

Etobicoke Records

Etobicoke has included a number of different landscapes and communities: prosperous farms, resorts clustered on the lakeshore, mill villages on the Humber, a commercial byway along Lakeshore Road (later Boulevard). The City of Toronto Archives has many records, created by municipal governments as well as private groups and individuals, about Etobicoke, including government reports; personal papers; books; and visual material, including maps and photographs.

Important Dates

- ♦ Pre 1850: Etobicoke is part of York County
- ♦ January 1, 1850: Etobicoke is incorporated as a township
- ♦ 1911 to 1930: Long Branch, Mimico, and New Toronto separate from Etobicoke and incorporate as villages or towns
- ♦ April 15, 1953: Etobicoke, Long Branch, Mimico, and New Toronto become four of 13 municipalities in the new Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
- ♦ January 1, 1967: Etobicoke, Long Branch, Mimico, and New Toronto amalgamate and become the Borough of Etobicoke
- ♦ June 29, 1983: Etobicoke incorporates as a city
- ♦ January 1, 1998: Etobicoke ceases to be an individual municipality and becomes part of the amalgamated City of Toronto



Humber River, June 1891, SC 128, Subseries 1, Item 1202

Types of records

Council proceedings and by-laws

The Archives has Council proceedings and by-laws for Etobicoke, Long Branch, Mimico, and New Toronto. To find them, search the Gencat database. Subject indices for by-laws are available in green binders on shelves on the south wall of the Research Hall.

Assessment rolls

The Archives has assessment rolls for Etobicoke, Long Branch, Mimico, and New Toronto. To find assessment rolls, search the Gencat database.

Other municipal records

Many records created by Etobicoke are currently (May 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. These records will include parks and recreation files and photographs; financial records; and planning records, among other topics. We invite researchers to return to the Archives periodically to see these

City directories

Parts of Etobicoke 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, Etobicoke listings are part of the main directory. Between 1983 and 1995, Etobicoke listings appear only in the "west" edition of the directory, which is not published every year. After 1995, Etobicoke listings appear in one separate volume.

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.

Maps

To find maps showing Etobicoke, 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.

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 Etobicoke, 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.

Humber Bay

McAllister Robt rubber wkr Goodyear Tire Co lvs. 59
Queen
McDermott Lawrence clk Steel Co of Can lvs. 22
Oliver
McDermott Patk watchman h 22 Oliver
McDonald Donald W driver McGee Bakery h 89 Cannon
road
McDonald Jas mach Wm Dalley h w s Valley drive
McDougall Robt Y lab h s s Howard
McFarlane Margt Mrs h 31 Salisbury av
McGrath Jas mkt gdnr s s Queen h same
McGrath John mkt gdnr e s Wesley h same
McGraw Fredk pleasure boats n s Lake Shore rd res
Toronto
McIntyre Archd carp h n s Howard
McKee Saml h s s Sydenham
McKenzie Jas mach h 247 Lake Shore rd
McKeown Jas shoe repr s s Queen h same

Toronto City Directory 1926

Fire Insurance Maps

The Archives has fire insurance maps on microfilm for parts of Etobicoke for 1944, 1953, 1954, 1962, and 1973. There are also fire insurance maps for Lambton Mills in 1910, and Mimico and New Toronto in 1913. They are found in the microfilm (boxes are 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 Etobicoke 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 aerial shows areas around the Humber and Don rivers 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.

Reports

The Archives holds published reports regarding Etobicoke, including those on topics such as the lakeshore “motel strip,” the Islington community, Woodbine Centre, and the Humber River watershed, as well as official plans. Look in the Research Hall Library in the “Government Reports” section under the category you are interested in, or search the Gencat database.

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

Robert A. Given, *The Story of Etobicoke* (Etobicoke: Municipality of Etobicoke 1950)
971.354 G43 1950

Esther Heyes, *Etobicoke: From Furrow to Borough* (Etobicoke: The Borough of Etobicoke 1974)
971.3541 H51 1974



Construction on the Kingsway, June 17, 1936, SC 266, Item 40448

K.M. Lizars, *The Valley of the Humber, 1615-1913* (Toronto: William Briggs 1913)
971.354 L76 1913

Villages of Etobicoke (Weston: Argyle Printing 1985)
971.3541 V71 1985

Books on more specific Etobicoke topics may be found by searching in the Gencat database. These topics might include places, organizations, landmarks, and events.

Photographs

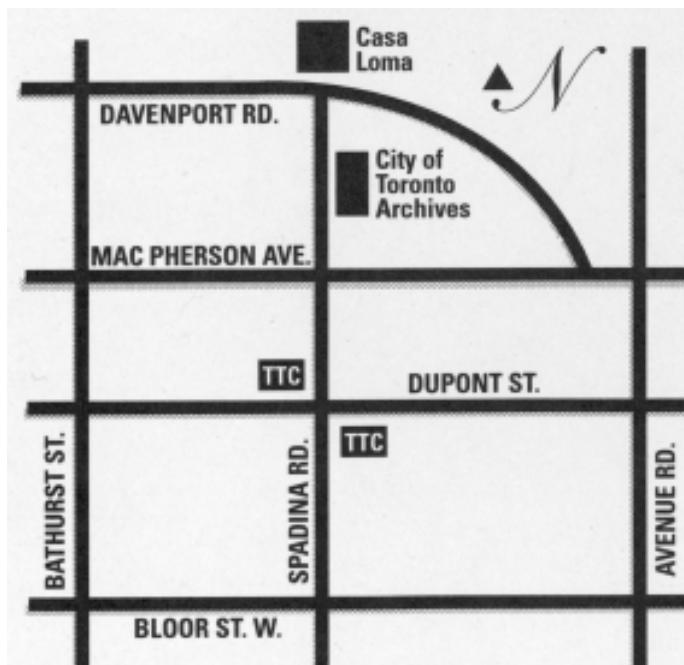
To find photographs of Etobicoke places and events, search on your research topic in the Gencat database.

Other Information

For general information, see the information file titled "Etobicoke." You may also find other information files about more specific topics, such as smaller communities within Etobicoke (such as Mimico and the Kingsway), landmarks (such as Montgomery's Inn), people, and events. For a list of information file titles, please consult Reference Desk staff.

The green binder "Etobicoke Street Name Changes" will help you determine if a street name has changed.

For a list of Etobicoke mayors and other municipal information, please ask Reference Desk staff for the binder entitled "Etobicoke Reference Highlights."



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



Flooding, June 2, 1947, SC 266, Item 115655

Highlights

Photographic highlights include construction of the Humber Sewage Treatment Plant (Series 160 and 163). Other highlights include a film of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh visiting Etobicoke in 1959 (Series 230, Item 17). More highlights include photographs of the Humber Valley surveys of 1912 (Series 23) and records of the homeowners' group The Thorncrest Homes Association Inc. (Fonds 55).

City of Toronto Archives

255 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2V3

phone: 416-397-0778

fax: 416-392-9685

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. May 2003.