

East York Records

East York has left its mark on the rest of Toronto through the red bricks supplied by the Don Valley Brick Works. In more recent times, the oases of its riverside parklands have been enjoyed by people from all over the city. The City of Toronto Archives has records, created by municipal governments as well as private groups and individuals, about East York, including personal papers; published books and reports; and visual material, including maps and photographs.

Important Dates

- ♦ Pre 1923: East York is part of York Township within York County
- ♦ December 31, 1923: The Township of East York is incorporated
- ♦ April 15, 1953: East York and Leaside becomes two of 13 municipalities in the new Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
- ♦ January 1, 1967: East York and Leaside amalgamate and become the Borough of East York
- ♦ January 1, 1998: East York ceases to be an individual municipality and becomes part of the amalgamated City of Toronto



Maple sugar hut, Don Valley, 1913, SC 213, Item 1191

Types of records

Council proceedings

The Archives has Council proceedings and by-laws for East York from 1924 to 1997, and Leaside from 1913 to 1966.

For information about the area before the formation of East York, see Council proceedings for the Township of York Council starting in 1860.

To find Council proceedings, search the Gencat database.

Maps

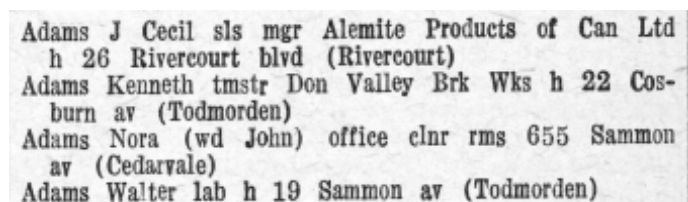
To find maps showing East York, look in the binder in the Research Hall labelled “Cartographic Collection,” or use the Gencat database. Reference Desk staff can show you how to use the database. The Archives also has several atlases that may be useful. They are found in the section titled “Atlases” in the main area of the Research Hall.

Assessment rolls

The archives has assessment rolls for East York from 1924 to 1991 and for Leaside for 1939 and from 1942 to 1967 (after which it was amalgamated with East York).

For assessment information before the formation of East York, see the assessment rolls for the Township of York. They are currently available from 1882 to 1992.

To find assessment rolls, search the Gencat database.



Adams J Cecil sls mgr Alemite Products of Can Ltd
h 26 Rivercourt blvd (Rivercourt)
Adams Kenneth tmstr Don Valley Brk Wks h 22 Cos-
burn av (Todmorden)
Adams Nora (wd John) office clnr rms 655 Sammon
av (Cedarvale)
Adams Walter lab h 19 Sammon av (Todmorden)

Toronto City Directory 1926

Other municipal records

Many records created by East York are currently (June 2003) being assessed for transfer to the City of Toronto Archives, where they will be listed in our database, conserved if necessary, stored under appropriate environmental conditions, and made available to the public. Topics will involve buildings, parks, recreation, planning, and works projects, as well as the redevelopment of the Thornecliffe Race Track, and the fate of the apartment building known as the "Bayview Ghost." We invite researchers to return to the Archives periodically to see these records as they become available.

The records of the former Metro (regional) government and its agencies, boards, and commissions also include information about matters relevant to East York, including public works, such as water mains; transportation, such as roads and the TTC; planning; parks; and social services. To find these records, search on your research topic in the Gencat database, or speak to Reference Desk staff.

City directories

Some areas of East York are listed in the Toronto city directories in a separate suburban section (see each year's table of contents for page numbers) from 1890 to 1929. Starting in 1930, East York listings are part of the main directory. Between 1983 and 1995, East York listings appear only in the "central" and "east" editions of the directory, which are not published every year. After 1995, East York listings appear in one volume entitled "City of Toronto (east of Yonge) and East York."

Directories before 1941 are available on microfilm, found in the self-serve cabinets in the Microfilm Room at the back of the Research Hall. Directories from 1941 to 2001 are available in hard copy on the shelves in the Research Hall.

The Archives also has a copy of a *Directory and Map of the Township of York* (917.13540025 ON8 1909) for 1909, which includes listings for East York villages. Ask Reference Desk staff to retrieve this directory for you from closed reference.

Fire Insurance Maps

A small part of western East York appears on fire insurance maps on microfilm starting in 1890. A larger area appears in the 1910 revised volumes. Larger areas can be found in the volumes for 1944, 1950, and 1956. They are found in boxes titled "Goad's" or "Underwriters'" in the metal cabinets in the Microfilm Room at the back of the Research Hall.

Each set of maps begins with a key map and an index of street names. You can use either to find your area. A key to the symbols used in the maps is found on the bulletin board in the Microfilm Room at the back of the Research Hall.

Aerial photos

The aerials cover the East York area from 1947 to 1992. Each aerial shows a part of the city, not the entire city. Use the index maps for each year, available on the large tables by the lockers, to find the identification number of the aerial photograph(s) you wish to see. The identification number for a particular area changes from year to year up to 1983, so before 1983, you must look up each area separately for each year. Starting in 1983, the identification numbers stay the same for each year. Once you have an identification number, you may then look at the aerials, which are arranged by year and identification number in the large map cabinets by the lockers.

When using the aerials, please wear the white cotton gloves provided, to protect the photographs from fingerprints.

An additional but small group of aerials shows areas around the Don River from 1937 to 1942. These aerials are known as Series 97, Aerial Photographs of Valley Lands. To see these aerial photographs, ask the Reference Desk staff to retrieve them from the vault.



"Unutility house," Leaside, November 15, 1945, SC 266, Item 100206

Books

These general reference books are available in the Archives Research Hall Library and are a good place to start your research:

Ron Brown, *Toronto's Lost Villages* (Toronto: Polar Bear Press 1997)
971.3541 B81 1997

Eleanor Darke, *A Mill Should Be Built Thereon: An Early History of the Todmorden Mills* (Toronto: Natural History/Natural Heritage 1995)
971.3541 D24 1995

True Davidson, et al., *Golden Years of East York* (East York: Centennial College Press 1976)
971.3541 D28 1976

Jane Pitfield, ed., *Leaside* (Toronto: Natural Heritage Books 2000)
971.3541 L48 1999

J.I Rempel, *The Town of Leaside: A Brief History* (Toronto: East York Historical Society 1982)
971.3541 R25 1982

Books on more specific East York topics may be found by searching in the Gencat database. These topics might include landmarks (such as Todmorden Mills) and people (such as Charles Sauriol and True Davidson).

Reports

The Archives holds published reports regarding East York, including those on topics such as public transit and roads. Look in the Research Hall Library in the "Government Reports" section under the category you are interested in, or search the Gencat database. Of particular interest is the *Brief of Reeve True Davidson, East York Township, to the Royal Commission on Metropolitan Government* (1964).

Photographs

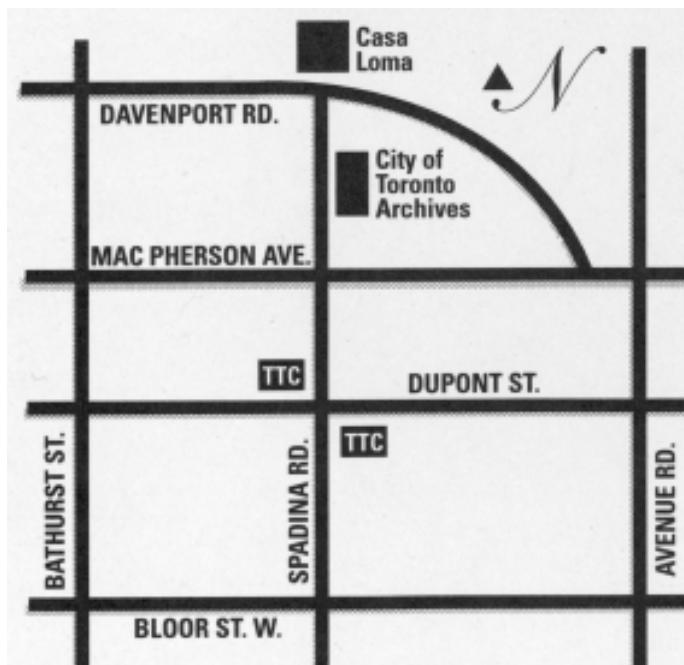
To find photographs of East York places and events, search on your research topic in the Gencat database.

Other Information

For general information, see the information file titled "East York." You may also find other information files about more specific topics, such as smaller communities within East York (such as Leaside), and landmarks (such as the Don Valley, the Don Valley Brick Works, and Todmorden Mills). For a list of information file titles, please consult Reference Desk staff. For a list of East York mayors and other municipal information, please ask Reference Desk staff for the binder entitled "East York Reference Highlights." For information regarding origins of street names and street name changes, see the back of the binder titled "Street Names M-Z" in the Research Hall.



Don Valley Brick Works, circa 1891, SC 128, Subseries 1, Item 1160



The City of Toronto Archives is easy to get to by public transit. Exit the University subway line at Dupont station and walk north.

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www.toronto.ca/archives

9:00-4:30 Monday to Friday
10:00-4:30 Saturdays (September to June)
Closed Sundays

Our archival heritage is unique and irreplaceable. Please help us preserve it for future researchers by using only pencil when taking notes, wearing cotton gloves when handling photographs, and checking with Research Hall staff before making photocopies. Please do not remove any archival materials from the Research Hall. Thank you for your consideration!

The City of Toronto Archives is a program of the City Clerk's Office, Corporate Services. June 2003.