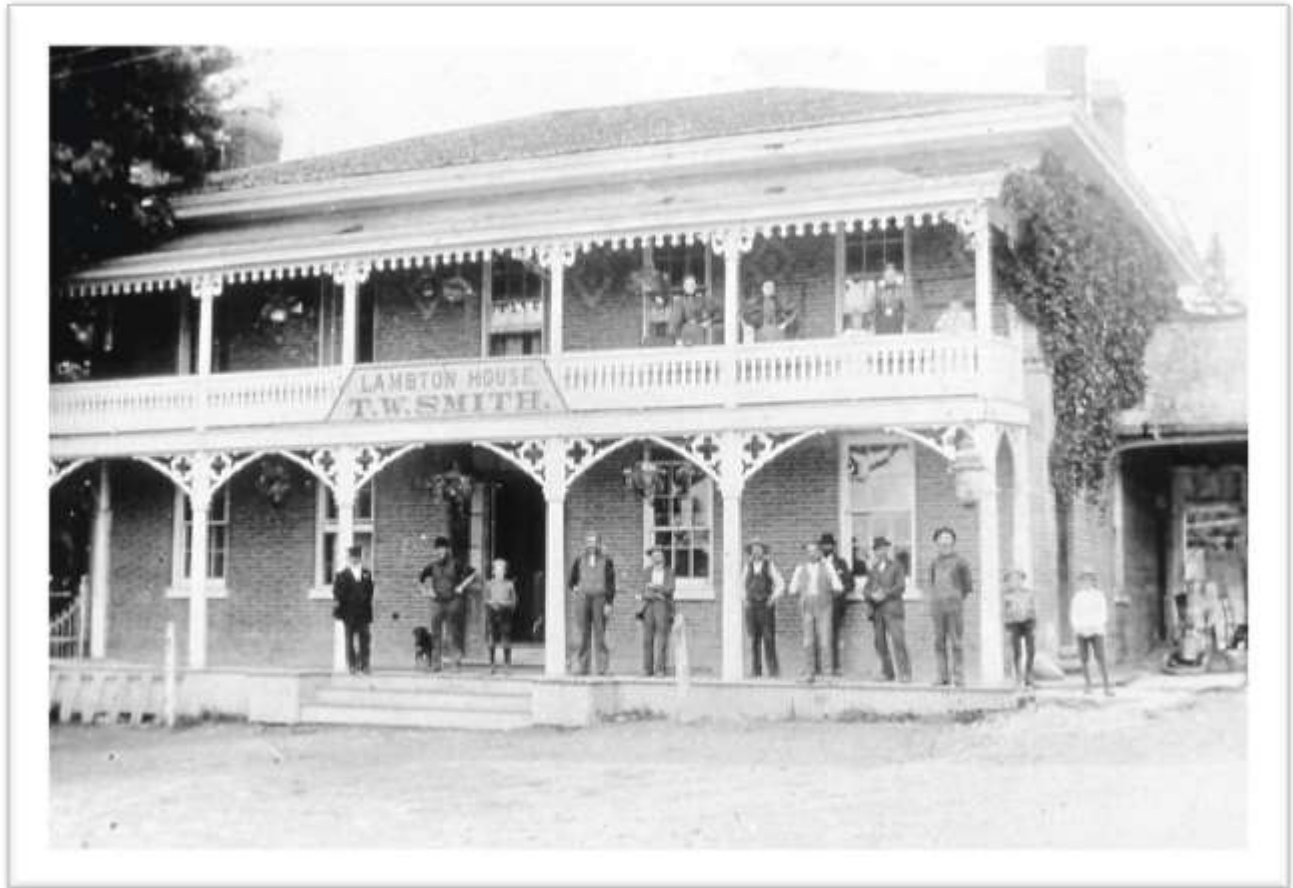


THE HERITAGE YORK REPORTER

Spring and Summer 2016

Heritage York at Lambton House, 4066 Old Dundas Street, York, ON M6S 2R6

T: 416-767-5472 admin@lambtonhouse.org www.lambtonhouse.org



Lambton House returns to Doors Open

Since its inception in 2000, Doors Open Toronto has attracted more than two million visits in nearly 700 unique locations across the city. It is Canada's largest Doors Open event and one of the three largest Doors Open events in the world. The Doors Open Toronto 2016 theme of *Re-used, Re-visited and Revised* will explore the

adaptive re-use of buildings throughout Toronto's architectural history.

Visit Lambton House on May 28-29, 2016.
Tours between 10:00am and 4:00pm.



The Heritage York Reporter is published by Heritage York, 4066 Old Dundas Street, York, Ontario M6S 2R6.

President: Michael Freeman
Vice President: Mary Louise Ashbourne
Secretary/Treasurer: Margo Duncan
Membership Secretary: Madeleine McDowell

Membership

The annual membership fees in Heritage York:

Family	\$25
Adult	\$15
Senior (60+)	\$10
Junior (14 and under)	\$10

Membership is open to all interested individuals and societies. Membership includes this publication, notice of our annual general meeting, advance notices of all events, a special member's reception and discount rates on rentals.

Submissions and Advertising

Inquiries concerning submissions and advertising rates should be directed to Heritage York.

Tel (416) 767-5472

email: admin@lambtonhouse.org

Unsolicited manuscripts are welcome, but cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Donations

Heritage York's registered charity number is 893266379. All donations should be made out to Heritage York and mailed to the address above. Donations may also be made online through canadahelps.org. All donations of \$10 or more will receive an official tax receipt.

President's Message

Whether built, natural or cultural heritage is your thing, Lambton House is the place to be and a measure of Heritage York's success.

Twenty five years ago Heritage York was established with its primary focus being the former City of York. For those who enjoy bureaucratic language this is where Heritage York started - to conserve, restore, develop, interpret and promote the area's real and moveable property and to interpret the area's intangible and social history, and the built and natural heritage along and near the lower Humber River.

The objects of Heritage York are:

a) To preserve the historical heritage of the City of York by providing educational programmes to increase the public's awareness of the usefulness of our historical buildings and structures;

b) to purchase, lease or otherwise acquire, maintain and preserve historical buildings, sites and structures in the City of York;

c) to make, receive, acquire or hold, gifts, donations, devises and bequests for objects of the Association or for patriotic purposes;

d) for the objects of the Association to acquire, hold, lease, mortgage, sell, dispose of and otherwise deal in land, and buildings within the province of Ontario.

With help from our many volunteers and donors Lambton House now stands as the only remaining building from the milling era on the Lower Humber River. But technical language isn't my favourite thing. It may not be yours either. So for your enjoyment on our 25th anniversary, Heritage York is mounting a photographic exhibition that tells the story of the restoration of Lambton House.

Michael Freeman

President, Heritage York

The Old Mill Bridge celebrates 100 years

The arched stone “Old Mill Bridge” built in 1916 and spanning the Humber River just north of Bloor Street is historically significant. A bridge has stood at this location since 1837. Nearby - but no longer - stood King’s Mill, Toronto’s first industrial building, constructed in 1793. As early as 1816 a map shows a road to Cooper’s Mills along the Humber River too.

The “Old Mill Bridge” was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act in 1983. This year it is one hundred years old, having survived annual thaws of the Humber River and Hurricane Hazel.

See: <http://torontoist.com/2013/02/historicist-water-over-the-bridge/1983>



City of Toronto Archives. Fonds 1231, Item 1536.

The current Old Mill Bridge, as it looked in September of 1917.

The Haines and Whitney on the Humber

Before there were any Coopers, Babys, Gambles, or Howlands, there were the Whitneys and Haines. Holding title to a large swath of land, these newcomers to York established some of the earliest gristmills along the Humber's east bank. Who exactly were these extraordinary settlers?

They were most likely the first grist mills actually operating on the east bank - since the King's sawmill was already on the west bank - but there's no way of knowing for sure, since John Lawrence may have built a grist mill on the east bank before he died in 1799. Lawrence may never have had the opportunity to operate his, since he was only there for about a year.

Whitney was employed by John Willson from King's Mill to clear trees on the east bank by today's Baby Point in the mid-1790s,

and bought the land as soon as Lawrence passed and it came available at auction. William Cooper bought the lands in Lambton Mills from Peter Whitney a few years after that.

Join us on May 12th as descendant Hugh Barnett takes us on a brief journey through the lives of these extraordinary Humber River residents, following the family's pathways through some of the most critical events of the colonial era: from the Seven Years' War and the American Revolution, to the early settlement of Upper Canada, the War of 1812 and beyond, the stories of these extraordinary settlers offer a glimpse into the lives of so many other 'common folks' whose experiences shaped the character of the community we live in today.

Hugh Barnett is a director with the Etobicoke Historical Society. He is also a co-founding member and current director with the Humber River Shakespeare Co. Hugh traces his ancestry from the Whitneys and Haines through two of Peter Whitney and wife Margaret's (née Haines) daughters. Hugh holds a Masters Degree in History from the University of Toronto, where his research focused on colonial North American history.



Rocking in the Valley

John Dorsey returns to the Lambton House stage on Friday, May 6, with his wife Julie.

Our “resident” performer since pub nights began, John continues to thrill us with his own songs as well as his interpretation of the songs of others. With Julie adding back-up harmony, the event will once again be an evening of folk/roots music with “flair”.

Doors open at 6:00pm and entertainment begins at 8pm. Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere, live music and good company!



In Julie's words

My husband John and I moved into our house in the “Valley” (Warren Park) in February 1989. Two houses away from the Humber River and backing onto the Magwood Park Sanctuary, our little semi-detached home was exactly what we were looking for and more. Six months later, we were married in the backyard, with the trees and wildflowers a beautiful and natural setting. We had warned our neighbours of the upcoming wedding so that they could arrange to be away if they thought the noise would disturb them. The day before our big day, an unusual number of neighbours were tidying up their yards and mowing their lawns. We found out later that they wanted to make sure that everything looked lovely for our wedding. What a supportive neighbourhood we had moved into!

During our early walks in the neighbourhood, we noticed some garbage in the woods - along the St.Marks hill and in the woods behind St. Marks Road extending up to the backyards of Baby Point. Since Earth Day was coming up, we helped organize a clean-up, an annual event which continued for about 10 years. There were usually between 20 and 30 of us and there was always a pot luck lunch afterwards.

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In Julie's words

The first couple of years we had an interesting haul: bed springs, car parts and lots of liquor bottles - some verging on antique. More recently, under the leadership of Dawn Crandell of "upper St. Marks Road", we've been gathering with a small group each May to pick garlic mustard - an invasive species that's threatening the natural wildflowers of the Sanctuary - but that's a story for another day.

Doug Barr, Margo Duncan and John Dorsey during the early days of the Community Pub Nights.



John was not totally unfamiliar with the Valley before we moved in. He had ridden his bike along the Humber bike path, and a couple of times had visited the Lambton Tavern for a drink and a tune (a bit of a dive but some decent country music and a neat old building) by the river. It had been closed down for a while so our interest was peaked when he heard that the Lambton House was being restored.

A few months after they opened their doors for a monthly pub night, John and I dropped in. People were drinking beer and chatting, perhaps some recorded music was on - we can't recall. I commented to John, "Hey, next month you should bring your guitar along and play a tune or two". The seeds for Pub Night, as we know it today, were sown!

With the support and encouragement of Michael Freeman and the rest of the Lambton House saviours and volunteers, John began in 1999, performing each month at the Friday Night Pub Night, taking over the Howland Room. Playing on his own, with a few other local musicians, or with different variations of his own band, John's show was never the same.

John soon reduced his role to twice a year, leaving opportunities for other musicians. Some groups became regulars: The Just Us Band, BroadBelly Band. Others just performed once or twice. But always those who attended Pub Night were provided with free and fun entertainment. When John was onstage, I was always in the room, welcoming those I knew, introducing myself to those I didn't know, leading a few courageous souls in some dancing. I would often hum a little harmony from my seat in the audience, and afterwards, I'd help wind up cords, pack up the car and unload the equipment back home.

One day, John suggested that I come up on stage, and timidly I joined the band for one or two numbers. For the last couple of years, John and I have been performing as a duo. I provide back-up harmonies (if they are within my somewhat limited range) and a little percussion. John does everything else: lead vocals and all the instrumentals, including guitar, ukulele, dobro and harmonica. Oh, I DO take the occasional kazoo or train whistle solo!

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In Julie's words

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To augment what I can offer musically, I offer all the “flair” I can muster (honed during my amateur musical comedy days). I must admit that although it involves a lot of preparation, occasional marital tension and a certain amount of anxiety, performing in front of such a supportive crowd is thrilling.

Pub Night has become an opportunity for folks in the neighbourhood to get together without having to tidy our houses, prepare refreshments or clean up afterwards. Some people prefer to catch up with each other in the Humber Room using the music as background as they munch on roast beef sandwiches and down a few TGIF beers. Others grab seats in the Howland Room, experiencing the music more directly.

Sometimes Pub Night draws people from further afield often reminiscing about their visits to the original Tavern. Last month, among the visitors, was a group celebrating a 91st birthday party! And the front table was taken by a few children, Pub Night regulars who always arrive early to get the best view of the band and are among the most attentive audience members. I love them to bits and see in them the future of our special Valley neighbourhood.

Julie Dorsey

St. Marks Road

**Volunteers wanted to help with the annual garlic mustard removal
Saturday May 14th, 10am - 12 pm
in Magwood Park forest.**

Bring garden gloves, wear long-sleeved shirt and pants.

Garbage bags will be supplied.

Meet at the Pasadena Gardens Entrance.

General information on Garlic Mustard can be found at <http://bit.ly/GarlicMustardTO>

Dawn Crandell: A community ambition that persists

We have been doing garlic mustard removal for seven years. I started it because of my interest in native plants, and love the native spring ephemeral flowers. After we moved here 10 years ago, I would walk in the woods with my baby, and was delighted to discover that patch of forest was full of fantastic native plants. When the garlic mustard started to invade it, I couldn't stand the thought of it all being taken over and losing them. I contacted the city of Toronto and with their blessing rallied as many people as possible, and we gathered together to remove it in the spring. We have repeated this every year. The third and fourth year were pretty discouraging as it seemed we weren't making any headway; lots of people gave up. But I knew that after we had depleted the seed bank, which takes a few years, it would get better. A few of the neighbours - especially John and Julie - have been fantastic and persistent. And it has gotten better! In the areas we have cleared persistently, the native plants are rebounding, and now the job every year is less taxing.

Baby Point to be considered for Heritage Designation

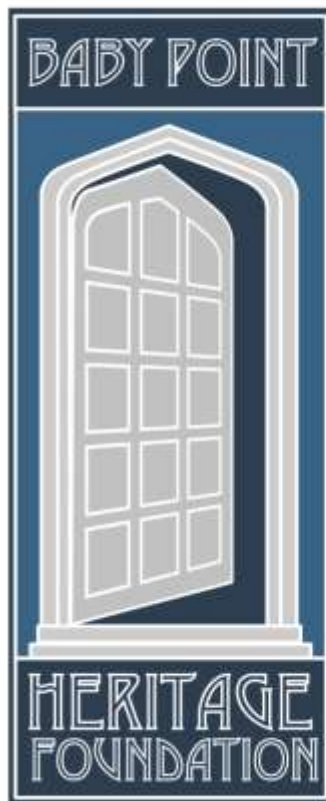
A study of Baby Point as a Heritage Conservation District has been approved to begin in 2016. The Study area includes a portion of the most southerly part of the former city of York located between Jane Street and the Humber River.

In 2012 City Council adopted a prioritization system and criteria for the establishment of Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD). The five criteria are: development activity, existing level of heritage protection, fragility, planning priorities and archaeology. In its analysis the Heritage Preservation Services noted that 80% of Toronto's Baby Point area has archaeological potential together with a significant number of development applications and the fact that 99% of the properties have no form of heritage protection.

The HCD study area is bounded by the Baby Point peninsula and east to the Jane Street entry, and Humbercrest Blvd south of St Marks Road to Humberview Road. The Study is anticipated to begin in the fall of this year and not to be completed until 2018. A detailed map can be found on the city of Toronto website:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.PG2.8>

For more information on the Baby Point Study please see: <http://babypointheritage.com>



The Baby Point Heritage Foundation

Invites you to join us in celebration of our historic neighbourhood on

Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:30 pm

for a wine and cheese event at

The Baby Point Club House - 71 Baby Point Road, Toronto

Guest speaker is Mr. Bill Whitla
of the William Morris Society of Canada
"William Morris and the House Beautiful"

Additional presentations will include
"The Doors of Baby Point" 2017 Calendar, HCD status,
AGM items and membership support

Please RSVP to info@babypointheritage.com
Baby Point Heritage Foundation
www.babypointheritage.com 647-888-7893



25th Anniversary

Heritage York Annual General Meeting

June 14, 2016, at 7:00pm

Heritage York Members and other interested parties are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of Heritage York to be held at Lambton House on Tuesday, June 14, 2016 at 7pm for the purpose of:

- receiving and considering a report on the activities and financial statements for the year ended December 2015 and the report of the auditors thereon;
- electing officers and directors;
- appointing auditors; and
- transacting such further and other business as may properly come before the meeting;
- adjournment.

Guest speaker, Charles Bruce-Thompson, Vice-President, Toronto Field Naturalists, will follow the AGM.

Refreshments to be provided.

Margo Duncan, Secretary/Treasurer, Heritage York

May 1, 2016



FIRST STORY TORONTO is an Indigenous-led group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Torontonians who lead walking and bus tours of Indigenous Toronto and who are developing an interactive app mapping the 12,000 years of Toronto's Indigenous history. Toronto stands on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wyndat Nations, and the Métis Nation of Ontario.

First Story's goal is to empower the diverse Indigenous community of contemporary Toronto to explore and share the geography and culture of Indigenous Toronto for the benefit of all residents and visitors to the city. Users of the app have access, via a smartphone, to stories, photographs, archival documents, and audio and video clips illuminating Indigenous presence and history all across this area—the app already has dozens of place-based stories across Toronto's landscape with many more to come. They plan to create a more extensive website that will include educational and exploratory resources.

Join Heritage York @ Lambton House at 7:30pm on June 9, for *Exploring the Aboriginal History of Toronto* with First Story and learn more about their interactive app, mapping, bus and walking tours.

FIRST STORY TORONTO is being developed by:

- The Toronto Native Community History Project based at the Toronto Native Canadian Centre, www.ncct.on.ca
- The Centre for Community Mapping based in Waterloo, www.comap.ca

The time will soon be here when my grandchild will long for the cry of a loon, the flash of a salmon, the whisper of spruce needles, or the screech of an eagle.

But he will not make friends with any of these creatures and when his heart aches with longing, he will curse me.

Have I done all to keep the air fresh?

Have I cared enough about the water?

Have I left the eagle to soar in freedom?

Have I done everything I could to earn my grandchild's fondness?

Chief Dan George, Tsleil-Waututh (1899 - 1981)

Celebrate special moments

Special moments deserve to be celebrated as they create the highlights of our personal histories. Lambton House is the perfect place for birthdays and anniversaries, retirements and award parties, bridal or baby showers, engagement parties and wedding receptions. Many more events, such as a Mehndi, Mayoun or Sangeet, or Christmas and corporate celebrations are an easy fit.

In April, Mary Laffey enjoyed a special Pub Night birthday celebration and with early notice, Heritage York reserved the tables for her family and friends.

Our furnishings include buffet and dining tables and comfortable chairs. The servery has two fridges, a toaster oven, a microwave oven, a coffee maker and a large coffee urn. If needed, tableware, chafing dishes and table linens can be rented with your total rental package; our rates are very reasonable. For room capacity please see the rental information on our website lambtonhouse.org. For more information please email Lambton House at admin@lambtonhouse.org.

Create your own theme in this historic tavern or join us at one of our nine monthly Pub Nights to mark your special moment!



Warren Park resident Doris Dunne celebrated her 90th birthday in Lambton House this April.

Guest speaker at the Heritage York Annual General Meeting



Following this year's Annual General Meeting of Heritage York, Toronto Field Naturalists' Vice-President, Charles Bruce-Thompson, has kindly agreed to speak about the many ways that TFN encourages the study of natural history and the preservation of Toronto's natural heritage. If you enjoy nature as we do, we encourage you to join us for our AGM and the TFN talk on June 14 at 7:00pm.

The Toronto Field Naturalists was established in 1923 to promote a love of nature in Toronto and Heritage York has benefitted greatly from their support. Volunteer members of TFN include experts who willingly share their knowledge with others.

The annual May Aggie's Wildflower Walk at Lambton House is a collaborative undertaking with TFN. Heritage York's new wildflower specimen garden on the west side of Lambton House is based on the drawings by Agnes Moodie Fitzgibbon and published in 1868 in *Canadian Wildflowers*. This garden was made possible by a grant from the Toronto Field Naturalists and with the support of the City of Toronto, Black Creek Pioneer Village and our many volunteers, but especially Master Gardener Peggy Mooney from Etobicoke Master Gardeners, who designed the garden. Our sincere appreciation is extended to all.



Remembering local residents and community leaders

Each of us has a story to share with others. Visitors tell us of their good times at the historic Lambton House. Please share more of your memories with us! Also if you have a story to tell about someone you admire who lives or once lived in Warren Park or the former city of York, Heritage York would like to hear from you. Your story may be based in a local place but it can also represent a community of common interest, purpose or practice. Your story may be about a member of your family, or a friend or neighbour who is special to you. Your hero may be someone who once lived nearby or recently moved here. Or your story may be about a local event or activity. To share your community stories please contact Heritage York at admin@lambtonhouse.org.

Rhubarb Jam

Ingredients -

To every lb. of Rhubarb allow 1 lb. of loaf sugar, the rind of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon. Wipe the rhubarb perfectly dry, take off the string or peel, and weigh it; put into a preserving pan, with sugar in the above proportion; mince the lemon-rind very finely, add it to the other ingredients, and place the preserving pan by the side of the fire; keep stirring to prevent the rhubarb from burning, and when the sugar is dissolved, put the pan more over the fire, and let the jam boil until it is done taking care to keep it well skimmed and stirred with a wooden or silver spoon. Pour it into pots, and cover down with oiled and egged papers.



Time.- If the rhubarb is young and tender, $\frac{3}{4}$ hour, reckoning from the time, $1 \frac{1}{4}$ to $1 \frac{1}{2}$ hour.

Seasonable from January to May

Mrs Beeton's EVERY DAY COOKERY AND HOUSEKEEPING BOOK
London: Ward, Lock & Co 1893.

Rhubarb became all the rage in England when Queen Victoria's coronation in 1837 inspired a commemorative variety known as Victoria; it is still popular. Rhubarb continues to be grown in the royal gardens and is now used to flavour a specialty gin named in Victoria's honour.

**Heritage York wishes everyone
wonderful spring and summer!**

Heritage York Calendar Highlights

Spring & Summer Hours @ Lambton House:

Throughout May to August Lambton House is open Sundays 12:30-4:00pm or by appointment. Lambton House tours and refreshments available. *A good will offering.*

May:

May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 Lambton House is open on Sundays between 12:30-4:00pm. Tours and refreshments available. *A good will offering.*

May 6, Friday, Pub Night @ Lambton House with John and Julie Dorsey. Doors open 6:30pm, music 8:00pm. *No cover.*

May 8, Saturday, Aggie's Wildflowers annual walk with the Toronto Field Naturalists and Madeleine McDowell. 1:30pm starting at Lambton House and tea on return. *A good will offering.*

May 12, Thursday, Heritage Talk @ Lambton House *The Early Millers of the Lower Humber* with Hugh Barnett. Doors open 6:30pm, talk 7:30pm. *A good will offering.*

May 28 and 29, Saturday and Sunday, 10am-4:00pm. Doors Open @ Lambton House: *Re-used, Re-visited and Revised.* Tours, talks, displays and refreshments available. *A good will offering.*

June:

June 3, Friday, Pub Night @ Lambton with Jane Drake and Friends. Doors open 6:30pm, music 8:00pm. *No cover.*

June 5, 12, 19, and 26 @ Lambton House is open on Sundays between 12:30-4:00pm. Tours and refreshments available. *A good will offering.*

June 9, Thursday, *Exploring the Aboriginal History of Toronto* with First Story Toronto. Doors open 6:30pm, talk 7:30pm. *A good will offering.*

June 14, Tuesday, Heritage York Annual General Meeting. Doors open 6:30pm, AGM 7:00pm. Guest Speaker: Charles Bruce-Thompson, Vice-President, Toronto Field Naturalists. *Open to Members and the Public.*

July:

July 1, Friday, 11:00 – 2:00, Annual Canada Day BBQ @ Lambton House.

July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 Lambton House is open on Sundays between 12:30-4:00pm. Tours and refreshments available. *A good will offering.*

August:

August 7, 14, 21, and 28 Lambton House is open on Sundays between 12:30-4:00pm. Tours and refreshments available. *A good will offering.*

Exhibition in Howland Room:

Lambton House Re-visited, an exhibit of the restoration of Lambton House, sponsored by Heritage York.

Display in Humber Room:

From Victoria to Elizabeth: notable events in the lives of the Royals sponsored by Heritage York.