



THE UPDATE

York Pioneer and Historical Society

PO Box 186, 260 Adelaide Street East, Toronto ON M5A 1N1

www.yorkpioneers.com

yorkpioneers@gmail.com

Step-Up and Serve: Volunteer at The Ex!

Dates: Friday, August 16th to
Monday, September 2nd, 2024
Time: 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Daily!
Location: Scadding Cabin

Since the inaugural Toronto Industrial Exhibition in 1879, the York Pioneers have been an integral part at the annual CNE.

Kayoko Smith eagerly awaits your contact at yorkpioneers@gmail.com to align your interests with specific summer programming events! Shifts are just 4 hours and a CNE entrance pass is included. Check out Page 12 to view the calendar.

YPHS Night with the Toronto Argonauts!

Date: Thursday, August 22nd, 2024
Kick-off: 7:30 p.m.
Location: BMO Field

The Toronto Argonauts host the Saskatchewan Roughriders for our first York Pioneer and Historical Society Night – a momentous occasion in the 151-year history of the Argos! Email us today yorkpioneers@gmail.com to be part of this special event. See Page 9 for more details!



Above: The Scadding Cabin, Doors Open Toronto May 2024. Photo: Kayoko Smith

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DOORS OPEN - MAY 25 & 26, 2024



Above: Amidst the raindrops, the doors swing wide for Doors Open 2024. **Photo:** Brent Cunningham.

Despite the persistent rain on Saturday, Doors Open 2024 at Scadding Cabin proved to be a testament to resilience. Our dedicated volunteers adapted seamlessly, shifting to indoor activities to accommodate the weather. Spinning wheel demonstrations and museum tours allowed for deeper interactions with visitors.

The historic Fort Rouillé obelisk faced similar challenges, yet it stood as a symbol of continuity. This sacred ground witnessed Toronto's evolution—from the Nouvelle-France era to the Battle of York in 1813. The Scadding Cabin, now permanently housed here, echoes our commitment to preserving heritage. We also



Above: Diane Reid and Marilyn Horwood stand proudly outside the Scadding Cabin, with the historic Fort Rouillé obelisk in the background. **Photo:** Fred Robbins.

extend our gratitude to La Société d’histoire de Toronto, who faced the same weather-related limitations at their display near the obelisk. Their dedication to sharing Toronto's history mirrors our own.

Sunday brought sunshine and renewed energy. Visitors explored the gardens, and our displays finally graced the outdoors. The community's unwavering support remained evident, with 461 visitors over the weekend; 149 visitors on Saturday and 312 visitors on Sunday. Despite a slight decrease from 2023, unsolicited donations held steady—a heartwarming sign of commitment.

As we reflect on Doors Open 2024, we celebrate not just architecture but the stories etched in stone and the bonds that weather any storm. Learn more about our friends at La Société d’histoire de Toronto by visiting www.sht.ca.



Above: Under the sun’s warm embrace, Volunteer Diane Reid graciously welcomes visitors to Scadding Cabin on a serene Sunday. **Photo:** Fred Robbins.



Top row: Angus Palmer (left) shares his insights while Beth Alaksa (right) converses with visitors inside Scadding Cabin.

Middle row right: Marilyn Horwood (left) shares the beauty of the Scadding Cabin gardens with curious visitors while David Raymont (right) expertly manages the outdoor historical display.

Bottom row: Diane Reid and Marilyn Horwood pose with visitors. All Photos: Kayoko Smith.

YORK PIONEERS AT THE ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2024

A dedicated group of York Pioneer volunteers, recently made their mark at the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) Conference 2024, held during the weekend of June 14-16.

And invitng YPHS booth served as a meeting point – a place where the threads of shared history and common purpose wove together. York Pioneers and OGS found themselves united by a mandate to preserve and celebrate heritage. As visitors stopped by, conversations flowed, and connections deepened. It was more than just an exchange of information; it was a celebration of shared passion.

Among the attendees, two familiar faces stood out. Bob Murphy, a Member-at-Large of York Pioneers and a former OGS board member, played a pivotal role. His experience and insights acted as a bridge, connecting our two organizations. Meanwhile, Bruce McCowan, YPHS Editor, actively participated in the OGS Conference Burns Gathering – an event that brought genealogists, historians, and enthusiasts together.

The atmosphere was vibrant, filled with camaraderie and enthusiasm. Whether discussing family trees, uncovering hidden stories, or simply sharing a laugh, everyone felt the spirit of collaboration. As the conference came to a close, there was a unanimous sentiment: "A good time was had by all!"



Above: Volunteers Marilyn Horwood, Bob Horwood, and Diane Reid oversee the YPHS booth at the OGS Conference 2024. *Photo:* Beth Alaksa.

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL FOR VOLUNTEERS 2024: A WHIMSICAL GATHERING

On a sun-kissed July 7th, 2024, amidst the rustic charm of the Cabin gardens, we celebrated 155 years of unwavering dedication to the spirit of volunteering. Our Society, founded in 1869 and officially incorporated in 1891, stood as a testament to collective goodwill.

Picture this: 25 volunteers – a delightful mix of souls – gathered beneath the dappled shade of an old chestnut tree. From our vantage point, Lake Ontario shimmered, a tranquil canvas reflecting the day's promise.

David Raymont, our gracious host, set the tone with his opening remarks. And then, the magic unfolded.

Strawberry shortcakes, lovingly prepared by the talented Marilyn Horwood, graced the festival table. Each bite carried the essence of local strawberries, plucked from the stalls of St. Lawrence Market, and adorned with dollops of fresh cream. The taste? Pure delight – a symphony of summer sweetness. As the sun dipped lower, we raised our glasses. Bob Horwood popped the champagne cork, and laughter bubbled forth.



Above: A lively gathering under the chestnut tree, from right to left: Marilyn Horwood, Sue Roden, John Marshall, Bob Horwood, Bob Roden with guests, Diane Reid. **Photo:** Kayoko Smith.

But the pièce de résistance awaited – a surprise that danced on the edge of nostalgia. Liam Peppiatt unveiled a T-shirt, its fabric a canvas for history. There, in faded sepia tones, stood our

predecessors – those intrepid souls who rode a wagon through 1879. Their faces etched with purpose; their eyes fixed on a future they could only imagine.

And so, the T-shirt became more than cloth; it became a “collector's relic”. A tangible link to those who paved our path, reminding us that we, too, were part of this continuum.

As the evening waned, we lingered. Bright ideas sparked like fireflies – plans for the upcoming CNE 2024, dreams for our organization's growth. The old chestnut tree listened, its leaves rustling approval.

And as we dispersed, someone whispered, "We shall soon meet under the old chestnut tree again." Indeed, we would – for the spirit of volunteering knows no season.



Left: David Raymont and Liam Peppiatt orchestrate the Great Reveal – unveiling the legendary Wagon Men T-shirt, a limited number of which will be available for purchase at the Scadding Cabin during the CNE this summer. **Photo:** Diane Reid. **Right:** David Raymont dons the coveted Wagon Men T-shirt, as Bob Roden, ever the sage observer, looks on. **Photo:** Kayoko Smith



Top Right: Berry Bliss: Where strawberries take center stage, balancing the sweetness of cherries, the creaminess of whipped cream, and the refreshing crunch of watermelon. Photo: Diane Reid.

Rooted Traditions: York Pioneers gather beneath the old chestnut tree, sharing stories and forging connections that span generations. Photo top left: Diane Reid. Photos, middle row and bottom row: Kayoko Smith.

SIMCOE DAY IN TORONTO - AUGUST 5, 2024!



Above: Scadding Estate Historical Plaque and Scadding Cabin model. Photos: Beth Alaksa.

Mark Simcoe Day, **Monday August 5, 2024**, between the hours of **12:00 p.m.** and **4:00 p.m.** as we acknowledge the legacy of Major General John Graves Simcoe, the founder of modern York (now known as Toronto) and the first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada. Join us at the Scadding Estate Historical Plaque, located at Broadview Ave. and Withrow Ave.

Installed during the global pandemic on November 12, 2020, the Scadding Estate Historical Plaque deserves a proper celebration. Members of the York Pioneer and Historical Society will be present to share insights about the Scadding Estate, the Playter family, and their connection to Simcoe Day.

The Scadding Cabin model will also be on display. Discover the history behind this iconic structure and its role in Toronto's past and plan to visit the real Cabin during the Canadian National Exhibition.

Learn more about the YPHS and explore our valuable publications. Immerse yourself in Toronto's captivating history through our resources.

Don't miss this opportunity to delve into Toronto's rich heritage and enjoy Simcoe Day with us!

YORK PIONEER & HISTORICAL SOCIETY NIGHT WITH THE TORONTO ARGONAUTS: A HISTORIC CONVERGENCE

Two venerable Toronto institutions finally converge for a long-overdue get-together. The York Pioneer and Historical Society, founded in **1869**, holds the distinction of being Ontario's oldest historical society and the second oldest in the nation. Meanwhile, the **Toronto Argonauts**, established in **1873**, proudly claim the title of North America's oldest professional football club still using its original name. Last year marked the Argos's impressive 150th anniversary.

Despite their shared historical roots and close proximity – BMO Field (and Exhibition Stadium before it) and the Scadding Cabin are no more than 500 meters apart – these two institutions have never shared an evening together. Until now!

On **Thursday, August 22, 2024**, a momentous occasion will unfold. For the first time in over 150 years of shared history, the Toronto Argonauts will feature **York Pioneer and Historical Society Night** when they face-off against the Saskatchewan Roughriders. This historic event will take place at BMO Field, making it the **only** night during the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) that the Argonauts will play at home.

As part of this celebration, York Pioneers and their families are entitled to a locked-in group ticket price of **\$32.00**. To secure your spot and be part of this memorable evening, reach out to Beth Alaksa and/or Brent Cunningham at yorkpioneers@gmail.com **before July 22, 2024**. Don't miss this unique opportunity to witness the convergence of tradition, history, and football as the York Pioneer & Historical Society joins forces with the Toronto Argonauts. It's a night that promises to be etched in the annals of both institutions' legacies!



Above: The Toronto Argonauts host the Montréal Alouettes, June 2024. Photo: Brent Cunningham

CALL FOR ASSISTANT EDITORS FOR THE YPHS JOURNAL

Many thanks to the authors and Assistant Editors who worked so hard and so effectively on the 2023 *The York Pioneer*. The 2024 issue of *The York Pioneer* is coming along quite nicely. Now... planning ahead for 2025...

This is a call for **Assistant Editors** for the 2025 *The York Pioneer*.

- An Assistant Editor will work closely with an author to fine-tune / edit a submission and do some fact-checking (Chat GPT and such submissions won't be permitted)
- An Assistant Editor will hustle to find authors who will draft submissions in a topic area(s). I am looking for Assistant Editors to find authors in the following topic areas:
 - Agriculture
 - Religion / Churches
 - Sports
 - Education / Schools
 - Political
 - Natural Sites
 - Other Social and Economic Institutions

I know you are interested in being an important part of *The York Pioneer* -- one of the longest-running local history journals in Canada. Please email the editor, Bruce McCowan --- bmccowan@netover.com.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The 2024 Volume of "The York Pioneer" is about to go to press!

Ensure that you receive your copy by renewing your membership in the York Pioneer and Historical Society today.

Individual membership is an **affordable \$30.00**, with students eligible to join for only **\$20.00**. Or sign up your family for just **\$50.00**.

Send your cheque, payable to "York Pioneer and Historical Society" to:

York Pioneer and Historical Society
260 Adelaide Street East
P.O. Box 186
Toronto, Ontario
M5A 1N1

or, visit our website at www.yorkpioneers.com, and pay by e-transfer or PayPal.

Don't miss your chance - renew your membership **today!**



CNE CALENDAR 2024 – SCADDING CABIN

As always, the York Pioneers welcome volunteers and members to join us at the Scadding Cabin during the CNE. The Cabin is open every day of the CNE from **12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Presentations run between **1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** See below for the list of special events and follow @yorkpioneers/social media for updates:

Sat., Aug. 17	Scadding Cabin History
Sun., Aug. 18	Scadding Cabin History
Mon., Aug. 19	Quilting Display
Tue., Aug. 20	How the Treaties Began
Wed., Aug. 21	Favourite Plants in the Pioneer Garden
Thu., Aug. 22	Monarch Butterfly Tagging Pioneer Cooking – baking & vegetables *York Pioneer and Historical Society Night with the Toronto Argonauts at BMO Field, 7:30 p.m. kick-off. Tickets required in advance – see Page 9.
Fri., Aug. 23	Scadding Cabin History
Sat., Aug. 24	Monarch Butterfly Tagging Our Old House Team Meet & Greet. Join the architect and contracting team who worked on the log replacement project in autumn 2023.
Mon., Aug. 26	Favourite Plants in the Pioneer Garden
Tue., Aug. 27	How the Treaties Began
Wed., Aug. 28	Governor and Mrs. Simcoe Visit
Thu., Aug. 29	Monarch Butterfly Tagging
Sat., Aug. 31	Spinning Demonstration
Sun., Sep. 1	Spinning Demonstration

Welcome new Life Members!
Sean Dewart

IN MEMORIAM

Geoffrey Emanuel Geduld, passed away peacefully October 28, 2023. Longtime treasurer Cindy Ewins remembers fondly and very much appreciated the thoughtful questions Geoff would ask about the York Pioneer financial statements in meetings:
<https://nyhs.ca/geoffrey-emanuel-geduld-1930-2023/>

Nancy Christine McCowan, mother of Board member **Bruce McCowan** passed away May 24, 2024:
<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/mceachnie/obituaries/nancy-christine-mccowan/124390.html>

The York Pioneer & Historical Society offers our condolences to the family of Geoffrey and Bruce.

The YPHS gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming.