

# Scarborough Records

Scarborough made its name known in the 1950s, with its famous “Golden Mile” of industry (Eglinton Avenue East) and new suburban communities, but its history as an agricultural region dotted with crossroads villages and mills goes back a century and half before that. The City of Toronto Archives has records, created by municipal governments as well as private groups and individuals, about Scarborough, including personal papers; published books and reports; and visual material, including maps and photographs.

## Important Dates

- ◆ Pre 1850: Scarborough is part of York County
- ◆ January 1, 1850: Scarborough is incorporated as a township
- ◆ April 15, 1953: Scarborough becomes one of 13 municipalities in the new Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto
- ◆ January 1, 1967: Scarborough is incorporated as a borough
- ◆ June 1983: Scarborough is incorporated as a city
- ◆ January 1, 1998: Scarborough ceases to be an individual municipality and becomes part of the amalgamated City of Toronto



*On the beach, Scarborough, circa 1891, SC 128, Subseries 1, Item 1215*

## Types of records

### Council proceedings

The Archives has Scarborough Council proceedings from 1850 to 1995, and by-laws from 1850 to 1997. To find them, search the Gencat database.

### Assessment rolls

The Archives has Scarborough assessment rolls from 1853 to 1991. To find them, search the Gencat database.

## Other municipal records

Many records created by Scarborough 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. These records will include election records; Board of Health files; maps, plans, and reports from the Planning Department; commercial building permits; newspaper clippings; records on landfill sites; and files on the development of the Scarborough Town Centre, among other topics. We invite researchers

to return to the Archives periodically to see these new 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 Scarborough, 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.

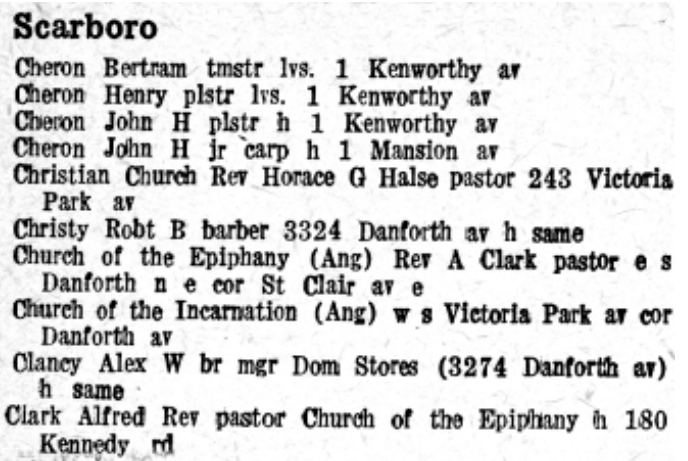
## City directories

Parts of Scarborough (often written as "Scarboro") are listed in the Toronto city directories in a separate suburban section (see each year's table of contents for page numbers) from 1917 to 1929. Starting in 1930, Scarborough listings are part of the main directory. Between 1983 and 1995, Scarborough listings appear only in the "east" edition of the directory, which is not published every year. After 1995, Scarborough 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 Scarborough, 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.



**Scarboro**  
Cheron Bertram tmstr lvs. 1 Kenworthy av  
Cheron Henry plstr lvs. 1 Kenworthy av  
Cheron John H plstr h 1 Kenworthy av  
Cheron John H jr carp h 1 Mansion av  
Christian Church Rev Horace G Halse pastor 243 Victoria Park av  
Christy Robt B barber 3324 Danforth av h same  
Church of the Epiphany (Ang) Rev A Clark pastor e s Danforth n e cor St Clair av e  
Church of the Incarnation (Ang) w s Victoria Park av cor Danforth av  
Clancy Alex W br mgr Dom Stores (3274 Danforth av) h same  
Clark Alfred Rev pastor Church of the Epiphany h 180 Kennedy rd

*Toronto City Directory 1926*

## Fire Insurance Maps

The Archives has fire insurance maps on microfilm for parts of Scarborough for 1950, 1956, 1959, and 1969. 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 Scarborough 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.

## Reports

The Archives holds published reports regarding Scarborough, including those on topics such as public transit, roads, Rouge Valley Park, and the construction of the Scarborough Civic Centre, 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 on the history of Scarborough are available in the Archives Research Hall Library and are a good place to start your research:

Robert A Bonis, ed., *History of Scarborough* (Scarborough: Scarborough Public Library 1965 or 1968)  
971.3541 B64 1965 or 1968

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

Barbara Myrvold, *The People of Scarborough: A History* (Don Mills: City of Scarborough Public Library Board 1997)  
971.3541 M99 1997



*R.C. Harris Water Filtration Plant, 1952, RG 8, Series 72, Item 2033*

*Scarborough Historical Notes and Comments* (Scarborough: Scarborough Historical Society)  
971.354 SC7 1988

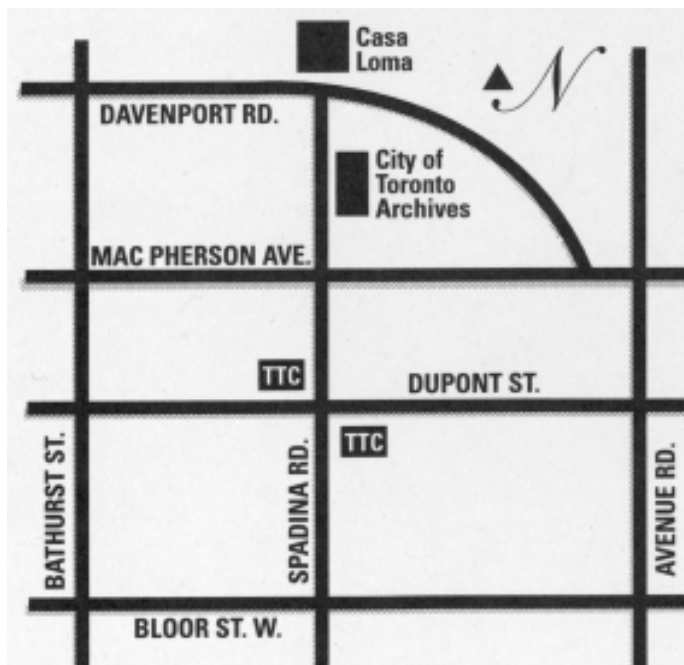
Books on more specific Scarborough topics may be found by searching in the database Gencat. These topics might include places (such as The Guild), individual communities (such as Woburn and Agincourt), organizations, landmarks (such as the Scarborough Van Plant and the Scarborough Bluffs), and events.

## Photographs

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

## Other Information

For general information, see the information file titled "Scarborough." You may also find other information files about more specific topics, including places (such as the Scarborough Bluffs, the Toronto Zoo, and the Rouge River watershed), projects (such as the LRT), landmarks, or events. For a list of information file titles, please consult Reference Desk staff. For a list of Scarborough mayors and other municipal information, please ask Reference Desk staff for the binder entitled "Scarborough Reference Highlights." One useful general source is a series of newspaper clippings files on various Scarborough subjects. To see a list of these subjects or to request these files, please consult Reference Desk staff.



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



*Kingston Road looking south on Victoria Park, April 9, 1923, Series 71, Item 1991*

## Highlights

Photographic highlights include the construction of the R.C. Harris water filtration plant (Series 162, Subseries 1 and RG 8, Subseries 76, 77, and 78), and views of the Scarborough Bluffs from 1900 to the 1920s (Fonds 1244 and Series 71). Highlights of other media include records of the Guild of All Arts and the Guild Inn (Fonds 19) and the Tommy Thompson Fonds (Fonds 46), which includes records about the Toronto Zoo.

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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

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.