



# **NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER**

**March-May, 2016**

**1960-2016 – 56<sup>th</sup> Year**

[www.nyhs.ca](http://www.nyhs.ca)

## ***From the President***

We began our 56<sup>th</sup> year on February 17<sup>th</sup> – 2016 Board and Committees are listed on page 6.

Ruth Kingma has served as Secretary, an officer of the board, since 2007. On behalf of the Society, my thanks for her wisdom, input, knowledge and support. She's offered to be available for consultation – and we will certainly be in touch. Our thanks also to Linda Gargaro who has agreed to take on the responsibility of Vice President. We still have vacancies – do please consider coming forward – contact any member of the board for information.

Renovations at the North York Central Library are scheduled to begin in the early summer. Closing of the Canadiana Department follows soon after. The collections of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Jewish Genealogical Society are being moved to the Toronto Reference Library. We have invited representatives to come and tell us about their organizations and future plans. See below for details.

*Glenn Bonnetta*

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Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

### **ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Overview of the OGS, example of Genealogical Research and future of Collection at the Toronto Reference Library.

### **JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Overview of Toronto Jewish Family Histories, Cemeteries and Memorial Projects. Also book of members' stories and future of the Collection at the Toronto Reference Library.

Richard Yeardye, Chair, Ontario Genealogical Society (Toronto Branch)  
Les Kelman, President, Jewish Genealogical Society

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

### **BREAKING THE SILENCE**

Lori Oschefski, author, genealogical researcher of British Home Children.

From the late 19th century to 1948, thousands of children, of all ages, were brought to Canada in migrant schemes as indentured servants. An estimated 4 million Canadians are descended from British Home Children, who grew up to find steady jobs, marry, raise families and serve our country in both World Wars.

Meeting Location: The Auditorium, North York Central Library,  
5120 Yonge Street, (west side of atrium) use elevator outside library.

Meeting is co-sponsored by the North York Historical Society  
and the Canadiana Dept., North York Central Library

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

**WHY HISTORY MATTERS**; Margaret MacMillan (*History's People, Paris 1919*) on Tuesday, April 5th, At Bloor Street United Church, 300 Bloor Street West, 6.30 pm. Reception & Marketplace, 7.30 pm. Talk followed by Q & A. Tickets \$30, Students \$15. Tickets available from Togogos or online from Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ca> (Search "Margaret MacMillan")

**HISTORY OF NORTH YORK**, Bill Aird, Past President, North York Historical Society (with Glenn Bonnetta, President, NYHS), Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 10.00 am/noon at the North York Seniors Centre, 21 Hendon Avenue, North York. Free. [nyhs@bell.net](mailto:nyhs@bell.net)

### **HISTORY THAT ACTUALLY GETS READ: BIOGRAPHIES BEYOND ACADEMIA**

Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Victoria Chapel, Victoria College, VC213, 91 Charles Street West. Each talk will be 45 minutes long, followed by a 15 minutes Q&A Session. 9.30 am. Jointly sponsored by the Dictionary of Canadian Biography and the Department of History at the University of Toronto. Free. No pre-registration required. See page 4 for speakers and subjects. Email: [bret.edwards@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:bret.edwards@mail.utoronto.ca)

### **TORONTO MODERN TO POST-MODERN: ALREADY AT RISK**

Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: All lectures take place in Room 610 in 155 College Street, the University of Toronto Health Sciences Building. Entry is free or pay what you can. Visit [www.acotoronto.ca/events.php](http://www.acotoronto.ca/events.php)

The series links three of the buildings on *ACO Toronto's Buildings at Risk List*: Davisville Junior High School 1962, Tyndale University College and Seminary 1962 and York Square 1968.

Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 7.00 p.m. **Building a Better Tomorrow: The Schools of the Toronto Board of Education 1950-1965**; Robert Moffatt, author.

Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 7.00 p.m. **Perception Modern**, Annabel Vaughan, architect.

Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7.00 p.m. **Beginnings of Post Modernism in Toronto**; John Sewell, author.

Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 7.00 p.m. **PANEL DISCUSSION: Is This The City We Want? - Conservation in 2016 Toronto** Kim Storey, architect; Robert Allsopp, landscape architect; Mary MacDonald, Heritage Preservation Services; Alex Bozikovic, Globe & Mail architectural critic; Dave LeBlanc, Globe & Mail, Architourist; Jamie Bradburn, Torontoist Staff Writer, Historian and moderated by Catherine Nasmith, architect, ACO President.

**WHAT'S ON, April-June 2016 edition** now available at all Toronto Public Libraries.

Programs and events at your library – and much more. [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/e-news](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/e-news)

## THE HOGG FAMILY

The Hogg family played an influential role in the early days of North York. James Hogg emigrated from Scotland and bought Thomas Arnold's Mills and farm in 1824. Gradually he extended his holdings and renamed his property York Mills. In 1851, his sons were old enough to take over the property. John and William opened a subdivision called Hogg's Hollow, and James, the youngest son, became a miller.



John Hogg owned extensive property on both sides of the Don River. The first house on his property was constructed of wood and burned down about 1881, when the stove pipe came apart on the second floor. Hogg was alerted to the fire in an unusual way. Hams had been hung on ropes to season near the upstairs stove pipe, so upon smelling smoke and hearing the hams fall to the floor above, Hogg knew his house was on fire.



The first school in the area, built in 1837, was situated on his property, on the east side of Don Independent Road, now known as Don Mills Road, but when a new school was opened in 1853, he turned the old one into a stable. He built a frame general store south of the school location, and became postmaster when the Don Post Office opened in 1868. Later his daughter, Agnes ("Aggie") Hogg, operated a new brick general store and post office, which also housed the first Don Mills library. It was a hub of community activity. Teachers

often boarded with the Hogg's who lived in the building. The Hoggs were a very musical family. One son, Robert, played the cello; James the violin and other members of the family sang.

John and his wife lived over the store during the last years of their life. Robert, farmed the half of the farm east of the Don River and James operated the west half. A swing bridge was built over the Don around 1890 for convenience.

Youngsters flocked to Aggie's store for sweets. North York resident, Harold Gray, nostalgically recalled those days in 1966. "I spent many a copper and dime in Aggie's store when I was a boy. You could get a couple of Bull's Eyes or a colored sugar stick for 1¢, or when Gordon Duncan, Milton Johnson or myself had a dime, that meant a large bottle of pop for the three of us. Aggie must have had a lot of patience. She might be back in the house, or out in the yard when the store bell rang, and have to come in for some darn kid with a copper to spend. Aggie may have been burning up but she never complained."

Aggie Hogg's name lives on today: Aggie Hogg Gardens at the *Shops at Don Mills*.  
*Written and researched by Susan Goldenberg, Director, North York Historical Society (edited)*  
Photographs: Swinging bridge over the Don River between Hogg farms, and from a painting of the First Don School, 1837, east side of Don Mills Road, about ½ a mile north of Lawrence. Artist: Owen Staples. (North York Historical Society)

- *History That Actually Gets Read* -

# Biographies Beyond Academia

Jointly sponsored by the Dictionary of Canadian Biography and the Department of History at the University of Toronto

## Saturday, April 9, 2016

Victoria Chapel, Victoria College, VC213  
91 Charles Street West

EACH TALK WILL BE 45 MINUTES LONG, FOLLOWED BY A 15-MINUTE Q&A SESSION

**9:30** Opening Remarks

Nicholas Terpstra, Chair,  
Department of History,  
University of Toronto

**9:45** The 2016 Donald Creighton Lecture

Donald Wright, "His *Macdonald*,  
My *Creighton*, Biography and the  
Writing of History"

**10:45** Coffee break

**11:15** Christopher Dummitt

"Weird Willie Mackenzie King,  
C P Stacey and the Irreverent  
Politics of 1970s Canada"

**12:15** Lunch

(make own arrangements)

**1:45** Stevie Cameron

"The Prime Minister and the  
Serial Killer"

**2:45** Coffee break

**3:15** Ross King

"The Art of History  
Writing Creative Non-Fiction"

**4:15** Closing Comments

David A. Wilson, General Editor,  
Dictionary of Canadian Biography

## PRESENTERS

**Donald Wright** is the author of *Donald Creighton: A Life in History* (2015). He lives in Fredericton where he teaches history and political science at the University of New Brunswick.

**Christopher Dummitt** is Associate Professor in Canadian History in Trent University's School for the Study of Canada, and is the author of a forthcoming book on the exposé of the William Lyon Mackenzie King diaries.

**Stevie Cameron** has written several books about Ottawa politics, and was appointed to the Order of Canada for her investigative journalism and her work with the homeless in Toronto.

**Ross King** is a prize-winning author who has written seven books on Italian, French, and Canadian art and history, and has published two historical novels.

# GIBSON HOUSE MUSEUM and HISTORIC ZION SCHOOLHOUSE

5172 Yonge Street (off Park Home Avenue) 1091 Finch Avenue East  
416-395-7432

[gibsonhouse@toronto.ca](mailto:gibsonhouse@toronto.ca) [zionschool@toronto.ca](mailto:zionschool@toronto.ca)

## **SPOTLIGHT ON THE COLLECTION Exhibit** until May 15<sup>th</sup>

Have you ever wondered about museum objects that are not on display? Our *Spotlight* exhibit will showcase interesting and rarely seen objects from the Gibson House collection. Gibson family objects that fall outside of the scope and time period of the historic house will also be featured.

## **TARTAN DAY at Gibson House** on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1 to 5 p.m. (Last tour at 4:30 p.m.)

Come celebrate all things Scottish in recognition of National Tartan Day (April 6<sup>th</sup>). Try on a tartan and have your picture taken with a brave Scottish lass. Sample some treats on your tour of Mr. Gibson's farmhouse. Learn about prominent Scottish Canadians like the Gibsons or try a guess at the "Which Tartan is Which?" station in the Discovery Gallery. Regular admission applies BUT wear tartan and get in for half price!

## **JANE'S WALK: "A farmer, a rebel, and a princess: the people of Willowdale"**

Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. starting in the foyer of the North York Centre Library. Join Gibson House Museum staff on this **FREE** walking tour to learn more about the farming community of the 1800's and the modern community now surrounding the museum. After your tour, enjoy the **Willowdale Past and Present Photography and Illustration** exhibit created in collaboration with students from Earl Haig SS. Guided tours through the historic house are available with paid admission n.

**MOTHER'S DAY TEA at the Gibson House**, Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Two Sittings: 12:00 & 2:30 p.m. Treat Mom to a lovely Victorian-inspired tea at Gibson House Museum this Mother's Day. Mom will be pampered with delicious teas, sweets, finger sandwiches and fresh-baked scones, in the setting of an elegant 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse. *Mother's Day Tea* also includes a special gift for Mom to take home. Pre-payment is required and seating is limited, so book your tickets today! Tickets can be purchased online at [www.toronto.ca/gibsonhouse](http://www.toronto.ca/gibsonhouse) or by phone by calling 416-395-7432. \$25 per person plus tax; not recommended for children under 6 years of age.

## **DOORS OPEN TORONTO** on Saturday and Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Gibson House Museum participates in this city-wide celebration of Toronto's architectural heritage with self-guided tours through the historic house, some behind-the-scenes access to artifact storage areas and an opportunity to learn how the museum documents, conserves and manages its collection of artifacts. The 2016 theme: Re-used, Re-visited and Revised. Admission is FREE.

## **DOORS OPEN TORONTO** on Saturday and Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Walk right into 1910 when you visit Zion Schoolhouse, which is participating in this city-wide celebration of Toronto's architectural heritage. This is a great opportunity to explore this rare, one-room schoolhouse that is not usually open to the public. Find out what it was like to go to school when the area was primarily a farming community. 2016 theme: Re-used, Re-visited and Revised. Admission is FREE.

**NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**2016 Board of Directors, Representatives & Committees**

[www.nyhs.ca](http://www.nyhs.ca)

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North York Historical Society is an affiliate of  
the Ontario Historical Society  
and a non-profit organization sponsored in part by  
the Ministry of Culture, Tourism & Sport

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**NORTH YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Membership 2016 – 56<sup>th</sup> Year**

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