

INTELLECTUAL PROFITS

Quarterly Newsletter of the Community History Project
Annual Membership: \$20 individual, \$35 family
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Summer Issue

1 May 2008

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 29 May 2008

The AGM will be held in our new office space at 79 Queen Street West (SW corner with Church Street). To get into the building, any bank card will open the door off the street into the vestibule. On the right are double doors which will be unlocked for the meeting. Go through the doors and up the staircase to the second floor to our offices.

The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 pm with a review of the Annual Report, followed by the Treasurer's Financial Statement. After the votes have been taken on each of these reports, the members will be asked to vote in the Board of Directors and Executive for the coming fiscal year; unless there are nominations from the floor, the slate proposed is exactly the slate as voted in last year.

The balance of the meeting will be devoted to the forthcoming openings of the Tollkeeper's Cottage and its programmes. Volunteers to assist at the three openings should sign up at this time.

Official Openings of Tollkeeper's Cottage

Preview for Donors only: 5 pm Monday 30 June - donors will write messages on papers to be placed inside a time capsule to be buried at 6 pm - donors will have guided tours of the restored building as a museum and of the grounds with heritage plantings - refreshments will be served - Gillian Federico will sing old Irish songs (to recall our many Irish tollkeepers) and accompany herself on the harp during the event

Public Opening: Tuesday 1 July, Canada Day - Councillor Joe Mihevc will unveil the designation plaque and a new sign for the park to be re-named *The Tollkeeper's Park* - media invited - refreshments - guided tours of museum and grounds - special staff from the Parks Department will be present plus some invited guests

Gee Chung and others are seeking donations for refreshments (finger food, beverages). A team is needed for a cleanup after both events. We need security people to be vigilant and protect the valuable furnishings of the Cottage from damage or theft. If anyone has sound recording or video equipment that can be used to record speeches, visitors' comments, and the music, it would be appreciated. A camera to capture still photographs both days is also important for our records.

LOCAL NEWS

Residents of the West Annex are working for the benefit of their neighbourhood in much the same way as happened in the days of Rester Settle and Frances Day who formed the first residents' association there and guided it to eventual linking with the Annex Ratepayers' Association. The later Annex Residents' Association has not always recognized the very special character of the St. Alban's Park subdivision which is the West Annex and was originally a part of Seaton Village. The St. Alban's Park subdivision is the only historic area in Toronto which is almost completely intact and, therefore, more than eligible for Heritage Conservation District designation to preserve it. We congratulate local residents for moving towards defining the special character of their area and issuing a newsletter of their own. They have a job ahead of them to protect the old cathedral from further abuse by St. George's School, and to protect St. Alban's Park from alterations and service as a doggie bathroom.

Jane's **Walk** of the neighbourhood in which she lived is to take place on Saturday and Sunday 3-4 May. This is a guided walk to commemorate her birthday. You will enjoy the research done by Louise Morin to add depth to the walk. Check details about the walk on: www.janeswalk.net

Native **Plant** Sale by Grassroots Albany at 211 Albany Avenue from 9 am on Saturday 17 May. Get what you need for your garden and support the important work of this group.

The big park cleanup of Saturday 26 April was most successful. The Parks Department had been in ahead of us and blew all of the leaves into piles. Rolande Smith began collecting garbage at 8 am and had it all gathered up by 9:30 am. Councillor Mihevc and his assistant Sean Hill came by on bicycles around that time in order to help, but were told that all the garbage had been collected. So they went on to City Hall to work on the TTC strike. Catherine Watts and Bill Kindree started on the dog-strangling vine at the east end of the park and hauled out a rotted pair of hi-fi speakers among other things. They had a terrible time getting at the roots of this problem vine and had to deal with broken glass. Then Roberta O'Brien turned up with her heavy-duty clippers and much progress was made. Chris Martin of the Parks Department had cleared the dog-strangling vine from the extreme west end of the park last year and our team finished the eastern half. So the worst spot of vine growth remains in the middle to be done late this year or early next year. The east end north slope is now ready for transplanting Terry Marescaux's raspberry bushes and Peggy Kurtin's trilliums. While the work on the park was going on, Larry Priestman and son Peter were digging around the foundations of the Addition to expose the end of the pipe for sanitary sewer hookup. The digging is thankless, hard work and is continuing. The first part of the sewer line is in as far as the property line, and the next length will be done this week. After that, the tile floor will go down in the Addition, the plumber will do the inside work, and Ila Bossons can bring and install the toilet she is donating. Installation of replacement wooden flooring in the Cottage is about to be done. Every Saturday in May is to be devoted to stripping paint from the old woodwork so that it can be reinstalled with the doors and windows.

TOLLKEEPER'S COTTAGE

Construction work is nearing completion. When it is done, and the volunteers have completed sanding the Cottage floors and painted all that remains to be painted, then a huge cleanup will be required. Walls have to be thoroughly dusted down, floors vacuumed then scrubbed and - yes - windows washed. After this, the team can go with the truck and bring all the furniture and furnishings, putting everything where all belong.

It goes without saying, that fundraising must continue so that all bills can be paid. There are things that will be done *after* the official openings, simply because there is not enough time or money to take care of them before the openings. Donations of funds to pay the bills are tax-deductible.

We will need more docents as we have lost some over the years. These men, women, and young people, will actually operate the Cottage as a museum and will need a two-week training course. Of course, they must be CHP members to be covered by our insurance. And they will need time to make their own costumes. If you know of anyone with an interest in becoming a docent, please have that person call the office.

There are still items that are needed to completely and authentically furnish the Cottage such as wooden pails, a butter churn, braided scatter rugs, two wash stand sets, dishes and cups, toys, clothing, etc. Keep us in mind as you pass all the yard sales coming up on the Victoria Day weekend.

A society that does not make individuals accountable for their actions has lost the ability to preserve itself from what they may do.

Nota Bene

Quebec City is four hundred years old this year, and celebrations began late last year and will continue to the end of this year. If you do nothing else but go there to visit its museums or eat in its restaurants, the experience will be worth the time. To receive a package of information about everything including places to stay, call 1-877-266-5687 and ask the operator to send a package. You can also consult MyQuebec2008.com. Do not miss this celebration!

The Annual Homecoming and Pow Wow of the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation will take place on 23 and 24 August on the Reserve near Hagersville. Get to know the **aboriginal landowners** of Toronto and find out how they are doing in their three-hundred-year-old struggle to be paid for this land. There are crafts and various types of food for sale, and you can tour the environmental projects on the Reserve. Most of all, you can listen to the drums and the songs in Ojibwa, and you can dance! Bring a chair and a sunhat. Your admission entitles you to a special native meal at the end of the day.

*Language is a living force to bind the people of French Canada together. The fact that the English Canadians do not learn to speak French raises the barrier of language between **these** two strong limbs of the Canadian people. They do not tend to become alike, as might have been expected. Foreign immigration influences the English-speaking provinces to become less and less homogeneous. The flood of American magazines, the torrent of American radio adds to their confusion. But Quebec is steady as a rock in the resolve to preserve the tradition of her ancient religion and language.*

Mazo de la Roche 1944

*When Champlain surveyed the banks of the great river, for the choice of a suitable situation for his infant colony, it is asserted, upon the authority of tradition, that when they came in sight of the lofty promontory, that reared its head between the two rivers St. Lawrence and St. Charles, some of his attendants cried out at the first sight of this abrupt and imposing eminence, **Quel bee!** and the bold adventurer is said to have immediately adopted this exclamation in his native tongue, as the future name of his projected town.*

Joseph Sansom 1820

The state must use its legal powers to compel the economic community to favour certain values that would otherwise be destroyed by the pressure of economic forces. In other words, just as the state intervenes in economic matters to protect the weak through social legislation, so it must intervene to ensure the survival of cultural values in danger of being swamped by a flood of dollars.

Pierre Elliott Trudeau 1968

*The class of explorers to which Champlain and the company belong does not limit itself to the exploitation of the Red man. The lower-class White man, like Louis Hebert, is also a victim. The Company of Canada, which has the commercial monopoly at this time, is supposed to be bringing over colonists to settle the land. Louis Hebert, who arrives with his family, will be employed by the company for two years. Everything he produces belongs to the company and he is absolutely forbidden to engage in the fur trade. Louis Hebert is the real father of the Quebecois. Exploited first by French merchants and nobles, then by the English and now by the Americans, the Quebecois can trace their origins to these exploited settlers, composed of convicts, vagabonds, **and the** 'king's daughters.' The Champlains, the French administrators, the French or English merchants with the complicity of the Clergy will exploit **and** maintain the people of Quebec in a position of inferiority and a condition of subjection **under** every regime.*

Leandre Bergeron 1971

The most notable feature of Quebec is the city within the walls, the only remaining enclosed City in North America. The present walls and the Citadel that crowns Cape Diamond cover an area of about 40 ac. (16 ha.); they were built in 1823-32. Since then, several of the gates have been destroyed and others rebuilt. . . In the city, with its narrow and irregular streets, the visitor will discover the old world character of Quebec. Several houses built during the French Regime are still occupied.

Encyclopedia Britannica

TIDBITS

Essential to understanding the present is how it was shaped by the past and how that past continues to influence the future. It is also important to understand that very little in this life happens in *isolation*, and that everything is connected to everything else in some way. And the connections that are subtle or deeply hidden may be more important than those that are obvious. As a result, historical research is endlessly challenging and fascinating.

When CIIP began, we thought that IB. Tyrreli was ours to prize and research. But we soon learned that he belongs to Weston, to Ottawa, to Scarborough, to Alberta, to the Yukon, to most of northern Canada, and to the world.

Kathleen Parker talked about Havergal College because it was her *alma mater*. She gave us publications about Havergal and we could track the movements of the school from its beginnings at 350 Jarvis Street. We would learn later that actor Raymond Massey had been sent to school there when his family was living on upper Jarvis. We would learn later that the old red brick building at 350 Jarvis became the CBC's radio building for many years - and, amazingly, it is still there! We would learn through Norah Johnson's research that one of the chief founders of Havergal was the brilliant Samuel Hume Blake who lived at more than one address in our study area. We would learn that one of Blake's founding colleagues was Mr. R. Millichamp, ancestor of Mary Millichamp who ran the famous restaurant in Yorkville. Connections ...

By the time we learned that Sir Frederick Banting was among our responsibilities, we knew that he belonged to others - hence our involvement in the effort to save the Banting Homestead in Alliston. But Banting the scientist belongs to an association of artists and his character as a member of the Arts and Letters Club has been revealed in Margaret McBurney's book about the club. We have yet to find the connection and learn how Rosa and Spencer Clark got some of Banting's belongings to the Guild Inn.

Then there are the connections called endorsements. **Today**, a sports figure can have his picture taken wearing a particular kind of sports shirt and the public is supposed to think that he wears these all the time and out of choice - with the implication that if all copycats buy one of these shirts the sports potential of each purchaser will increase. These are the same type of people who, in another league, come to assume importance by merely associating with important people. What is "important" to such people need not be worthwhile as gangs and crowd behaviour amply demonstrate. But there was a time when a famous person's publicly expressed interest in something was real and meaningful. The history of Charles Atlas's programme of good health and body-building was so important that aspects of it have become cliché in common parlance. Then there was Kate Smith, an overweight singer beloved by all of North America, who not only endorsed certain baking products but was photographed making extensive use of them in her own kitchen. Understanding today is like understanding yesterday. What have we sifted out of time as it passes? Facts are facts and cannot be ignored, but which facts are the important ones? Do we have all the facts? And what are the connections?

2008: PROGRAMMES TO DATE

watch for changes and additions in the following months

- Saturday 26 April - Major cleanup at Tollkeeper's Park, 9 am until done
wear work gloves, rubber boots - bring clippers, secateurs, hatchets, axes
bags and drinks supplied
- Tuesday 13 May - 10:30 am at St. Andrew's United Church - CIIP lectures to
Womens group about the Tollkeeper's Cottage
- Saturday 24 May - Victoria Day at Cottage - Doors Open in Toronto 24-25 May
exhibit about the tollkeepers' Queen at the Cottage - also, heritage plantings
around the Tollkeeper's Cottage (team effort, with Grassroots Albany)
- Thursday 29 May - CHP Annual General Meeting - held at 7:30 pm at the
new office 79 Queen East at **Church**, second floor-refreshments
- Sunday 8 June - Mississaugas of New Credit - visit with exhibits about their history
and culture - pick up details about their pow-wow in August and learn about
aboriginal people in 21 June: National Aboriginal Day
- Tuesday 24 June - St. Jean Baptiste Day - celebrating Davenport Road's French
history - exhibits
- Monday 30 June - 2 pm opening of Tollkeeper's Cottage for *volunteers* only -
followed by 5 pm opening of Tollkeeper's Cottage for *donors* only - both periods
to have refreshments, programme
- Tuesday 1 July - 2 pm Opening of Tollkeeper's Cottage for general public, and
Park Re-naming including plaque unveiling - refreshments, programme -
celebrate Canada Day by enjoying a part of its history
- Monday 4 August - Simcoe Day Heritage Event - at the Tollkeeper's Park from
10 am until 6 pm - 20 heritage groups with displays, costumes, food - exhibit
about Simcoe and later LGs in Cottage
- Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 August - all day both days - Pow-wow of Mississaugas
of New Credit - at the Reserve near Hagersville - visit Toronto's aboriginal
landowners and learn about the progress of their land claim - we staff an exhibit
there annually
- Thursday 18 September - 1:30 pm at Spadina Road Library - CIIP gives lecture
about the Baldwins and their impact on the local area, c/w exhibit
- Friday 31 October - 4 to 6 pm Hallowe'en apple bobbing for children at the
Tollkeeper's Cottage - free
- Tuesday 11 November - Sunrise Service, Veterans' Plot, Prospect Cemetery
- Tollkeeper's Walking Tours: 2-4 pm, Sundays 5-12-19-26 October - \$5 per tour -
meet and return to the Tollkeeper's Cottage - tours go rain or shine
- TBA - Food Focus events and Christmas Cookie Sale at the Tollkeeper's Cottage
Heritage Seeds and Plants Sale at Cottage
Participation in neighbourhood events when scheduled
Public Hours at Cottage and at new office
Christmas party at office