

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



(For various reasons, this issue went through several transformations before being posted to the website. Any typographical errors and deviations from the original issue are entirely the responsibility of the webmaster!)

RELOCATION

We have been blessed by an anonymous benefactor with temporary storage space for possibly as long as 6 months.

This allows us to get the Tollkeeper's Cottage up and running and move all of its furniture into place, reducing some of the pressure for such space in our offices. The temporary space will allow us to make some further headway in getting better organized, reduce the size of the space we need in the long term, and be better prepared for the next move.

We need help this weekend, putting stuff into boxes, and getting the boxes to a truck (which we have rented) and getting the boxes up into our Dew quarters. We will work on Friday from 7 pm onwards, Saturday from 9 am onwards, and Sunday from 9 am onwards. Some university students are being hired to cope with carrying stuff on the stairs. Assuming we get all the stuff moved this weekend (18-19-20 January), we will hire professional movers to move all of the furniture on the weekdays following.

We are told that the wrecking equipment moves to Yonge and Bloor before the end of the month, and they have been drilling (soil testing) in the laneway since November, so they mean business and we must move fast! Please help where you can. Call the office to say you are coming (which day and what time).

And we will continue to look for a permanent home for a fall move. 2000 square feet, on a TTC line, free of charge but possibly for a tax receipt. We are getting our own tax number and will be able to issue tax receipts for donations to CHP but will retain the present system where the Tollkeeper's Fund will continue to be administered by Heritage Toronto which issues tax receipts for donations to that Fund.

CHP JANUARY MEETING

To take place on the fourth Thursday as usual but at Suite 204 of 15 McMurrich Street which is the home of Gee Chung and Howard Brummet. If the numbers are too large, then the meeting will move down to the main floor party room. Start is at 7:30 pm sharp. McMurrich Street is just west of the Masonic Hall at Yonge and Davenport.

Our Treasurer, Dianne Robinson has resigned, and we will need to vote in a new Treasurer at this meeting. The formal ratification must be done at the Annual General Meeting in May or June, but we need to supply a Minuted vote to change the signing officer status at the bank (because of our vast fortune there!).

The new Treasurer is **Helen McNeill**, experienced with the Bathurst-Davenport Community Association (now called Tarragon Village Community Association).

TOLLKEEPER'S COTTAGE NEWS

Please stay more up-to-date by consulting information on www.tollkeeperscottage.ca The French Trench to keep groundwater from reaching the buildings is finished and the contractor will return in the spring to complete work on the grounds. We waited a month in the expectation that a donation of period flooring would be made (to replace what was lost to dryrot), but are hiring Historic Lumber from Acton (from whom we have bought other period construction materials) to come in and complete work on the windows, doors, and woodwork. ***Paintstripping by the volunteer team will be necessary during this work.*** The City was to have begun digging for the sanitary sewer in November (we paid for the first part of this work), but postponements have brought us to the point where we are still waiting. Once this line is in, then the linoleum tile flooring in the Addition can be put in, the plumbing and appliances installed, and cabinetry built.

The volunteers will have plenty to do throughout the remaining work, including the final painting of the front porch and tollgate still to be built, and cleaning of everything prior to bringing in the period furniture and furnishings, and displays, etc. For our new insurance company, we had to come up with some figures and four days of work searching through our records (not completed) gave us enough to be able to place a value on the Cottage and Addition (based on what has been spent and donated) of \$690,350.00. The hours of work contributed by the volunteers are 11,856, and calculated at the rate set by the Ontario Trillium Foundation of \$15 per hour, makes up a contribution of \$177,840.00 as part of the above total. Our volunteers are the best in the world, but their numbers have shrunk. This list that follows tells who they are and roughly what they have done. *Every bit counts!*

If all goes well from this date, we can plan to have our official opening on Canada Day 2008. On that day, the general public will come and Councillor Joe Mihevc will unveil a plaque beside the front door. Refreshments will be served, our remaining docents will be in period dress to conduct visitors through the buildings and talk about the restoration and – hopefully - we will generate some revenue from the event. The continuing operation will require some regular operating costs, and we will be slowly building an endowment fund for the Cottage. BUT, prior to the public opening on 1 July, we will have a very private opening for only those who have actually laboured on the buildings followed on the same day (30 June) by an official event exclusively for *donors* of funds, furniture, furnishings, goods and services. At this opening we will bury a time capsule and unveil the donors' register and drink to the generosity of our supporters.

The Cottage will open with what we have collected thus far. There are still funds for the work and items needed to complete furnishing the Cottage. These will be found in the time to come. But perhaps members can track down an engraving (copy?) of the young Queen Victoria, some old dishes and tableware pre-1860, two wash stand sets or parts thereof (mainly basin and pitcher), clothing pre-1860 for an entire family including children and shoes, some wooden

pails, and a supply of hemp rope so that we can put the rope beds together. There are other items, but they can be acquired in time.

In due course, we will apply for National Historic Site designation and have some more opening parties. But we will need time to find and train more docents.

TOLLKEEPER'S COTTAGE VOLUNTEERS

Labour directly on the buildings, from 1995 to present:

All Phases:

Klaus and Marjut Dunker -analysis, research, drawings and all out-of-pocket expenses, site visits, meetings with City, heavy labour at sites

Salvage Phase:

Hamish Wilson -worked periodically on site

Bertram Sturup -came daily from Etobicoke with tools to work on site, deceased

Kulli Milles - alerted CHP to threats to building prior to acquisition

Andres Watson - a few days' work at salvage site

Sonja Roberts - constant hard worker all through salvage operation

Bill Kindree - attached himself to project at this stage and has stuck with it ever since

Jim Orr - worked at salvage while conducting research

Wychwood Yard Phase:

Bid and Tony Parr -logistical support for work weekend

Dorothy Gresswell and cousin – continuing researching

Noel Taylor - two days' heavy labour, loan of equipment

Brad Young - two days' heavy labour, followed by one day salvaging tarp, daily monitoring for vandalism, security problems during entire period, loan of equipment

Jim Orr - two days' heavy labour, daily non-stop research from 1995, technical assistance

Margaret Crawford - two days' heavy labour Shirley Young -two days' heavy labour

The Fox Family: Audrey, Leo, 15-year-old Braden - two days' heavy labour, equipment

Also signed up for the third day but not needed as work completed in two: Brian Narhi, Tony Stapells, David Latham, Lorraine Lowry

David Latham - one day on roof in high wind repairing damaged tarpaulin.

Brian Narhi - constant research, analysis

Final Phase/Restoration:

C.A.S. Beecroft - some specialized carpentry

Bob Bevan - two seasons of periodic heavy labour

Veronica Clarke-Hanik - two seasons of heavy labour, also signed up for training as a docent, did some work at home in this period

Margaret Crawford - daily work on and off site, 2000 to 2004 admission to nursing home

Grif Cunningham - periodic restoration work over two years, cut the grass, retired

Dorothy Duncan - heritage expert constantly involved, work on and off site

Bruce Ferreira-Wells - big weekend of park cleanup, conducts walking tours

Erik Freeman - one weekend of heavy work
Audrey Fox - wrote article on Cottage
David Hanna - superb restoration work, heavy labour 2000 to 2007 incl.
John Hutton - professional painter, gave workshop on paint stripping but no one came
Ed Janiszewski - wandered in to work on park cleanup and has undertaken heavy work since
Walter Jaszowski - heavy labour, use of truck 2000 to 2005, moved to Hamilton
Bill Kindree - loan/donation of equipment, loyal worker at all times
Peggy Kurtin - does whatever is needed whenever it is needed!
Terry Marescaux - periodic carpentry and heavy labour when his timetable permits
Helen McNeill - light work on site until health problem intervened
Diane Murray - brief stint at restoration/fundraising, moved to Barrie
Rob Murphy - heavy labour over two seasons
Brian Narhi - superb restoration work of all kinds, continuing research, in 2006 moved to St. Catharines
Roberta O'Brien - heavy labour until health problem, then light labour
Jim Orr - major health problem halted heavy labour, continues research, technical support
Jean and Doug Paton - heavy labour for first years, then light labour at intervals sons: Bill, Andy, Jamie - periodic heavy labour
Larry Priestman - major worker on daily basis, does everything
Jane Sacchetti - tackles any work at intervals
Rolande Smith - mainly programme/fundraising assistance, park cleanup in spring
Marilyn Spearin - does whatever is going on, continues in heavy work, does research, technical support, promotion, trained as a docent and has costume
Tony Stapells - from 2000 does whatever his timetable and physical state permit
Gene Threndyle - one season periodic heavy work
Sarah Walker - professional assistance to docents on period dress
Catherine Watts - does whatever needs to be done at any time, extra work on planting, trained as docent, has costume
Ron Watts - periodic specialized heavy work, truck rentals and moving
Brad Young - heavy labour, loan of equipment until move to teach English in Russia

To form a door he split some thin slabs from a straight-grained cedar and pinned them with wooden pins to cross slats. The most ingenious parts of the construction, however, were the hinges. Iron hinges he had not and could not get. With the auger he bored a hole through the end of a square piece of wood, and sharpening the other end with his axe, he then bored a hole into one of the logs of the house, constituting in part a door-jamb, and drove the piece of wood into this hole. This formed the top part of the hinge, and the bottom part was fashioned in exactly the same way. Now to the door in like manner he fastened two pegs of wood with holes bored through their ends. Placing the ends of the hinges above one another, they presented the four ends with holes leading through them, the one above the other. Next he made a long pin with his handy jack-knife, leaving a run at one end of it and making it long enough to reach from the top to the lower hinge. Through the holes at the end of the hinge this long pin was placed, and thus the door was hung.

Thomas Conant, quoted by Edwin C. Guillet, 1940