

Town of York HISTORICAL SOCIETY



TORONTO'S FIRST Post Office

January 2020

Newsletter

Vol. XXXVI No. 1

TORONTO'S 186th ANNIVERSARY



Every year, the Town of York Historical Society celebrates the incorporation of the City of Toronto in 1834. Long-time members of our community know that we usually throw our annual party in the grand ballroom at St. Lawrence Hall. This year, however, construction of the nearby St. Lawrence North Market has meant a temporary relocation and change of program.

In the next few weeks, we'll be releasing tickets and details about this year's celebration. Please make sure that you're getting our email newsletter—if not, sign up

at TownofYork.com—and keep an eye out for your invitation.

In the meantime, one aspect of the evening that will remain is the Old Town Silent Auction. Local businesses have been extremely generous with their donations. Their contributions of special experiences, food and drink, artwork, and even furniture have benefitted not only the auction winners, but also the museum at Toronto's First Post Office, which relies on proceeds to keep the doors open and the fires lit. Here's a sneak peek of auction lots that have already started arriving: luxury stays at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, furniture from Biltmore Domicile, gift certificates from Fluevog Shoes, the Silent Film Festival, Canadian Stage, and more.

Save the date, because this March 6 will be something wonderfully different!

NEW HOURS AT ST. LAWRENCE MARKET

In the October edition of this newsletter, we reported that St. Lawrence Market was exploring the possibility of extending their hours of operation into the evening and on Sundays. In January, a pilot project was introduced that would do just that.

To better serve the needs of residents and visitors to the Old Town neighbourhood, weekday hours have been extended later into the evening, to 8:00 pm each weekday. The Saturday market, which has traditionally kept farmers' hours, has also changed. Instead of opening at 5:00 am, the main market building will open at 7. Perhaps the biggest change will be the market opening on Sundays. The new hours begin March 15, and will continue to March 2021. So far, hours for the Saturday Farmers' Market in the tent, for the Sunday Antiques Market, and for the Market Gallery on the 2nd floor have not been affected.

Mondays:	CLOSED
Tuesdays:	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Wednesdays:	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Thursdays:	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Fridays:	9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturdays:	7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sundays:	10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The new hours will begin on March 15.
(Image: St. Lawrence Market Complex)

COMING UP AT TORONTO'S FIRST POST OFFICE

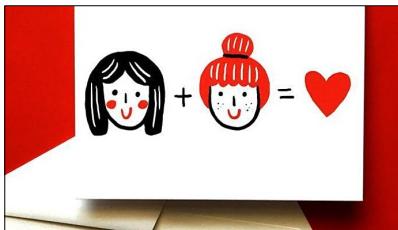


Letter Writing Socials

Upcoming dates: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm, February 9, March 8, and April 5, 2020

A free, monthly drop-in for letter-writers, bullet journallers, and all those who would like dedicated writing time in good company. Hosted by the Toronto Letter Writers Society. Bring your own supplies or use ours.

Free! All are welcome to attend. No registration necessary.



Valentine's Day Card Workshop

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm, Wednesday, February 12

Artist Natalie Very B. returns to lead another fun and creative workshop. You'll learn helpful tips and tricks on how to paint illustrative elements using ink, enhance your calligraphy skills, and apply design principles to make a creative, stunning card. You'll also use a Dada-inspired poetry exercise to give your handmade card an extra-special message. No experience necessary, just a willingness to play, laugh, and make something super cute!

\$20 Town of York Historical Society members, \$25 non-members

Register at [TFPOvalentines.eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/town-of-york-historical-society-valentines-workshop-tickets-8210000000).

... AND EVENTS OF INTEREST ELSEWHERE



Image: Fort York National Historic Site/City of Toronto

Family Day at Fort York

10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday, February 17

Fort York National Historic Site

Bring your family to Fort York for a day of creative crafts and other fun activities, pop-up performances, and exhibitions. Bring skates and glide around The Bentway Skate Trail beneath the Gardiner Expressway.

Free admission!



Image: StreetARToronto

StreetARToronto You've Changed Exhibit

January 11 - April 19, 2020

Market Gallery, 2nd Floor, St. Lawrence Market, 95 Front St. East

This exhibit showcases the ways mural, street, and graffiti artists have transformed Toronto into a city-wide art gallery. Featuring videos, displays, and photographs of more than 100 StreetARToronto projects between 2012-2019.

Free admission!

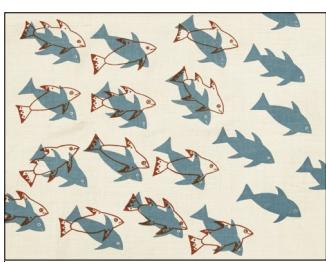
Annual Toronto Postcard Show

10:00 am - 5:00 pm, Sunday, February 23

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court

Canada's largest vintage postcard show, with 40 vendors and thousands of postcards for sale. Many, many countries and topics will be represented. Free parking!

Free for Toronto Postcard Club members, \$5 non-members.



Mary Samuelle/Pudlat, Fish and Shadows (detail).

Image: Textile Museum of Canada

“**ᓇᓘᓘ** **ᑕᓘ** **ᑭᓘ** **ᑕᓘ** Printed Textiles from Kinngait Studios

On now until August 30, 2020

Textile Museum of Canada, 55 Centre Ave

This exhibition presents the little-known story of a group of Inuit artists and printmakers who produced a collection of graphic textiles in the 1950s and 60s – a period of change that disrupted traditional language and relationships to the land.

General Admission to the museum \$15, discounts for children, students, and seniors.

NEW SPEAKER SERIES



Toronto's First Post Office, Then and Now by Trevor Parkins-Sciberras

Join us for a new series of events at Toronto's First Post Office. Presented by Town of York Historical Society volunteers, each event features an expert on some aspect of Toronto's history, along with light refreshments. These evenings are free for members!

Doors open at 6:30 pm and the talk starts at 7:00 pm. Space is limited, so please RSVP for each event. If you aren't already on our email list, sign up at TownofYork.com to hear when the RSVP list opens.

Historian Trevor Parkins-Sciberras on *Toronto: Then and Now*

Thursday, February 20, 6:30 pm

Using old photographs paired with modern shots, Trevor will be showing how the street scenes have changed, speaking about the history of the archival images, and sharing techniques for matching street scenes perfectly.

Free for members, \$10 non-members. Register or RSVP at TThenandnow.eventbrite.ca

Save the date! Coming up in the Town of York Speaker Series:

May 21: Jackie Mahoney on *History Acting and Museum Theatre of the Past*

August 20: Miriam Smith on *Early Jewish Immigration and Growth in Toronto*

November 19: To be announced.

Not yet a member? Join the Society for only \$30 per year and save on the 2020 speaker series!

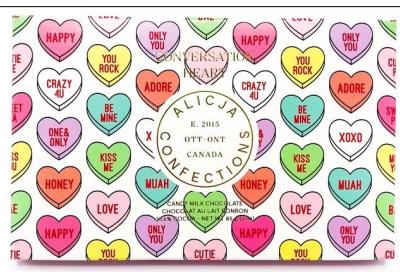
Plus, receive this newsletter delivered to your mailbox, get our monthly events e-newsletter before non-members, and always save 10% in the shop at Toronto's First Post Office.

Join up at Toronto's First Post Office!

HOT IN THE SHOP: Chocolate Postcards!

Yes, you can mail these postcards! Send someone a sweet surprise with an ordinary \$1.94 stamp. The favourite flavour at Toronto's First Post Office has been milk chocolate + potato chip, but have you tried cereal + marshmallow + white chocolate? Or mint + dark chocolate? Each postcard from Alicja Confectioners is melt-in-your-mouth delicious,

packaged beautifully, and each is made in Ottawa, Canada. Find them on the postcard rack in the shop at Toronto's First Post Office.



MESSAGE ON A BOTTLE

One of Toronto's most beloved hand-lettering artists has a new exhibit opening soon at Urban Gallery on Queen East. In *Bottled Feelings*, Doris Wai turns the most private thoughts of her subjects into their own vessels. Secrets, shared by many but too difficult to speak publicly, were submitted anonymously to be hand-lettered onto glass bottles.



Bottled Feelings opens at Urban Gallery, 400 Queen St. East on February 7 and continues until February 29, 2020. Meet the artist on February 22, 2-5 pm.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!

Did you notice our masthead's new look? Do you have thoughts about the St. Lawrence Market changing their hours of operation? Want to know more about the Letter Writing Society? We'd love to hear your thoughts, and might include them in a future edition of the newsletter. Contact the Editor at info@tos1stpo.com.

GET INVOLVED

Become a Member.

Show your support for history in Old Town Toronto, get 10% off in the shop, and receive the Newsletter right in your mailbox.

Individual Memberships: \$30 Family Memberships: \$50

Mail-in membership forms can be found at townofyork.com/membership.html

Donate.

All donations and memberships come with a tax receipt!

Cheques may be sent to Toronto's First Post Office, 260 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1N1. Many other ways to donate, including by credit card or PayPal, can be found at townofyork.com/support.html.

Get Your Mail at a Museum.

A limited number of P.O. boxes have become available!

Only \$185 per year, tax and membership included. Enjoy value and security, outstanding and responsive customer service, and courier deliveries. All within a National Historic Site. And we're open on weekends!

Be Social.

We post regularly on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @TOS1stPO. Join us!



Toronto's First Post Office is administered by the Town of York Historical Society

260 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5A 1N1

The Post Office will be closed February 16 and 17 for Family Day,
and April 10, 12, and 13 during Easter Weekend.

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Newsletter Editor: Kat Akerfeldt

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Hours of operation:

Monday to Friday: 9:00 – 5:30

Saturdays: 10:00 – 4:00

Sundays: 12:00 – 4:00

Closed on holiday Mondays and Sundays preceding.

The Town of York Historical Society Board of Directors: Valerie Bayers, Kevin Both, Anthony Colvin, Katherine Dennis, Shirley Farrar, Luisa Giacometti, John Jones, Corinna Prior, and Martin Rainbow.

The Town of York Historical Society is a legally incorporated non-profit organization and registered charity.

Toronto's First Post Office is a museum, National Historic Site and Canada Post outlet.

Gratefully acknowledged is the support of the City of Toronto; the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport, our members, donors and customers, and Canada Post Corporation.

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



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