

INTELLECTUAL PROFITS

THE IRREGULAR NEWSLETTER OF THE COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT
Mail: c/o Spadina Road Library, 10 Spadina Road, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S7
Membership: \$20 annually for the period 31 May to 1 June of the following year
Meetings: 7:30 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month except June, July, August



Early Winter Issue

1 November 2007

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Help! We have still not found a place to move into! And whether we find one or not, we must still pack everything for moving. As well, we need help in staffing the sale of stuff out of the storefront in Roy's Square (most of the small items have been carried down from the storeroom) and in making up and circulating a list of furniture for sale. Although the president is frequently out hunting for new quarters she will welcome any and all help in packing, sales, etc. and cannot do all that is necessary by herself. Evenings are best, so call if you have an hour or so to spare.

Thursday 1 November at 6 pm at the Tollkeeper's Cottage, we are to meet with Tim Neeb, a developer of affordable housing who is to present us with a second cheque (Section 37 money) for the Tollkeeper's Fund. He will tour the buildings, hear of our plans, and it would be most appreciated if some of the Volunteers who have worked on the construction could be present to tell him about the work. Other volunteers are invited to make a little "party" out of the event by bringing things to eat or drink while everyone is standing up (no place yet to sit down). Councillor Mihevc has arranged for this donation and will be present also.

Saturday 3 November: CHP is participating in the all-day Banting Day event in Alliston with our display and brochures. The six-panel display will then be shown in the Tollkeeper's Cottage on the first ever United Nations World Diabetes Day from 11 am to 6 pm on Wednesday 14 November which is the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting. Come and see why he is one of our local heroes.

Sunday 11 November: The annual Sunrise Service takes place at the Veterans' Plot in Prospect Cemetery. It is always a moving ceremony and a simple way of saying thankyou to the vets on hand and buried there while remembering those who did not come home. Wear appropriate clothing as it can be very cold and very wet there.

A PRE-MOVING SALE: Takes place over two days in an empty storefront in the laneway of *Roy's Square from 11 am to 6 pm on Friday and Saturday 9-10 November*. Being sold are books, silverplate, jewellery, luggage, frames and pictures of the "deathless art" variety, recordings (discs), lamps, and you-name-it. This sale is doubly important in that it must raise funds, and that it must diminish our holdings so that we do not have to pay to move stuff. Unsold items will be donated elsewhere when the sale is over. Another type of sale is necessary as we have some furniture to sell which will not fit into the small storefront. Anyone with web skills and sufficient time should come forward and assist with this type of sale as we need to reduce the volume of our holdings in this area. A proper inventory must be prepared first.

MORE DEPARTING MEMBERS

Peter Pocock had joined CHP after leaving the Board of the old Heritage Toronto at the time of amalgamation, and at the last AGM in May was elected to CHP's Board of Directors. He was much admired for his brilliant intellect and for being on top of every single heritage issue in the city, in spite of the severe limitations placed upon him by cerebral palsy. We had hoped that Peter would serve on the committee we have asked the new Lieutenant-Governor to form, to develop standards for physical access to, and preservation of, historic building facades. But Peter died on 28 July at age 62, having given great service to heritage.

After some years of meeting on park benches, over restaurant tables, and in kitchens and living rooms of various members, CHP found a home in 1987 in Cumberland Terrace, and moved in with bags of files and a single piece of furniture: a filing cabinet donated by Eleanor Beecroft-Stewart. She had been a member from the very beginning, and made other contributions over succeeding years, including a few items going into the Tollkeeper's Cottage and some books for the CHP reference library. Having just passed her 101st birthday, Eleanor died in September.

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A ROLL CALL

Founded in 1983 by only seven people, CHP grew because of the work and contributions of members, but has been limited to between 75 and 125 by the lack of a Membership Secretary to keep track of everyone. Some people are good about staying in touch, while others simply vanish. But some of our members have made – and make - big contributions. It is time to remember some of those who have left us and what they have done for heritage.

Of our founding members, Mary Robson was first to leave us. Mary assisted greatly in the development of our 1984 proposal for a Toronto Museum, in the conducting of a neighbourhood survey to determine the nature and character of that museum, and in comparing a future museum with other international museums having a similar function. Next to go was Kathleen Parker, a pillar of community service in the Annex and Seaton Village before she joined us. Kathleen drew attention to the historical importance of St. Alban's Cathedral and spent several years researching its history and advocating for it with the City and Ontario Municipal Board. For this, she won a Commendation in 1993 from the Toronto Historical Board. Kathleen did not stop there and made some large and important donations to our research library and filing systems, assisted in collecting historic recipes, testing them, and publishing them for CHP. She contributed items for the Tollkeeper's Cottage, and her last major contribution was of items from her estate for sale to raise funds. CHP's two best historians were Kathleen (because she had lived it all in the area), and Norah Johnson who had been a professional planner at federal and municipal level and in her "retirement" was doing historical research for Professor James Lemon before joining CHP. Norah not only knew where to find things but how to interpret them correctly. Her fascination with words led to a precision in their use. "Get it right, get it all, understand it correctly, and report it accurately" was the serious message that came from her in all of her work. In contrast, the sign on the restaurant at Bathurst and Dupont, "Reputable Since 1956" caused her to chuckle at every sighting. Norah's contributions to CHP's files and collections of maps, and her annotations of almost everything on paper are, in themselves, a short course on historical research.

Next to depart was Joyce Tyrrell, wife of Thomas Tyrrell and daughter-in-law of Joseph Burr Tyrrell who, quite correctly started us off with our Tyrrell Collection, and introduced us to other members of the Tyrrell family who added substantially to the collection. Joyce also made us aware that everything that happens to the Toronto waterfront affects the whole city and that we have responsibilities here. Louise Beck, a former teacher at the art college and an extremely active UEL, we found had studied just about every other aspect of Ontario's history and did not write articles but was ready with historical information at the drop of a hat. Louise donated her hand-made Loyalist dress which she last wore while walking in the annual Queen's Birthday Parade. Louise also belonged to just about every other heritage organization in existence so her support and interests were very broad. Barbara Hancock, a Loyalist and descendent of the Land family of Hamilton area, was always ready to help staff tables at heritage and neighbourhood events and entertain staff between busy periods with outrageous stories. Barb donated many historical items from the Land family, some of which are for the Tollkeeper's Cottage while others are intended to raise funds. Tony Parr was an actor, and loved to get into costume and invent a personality to go with the costume. He was a storyteller and a major supporter of our junk sales, which caused his wife, Bid, to hold sales of their own in front of the house to get rid of all the stuff Tony picked up. We still miss his hilarious interruptions of meetings and giggling with Margaret Crawford. Terry McAuliffe joined and assisted with information otherwise missing on part of our study area and made our walking tours that much richer. Terry headed the entire movement to save and restore the Connaught Gates; these were officially opened shortly after Terry's death and are visible proof that one man *can* make a difference. Budd Sugarman is in a class by himself and was busy trying to save Yorkville years before CHP was begun. He joined, shared his wealth of knowledge and applied some of his personal wealth to the Tollkeeper's Cottage. In the official dedication of the Village of Yorkville Park (largely the result of his work), he insisted on the participation and recognition of the First Nations. He kept heritage as an issue before the executives of the Yonge-Bay-Bloor Association and the Bloor Yorkville BIA. He was tireless in his efforts and wrote so many letters that John Adams, then a Councillor, took him to lunch to ask him to stop writing letters! Budd enjoyed this immensely forever afterwards. Mary Gemmill joined and made a donation in that first year, then died before we ever got to know her. In recent newsletters, you have read about Allen Maitland, Bertram Sturup, and Marjorie Darling.

It is enough to say of all of these people that they have served the public interest in their support of heritage, and that is saying a lot!

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NEWS ON ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL'S BURIAL GROUND

This long battle has reached a kind of plateau in a win at the Ontario Court of Appeal by the St. James' Preservation Society, headed by Peter Currie and Dougall Grange, over the "City of Toronto and Rector and Churchwardens of St. James Cathedral". There are many legal aspects to the decision by the court, but it revolves around the terms of the 1817 trust granting the land *for the sole use and benefit of the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the said Town of York forever, as a church yard and burying ground for the Inhabitants of the said Town of York and as appurtenant to the Church now built thereon*. This is the very first official **municipal** burying ground in the city with burials of Indians, Jews, Catholics, blacks, criminals, and other non-Anglicans. When it was full, it prompted the creation of Potter's Field as the second municipal burying ground. The win is truly significant, and we need to thank Peter and Dougall, and prepare in case St. James takes the matter to the Supreme Court of Canada.

RESEARCH LIBRARY

Two more important donations have been received. Tony Stapells has contributed a total of 35 volumes, large and small, on aboriginal cultures and on archaeology. These are extremely useful in understanding the history of the earliest people to live in the Toronto region and about the cultural influences and exchanges through trade and intermarriage that they absorbed or which spread across the country. Jane Beecroft also purchased and donated a copy of Dr. Peter Storck's book *Journey to the Ice Age*. Knowing something of the early history helps us to understand the evolution of features such as Davenport Road and the importance of the Banting homestead which contains archaeological evidence of the earliest people and which interested the discoverer of insulin. The second large donation of 18 volumes, mostly hardcovers, adds to the many earlier donations by Jim Orr. This group is of a wide range of history, from *Northern Vagabond* on the life of J.B. Tyrrell, to *The Encyclopedia of Victoriana*. His second copy of *Carver's Travels Through North America* is going to the Mississaugas of New Credit as it contains an excellent description of the dress and culture of the Ojibwa in 1778. A very useful reference book on shrubs in Ontario will assist our work in the park and around the Tollkeeper's Cottage.

FILES

We have a file for each of the indigenous foods we have been featuring and additions are made to them as information presents itself. Our "Apples and Pumpkins" annual Food Focus, has several files on apples and their histories and, this year, Siloam Orchards has supplied more history on their website which Marilyn Spearin has printed and these sheets are being put into a binder for general reference. Siloam sells us heritage apples each year and has a nursery for heritage trees which they sell as well.

Very shortly, our files will have to be packed up for moving. This means that our work will be extensively curtailed to the point of paralysis until we are unpacked.

DONATION OF FURNISHINGS TO THE TOLLKEEPER'S COTTAGE

Through the good offices of Dr. Dorothy Duncan, a major collection is coming our way from local residents Monica and Douglas Campbell. The items include nineteenth century cast iron items including a muffin pan, two wonderful tin wall sconces for candles, some cutlery (the first for our Cottage), and an old heart-shaped cookie cutter, for example. You will be hearing more about this collection.

From Jim Orr, we have a large pine doughboard, some pieces of leather horse harness, a couple of tin boxes, a small crock, and a single rusted metal spile (we need more of these!).

The Cottage still needs dishes, cups, saucers, crocks of all sizes, wooden pails, a small butter churn, an engraving or lithograph of Queen Victoria which would look as if it had been torn out of a newspaper or magazine, a couple of old braided rugs, items of clothing pre-1860 including aprons, schoolbooks of the same early dates, more pieces of horse harness and a bit, washstand items although not a complete or matching set, a wooden scrub board, lengths of hemp rope for the two rope beds we have, a small old wall mirror in a frame, very old glass bottles, children's toys, some beeswax candles and tin candle moulds, at least one trivet and one handle for sad irons.

TOLLKEEPER'S COTTAGE STATUS REPORT

At last, the sanitary sewer hookup has been ordered and, on the strength of Tim Neeb's donation, is being paid for. This may not seem as critical to most as the excitement suggests, but if you have worked on the site it is a cause for rejoicing as the nearest facility is in the crappy "donut" shop two blocks away. We have tried to pinch pennies by avoiding the cost of a Johnny-on-the-Spot. The actual work by the City is to begin near the end of November. To get to that spot, we must hire an operator with a backhoe to dig a six-foot deep trench to meet the City's trench, and a plumber to lay the pipe and do the actual hookup. Ila Bossons will bring her donated low-flow fully accessible toilet which she plans to install herself. The plumber will have to hook up the bathroom sink, the "kitchen" sink and dishwasher (required by the Province). The stove and refrigerator will have to be hooked up at the same time so that the counter can be built around them. The radiant heating man will have to return to hook his system into the sanitary sewer system. AND, in order to get all that done, the final linoleum flooring must be installed in the Addition, which means that everything in the Addition must be moved out. AND, in order to do that, the work on replacing the flooring in the Cottage must be quickly finished, AND, in order to do that, the chemical treatment of the Cottage floor components must be completed. . . SO, we will be busy doing all of that while packing up the office and stuff in our storeroom for the Tollkeeper's Cottage.

When the trenching is done for the sanitary sewer hookup, we will also dig a four foot deep trench around both the Cottage and Addition (in order to avoid bringing heavy equipment to the site more than once). This trench is to hold weeping tile and gravel with a dry pit at each of its two ends in order to keep ground water and runoff from the escarpment from reaching our buildings. Keep in mind that geological analysis has shown that Bathurst Street beside the park is the route or swale of a pre-historic creek, and that Taddle Creek (still flowing) is about a block away to the west. To get the heavy equipment on site we will have to remove the fencing. While the heavy equipment is on site, we will have the necessary grading done as well. All of this has turned our timetable upside down.

Carpentry on the big triangular windows is presently being finished and painted (inside and out) before winter, and the donated eavestroughing is being rearranged in order to stop a leak. Since the final coats of paint were applied, the Cottage and Addition are looking very good. The replacement joists for the Cottage have been delivered and require chemical treatment as well, and Marilyn Spearin is overseeing all of the chemical treatment because she "knows how big a litre is".

THE TORONTO PURCHASE LAND CLAIM

From a talk given at the 39th Algonquian Conference held by York University by Chief Bryan LaForme, we learn that the federal government has put "an offer" on the table to settle the land claim – the formal process now in its sixth year. The Mississaugas have been waiting to be paid for their land since 1787, and this "formal process" is dragging on in the pattern set at the outset. David Crombie had been appointed to serve as arbitrator by the previous Minister of Indian Affairs and it seemed as if there might actually be some kind of settlement in the offing. But the Harper government has appointed a new Minister whose interests in this matter are unknown. As well, the New Credit people must have their biannual election for chief and council in November of this year so all of the bureaucratic obstacles are still in play. If there is a change in government, the process begins all over again . . .

2012 COMMEMORATION OF WAR OF 1812

The Ontario Ministry of Tourism has established six areas in the province as heritage and cultural destinations for commemorative programmes:

Kingston-Belleville-Thousand Islands

Niagara

Windsor-Chatham

Georgian Bay

Sault Ste. Marie

Toronto (Old Town and early parliament site, Fort York HCD, Waterfront with tall ships)

The Chief of the Mississaugas of New Credit is on the City's steering committee, but he and the few heritage people at New Credit are run off their feet because of the Toronto Purchase Land Claim negotiations and have asked for our help. As noted in the past, a chief and five warriors were first to give their lives in defending the province's capital in the American invasion of April 1813, but the records found so far do not give their names or say where they were buried. More research is needed about the Grand Council then located on what is now 999 Queen West, and about what happened to the rest of the Mississaugas that fought then. We need people to find out all that they can about the Yorkville Cavalry and other local militia units.

There will, after all, be some federal funding available so ask your M.P. about this. Events will be concentrated in April (York was attacked on 27 April 1813) and particularly in June of 2012, and the Americans will be playing a major role. Please run with this so that the whole period does not become an "edutainment".

Chief Justice William Dummer Powell lived in a house on what is now the site of the Royal York Hotel. The American invasion of Canada had been long expected and as it seemed more imminent, the women and children of many families were packed up and taken to safe locations north of York. They took with them the family treasures and valuables. One person who refused to budge was the Chief Justice's wife, Anne (Murray) Powell (1758-1849) who watched the April 1813 invasion from her front porch which looked out at the lake. This painting of her shows a woman with a very steady gaze and it is easy to imagine her staring down the American General Pike or ordering American soldiers out of her garden. Her courage is like that of Laura Secord some of whose descendents now live in Scarborough. Anne's daughter, Mary, was the wife of William Botsford Jarvis of Rosedale.



Arthur Lower was a superb historian who taught at Queen's University and whose passionate attempts to preserve Canada are evident in all of his published works. He wrote the following paragraph in 1946:

If the Canadian people are to find their soul, they must seek for it . . . in the little ports of the Atlantic provinces, in the flaming autumn maples of the St. Lawrence Valley, in the portages and lakes of the Canadian Shield, in the sunsets and relentless cold of the Canadian prairies, in the foothill, mountain and sea of the west and in the unconquerable vastness of the north. From the land, Canada, must come the soul of Canada.

What has happened to his beloved country would, no doubt, inspire a most impassioned response if he were still alive. We can all watch for announcements appearing after March 2008 about the research and study of the arctic by the international scientific community. Gilles Vigneault sang that his country was winter . . . what is it when the snow and ice are gone?

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The Dominion Cook Book of 1899 offers the following remedy:

Treatment of a Frozen Person. *Chelius, a German authority, gives the following advice for restoring a frozen person: He should be brought into a cold room, and after having been undressed, covered up with snow or with cloth in ice-cold water, or he may be laid in cold water so deeply, that his mouth and nose only are free. When the body is somewhat thawed, there is commonly a sort of icy crust formed around it; the patient must then be removed, and the body washed with cold water mixed with a little wine or brandy; when the limbs lose their stiffness, and the frozen person shows signs of life, he should be carefully dried, and put into a cold bed in a cold room: scents and remedies which excite sneezing, are to be put to his nose; air to be carefully blown into the lungs, if natural breathing does not come on; clysters of warm water with camphorated vinegar thrown up; the throat tickled with a feather, and cold water dashed upon the pit of the stomach. He must be brought by degrees into rather warmer air, and mild perspirants, as elder and balm tea (or weak common tea) with Minderin's spirit, warm wine and the like, may be given to promote gentle perspiration.*

It would be one thing to survive being frozen, and quite another to survive this treatment . . .

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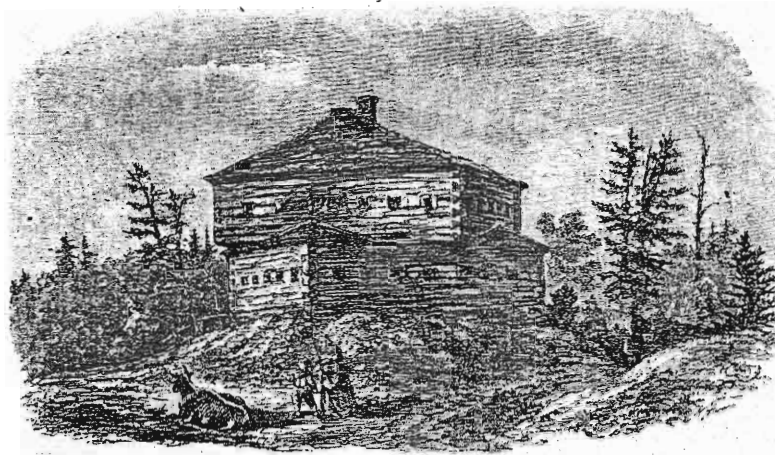
The 1903 Complete Campers Manual has some other ideas for treating very cold people:

Cramps and Chills. *Mix pepper and ginger in very hot water and drink. Give dose of cramp tablets. A hot stone makes a good foot warmer.*

Freezing. *At all hazards keep awake. Take a stick and beat each other unmercifully; to restore circulation to frozen limbs rub with snow; when roused again don't stop or fall asleep – it is certain death. Remember this and rouse yourself.*

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Best advice for today: get expert medical attention fast.



Canadian Illustrated News.

THE "OLD BLOCK FORT" NEAR YORKVILLE. 1863

This notable landmark stood on the east side of Yonge, opposite the present Belmont Street. Several similar blockhouses were erected in various parts of Toronto, but only those at the foot of Bathurst Street now remain. The village of Yorkville, centred just north of the Bloor-Yonge intersection, was annexed to Toronto in 1883.

Christmas

Christmas is a time to count blessings and give thanks for them. CHP has been singularly fortunate in the past twenty-five years and has much to be thankful for. But we look ahead with some apprehension, not knowing where we will be located and if we can carry on with the same level of public service as in the past. One need that will continue in spite of anything else is the need to raise funds, in part because of the costs of moving. Two fundraisers for one date are planned for the Tollkeeper's Cottage and that date can be a pleasant substitute for the annual Christmas party.

CLASSICAL HOME-MADE CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS

another fundraiser for the Tollkeeper's Cottage restoration

by heritage food expert Dr. Dorothy Duncan

made with authentic ingredients in the historic way from a classical recipe – *very rich*

last year sold out early, so do not delay in ordering

must be ordered in advance up to (and not later than) 15 November – call 416-515-7546

maximum of 50 puddings total – pick up ordered puddings 8 December at Tollkeeper's Cottage

small (serves 3-4) \$10, medium (serves 6-7) \$20 – includes recipes for sauce

CHRISTMAS COOKIES

fancy, decorated, home-baked from classic recipes with authentic ingredients

includes some shortbread, some cookies will contain nuts

for home celebrations or appropriate as gifts – fancy bags

fundraiser for the Tollkeeper's Cottage restoration

better to order in advance to ensure that they will be available – call 416-515-7546

pickup on *only* Saturday 8 December at the Tollkeeper's Cottage, 11 am to 6 pm

prices: 6 for \$4, dozen for \$7:50, special prices for advance quantity orders