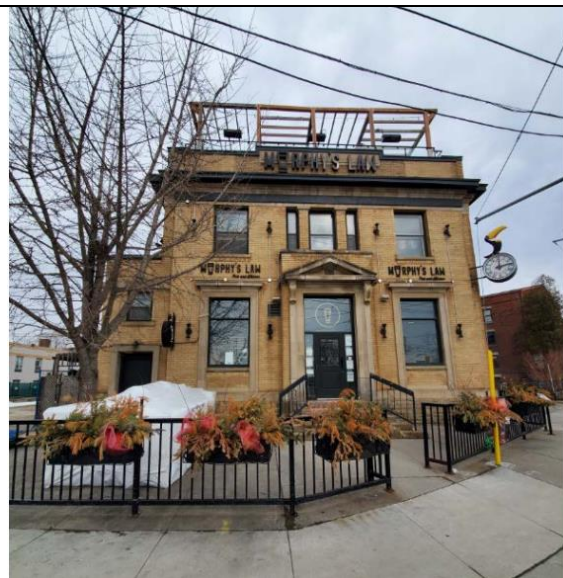


Annual Report

April 1 2022 to March 31 2023



Opening of Imperial Bank of Canada, Queen and
Kingston Road Branch, May 1912.
CIBC Archives



Murphy's Law Pub, 1702 Queen Street East,
principal (south) elevation, 2022.
City of Toronto Heritage Planning

**Former Imperial Bank of Canada Branch, now Murphy's Law Pub
1702 Queen Street East, northwest corner of Kingston Road**

Designated a heritage building [City of Toronto By-law 943-2022](#) enacted on July 22, 2022.

THE BEACH AND EAST TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022-2023 Board of Directors

Director	Position
Jonathan Bradshaw	Vice-President; President (appointed December 19, 2022)
Mary Campbell	At Large
Glenn Chadwick	Event Coordinator; Web Committee
John Ellis	President; Web Contact Responder; Beach Heritage Conservation District Committee Chair. Resigned from the Board, December 19, 2022.
Deborah Livingston-Lowe	Secretary; Facebook Manager; Web Committee. Resigned from the Board, October 6, 2022
Barbara Myrvold	Card Index Automation Project Lead; Web Committee Chair; Bill 23 Response Committee
Julita Tyszewicz	Treasurer; Membership Secretary
Katherine Vice	Secretary; Card Index Automation Project Lead; Web Contact Responder Joined the Board, December 19, 2022.
Vice-President	Position vacant from December 19, 2022

PRESIDENTS' REPORT

The Society saw several changes to the Board. Mary Campbell handed over the treasurer's duties to Julita Tyszewicz, once her report for the 2021-22 fiscal year was completed. Mary agreed to remain on the Board as a member at large, continuing to share her invaluable knowledge of the Society (she was a charter member in 1974 and the first president) and of community history, having written numerous newspaper articles and co-authored two Beach history books over the last half century.

Two directors resigned from the Board. Deborah Livingston-Lowe left in October 2022, but will continue to manage our FaceBook page, which she implemented in 2019. Her involvement goes back to 2013 when she joined the newly-formed Beach Heritage Conservation District Committee, and contributed to its analysis of Queen Street. She became the Society's secretary in 2015, serving for several years. She also was our Social Media Coordinator, a member of the Web Committee, and always was willing to do other tasks as they arose.

John Ellis retired as of December 19, 2022, needing to spend more time on personal matters. He was a driving force in the revitalization of the Society in 2013, and over his ten years of service held the positions of President, Membership Secretary, and Secretary, as well as Chair of the Beach Heritage Conservation District Committee. His knowledge of governance was invaluable, as was his meticulous preparation of reports, minutes, correspondence, membership lists and other records. He also participated in the Society's website as a contributor, an editor and the contact for emails. John's many contributions to the community were recognized in 2016 when he was named [Beach Citizen of the Year](#).

Happily, Jonathan Bradshaw who joined the Board in 2021, took over as President, and Katherine Vice, who has been a lead in our card index project since 2019, became Secretary and also assumed the website contact function.

The Board met six times via Zoom. In addition, Glenn Chadwick and Birgit Siber hosted a social evening at their home in January for former and current Board and committee members. This get-together was especially welcome, because since the pandemic, some of us had never met one another in person.

John Ellis and Jonathan Bradshaw, Presidents

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

As at March 31, 2023, TBETHS had 49 members – a decrease of 17 members from the previous year. It is expected that membership numbers will increase in fiscal 2023-2024 following the launch of a new membership campaign and the resumption of in-person events.

The annual membership fee continues to be only \$20 and is applicable from April 1 to March 31. Some members chose to renew their membership for two or more years, resulting in additional membership fees of \$200.

Julita Tyszewicz, Membership Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

	\$
Cash as at April 1, 2022	3,244.67
Income	
Membership fees	1,180.00
Donations *	<u>945.00</u>
Total Income	2,125.00
Expenditures	
Online communications	435.16
Card index project	1,000.00
Bank charges	41.15
Ontario Historical Society membership	<u>65.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>1,541.31</u>
Cash as at March 31, 2023	<u><u>3,828.36</u></u>

* Includes a \$775 donation from the Friends of Kew Cottage.

Julita Tyszewicz, Treasurer

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Toronto City Council approved adding seven properties on Queen Street East within TBETHS catchment area to the Toronto Heritage Register

- 1702 Queen Street East (former Imperial Bank of Canada building, now Murphy’s Law) was designated by [Designation By-law 943-2022 enacted on July 22, 2022](#). [Report for Action](#), March 14, 2022. (Illustrations on the front cover of this report.)
- Six properties were listed on July 19, 2022

		
<p>1897 Queen Street East (originally James Maitland Smith House). Built 1898</p>	<p>1899 Queen Street East (originally Arthur Brooks House). Built 1894</p>	<p>1907 Queen Street East (originally Henry V. Tuppen House). Built 1906</p>
		
<p>2241 Queen Street East (including an entrance at 2239 Queen Street East) – Price Bros. Built c. 1928</p>	<p>2243 Queen Street East (including an entrance at 2239 Queen Street East) – Price Bros. Built c. 1928</p>	<p>2247 Queen Street East (including an entrance at 2239 Queen Street East) – Price Bros. Built c. 1928</p>

Six Queen Street East properties listed on Toronto Heritage Register, 2022

Images from City of Toronto Heritage Planning, Report for Action, [Inclusion on the City of Toronto's Heritage Register - Queen Street East Properties, May 24, 2022](#)

- In her report to Toronto Preservation Board and Toronto and East York Community Council on May 24, 2022, Mary L. MacDonald, Senior Manager, Heritage Planning Urban Design, City Planning, noted the contribution of TBETHS: “... in recent years staff have received a number of community nominations to the Heritage Register for properties within the Beach. Twenty of these nominations have been submitted by the Beach and East Toronto Historical Society. Each nomination is accompanied by comprehensive research undertaken by the society. Staff reviewed the extant

nominations and met with the Society. As a result of this work staff are recommending that six properties be included on the Heritage Register.”

- City staff also noted in its May 2022 report: “The remaining outstanding nominations will be processed systematically along Queen Street East as part of the City's Heritage Survey program or on a case-by-case basis as the need arises.” This would include 2234 Queen Street East (Bank of British North America building) nominated by TBETHS to the Heritage Register in 2020, and, perhaps, some of the properties that the Beach Heritage Conservation District Committee identified as “buildings of note” in its analysis of Queen Street East in 2013-14.
- No action has been taken to date on two groups of properties on Kingston Road that TBETHS nominated to the Toronto Heritage Register in 2019: the dairy buildings at/near the northeast corner of Hannaford Street and the commercial building at the northeast corner of Scarborough Road.

Voiced our concerns to the Ontario More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

- The Ontario government put forward Bill 23 in fall 2022, making sweeping changes to well-thought-out planning processes, environmental protections, and municipal government autonomy. These included heritage protections, and the apparent belief and message that housing and heritage conservation are antagonistic and irreconcilable planning objectives. TBETHS initially voiced its concerns in a letter to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure, and Cultural Policy on November 17, 2022 (posted in our website) but Bill 23 was given Royal Assent on November 28, 2022, as the *More Homes Built Faster Act*.
- Of particular concern to TBETHS (and, we believe, the community at large) is the new requirement that properties currently listed (but not yet designated) on municipal Heritage Registers must be removed from the Registers unless notice of intention to designate the property is given by January 1, 2025
- TBETHS formed the Bill 23 Response Committee (Jonathan Bradshaw, Barbara Myrvold, Uwe Sehmrau, Jeffrey Levitt and Clyde Robinson) to push back and defend against the changes that ignore neighbourhood and heritage concerns. It drafted criteria for evaluating and ranking the 224 listed buildings in TBETHS catchment area and created a spreadsheet to record details about them.
- Our concerns were voiced in posts were made on our social media platforms and a letter to *Beach Metro Community News* that was published on February 23, 2023.



Header for TBETHS letter to *Beach Metro Community News*, February 21, 2023, p. 9.


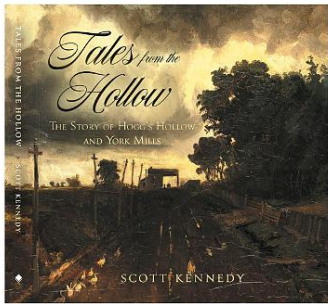
- Communications were sent to Ward 19 Councillor Brad Bradford and Heritage Planning Toronto, offering our help as they work through the implications of this new legislation. A meeting between TBETHS and City representatives was planned for April 2, 2023.

Continued the project to automate the Society's historical card index

- The goal of this year's work was to build an online searchable database of the historical resources about the Beach and East Toronto that had been inputted during Phase 1 of the project, and make it available on TBETHS website. The objectives were to
 - import/transfer data from Google sheets (where they were stored) to the TBETHS website platform (GoDaddy) and produce functioning database tables;
 - set up security features and administrative access to the database for records to be added or edited;
 - build the interface for public use of the database, particularly to search the data and have results displayed;
 - refine the look and feel of the search portal so they would be consistent with TBETHS website.
- The Project Leads (Irena Lewycka, Barbara Myrvold and Katherine Vice) cleaned up the 15,417 lines of data that our volunteers had inputted into Google sheets by March 12, 2022. Using "Open Refine", an open-source Java application for refining data, inconsistencies and duplicates were identified and reconciled. In late May 2022, the Project Leads provided the 11,356 lines of edited, "clean" data to Rob Rohr, our volunteer database developer, along with their wish list for the browse and search functions of the user interface.
- In autumn, Rob was given log-in access to the TBETHS server to upload MySQL, an open-source relational database management system available on GoDaddy, our website host.
- The Project Leads met or communicated with Rob several times to discuss timelines, but on March 11, 2023, he reported that, for various personal and technical reasons, he was behind in his work.
- Realizing that our goal for 2022-23 would not be met, the Project Team and the Board began to consider other options going forward, especially to make the work completed in Phase 1 accessible to the public in a modified way as quickly as possible

Provided two free public events, the first one virtually via Zoom in January 2023, and the second in-person at a new venue in March 2023.

- In March 2023, the Society was thrilled to organize and present our first in-person event since Covid. However, having been presented, without explanation or consultation, with Toronto Public Library's new and unacceptable Collaborative Program Agreement, we decided to move from our long-time venue at Beaches Branch Library to a new location: The Beaches Sandbox, 2181 Queen Street East (just east of Lee Avenue). Many thanks to the owners and staff of The Beaches Sandbox for providing us with a great new venue.
- Each of our public events in 2023 had an average attendance of 30 people.

<p>THE BEACH & EAST TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY FREE ONLINE PRESENTATION</p> <p>AUTHOR, HISTORIAN AND LECTURER RICHARD WHITE HISTORY IN THE EVERYDAY LANDSCAPE NEW FINDINGS, NEW INTERPRETATIONS</p>  <p>TUESDAY, JANUARY 24 2023 7 - 8:30 PM FREE ZOOM PRESENTATION THE LINK WILL BE POSTED HERE BEFORE THE PRESENTATION</p>		<p>THE BEACH & EAST TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BEACHES SANDBOX PRESENTS AUTHOR & HISTORIAN SCOTT KENNEDY TALES FROM THE HOLLOW THE STORY OF HOGG'S HOLLOW AND YORK MILLS</p>  <p>AT THE BEACHES SANDBOX 2181 QUEEN ST. E. WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 2023, 7 - 8:15 PM ADMISSION FREE - ALL WELCOME WWW.TBETHS.COM BEACHES SANDBOX TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BEACHES SANDBOX, VISIT WWW.BEACHESANDBOX.COM</p>
<p>January 24, 2023: Richard White – History in Everyday Landscape; New Findings New Interpretations – The Beaches.</p>		<p>March 29, 2023: Scott Kennedy – Tales from the Hollow; The Story of Hogg’s Hollow and York Mills.</p>

Posters for our two public events in 2023

Participated in several in-person outdoor events

- Gene Domagala, our indefatigable and popular local historian, conducted four walking tours during 2022:
 - May 21, 2022: Historical Cedarvale Neighbourhood, Danforth Avenue from Woodbine Avenue to Dawes Road. (Poster on right)
 - June 25, 2022. Queen Street East, west from Woodbine Avenue to the Ashbridge Estate
 - August 27, 2022: Main Street
 - October 1, 2022: Queen Street in the Beach
- Laid a wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11, 2022 at the cenotaph in Kew Gardens

THE BEACH & EAST TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

WALKING TOURS WITH
HISTORIAN AND BEACH METRO NEWS COLUMNIST
GENE DOMAGALA

SATURDAY, MAY 21

HISTORICAL CEDARVALE NEIGHBOURHOOD
DANFORTH FROM WOODBINE TO DAWES RD.
MEET TIME AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF DANFORTH ROAD
& WOODBINE AVENUE



EMPINGHAM HOTEL, SOUTHWEST CORNER OF DANFORTH AND DAWES ROAD, CIRCA 1903

FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.TBETHS.COM

Received 23 comments and questions about local history through the “[Contact Us](#)” section of our website.

- Some of the information communicated to us became part of TBETHS website. Jeff Charles reminiscences were developed into “[Life in the Benlamond Enclave in the 1960s](#)” posted on “Local Stories”. Richard White’s website, “[History in the Everyday Landscape; Toronto Beaches Neighbourhood](#)” was added to “Resources”. He also presented a program in January 2023.

Expanded our online presence through our social media platforms

- Dozens of post and comments were made to our [FaceBook page](#). In late April 2022, we started a new series celebrating the birthdays of prominent people of the past who at one time had called the Beach and East Toronto home. Over the course of the year, approximately 35 brief, illustrated biographies were posted. These included internationally- and nationally-recognized people such as Glenn Gould, Doris McCarthy, Ada Courtice and Steve Stavro, as well as locally-known individuals such as Anne Butler, Warren Labbett and Dr. W. R. (William Rundle) Walters. Big thanks to Erik Malmsten for initiating and identifying the people for this series, and to Glenn Chadwick, Jean Cochrane and Barbara Myrvold for preparing many of the biographies. We are especially grateful to Deborah Livingston-Lowe for her diligent and consistent effort in managing our Facebook page.
- Content was regularly added, revised and updated on our [website](#). As well as repurposing some of the material received through “Contact Us” (see above), links were provided to three local histories about the Beach and East Toronto by Jean Cochrane and Carole Stimmell. Special thanks to Pete Richardson, President of Tayson Information Technology, for his ongoing work as our Webmaster.

THE BEACH AND EAST TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

c/o 9 Cedar Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4E 1K1

www.tbeths.com

Working to highlight and preserve the natural, built and documentary heritage of the Beach and East Toronto area