

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Board Role

President: Uwe Sehmrau (resigned Jan. 31, 2021)

Vice-President: Clyde Robinson

Treasurer: Mary Campbell

Secretary: John Ellis

Event Coordinator: Glenn Chadwick

Social Media Coordinator: Deborah Livingston-Lowe

Project Lead, Card Index Automation: Barbara Myrvold

Honorary Adviser: Gene Domagala

Other Board Roles

Heritage Conservation District Committee Chair

Web Committee Chair (resigned Feb. 2021)

Membership Secretary, Web Contact Response

Web Committee

Web Committee

Web Committee (Chair from Feb. 2021)

The COVID-19 pandemic had a major impact on The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society (TBETHS), making the fiscal year 2020-2021 one of the most challenging in our 47-year history. Adhering to government restrictions, we held no in-person meetings or programs after March 2020, including an Annual General Meeting. (The Government of Ontario adopted easing of the *Corporations Act Ontario* to permit postponement of AGMs.)

Yet, with the commitment of our directors, members and supporters, the year also was one of great opportunities as we increased our virtual presence, enlisted volunteers to assist with automating our historical card index and found other ways to reach out to our community, to share its history and advocate for the preservation of its historical integrity.

The Board of Directors that had been elected at the 2019 Annual General Meeting stayed on in their functional roles for 2020-21. However, the resignation of Uwe Sehmrau in January 2021 left a void that was not filled, but by juggling some responsibilities, the work continued.

Uwe joined the Society in 2013, and was on the Board of Directors from 2014, serving first as the vice-president and then as the president. The Society benefited especially from his knowledge of governance and his leadership on the campaign to designate Queen Street East between Coxwell Avenue and Victoria Park Avenue as a Heritage Conservation District.

Two long-time Society members reached significant milestones. Gene Domagala, our Heritage Advisor, celebrated his 80th birthday on November 14, 2020. Gene is a tireless promoter of local history through his "Beach Memories" column in *Beach Metro Community News* and his numerous talks and walking tours. Director Barbara Myrvold retired from Toronto Public Library at the end of December after 52 years, most of them spent coordinating local history services, many that helped our local area.

Clyde Robinson, Vice President

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Made significant progress on the project to automate the Society's historical card index

- Work continued during spring-summer 2020 verifying and updating the Authority File for subjects and names.
- The training manual and data entry processes were completed and tested on TBETHS Directors, summer-fall 2020.
- An excellent response was received for calls from TBETHS and Councillor Brad Bradford in fall 2020 for volunteers to transcribe the handwritten index cards into an electronic format.
- Fifteen volunteers subsequently were trained using Zoom and provided with on-going support
- Approximately 6,150 index cards, A to M, were distributed to volunteers, mostly between October 2020 and March 2021.
- By March 30, 2021, 5,500 entries had been transcribed from the index cards into Google sheets, the software that TBETHS uses to store the data.
- Bibliographies of sources and maps used in the Index began to be compiled. These eventually will be available through the TBETHS site as an adjunct to the Index.

Thanks to TBETHS Card Index Automation Project Volunteers!

Yvonne Butorac,* Mary Campbell, Glenn Chadwick, Lyn de Sousa, Ursula Eley, John Ellis, Norm Holman, Deborah Livingston-Lowe, Aaron Katzsch, Rob Kee, Janice Lavery, Irena Lewycka,* ‡ Anne Livingston,* Donna MacLeod, Tom Middleton, Madeline Moscoe, Barbara Myrvold, ‡ Sheilah O'Connor, Karen Pederson,* Andrea Orlick, Clyde Robinson, Rob Rohr, Molly Saunders,* Andra Sheffer, Kathy Vice ‡

* Transcribed more than 500 cards by March 31, 2021

‡ Project Team Lead

Used Zoom to hold virtual meetings and provide two online public events

- The Board met seven times, the Web Committee twice and the Card Index Automation Project Leads twelve times
- In November, we hosted our first ever virtual public event, but there was a low attendance due to technical difficulties. These were resolved, with the help of David Fuller, and the second public event in March was a roaring success with 85 people in attendance. Both events were recorded and are available to view on our website
 - November 10, 2020: David Fuller - What Made Them Decide to Enlist? A Look at why the Boys of Malvern Chose to go to War, 1914-1918
 - March 23, 2021: Brian Floody – His Father Wally Floody and the Great Escape (poster on right)

THE BEACH & EAST TORONTO HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FREE ONLINE PRESENTATION

BRIAN FLOODY
TALKS ABOUT HIS FATHER
WALLY FLOODY AND THE GREAT ESCAPE



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TUESDAY MARCH 23, 2021
7 - 8:30 PM

FREE ZOOM PRESENTATION – [CLICK ON LINK HERE TO JOIN THE WEBINAR](#)

Expanded our online presence

- Regularly posted content on our FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/thebeachandeasttorontohistoricalsociety/>
- Added six local stories to our website <http://tbeths.com/>



Upper Row:

Left: Benlamond Panoramic Photo by John Ellis; *Middle:* Scarborough' Beach Amusement Park by Pete Richardson; *Right:* Dr. William Young Memorial in Kew Gardens by Jean Cochrane

Lower Row:

Left: 292 Main Street by Barbara Myrvold; *Middle:* Alexander MacLeod: East Toronto architect/builder by Barbara Myrvold; *Right:* The Price Family – Beach Builders, by Barbara Myrvold, introducing and linking to a talk that Paul Warner gave to TBETHS on 22 October 2019

Special thanks to Pete Richardson, President of Tayson Information Technology, for his pro bono work as our Webmaster.

Expressed concerns about the City's plans to construct a complex of eight-, ten- and 17-storey buildings at 1631 Queen Street East (Coxwell and Eastern Avenues), contravening the six-storey height limit defined in the Queen Street East Urban Design Guidelines.

Responded to 36 queries or comments to the "Contact Us" section of our website.

- Nine were from people volunteering to work on the card automation project
- Other information requests included
 - Location of William Williamson's old house at 24 Hollywood Crescent relative to the former Toronto Golf Club
 - 14 Gledhill Avenue and its surroundings where Canadian golfing greats, brothers Charlie and Albert Murray, lived as youth in the 1890s and early 1900s
 - Ancestral property at Kingston Road and Waverly Road (from Yellowknife!)

Accepted a donation of a collection.

- Ephemera and research about 18 Fallingbrook Road, donated by Shelby Leeder.

Laid a wreath at the scaled-back Remembrance Day ceremony at the Kew Gardens cenotaph

- A wreath was purchased that can be re-used going forward.

Other local heritage achievements

- Many properties in the north part of TBETHS catchment area were added to the Toronto Heritage Register in 2020, as a result of their having been identified in the City's Danforth Avenue Planning Study (Coxwell Avenue to Victoria Park Avenue, 2019), and the Main Street Planning Study (2019).

- The Society was especially gratified that two properties that it previously had nominated for the Toronto Heritage Register were included in the Register.

First, the D. G. Stephenson House at 292 Main Street was designated on October 30, 2020 (Bylaw 1146-2020), protecting it from threatened demolition. Constructed in 1887, the historic building was relocated slightly north and east during winter 2021, and will be incorporated into a new 27-storey tower to be constructed at what was 276-296 Main Street.

Second, the Home Bank of Canada Branch at 2547 Danforth Avenue, southwest corner of Main Street, was listed on December 16, 2020. It was part of a 'batch listing,' a new approach that Heritage Planning has adopted for adding properties to the Heritage Register.



Preparing to move 292 Main Street, December 2020

Alan Shackleton/Beach Metro Community News, December 29, 2020

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

January 1 - December 31 2020

The COVID pandemic had a major impact on the Society. Membership dropped from 82 (an all-time record) in 2019 to 52 in 2020, a decrease of 37 per cent. Based on member comments, this was significantly due to the Society discontinuing the public events at Beaches Library. Our members highly value the opportunity to meet and mingle, and visit the Membership Table to become new members or to renew memberships. We held our first ever virtual public event in November, and as we continue to meet this member need, we hope membership will return to earlier high levels in the future.

John Ellis, Membership Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021

Balance as of April 01, 2020		\$ 5,113.03
INCOME		
Memberships	\$ 1,110.00	
Donations	20.00	
Total Income		\$ 1,130.00
EXPENDITURES		
Card Index Project	\$ 2,050.00	
Online Communications	266.23	
Memorial Wreath	98.82	
Membership (OHS)*	60.00	
Bank Charges	16.70	
Total Expenditures		\$ 2,491.75
Balance as of March 31, 2021		\$ 3,751.28

*OHS: Ontario Historical Society

Mary Campbell, Treasurer

The Beach and East Toronto Historical Society

c/o Three Cedars, 52 Rainsford Road, Toronto, Ontario M4L 3N6

www.tbeths.com

The object is to foster interest in and to preserve the natural, built and documentary heritage of the east end of Toronto