

# North York Records

North York has a long history as first an agricultural region dotted with crossroads villages, then a growing suburban community, and finally a modern city. The City of Toronto Archives has many records, created by the government as well as private groups and individuals, about North York. These records include municipal government information such as Council minutes and departmental files; personal papers; published books and reports; and visual material, including maps and photographs.

## Important Dates

- ◆ Pre 1922: North York area is part of York Township within York County
- ◆ July 18, 1922: The Township of North York is created
- ◆ April 15, 1953: North York becomes one of 13 municipalities in the new Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
- ◆ January 1, 1967: North York is renamed a borough
- ◆ February 14, 1979: North York is incorporated as a city
- ◆ January 1, 1998: North York ceases to be an individual municipality and becomes part of the amalgamated City of Toronto



*Jolly Miller Hotel (left) and York Mills Skating Rink, Yonge Street, circa 1967, Series 249, File 84*

## Types of records

### Council proceedings

The Archives has the North York Council minutes and by-laws from 1923 to 1994, and Committee reports for various years. For a detailed list of committees and their reports, please ask at the Reference Desk. These minutes and reports are stored in the Records Centre. Please ask the Reference Desk staff to order the volumes you wish to see from the Records Centre.

North York by-laws are computerized and can be searched by keyword. Please see the Reference Desk staff if you wish to have a search performed.

For information about the area before the formation of North York, see Council proceedings for the Township of York starting in 1860. To find them, search the Gencat database.

## Assessment rolls

The archives has North York assessment rolls from 1922 to 1992. For assessment information before the formation of North York, see the assessment rolls for the Township of York from 1882 to 1992. To find assessment rolls, search

the Gencat database or ask Reference Desk staff for assistance.

## City directories

North York is listed in the Toronto city directories in a separate suburban section (see each year's table of contents for page numbers) from 1924 to 1929. Starting in 1930, North York listings are part of the main directory. After 1983, the directories are published in separate "central," "east," and "west" volumes, though not every volume is published in every year. North York listings appear in all three of these volumes, depending on location.

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*

NORTH YORK	
ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY	
est to	Carson Wm
ton ar,	Carter Ecn
Southurst	Carter Lou
Orchard	Canebon A
hurst	Canebon C
beyond	Chapman F
iso ar,	Chappel J
blvd	Chard Eliz
4 south	Chase Hov
	Chris Ida
	Germain
	Chris Joh
	Clarke Jas
	Clubley R
	dun ar
	Collett Jos

*Directories often show someone's occupation and workplace as well as their address. The Toronto City Directory 1926*

*and Map of the Township of York (917.13540025 ON8 1909) for 1909, which includes listings for North York villages. Ask Reference Desk staff to retrieve this directory for you from closed reference.*

## Fire Insurance Maps

The Archives has fire insurance maps on microfilm for parts of North York for 1952, 1959, 1961, and 1964. 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.

## Maps

To find maps showing North 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.

## Aerial photos

The aerials cover the North 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 aerial shows areas around the Don and Humber 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 North York, including those on topics such as public transit, roads, and construction of the North York Civic Centre. 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 on the history of North York are available in the Archives Research Hall Library and are a good place to start your research:

Patricia W. Hart, *Pioneering in North York* (Toronto: General Publishing 1968)  
971.3541 H25 1968

Borough of North York, *Historical Outline of the Administration of the Borough of North York Including Historic Sites* (North York: Public Information Office of the Borough of North York 1978 or 1983)  
971.3541 H62 1978 or 1983



*Morgan and Piper families, June 16, 1897, Bell and Morgan Family Photographs, Series 8, File 31*

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

Books on more specific North York topics may be found by searching in the database Gencat. These topics might include smaller communities within North York (such as Downsview or Oriole), church histories (such as St. John's at York Mills), and organizations (such as North York Hydro).

## Photographs

To find photographs of North York places and events, search on your research topic in the Gencat database, or browse the Gencat listing for Series 249.

## Other Information

For general information, see the information file titled "North York." You may also find other information files about more specific topics, such as smaller communities within North York (such as York Mills or Don Mills), specific buildings (such as Dempsey Store or Gibson House), parks (such as Edwards Gardens), and other landmarks or events.

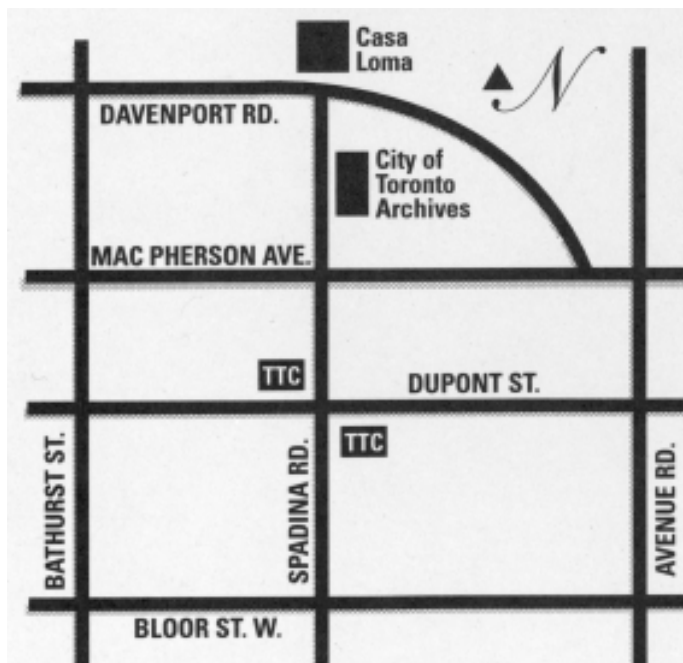
The Archives holds additional North York records, as well as records of the former Met-



*Steeles Avenue West, east of Dufferin Street, 1959, Series 249, File 171*

ropolitan Toronto government that include information about North York. To find these records, search on your research topic in the Gencat database, or speak to Reference Desk staff.

Another useful source for North York history is the Canadiana Collection, North York Central Library, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 5120 Yonge Street, 416-395-5623.



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

City of Toronto Archives  
255 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON M5R 2V3  
phone: 416-397-0778  
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[www.toronto.ca/archives](http://www.toronto.ca/archives)

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

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