



# 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)

## The 2023 Annual General Meeting

Date: Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Time: 1:30pm to 3pm  
Location: Montgomery's Inn  
Community Room  
4709 Dundas Street West, M9A 1A8  
<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/montgomerys-inn/>

At long last, the York Pioneers will be conducting an in-person AGM this year and we have booked space at Montgomery's Inn! Montgomery's Inn was built in the 1830s and has been preserved to showcase a good example of a Canadian inn of the period. Having the AGM at the Inn, will allow members to also enjoy the Museum. The Inn will be open from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm, that day, so come early and have a visit before the meeting or end your afternoon with a tour. As with all Toronto museums, admission is now free!

There is parking at the Inn and in the area or take the subway to the Islington station and then the #37 bus northbound to Dundas. There is stair access from Dundas, with some uneven surfaces.

Light refreshments will be available at the meeting.



*Above: Forbidding Scadding Cabin, Ghost Walk, October 2022. Photo: Beth Alaksa*

### IN THIS ISSUE

CNE Ghost Walks 2022 ..... Page 2  
Report from Woodbridge Fair 2022 .... Page 4  
In Memoriam ..... Page 6  
Nominating Committee Report..... Page 8  
Membership Renewal..... Page 10

## CNE Ghost Walks 2022 – A Return to Paranormal...

After a hastily-assembled effort in 2022 – on extremely short notice with public health restrictions in effect – and total cancellation in 2020 – the popular CNE Ghost Walks of 2022 returned to something more closely resembling normal...or rather paranormal...

Steve Collie of After Dark Tours spooked, entertained, and educated some 200 visitors – believers and skeptics – over the course of four October weekends this year. Visitors were treated to a 2-hour haunted tour of the CNE every Friday night until Hallowe'en, taking in the creepy 200-year history of the grounds by osmosis. The Ghost Walk begins at the Princes' Gates and ends at the Scadding Cabin.

Visitors who kept their wits until the bitter end were treated to candy and apple cider by a distraught Mrs. Scadding (Diane Reid) and her support group of mourners (YPHS volunteers Kayoko Smith, Lionel Collier, Brent Cunningham, Beth Alaksa), and invited in for a short walk-through the spooky, candle-illuminated Cabin.

Despite the very real fears of COVID-19 that still loom large, enthusiasm and resiliency prevailed for those 200 visitors who chose to embrace Toronto's paranormal history this past October. Here is hoping for an even stronger turnout in 2023...



*Above:* Steve Collie and Ghost Walk guests confront a distraught Mrs. Scadding (Diane Reid).

*Photo:* Beth Alaksa.





*Top left:* An ominous crowd unwittingly gathers for Hallowe'en candy and refreshments. *Top right:* Volunteers Brent Cunningham, Kayoko Smith, and Diane Reid serve the visitors. *Bottom:* An eerie Scadding Cabin and chestnut tree. **Photos:** Beth Alaksa.



## REPORT FROM THE WOODBRIDGE FALL FAIR: THANKSGIVING WEEKEND 2022

The Woodbridge Fair is the second oldest in Ontario. It is held on the Thanksgiving weekend. The York Pioneer and Historical Society has been invited for the last few years to add to the theme of pioneering.

This year we displayed the scale model of the Scadding Cabin which proved interesting as visitors viewed the small furniture inside.



*Above: Diane Reid welcomes a visitor to the YPHS booth. Photo: Fred Robbins.*

We gave small pumpkins and gourds to each child. The demonstration of rope making was an audience favorite.

The Society continued to have on display the usual old tools, maps and family histories. Volunteers from the York Pioneers were Diane Reid, Kayoko Smith, Lionel Collier and Fred Robbins.

There was much discussion about old times and questions about early family history. We sold some booklets and added one new member to the ranks.



*Above: President Fred Robbins demonstrates rope making. Photo: Diane Reid.*



## In Memorium

We are sorry to report that long-time Life Member **Elizabeth Shipley** died on July 16 at the age of 96. Betty and her late husband Harry joined the YPHS in 1987, and Betty served on the Board as Chair of the Scadding Cabin Committee in 1991 and 1992. Thereafter she continued to volunteer at the cabin for several years. A graduate of Trinity College at the University of Toronto, Betty was a history teacher with the Ottawa and Toronto District school boards, and was an active patron of the arts, especially opera. She was a generous donor to many organizations, including the York Pioneers and Sharon Temple. Betty has not been an active member in recent years, and her engaging personality has been missed.

We extend sympathy to her stepchildren Sharon and Gordon, her brother Ronald McNeill, and their families.



*Above: Elizabeth Shipley. Photo: Turner & Porter*

Popular historian **Mike Filey**, a YPHS member for many years, died on July 30 at the age of 80. After graduation from Ryerson (now Toronto Metropolitan University), Mike worked at the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, and was later associated with the CNE and Canada's Wonderland. He began his journalistic career at the Toronto Telegram, moving to the Toronto Sun in 1971, where he became well-known for his weekly column "The Way We Were". Mike was the author of numerous best-selling books on Toronto history, and hosted a radio show on AM740. He joined the York Pioneers in 1969 and spoke at several meetings, including our 1991 Annual Dinner celebrating 100 years of incorporation.

We extend sympathy to his wife Yarmila.



*Above: Mike Filey. Photo: Unknown.*

## REPORT FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2022 Nominating Committee members:

- From the current Board: Brent Cunningham, Kayoko Smith, Michael Nettleton
- From the general membership: Bob Georgiou, Glenn Bonnetta

The Committee wishes to introduce the newest candidates standing for election to the 2023 Board of Directors:

### **Erin Baxter:**

I am a heritage specialist working in Toronto with a BA in Archaeology and a certificate in Museum Management and Curatorship. I have had the honour of working on several collections belonging to Toronto institutions, such as the Bata Shoe Museum, the Royal Canadian Military Institute, the Ontario Science Centre, the Queen's York Rangers Regimental Museum, and the 7th Toronto Regiment, RCA, as well as promoting the work of the Ontario Archaeological Society. I love learning about history and enjoying all of the multicultural experiences that Toronto offers, as well as cooking, reading, and learning how to knit - a pleasure to meet you all."

### **Carolyne Collie:**

Carolyne Collie has been a CPA for 30 years working as a financial controller in many industries. Carolyne was born and raised in Toronto where she developed her love of history walking the streets of old Toronto as a little girl. Currently she is the board member of another historical society and looks forward to joining the York Pioneer Society of Ontario.

### **Edward Fenner:**

Edward Fenner is a veteran professional communicator and college instructor with extensive experience as a writer, editor, publisher, publicist, webmaster, and social media manager. Edward has a BA (Hons.) in Professional Writing and an MA in Science and Technology Studies, the latter of which he put together his passions for writing, research, and history into his research paper on pioneering experimental physicist Robert J. Van de Graaff and his landmark particle accelerator. Edward has lived in the GTA for most of his life and helped run and publicize the Words Alive Literary Festival out of the Sharon Temple National Historic Site and Museum for three years from 2007-2009.



**David Bruce McCowan, P.Eng.:**

Very pleased to be nominated to the York Pioneer Editor position, I have done a good deal of research and writing on various themes in connection with the lives of ordinary people. I particularly enjoy digging so deep as to reveal and discuss historical myths, such as “it was the wealthy landlords who launched Scotland’s agricultural revolution” and “the landlords had always curled right alongside the common folk”. I will encourage contributors to the York Pioneer to be on the look-out for previously unquestioned “statements of fact” that may, indeed, need a fresh perspective and a more critical examination.

The Committee also hereby reports, proposing the following complete slate of candidates for the 2023 Board of Directors:

**Officers:****Past President:** Fred Robbins**President:** Angus Palmer**Vice President:** Beth Alaksa**Treasurer:** Carolyne Collie**Recording Secretary:** vacant**Corresponding Secretary [Social media]:** Edward Fenner**Archivist:** Erin Baxter**Committee Chairs:****Editorial:** Bruce McCowan**Membership:** Angus Palmer**Programme:** vacant**Publicity (newsletter):** Brent Cunningham**Scadding Cabin:** Kayoko Smith**Representative on the Board of Sharon Temple:** Glenn Bonnetta**Members at Large:** Cindy Ewins, Lionel Collier**Appointment, Canadian National Exhibition:** vacant

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 at the Annual General Meeting.

**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, 2022 will be carried forward through to the end of 2023.

In 2023, 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 by renewing 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  
M5A 1N1

**Thank you!**

**Welcome New Members in 2022!**

Katherine Dickson   John Mastandrea

**Welcome New Life Members in 2022!**

Sebastian Aguanno   Vincent Tang

**Welcome New Members in 2023!**

Carolynne Collie   Edward Fenner   Syed Hashmi   Alexander Coomes  
Hilary Dawson   Thomas Lombardi   Mischa Menuck  
Claire Mongeon   Paul Strychowsky   Thomas Turk

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





BEST WISHES IN 2023 FROM  
THE YORK PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY!!!