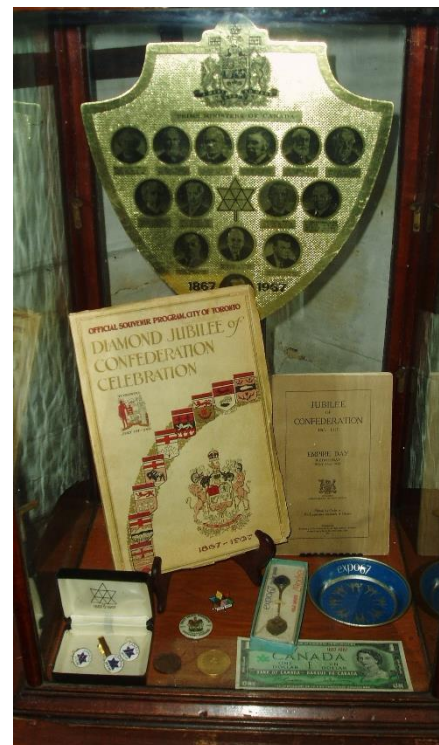
Sunday Sept 3 - Mackenzie House Printing Press (3-6pm); Tales of Toronto Transit (12-2pm); The History of Scadding Cabin (2-3pm)

Monday Sept 4 - Dreamcatcher Making Workshop (12-1pm & 3-5pm) Honouring our Treaties (1-3 pm)

At the Cabin



More than 700 people visited Scadding Cabin during Doors Open this year. Thanks to John Marshall, Ruth Cameron, David Raymont and Beth Alaksa for volunteering to welcome visitors. *Photo: David Raymont*



Part of the display at the cabin during Doors Open with items showing how Confederation was celebrated in other years. *Photo: John Marshall*



A wedding party uses the Cabin as a rustic background for photographs during National Historic Sites Day. *Photo: David Raymont*



Approximately 40 people visited the Cabin during National Historic Sites Day on July 8th. Above Dianne Reid (r) and Kayoko Smith view the garden as they prepare to greet visitors. *Photo: David Raymont*

YPHS Annual Dinner with Award-Winning Author John Lorinc

*October 22, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Free Times Café, 320 College Street*

Join fellow Pioneers to listen to John Lorinc describe recent discoveries about the Ward, including neighbourhood digs by archaeologists! Last year Heritage Toronto gave an Award of Merit to John's book *The Ward: The Life and Loss of Toronto's First Immigrant Neighbourhood*, which he edited with Michael McClelland, Ellen Scheinberg, and Tatum Taylor.

Enjoy a DELUXE buffet of chicken, brisket, salmon and vegetarian dishes, as well as dessert. Cost with tax and tip is \$50. Alcohol is extra. Book your place by emailing yorkpioneers@gmail.com prior to **October 13** using the title line "dinner" and use Paypal. Or call Audrey at 416-656-0812

If you do not wish to use Paypal, mail a cheque to:

Annual Dinner
York Pioneer and Historical Society
P.O. Box 45026, 2482 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON
M4P 3E3

Allow postage time for your cheque to arrive prior to the October 13 deadline.

See you there!



Stand Up Now for Canada's Built Heritage

It's an immediate and physical impression -- old buildings can transport people to the times and lives of those who built our city and our country. Yet many of these structures face the threat of demolition and neglect. According to the National Trust for Canada, between 1970 and 2000, Canada lost more than 20% of its historic building stock. This year – Canada's 150th birthday – the National Trust for Canada is urging heritage groups and people interested in history to take action to encourage the creation of new federal incentives to protect heritage buildings.

A Private Member's Bill C232, "An Act to create tax incentives for the rehabilitation of Historic Property" is making Government take notice of the heritage sector. Take a look at what the Bill proposes. If you agree that federal tax incentives are an effective means to preserve our nation's heritage buildings then please tell Members of Parliament that is an issue that matters to you.

Write to local Liberal MPs and send a copy of your email or letter to the Hon. Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Hon. Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance and the Hon. Peter Van Loan (sponsor of the Bill) and the National Trust for Canada, 190 Bronson Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1R 6H4, so it can help your individual action complement that of other Canadians. To view a copy of Bill C323, visit this web site: <http://www.parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/bill/C-323/first-reading>

Promoting the Society



David Raymont and Kayoko Smith publicized the YPHS at the Bloor Street Family Festival on June 11th, talking with several hundred passersby. *Photo: David Raymont*



Stephanie Lever promoted the York Pioneers at the Wychwood Farmers Market on Canada Day. Three memberships were sold and more than 400 flyers distributed. *Photo: David Raymont*



Sir William Howland, as portrayed by actor Jan Weir (l), gives York Pioneer president David Raymont a lesson about the politics of the 1860s from Howland's memoir *Dare to do What is Right*. Weir was part of the dramatic presentation Walk the 6 West: history on the Humber which occurred August 5 and was sponsored in part by the York Pioneers. Nearly 400 people attended this event and were enthusiastic about what they saw and learned. *Photo: Neil Ross*

A Message from the Mayor



Message from the Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 150th anniversary of Confederation at Scadding Cabin Museum.

2017 marks Canada's 150th birthday. As part of the festivities, the City of Toronto is producing a year-long celebration, TO Canada with Love, featuring more than 30 City-produced celebrations, commemorations, and exhibitions. This program is being celebrated across the city by various organizations to mark this milestone.

Scadding Cabin Museum will be hosting an educational picnic, workshops, the sharing of indigenous oral histories with First Story Toronto, interactive tours of the pioneer garden and discussions and presentations from local artists.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, I wish everyone an enjoyable and memorable event. Please accept my best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto

Member News

In Memoriam

York Pioneer Susan Wadsworth-Grafi passed away on June 7th. Susan and her husband Fred Grafi raised their five children in Kleinburg, and was active in the community with the Bindertwine Festival, McMichael Canadian Art Collection, and Woodbridge Rotary Club, and was a supporter of local artists. She was a successful retail entrepreneur, and in her retirement years offered a wealth of historical knowledge and information to the YPHS.

New Members

The YPHS would like to welcome the following new members:

Bev Bester	Bryn Waern
Albert Koehl	Elaine Waisglass
Kathy Macpherson	Jim Wiswell
Andrew Merzetti	Natasha Vaney

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