



A N N U A L R E P O R T 1 9 8 2 - 1 9 8 3

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NEWSLETTER NO. 6

OFFICERS	President	Barbara Myrvold
	Vice-President	Dawson Lang
	Secretary	Joan Forge
	Treasurer/Membership	Ruth Thorne
	Past President	Rod Travers-Griffin
APPOINTMENTS	Archivist	Mary Campbell
	Chairman	
	Telephone Committee	Phyllis Davidson
	Photographer	Ken Smith
	Official Greeters	Bill and Helen Porter
	Programs	Gene Domagala

President's Remarks

1982-83 was a year of highlights and disappointments for the East Toronto and Beaches Historical Society. This annual report will reflect on the past year's accomplishments and shortcomings; it will also assess the year's direction, and suggest the course for the following year.

The Society's relationship with the Toronto Historical Board became closer, not only by the appointment of two Society members to the board, but also by a more direct, consistent contact between the board's staff and our executive. At last the profile of the east end seems to be rising in city-wide historical circles. Lux Orientis!

Our meetings continue to offer a high calibre of speakers who offer their services without charge. Attendance at the eight monthly meetings has fallen off over the past few years, and we will have to investigate ways to draw more people to these excellent programs.

However, we are continuing to find alternative methods of bringing the message of local history to the community through newspaper articles, historical walking tours, a roster of Society speakers for community groups, and historical displays. Such community outreach programs will be emphasized in the next year for increasingly, we are finding that they not only raise public awareness about our local heritage and the Society's role in preserving it, but also they bring in new members and new information about our area's history.

Perhaps the most important event was the federal government grant of \$13,364 to the Society, which enabled us to hire four researchers for eighteen weeks to investigate the primary sources of the area's history. While their investigations have a definite short-term goal - the publication of a local history book - the long-term gains are inestimable. We will now have so much more data and reference material to offer the public and our members.

The most disappointing event of the year was the demolition of the old Norway Post Office building on Kingston Road near Woodbine Avenue. Another reminder of our past is gone forever.

In this, my first year as the Society's president, I have greatly depended on and enjoyed the support of the entire executive. I am particularly indebted to the two past presidents, Mary Campbell and Rod Travers-Griffin, for making this year such an enjoyable and rewarding one.

Next year, Toronto will celebrate its Sesquicentennial, and the East Toronto and Beaches Historical Society will have its tenth anniversary. We anticipate both events as being a focus for remembering our past, and toasting our future.

Barbara Myrvold
President

Meetings

Monthly meetings were sponsored by the Society from October to May. Except for the December meeting, which was held at Calvary Baptist Church, meetings were held more or less alternatively at Beaches and Main Street branches of the Toronto Public Library. The average attendance at each meeting was thirty-five.

In October, Sheldon and Judy Godfrey told of their experiences in restoring the buildings at Adelaide and George Streets which once housed the Bank of Upper Canada, De La Salle College, and Toronto's first post office. Their work has won them many awards, including the Credit Foncier Award given by Heritage Canada.

In November, Alexander Nicholson, a retired United Church minister who has served both in the Saskatchewan legislature and the House of Commons, described his work in oral history.

In December, Rev. Robert Sneyd, Minister Emeritus of Calvary Baptist Church, related the church's history using slides, and then he showed members the two memorial windows in the church which were assembled from stained glass which he had gathered from bombed-out European churches during his army chaplaincy during the Second World War. Church members provided refreshments after the meeting.

In January, James Fraser of the City of Toronto Archives, described the life and work of R. C. Harris, city work's commissioner from 1912, until his death in 1945. Harris, a Beach resident, was responsible for the building of the filtration plant at Queen Street East and Nursewood which today bears his name.

In February, Margaret Baily, a researcher with the Toronto Historical Board, explained with the use of slides the board's program in the preservation of buildings, and offered many practical suggestions on how to save old buildings.

In March, Barbara Myrvold, Local History Coordinator for Toronto Public Library, gave a slide history of the library, which is celebrating one hundred years of service in 1983.

In April, Michael Bliss of the University of Toronto told of the life of A. E. Ames and his associations with the powerful group of businessmen Bliss called the "Methodist Mafia," at the beginning of the twentieth century. Ames, whose house still stands on Glen Stewart Crescent, was a benefactor to the local community.

In May, three Society members, Mary Denoon, Bill Porter and Dawson Lang, reminisced about their childhoods and adolescent years in the Beach and East Toronto. Mrs. Denoon has subsequently published her text, "Memories of Kew Beach," in the September 1983 issue of Discovery for Seniors & 50-Plus.

Historical Walks

On September 12, 1982, Society member Gene Domagala conducted approximately eighty people through Kew Gardens, along the Boardwalk and nearby streets, ending at Balmy Beach Club.

The Society and Main Street Library co-sponsored a walking tour through the old Town of East Toronto on June 11, 1983 to help celebrate Toronto Public Library's centennial. Society members Barbara Myrvold, Mary Campbell, Ruth Thorne and Gene Domagala explained about different buildings and sites along the route, and Frank Abbott told about his grandfather's house (W. H. Clay) at Gerrard and Enderby. The Library served lemonade and cookies at the walk's conclusion. About 100 people attended this very successful community event.

Community Outreach

Society members continue to be popular speakers at schools, churches, and other community organizations. Requests for speakers from the Society are increasing, partly because of the public's interest in historic events generated by the city's Sesquicentennial plans.

Mary Campbell spoke to classes at Kimberley and Balmy Beach Schools. Gene Domagala talked to classes at Malvern Collegiate and took them on a walking tour. He also took the Grade 4s from St. Denis School to the Beaches Hebrew Institute.

Mary Campbell and Barbara Myrvold addressed teachers from the East Area at a Toronto Board of Education workshop in February, giving the historical and architectural background of this area, in preparation for the Board's "Photographing Historic Toronto" project.

Gene Domagala gave members of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario's Toronto branch a walking tour of the Beach.

Barbara Myrvold showed slides of the area to the men's club at Kingston Road United Church. Gene Domagala addressed the Girl Guides at Williamson Road School.

The Society had an information table and picture display at Glenmount United Church's community information day on September 18, 1982.

Through our archives and our members, we have supplied historic information to local organizations and businesses, such as the Kew Beach Lawn Bowling Club on the occasion of their anniversary, and the compilers of the East End Directory.

Publicity

Ward Nine Community News continues to be a great supporter of the Society and its interests. Our meetings are regularly listed in the newspaper's Community Calendar; accounts of our meetings, faithfully written by Mary Campbell, are always printed and often illustrated; and the paper also consistently publishes other articles and pictures about the area's history. We are most grateful to Joan Latimer and the staff of Ward Nine Community News for this tremendous coverage.

Ruth Thorne makes posters announcing our meetings and places these in Beaches and Main Street Libraries. Our telephone committee, headed by Phyllis Davidson, also faithfully informs the membership about meetings.

Preservation Activities

Our ties with the Toronto Historical Board were strengthened during 1982-83. We now have two Society members and Ward 9 residents on the Board - Gene Domagala and Desmond Conacher. As well, the Society is regularly submitting suggestions to the Board of buildings in Ward 9 to be included in its Inventory of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Importance. During the year the following buildings were added to the THB's Inventory, increasing the number on that list for Ward 9 from fifteen to nineteen:

85 Main Street	Firehall #22
97 Main Street	formerly Police Station #10, now Community Centre 55
2075 Queen Street East	Williams house (also known as 30 Lee Avenue)
572-574 Kingston Road	Daniel O'Sullivan Hotel

Regretfully, the year also saw the demolition of at least one historical building, and the prospect of another. Years of debate culminated in an Ontario Municipal Board hearing on August 30, 1982 at which Society members Mary Campbell and Gene Domagala testified. The decision went in the developer's favour, and old Norway Post Office building at 320-22 Kingston Road, along with a similarly designed board and batten cottage next door, were demolished on October 10, 1982. However, at our request, the Toronto Historical Board has agreed to erect a plaque to commemorate the Norway Post Office. We are being consulted on the plaque's text and unveiling.

The Hope United Church Manse at 2526 Danforth Avenue, built by the Massey family in 1908, is planned to be torn down so the church may erect senior citizens' apartments on the site. Our request to the THB to help us save the building by including it on its Inventory was turned down. Without the Toronto Historical Board's support, it is almost inevitable that this fine turn-of-the-century home built to honour Walter Massey will be demolished.

Malvern History Prize

Tracey Gostick, the top student in Canadian history at Malvern Collegiate Institute, was awarded the Grade 13 History Prize for Canadian History at Malvern's Commencement on November 5, 1982. Rod Travers-Griffin presented the Society-sponsored award, a copy of William Dendy's Lost Toronto.

Toronto's Sesquicentennial Celebrations

In May 1983, a committee of Ward 9 representatives was formed to make plans to celebrate Toronto's 150th birthday in this area. This committee, responsible to Toronto's Sesquicentennial Board, includes three Society executive members: Gene Domagala, Barbara Myrvold and Rod Travers-Griffin. The Historical Society will be working closely with the ward committee in organizing events with a particularly historical emphasis. The Society, at an executive meeting held in April 1983, decided to focus its efforts on several projects:

- photographic displays of historic buildings and sites in local stores, banks, libraries and other public buildings
- walking tours of the area, which could be a tour of historic and/or architecturally interesting homes
- street signs to designate the boundaries of the Town of East Toronto, which existed from 1888 to 1908.

We also hope to work closely with the Lions Club in order that the annual Easter parade along Queen street will have a particularly historic theme. The Society will participate in this parade by either entering a float, or having members dressed in period costume riding in an antique car.

TREASURER'S REPORT

for the fiscal year June 1, 1982 to May 31, 1983

Cash on hand, June 1, 1982	\$271.50
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Receipts

Memberships	\$110.00
Ministry of Culture grant	236.50
Bank interest	<u>6.94</u>
	\$353.44

Expenditures

Ontario Historical Society membership	\$ 12.00
Printing of newsletter	39.81
Office and filing supplies	13.68
Photography	9.00
M.C.I. history prize	22.50
Gifts to speakers	27.80
Refreshments	11.37
Bank charges	<u>.40</u>
	\$136.56

Cash on hand, May 31, 1983	\$488.38
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Ruth Thorne, Treasurer

Report of the Book Committee

Our big news this year is that we were granted \$13,364 by the Federal Government under the "Summer Canada" program to hire four university students to help with research from May 9 to September 9. The project was supervised by Barbara Myrvold and me, and we hired four people from among nineteen applicants.

The project manager, who did the necessary bookkeeping, as well as research work, was Pauline Head, who will be working on her M.A. in English next term at the University of Toronto. The other researchers were Catherine Keenan, a B.A. in English and medieval literature from St. Michael's College; Thomas Rahn, a scholarship student entering third year at U. of T. in geography and environmental studies; and Paul Drum, beginning his third year of a four-year Honours B.A. course in history at the University of Western Ontario.

Pauline indexed the Toronto World newspaper (at Metro Central Library) for the years 1888 to 1909, as it ran a regular column on East Toronto; Catherine indexed the East Toronto School Board minutes at the Toronto Board of Education archives; Tom indexed the minutes of the East Toronto Council at the City Hall archives; and Paul went to different sources to find relevant maps, photographs and miscellaneous material.

This project has added immeasurably to our research material on our area.

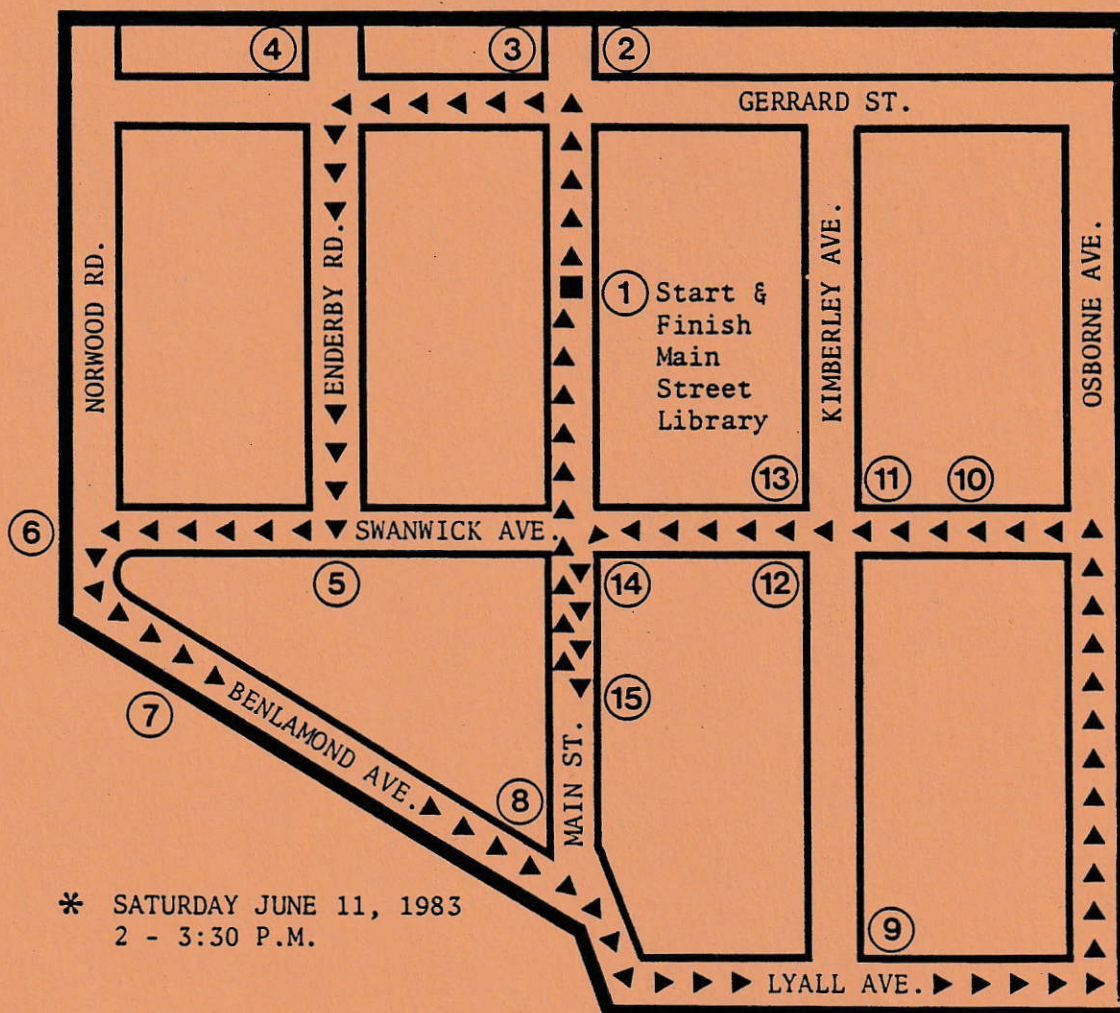
The Book Committee's publication project in cooperation with Ward Nine Community News (outlined in last year's Annual Report) has been shelved in favour of a more comprehensive work which we expect to be published by the Toronto Public Library Board as part of its Local History Handbook series. We now plan to publish the illustrated reminiscences as part of a series of periodical research papers.

Mary Campbell, Archivist

A Walking Tour through the Old Town of East Toronto



Co-sponsored by Toronto Public Library
and
The East Toronto and Beaches Historical Society



* SATURDAY JUNE 11, 1983
2 - 3:30 P.M.

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| 1. Main Street Library | 9. Trebelcock House |
| 2. Railwaymen's Y.M.C.A. | 10. Morton's Hall |
| 3. Market Block | 11. St. Savior's Anglican Church |
| 4. W.H. Clay House | 12. Workingmen's Row Houses |
| 5. Emmanuel Presbyterian Church | 13. Kimberley (formerly Mary St.) School |
| 6. Morton/Davis Estate | 14. Police Station |
| 7. James Lamond Smith House | 15. Fire Hall |
| 8. Calvary Baptist Church | |