Lost River

The Artefacts of Toronto's Garrison Creek

by
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Declaration

I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this thesis. This is a true copy of this thesis, including any required final revisions, as accepted by my examiners.

I understand that my thesis may be made electronically available to the public.

Abstract

Once the founding site of the city of Toronto and its second largest watercourse, the Garrison Creek and its original landscape of dense forest and deep ravines have disappeared beneath an aggressive process of development and growth. Yet, despite attempts to subdue the creek, it continues to reveal itself through a collection of buildings, sites and structures, here collectively referred to as *artefacts,* that mark its path. This thesis presents the lost stories of the Garrison Creek as an investigation into the circumstances surrounding its burial and the city's futile attempts to control its wilderness.

Recounted as an historical narrative through the pairing of archival photographs and stories, this thesis exhibits a catalogue of the politics, betrayal, confusion, characters, voices, lessons and synchronicities that have emerged through the burial of the creek. The structure of this thesis is intended to draw out a definition that describes the tenuous, conflicted and complex relationship between a major North American city undergoing rapid change and the wilderness from which it emerged.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my supervisor, Andrew Levitt for his patience, wisdom, guidance and for always encouraging me to dig deeper. Thank you to my committee, Janna Levitt and Donald McKay, whose feedback greatly contributed to this work, and to my external reader, Michael Cook, for his time and critique. I would also like to extend my gratitude for the critical support I have received from my family and friends. In particular, to my unfailing muses, Yvonne Popovska and Edward Lee and my invaluable editor, Allan Wes Wilson, for their interest, feedback, and generous assistance. Lastly, I would like to thank my parents for their years of unconditional support throughout my extended education.

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It is not the voice that commands the story: it is the ear.
- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*[1]

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Foreword

My grandparents' yard was divided in two: the half closer to the road contained the house, the garden and the orchard; beyond a fence lay the other half, overflowing with tall grasses, wildflowers, and trees with a creek at its far boundary. As a child, I would pack snacks in a handkerchief and feign running away to the wilderness here, out of sight of the house, where I spent hours exploring the plants and insects along the creek's cool, shady bank.

A little past the house, an unsigned dirt road veered downhill from the main road, right through the shallowest part of the creek and up the opposite hill toward the farm lots. I watched as the villagers stopped their cars in the creek to give them a wash or as passing gypsies stopped to bathe their horses. On the hottest days, children collected branches to build a dam upstream, forming a pool deep enough to swim in. We splashed around all day until the dam gave way, and yelled triumphantly as the rush of water washed over the road.

One summer day, while I helped my grandfather wash his car, an old villager walked by: *How can you be so wasteful? Don't you know that up there we don't have water?* My grandfather said nothing until the man had gone, then turned to me: *He doesn't know we have a well.* Growing up in the city, I had never had a well; never questioned where our water came from. Peering down into the pit, I could just make out the glistening walls close to its invisible bottom. Only its cool, musky air and booming echo revealed its true depths.

Here the old dragon sleeps, unprovoked, below the earth …
- Ernst Bloch, "The Anxiety of the Engineer"[1]

Wild City

Wilderness is predominantly defined as an uncultivated and otherwise uninhabited region in which the absence of human activity is presumed. Perhaps the most common *spatial* preconception of a wilderness involves a geographic one: a place formally set aside on public lands such as reserves or national parks. But equally important to the actualities of the place are the feelings that wilderness evokes. Wilderness is a place within which a person feels stripped of guidance, lost, and perplexed.[2]

For millennia, cities have been necessarily set in opposition to and against the wild landscapes from which they were once carved, yet, the city is becoming increasingly viewed as both disorienting and alienating, inverting this critical relationship to those natural landscapes which lie in adjacency. In *Wilderness and the American Mind,* historian Roderick Nash argues that *wilderness* was created by drawing a boundary to separate inside from out: differentiating the realm of civic order from the chaos of nature; controlled space from the uncontrollable.[3] But to relocate the definition of wilderness beyond its original application—as a place residing *foris*, or outside of culture and void of bearings—to those unsettled and unsettling places and objects that lie *within* the city, provokes a reinterpretation of the wilderness as a potentially *urban* concept.

Literary historian Robert Pogue Harrison, in *Forests: The Shadow of Civilization,* conceives the founding of Rome as a deliberate act of delineation between an emergent settlement on the

Capitoline hill and the undomesticated realm of the forests, which under ancient Roman law had the status of *res nullinus,* or belonging to no one, stating that *those who entered the civic boundaries took refuge there from the forests, which became a frontier or margin against which the civic, strictly institutional space was defined.*[4] This dualism between nature and civilization would eventually be clearly articulated through the construction of the ancient city walls, and surrounded by a buffer of outlying agricultural fields and the wilderness beyond.

While the inability of civilizations to outright control or contain wilderness was the basic factor in an underlying hostility towards it, it has simultaneously informed an underlying sense of terror. In *The Bush Garden,* Canadian literary critic Northrop Frye posits that for the early European settlers the wilds of Canada were a very visceral, powerful and dangerous force that one had to struggle against for survival. For the first North Americans, as for medieval Europeans, the forest's darkness hid savage men, wild beasts, and still stranger creatures of the imagination. Safety and comfort, even necessities like food and shelter, depended on overcoming the wild environment. Frye further concedes that it is not only a fear of the physical dangers and discomforts of the wilderness, but the threat of losing moral values and succumbing to savagery that settlers fought against. He explains that in the loneliness of the wild terrain *the human mind has nothing but human and moral values to cling to if it is to preserve its integrity or even its sanity, yet the vast unconsciousness of nature in front of it seems an unanswerable denial of those values.*[5] In these conditions, humanity seeks the institutions of law to thwart the terror of the wild, leading to what Frye calls a *garrison mentality*, where isolated communities are bounded by a physical or psychological barrier against the vast wilderness without.[6]

For the Arthurian knights of the Middle Ages, the wilderness represented a place where virtues like prowess and bravery could be tested beyond the walls of the court and the civic institutions of law. Pogue Harrison explains that *one could not remain human in the forest; one could only rise above or sink below the human level.*[7] In the Medieval chivalric romance *Yvain,* by Chrétien de Troyes, the hero-knight crosses the boundary of the human world and enters the depths of the wilderness to search for a wild man who lives in the forest. In a mad fit of amorous grief, Yvain transforms into a wild man himself, strips off his clothes, and disappears into the forest. When he eventually recovers his sanity, Yvain emerges empowered, virtuous and prepared for adventure. Pogue Harrison explains this recurring motif of arboreal metamorphosis as the *crucial realignment of lawless nature against which the social order defines itself.*[8] For centuries this archetype proved dominant: an individual descends into the shadows in order to overcome the menace of the wilderness. He rediscovers his alienated wild nature only to reaffirm the law that preserves its alienation.

By the Eighteenth Century, however, new technological advents established a confidence in progress that greatly questioned such a narrative. A decrease in contact between city-dwellers and natural processes gradually altered the hostile attitude toward wild nature. Instead, a reactionary longing for pristine, pre-industrial environments emerged; landscapes that were indicative of a romantic vision of the wilderness as something still peripheral to an expanding civilization, but now benevolent, while many of the repugnant connotations of wilderness were transferred to the expanding city. But as Pogue Harrison warns, such expansion also dilutes an *inhabited clearing* mentality, simultaneously facilitating the replication of nature within the confines of the city as a new, illusory wilderness.[9] In *Dead Cities,* American scholar Mike Davis writes of *nature* [as] *constantly straining against its chains: probing for weak points, cracks, faults, even a speck of rust … natural energies are capable of opening breaches that can quickly unravel the cultural order. Cities, accordingly, cannot afford to let flora or fauna, wind or water, run wild.*[10] The ability of a city's physical structure to organize and encode a stable social order depends on its capacity to master and control its environment.[11] The German philosopher Ernst Bloch echoes these sentiments in his essay "Anxiety of the Engineer": *the grandly suspended, inorganic metropolis must defend itself daily, hourly, against the elements as though against an enemy invasion.*[12] Bloch uses the *Americanized big city* as an example where technology has seemingly defeated wilderness, but goes on to explain that this detachment and distance from nature paradoxically leads to an increased sense of fear and loss of control in the city.[13]

The rapid growth of cities in the latter part of the Eighteenth Century catalyzed the appropriation of the wilderness metaphor to describe something increasingly sinister. In 1898, Robert Woods, an American social advocate, published a report on Boston's slum conditions entitled *The City Wilderness*. The inner city was described as a dark, dismal, depressing place filled with squalid alleys and poverty-stricken inhabitants.[14] A few years later Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* employed a similar metaphor in describing the unsanitary conditions and working-class misery in Chicago's meatpacking industry, depicting the streets as canyons filled with the swarm of anonymous crowds through which *the solitary trampish-looking foreigner, with water-soaked clothing and haggard face and anxious eyes, was as much alone as he hurried past* [the crowds]*, as much unheeded and as lost, as if he had been a thousand miles deep in a wilderness.*[15] Both texts implicate modern society as insecure and confused within an urban context, a condition not too dissimilar from the archetypal loss of civility in the forest among the wild beasts. In the seminal fiction *Heart of Darkness,* Joseph Conrad transposes this pervasive tension in the modern city with his description of London as *marked ominously on the sky, a brooding gloom in sunshine, a lurid glare under the stars;* and later, as an environ *with solid pavement*

under your feet, surrounded by kind neighbours ready to cheer you or to fall on you, stepping delicately between the butcher and the policeman, in the holy terror of scandal and gallows and lunatic asylums.[16] Once an Enlightened metropolis, Conrad's London had now, inevitably, sunk back into the wilderness from which it emerged.[17]

As the modern city disintegrates from within, the spacial and literal wilderness is free to encroach from without despite the desperate choreography which attempts to separate, subdue, or force it back to the periphery. But metaphorically, those parts of the city that are disorienting and confusing illustrate a pathological wilderness that holds a continued presence within the city and ultimately within us. Margaret Atwood in *Survival* writes that although we are constantly depicting ourselves as very separate from nature, there is a sense that we feel cut off from something vital and meaningful, as though culture *threatens the animal within*.[18] She suggests that while the division between the realms of wilderness and culture may be necessary, it is also life-denying and draining, leaving us with a longing to reconnect with what is instinctive and animal-like in ourselves. Without a balance, the wilderness often plays a destructive role.

The following thesis is an investigation into the city of Toronto's futile attempts to control its wilderness and edit its history, recounted through the circumstances surrounding the burial of the Garrison Creek. In the wake of the city's rapid expansion, the once pristine creek was quietly hidden from view after it became increasingly polluted and dangerous to the people who once depended on it. While it continues to flow within a network of tunnels and pipes that roughly trace its original path, it has effectively been erased from the city's consciousness by a series of careless historical events whose repercussions continue to plague the city today in the form of sinking foundations, flooded basements, and muddy parks. Despite this constant battle, the wild will inevitably continue to sprout from manicured lawns, erode our buildings, and break the pavement.

I have lived beside the stream for more than fifteen years, and know its fits and moods well, and can assure the [City] *that the creek is only fooling with them and laughing at them now, and will make them a good deal more trouble and expense yet if they keep on in their present course of action towards it.*

- E. O. Bickford, protesting the burial of Garrison Creek.[1]

Garrison Creek

My search for the Garrison Creek began miles away from its actual site. I collected over 150 maps, 800 photographs, and 1700 newspaper articles of the creek and its surroundings dating before, during and after its burial. I collected anything that might reveal a clue: maps of land sales, taxation, unrealized projects, fire risk, street paving, soil types, harbour depths, former glacial lakes; photographs of bridge construction, road work, garbage dumps, dilapidated houses, sewage disposal experiments, children tobogganing; accounts of floods, fires, demolitions, investigations, court proceedings, foreclosures, calls to tender, accidents, escapes from prisons and asylums. Incidental findings and unexpected discoveries guided my research as I went. Everywhere were misalignments, distortions and contradictions that underlined breaks in its story and directed me to some new fragment of information. Walking its path, I discovered curious buildings that directed me to old maps, which in turn led me to newspaper pages that revealed another piece of the story. What it all amounted to in the end was not an accurate historical account of the creek, but a narrative in a series of snapshots.

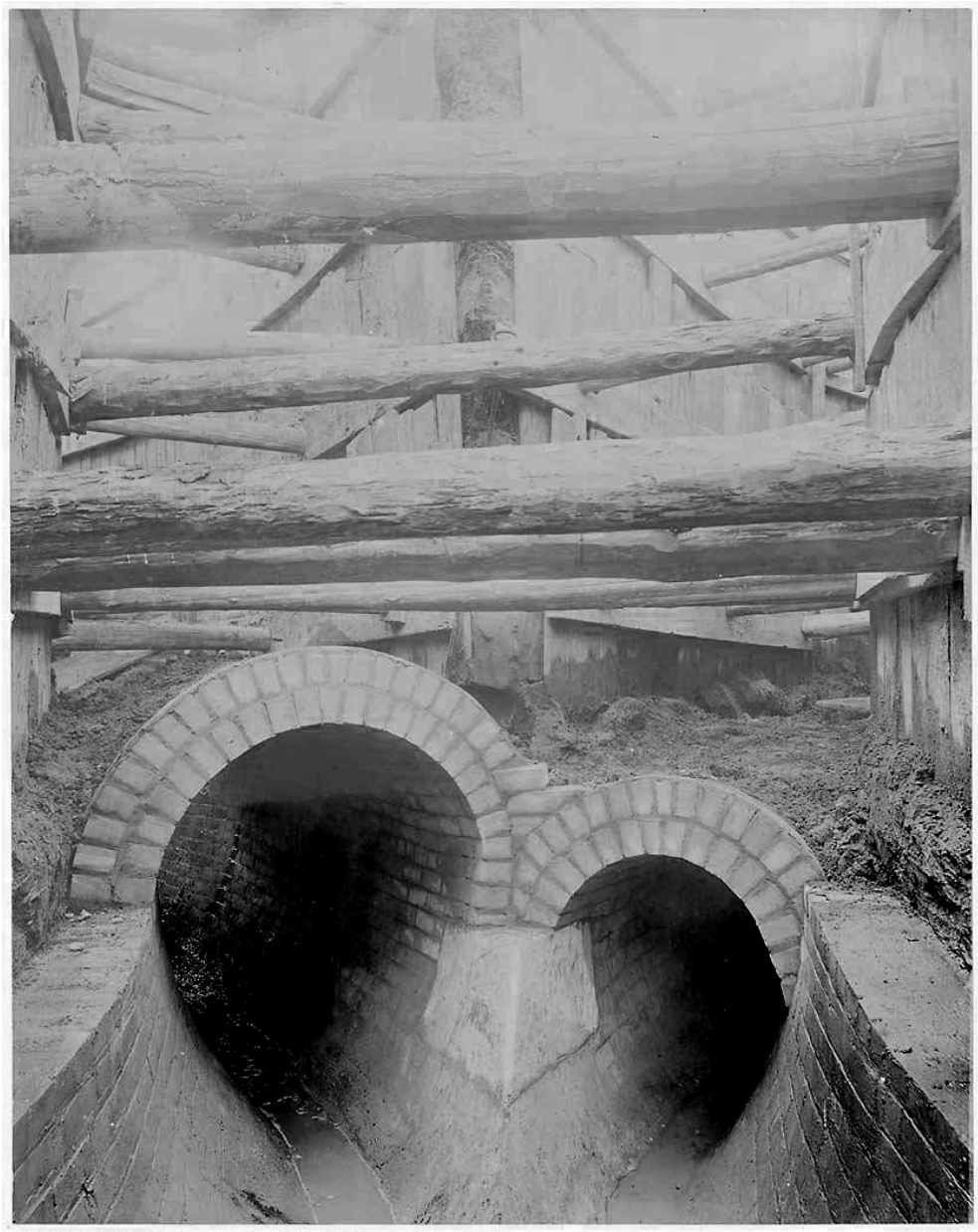
I came across the same photograph countless times over the course of my research. The small stream in the image, called Wychwood Creek, is identified as a tributary of Garrison Creek about as often as it is of Taddle Creek. Little evidence of the stream exists south of Davenport Road and no one can say with any degree of certainty which creek it actually joined. One map from 1870

1.1 Alleged photograph of a northern section of Garrison Creek, 1907.

depicts it flowing to the south-east, where it was believed to connect with Taddle Creek. A 1909 map, on the other hand, shows it making a bend to the south-west toward Garrison Creek. Other theories have arisen that it continued straight south and connected to Russell Creek or that it sank into the sand to feed an aquifer that supplied water to all three. By 1907, at the time the photograph was taken, the conversion of the southern portion of the Garrison Creek into a sewer was already well underway. With no other known photographs of the Garrison Creek before its burial and despite the uncertainty, this photograph has become the poster image of Garrison Creek.

The Garrison Creek was born over twelve thousands years ago as a trickle of glacial meltwater running over the barren soil toward the shores of ancient Lake Iroquois. Geological evidence suggests that over the course of thousands of years, flash floods washed away unprotected sediments, gradually carving a deep ravine through the land and depositing the gravel, sand and clay that would form the building blocks of the future city. The earliest maps of the city from the 1780s and 90s extended scarcely further inland than the shoreline of Lake Ontario. The land beyond this inhabited fringe was covered by a vast expanse of unexplored forest. Accounts from settlers spoke of the awe and loneliness felt within the wilderness. The earliest depictions of the creek were watercolour paintings at its mouth, but none ventured further up the ravine. The creek supplied fresh water and fish and created a natural fortification for Fort York, the military garrison founded at its mouth, which gave it its name. The high water table of the damp forest fed the creek with a steady flow of water, but made the land unbuildable without first being drained. As forests were cleared and explorations of the creek progressed, the boundaries of new maps gradually extended further inland.

By 1881, the expanding city had reached the banks of creek, leaving it polluted and initiating a call for its conversion into an underground sewer. Doctors' warnings against the health hazards of the creek and recurring outbreaks of fever in its vicinity appeared in newspapers alongside articles describing the beauty of its ravine and proposals to establish public parks along its length. Despite protests and warnings, the city was awarded funding in 1884 and quickly commenced work on what would be its longest sewer and largest infrastructural project yet. What ensued however, was a series of accusations of corruption after a portion of the sewer allegedly built with defective materials collapsed. Despite the eventual rebuilding of the damaged section, problems continued. By 1912 the majority of the polluted creek was hidden from view, but complaints of contamination at its mouth, basement floods, and bad smells emanating from sewer grates became a regular occurrence. Over the next hundred years, the city implemented several projects to improve and expand the system including the addition of several new sections of sanitary and storm sewers to increase its capacity



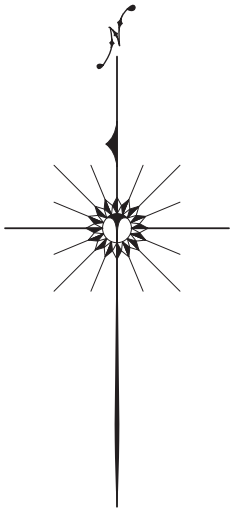
1.2 Construction of bellmouth in the Garrison Creek Sewer, c.1890.

and the construction of intercepting sewers to divert its flow east to the Ashbridges Bay Sewage Treatment Plant.

Today, all that remains above ground is a collection of buildings, sites and structures, here collectively referred to as *artefacts,* that stand as witnesses to the disappearance of the Garrison Creek. This catalogue of exhibits follows the path of the creek from its source above the ancient shoreline of Lake Iroquois toward its outlet at present-day Lake Ontario. A landlocked garrison still marks the mouth of the creek where it once met the lake shore; an abattoir that once dumped blood into its rushing waters continues to operate; the foundations of the once grandest estate remain buried in a park; the unmarked graves of soldiers lie scattered in an old burial ground; and the bricks of nearby buildings made from the clay at the bottom of the creek slowly turn to dust in the wind. Though on the surface the modern city appears orderly and complete, its foundations tell another story. Deeply embedded in the muck of its sewers and the garbage that fills its ravines lies the story that underpins its contemporary appearance and offers meaning and potential clues to its future.

Artefacts


The Sinking Houses
The Sandpits
The Dump
The Harbord Street Bridge
The Brick Fields
The Hollow
The Bridge
The Estate
The Brewery
The Asylum
The Lumber Mill
The Prison
The Reformatory
The Squatter Shacks
The Burial Ground
The Lighthouse
The Slum
The Destructor
The Abattoir
The Smelter
The Railway
The Garrison
The Wharf



2.1
The Garrison Creek

As Toronto grew, its small creeks and rivers were gradually enclosed in sewers and buried to free ravine lands for development and new streets. Gradually, too, the waterfront and Ashbridges marsh were filled in and continuously expanded to provide industrial lands and shipping wharves, the Don River was straightened to allow large ships to navigate its lower section, and the shifting sandbars that formed the Toronto Islands were rigidified and expanded.

LEGEND

2012 Shoreline
1961 Shoreline
1918 Shoreline
1857 Shoreline
1793 Shoreline
1904 Contours 25'
Present Creeks & Rivers
Former Creeks & Rivers
Former Garrison Creek
Artefact Site


The Sinking Houses
The Sandpits
The Dump
The Harbord Street Bridge
The Brick Fields
The Hollow
The Bridge
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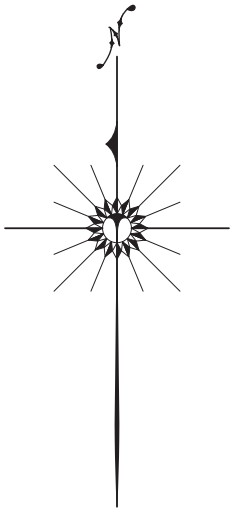


2.2
The Garrison Sewer

By the 1890s, conversion of the city's second largest watercourse, the Garrison Creek, into a sewer had begun. It continued to flow below ground roughly tracing its original path carrying sewage out of sight to the lake until the system of interceptor sewers were built, redirecting its waters across the city to the Ashbridges Bay Sewage Treatment Plant. Today, large storms continue to push the system over capacity, spilling its polluted waters once again into the lake.

LEGEND

2012 Shoreline
Former Shorelines
1904 Contours 25'
Present Creeks & Rivers
Former Creeks & Rivers
Interceptor Sewers
Garrison Storm Sewer
Garrison Creek Sewer
Garrison Overflow Sewer
Sewer Outfall
Sewage Treatment Plant
Artefact Site

2.3

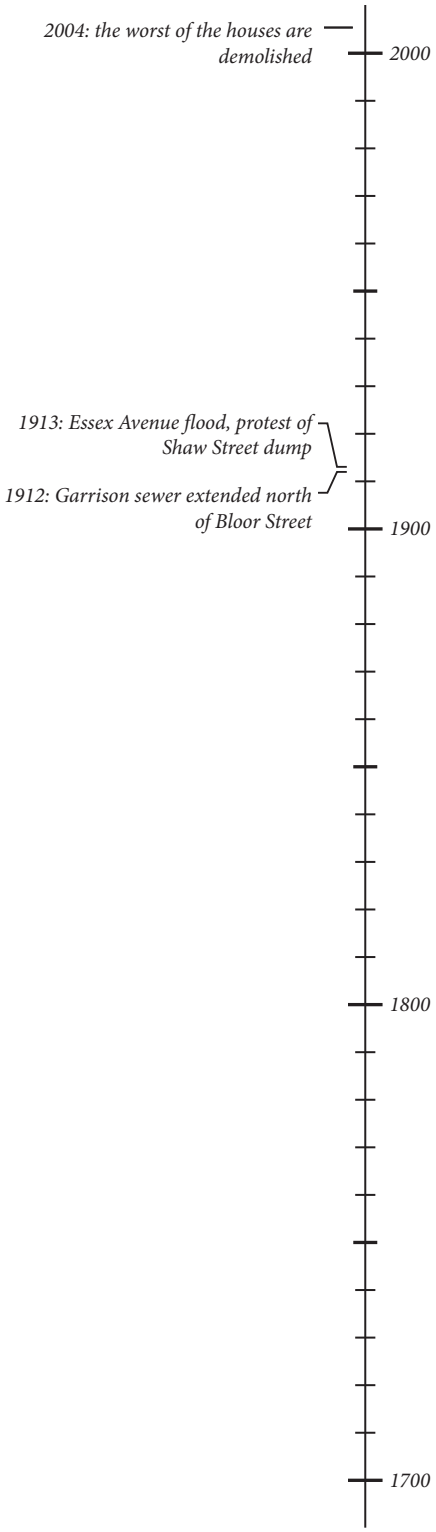
The Sinking Houses

Also known as *'The Crooked Teeth'* | occupied

On the night of January 17, 1913, the Garrison Creek, swollen by heavy rains and melting snow, began to back up in a vacant lot on Essex Avenue between Shaw Street and Ossington Avenue. Lumber and various other building materials from nearby construction sites began to collect at the point where the creek entered a culvert which directed its flow toward the Christie Sandpits.[1] The flood grew in intensity over the following three days, tearing away the road at the Essex Avenue conduit and continuing to flow as a muddy stream one hundred feet wide over Shaw Street and into the sandpits. Sidewalks were left splintered, streets sagged, and at the corner of Shaw Street and Pendrith Avenue a *whole system of caves* had formed. The cellar floors of No.s 122 and 124 Pendrith Avenue *were forced up and burst by the water flowing beneath them,* undermining and collapsing their foundations by two feet. No. 883 Shaw Street was *flooded up to the window sills,* with a steady stream of water flowing in from the front and out the back, while the exterior walls of No. 781 had completely collapsed from damage caused by a nearby drain.[2]

Upon inspection of the damage a few days later, it was discovered that a builder who was constructing houses over the former Garrison Creek ravine had failed to provide a large enough box culvert, creating the bottleneck that causing the flood. Further exacerbating the matter, the soft fill on which these houses were built was primarily comprised of garbage and was easily undermined by the force of the water flowing below. Builders at the time were not required to apply for permits to construct culverts on private land nor were they required to prove that foundations were built over solid ground.[3] Despite warnings in the press about the effects of building over unsettled fill and a class action lawsuit filed by local residents against the City for property damage, the building of houses over the former Garrison Creek ravine continued to be permitted in the following years.[4]

When the floodwaters finally subsided, a pond one hundred yards long, twenty yards wide and eight feet deep remained. For days, residents shovelled water out from their basements, filled holes in their lawns and sorted through broken preserve jars and ruined store merchandise, while numerous small boys *paddled about on rafts improvised from the lumber washed down the creek*.[5]



2.4

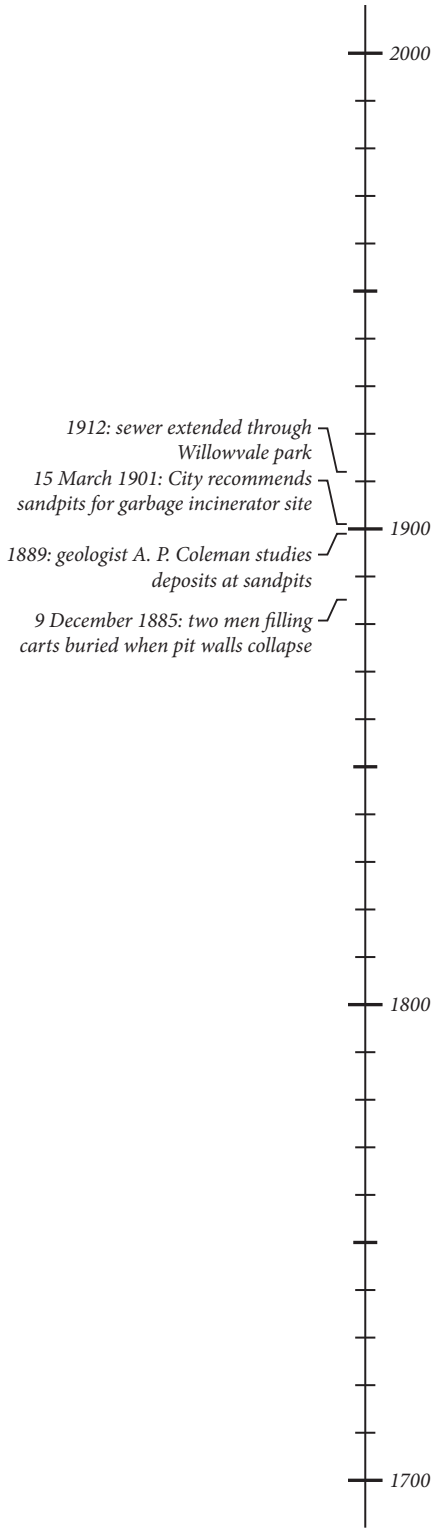
The Sandpits

Also known as *Willowvale Park, Christie Sandpits* | currently *Christie Pits Park*

During the building boom of the 1880s, extensive cuttings for sewers and excavations for sand, gravel and clay had exposed layers of glacial deposits lying beneath the city's surface. In 1889, geologist A. P. Coleman visited two large, active sandpits along the Garrison Creek north of Bloor Street between Christie Street and Ossington Avenue to study their *enigmatic* deposits. A pocket of *tumultuously* cross-bedded sands and gravels one half of a mile long, three hundred feet wide and eighty feet deep lay beneath the upper layers of glacial till. It had evidently been formed by a powerful river with shifting channels and was quite unlike the *gentle* deposits found in explorations at the Don River and in Scarborough.[6]

Excavations at the sandpits had uncovered fossils of several species of shellfish *(Sphaerium, Pleurocera, Campeloma,* and unios), bits of wood (possibly cedar and elm), an atlas vertebra of a bison *(Bison americanus),* part of the lower jaw of a bear *(Ursus),* an antler of an extinct deer *(Cervalces borealis),* and a tusk fragment of a mammoth *(Mammuthus)* or mastodon *(Mammut americanum)*.[7] A team of geologists worked to sink an exploratory well at the bottom of the sandpit to study the strata, but after penetrating thirty-eight feet of uniform sand, hit an impervious layer of cemented gravel. A second well was sunk half a mile south along the creek, through forty feet of till, fourteen feet of sand, nine feet of clay, two feet of gravel, three feet of clay, and thirteen feet of mixed sand and gravel before hitting Hudson River shale.[8] The geologists then inspected the opening of a sewer on Dupont Street, one half of a miles north of the sandpits and concluded that the deposits were likely interglacial, but could not explain why the pocket of sand did not extend further in either direction.

In 1907, the City began filling and grading the sandpits for their conversion into a city park.[9] A pool of water sixteen feet deep in one of the adjoining pits remained and was used by the neighbourhood children as a swimming hole until numerous accidents and rescues over the following years called for its closure and filling.[10] The Garrison Creek remained above ground, flowing through the park until the sewer was extended north of Bloor Street in 1912.[11] By the time A. P. Coleman revisited the site in 1932, only one small pit remained, while the rest lay hidden beneath the park and the surrounding developments.[12]



2.5

The Dump

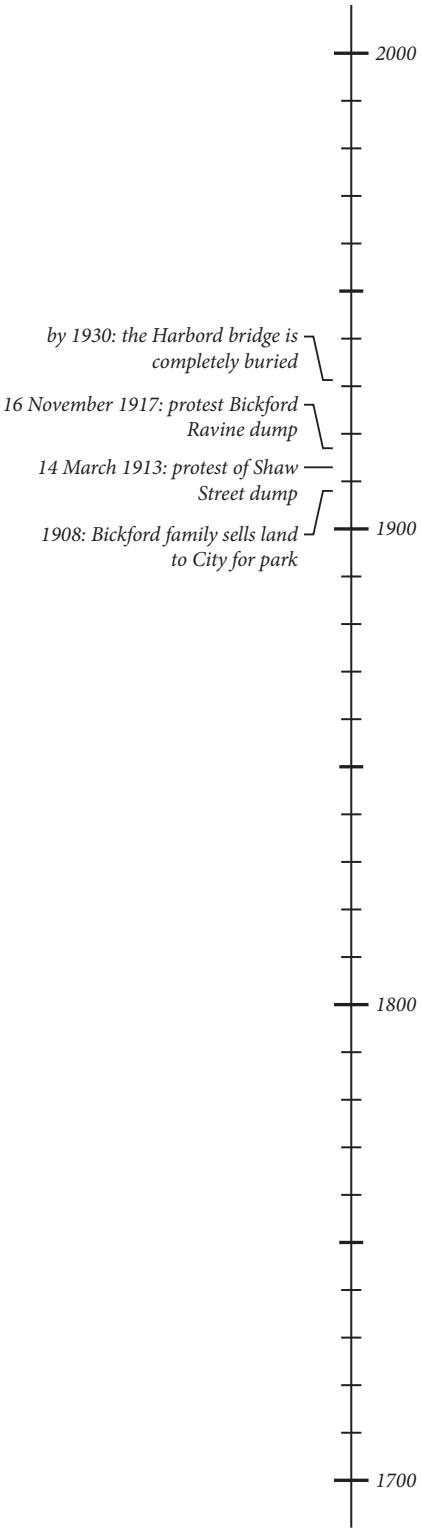
Also known as *Bickford Ravine, Harbord Park* | currently *Bickford Park*

On May 29, 1911, the *Globe* newspaper published an article entitled *Immense Sponges of Putrefaction* highlighting nine active garbage dumps in the city. The two largest were located at the Ashbridges Bay marsh and the sea wall extension at Exhibition Park, while seven others dotted the city's ravines and creeks. While these dumps received a daily deposit of about 331 cartloads of ashes, raw garbage, dead animals, and discarded mattresses, the City saw the situation as non-detrimental, claiming that:[13]

much of the refuse is comparatively harmless, and it may easily be made completely so by promptly covering it over with an ample depth of coal ashes or clean earth. Utilized in this way garbage may safely be made a means of creating additional land valuable for business purposes. Many areas of the eastern marsh have been solidified in this way during the past few years.[14]

Despite the City's reassurances, in March 1913, one hundred residents living near a dump on Shaw Street north of Bloor Street appeared before City Council to protest its operation. Officials heard of a *seething mass of corruption* infested by millions of rats and complaints of a smell wafting throughout the neighbourhood, forcing locals to keep their windows closed.[15] The previous year, a builder excavating for the foundations of a new house over part of the dump had uncovered the remains of a dead dog, unleashing a *stench so intolerable* that he was ordered to Police Court and charged under the Health Act.[16] The Council conceded to close the dump and find another place for municipal garbage. The dump was covered over with a layer of soil and the land was sold as building lots. Similarly, in October 1913, the Toronto Housing Company proposed filling a fifty foot strip of the west side of Bickford Park to build cottages, declaring it *a waste as park land* that new houses could *beautify.*[17] In 1917, the City once more proposed to use Bickford Park as a dump arguing that it would be improved if levelled with the surrounding streets.[18] The park was subdivided into lots, but the ravine was only partially filled and the land was never built upon.[19]

Neither the City nor the Province has kept record of the majority of its dumps. Most were built over with houses and schools or converted into parks. Today, the Province's inventory of waste-disposal sites lists only eighty old dumps throughout the city of Toronto. There is, however, documented evidence of another 600 dump sites throughout the city and likely many more which have not been documented at all.[20]



2.6

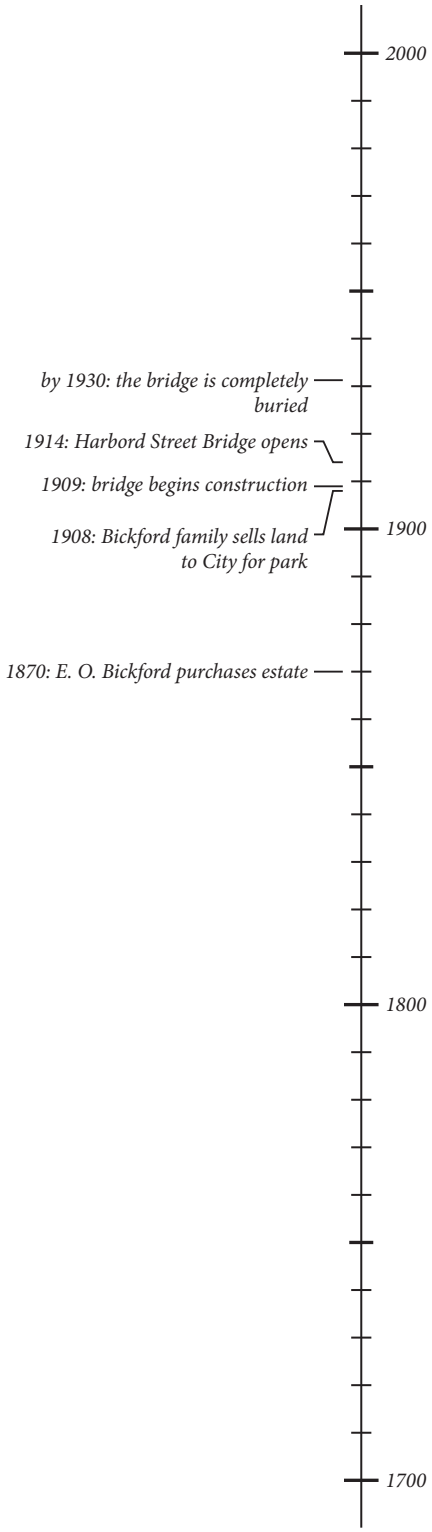
The Tunnel

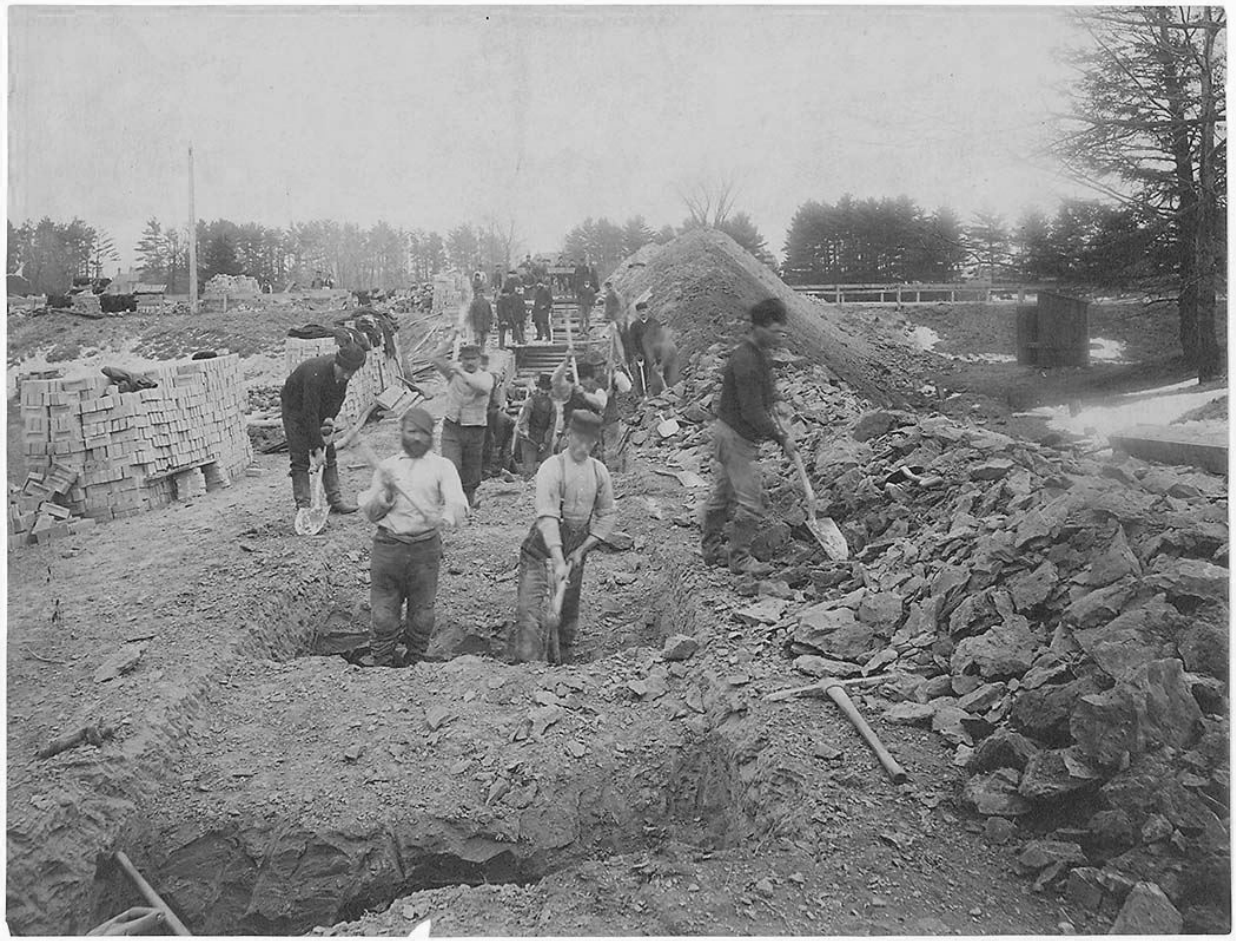
Also known as *the Harbord Street Bridge* | buried

In 1880, the City announced an ambitious proposal to construct *a system of parks and drives unequalled in any city of the size of Toronto on the continent.*[21] A generous fifteen-mile-long boulevard flanked by carriage-ways, bridle paths and walks would begin at the Don River and extend west through the Rosedale and Yorkville ravines and continue south through the Garrison Creek ravine from St. Clair Avenue to Fort York.[22] The proposal received generous public support with many citizens offering to donate either funds or land. Supporters urged the City to begin the project quickly, warning that if the project were to be put off for another five years, *undoubtedly the cost* [would] *be twice as much as now.* Likewise, should it be delayed for ten years, *the opportunity … may have passed away for ever.*[23]

In 1883, Ontario Legislature approved the proposal and City Council began discussions for a by-law. The *Globe* newspaper maintained *that there is no civic question now before the public that is of one-half the importance of the Park scheme.*[24] A Provincial surveyor and a landscape gardener were appointed to draft the required plans and an estimated $250,000 was allocated for the project. On July 3, 1888, the proposed by-law was rejected and the project was officially shelved.[25]

Despite the termination of the project, City officials continued to acquire lands in the Garrison ravine for park purposes. In 1908, fourteen acres of the Bickford estate between College and Bloor Streets were purchased and it was announced that Harbord Street would be extended over the ravine.[26] A concrete arch bridge with a clear span of thirty-four feet and a clear height of twenty-three feet was built two years later, allowing the continuity of the ravine to be maintained. But only seven years after its completion, the City began filling Bickford Park and by 1930, the Harbord Street Bridge and the City's vision of a system of parks and drives was effectively and literally buried.





2.7

The Brick Fields

Also known as *Butwell Brickyards, Butwell Brick Co.* | buried

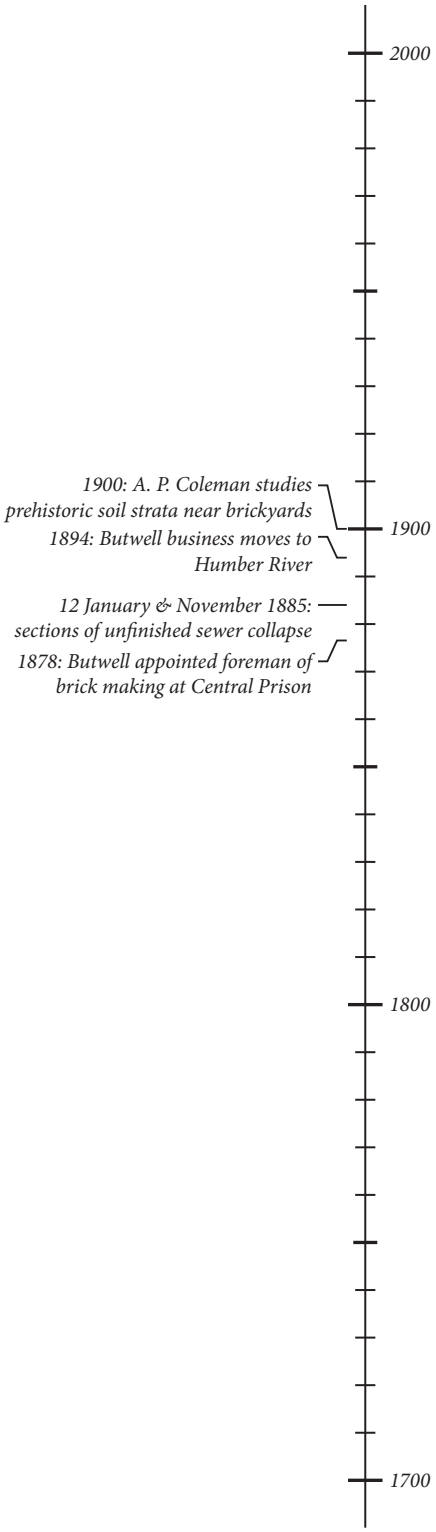
In 1878, Henry Butwell was appointed foreman of brick-making at the Central Prison. As one of the largest brick-making operations in the city, the facility's kilns produced an annual output of over three million bricks. During the early years of his tenure, Butwell rented a portion of the old Crawford estate and opened a commercial brickyard on the east bank of the Garrison Creek where erosion has exposed the blue-clay till. The plant expanded, reaching an output of nine million bricks per year; an impressive yield that allowed many of the houses in the surrounding neighbourhoods to be constructed from local stock made from Garrison Creek clay.[27] Following the extension of College Street through the centre of his brickyard, Butwell was forced to relocate his business further north along the creek, where production continued until the supply of clay was exhausted.

In October 1884, construction of the Garrison Creek Sewer began. A. W. Godson, contractor for the section between Queen and College Streets, signed contracts with brickmakers Henry Butwell and George Armstrong to supply the 1.7 million bricks required for the work.[28] But after only a month of construction, an investigation was opened into the alleged use of sub-standard bricks and mortar. Though it clearly stipulated in the work contract that *bricks used in the work must be of the very best quality that can be procured, sound and hard burnt,* it was reported that numerous piles of soft bricks were seen strewn about the site.[29] Upon closer inspection, the sewer was also found to have been built at incorrect grades and with poor workmanship, creating depressions that pooled water and resulting in cracks.

On January 12, 1885, a heavy rainstorm caused a portion of the sewer to collapse. Following a second collapse in November, a full judicial enquiry was launched into what would be called *The Garrison Creek Scandal*.[30] A number of large holes were opened in the crown of the sewer and 111 soft bricks and samples of Portland cement mortar were removed as evidence.[31] Labourers, brickmakers, inspectors, Aldermen and the Mayor William Howland were called in to testify. During trial, Mr. Ritchie, representative for the City, took a penknife and began cutting a brick before the witness:

MR. RITCHIE: *With a penknife there does not seem to be much difficulty in cutting it down?* MR. ARMSTRONG: *I don't know what you may take for a hard brick. I say that is a passable hard brick.* (Laughter.) MR. RITCHIE: …*We had better have the other bricks brought from the Grand Jury Room.*[32]

The Judge's report was released in April 1886, and despite all parties being found guilty, no charges were ever laid. Over six hundred feet of sewer had to be rebuilt.



2.8

The Hollow

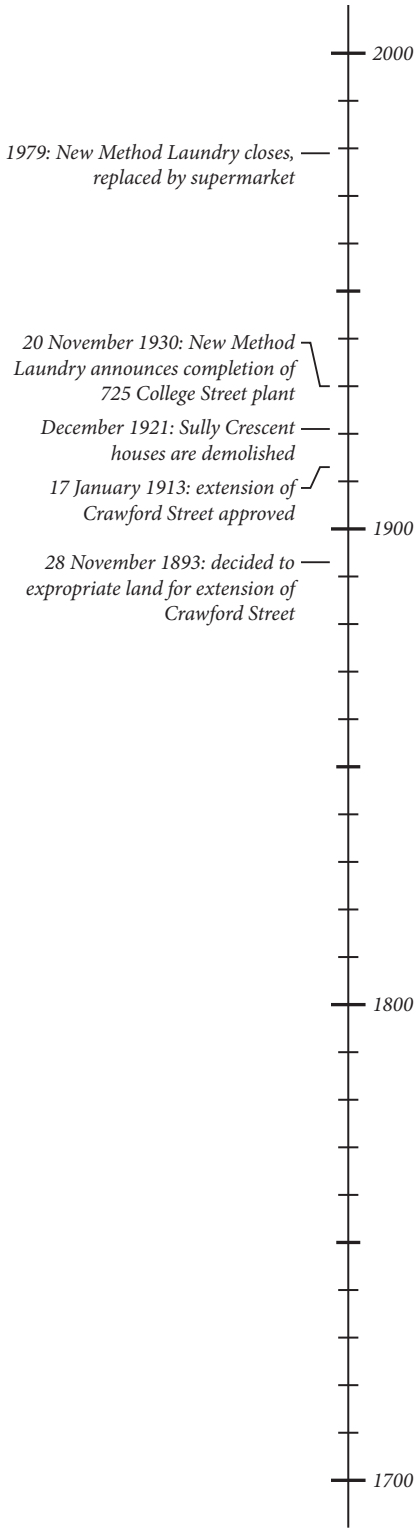
Also known as *Sully Crescent* | buried

On January 17, 1913, the City Works Committee approved the extension of Crawford Street north to College Street. Sully Crescent, a street running along the bottom of the Garrison ravine, was slated to be filled in lieu of building new bridges at Shaw and Crawford Streets.[33] The *Toronto Daily Star* newspaper published a photo of the Crescent with the caption *to be wiped off the map by filling the depression*.[34] The cost of expropriating the thirty-seven houses in the ravine in addition to the cost of filling was estimated at $191,881. Once completed, the City expected to sell the newly levelled land for $127,995, resulting in a net loss of $63,886, to which local property owners would contribute $30,000 through tax increases and the City would pay the remainder.[35] This would cost the City less than erecting two bridges, estimated at $131,338.[36] Filling began, but work was suspended with the beginning of World War I.

In 1917, a meeting was held by local residents urging City Council to resume filling Sully Crescent.[37] It was argued that the City had left the site in a disgraceful and unsanitary condition and, furthermore, that $20,000 could be saved if filling were to be expedited by using the site as a dump.[38] The thirty-seven property owners pleaded that their cellars *were often flooded … and they wanted to get out.* The houses were not being maintained and had become dilapidated and the old bridge at Shaw Street would soon require replacement.[39] By the end of 1921, the city had expropriated and demolished all the houses on Sully Crescent and filling once again resumed.

In 1928, the New Method Laundry Company offered to purchase the newly filled land from the city for $35,000—a far cry from what the city had hoped—to build a laundry and cleaning plant. The City approved the sale and was eager to finally begin collecting property taxes on the land.[40] But as the builders were preparing to drive piles for the new building, the Board of Control objected:

COMMISSIONER: *The City Surveyor has located the sewer as best he can, but, as the sewer was put down forty years ago, we cannot be sure where it is.* CON. SUMMERVILLE: *Then they may drive piles right into the sewer.* MR. ROBERTSON: *As the city is not sure where the sewer is, we will locate it for them.* CON. HACKER: *Are you sure there is a sewer there?* MR. HARRIS: *I only hope the city will not have to realize that there is a sewer easement there.*[41]



2.9

The Bridge

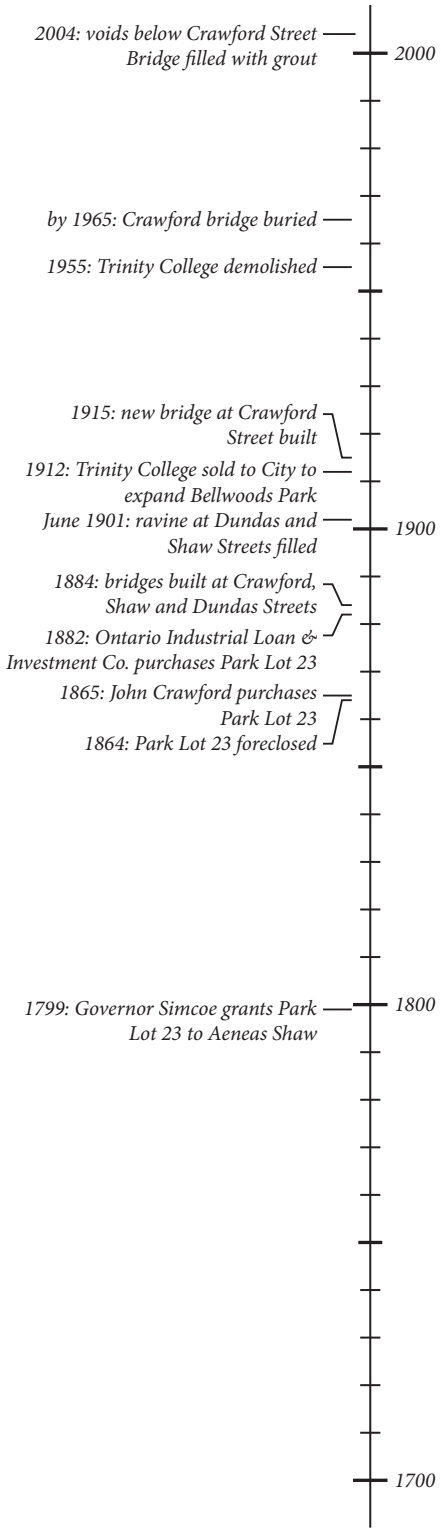
Also known as *Crawford Street Bridge* | buried

In 1882, the Ontario Industrial Loan & Investment Company offered to grant the City a 5.5-acre portion of the Garrison ravine known as Shaw's Grove. In exchange for this park the City was asked to construct a *substantial and ornamental bridge* extending Crawford Street north over the ravine.[42] The Loan Company had purchased the remaining estate of the Crawford family to subdivide and develop, but most of this land was north of the Garrison Creek and unreachable without a bridge.[43] The City agreed to construct three wood trestle bridges and by the end of 1884, Crawford, Shaw and Dundas Streets were all extended over and across the ravine.[44] The newly established park was named *Bellwoods* and became renowned as *one of the prettiest and most desirable of Toronto's public breathing spots.*[45]

By 1914, the aging Shaw and Dundas Street bridges were demolished and replaced by fill, and a new reinforced concrete bridge was commissioned by R. C. Harris, Commissioner of Works, to replace the bridge at Crawford Street. The new bridge would consist of three large arches topped with ornate balustrades and lampposts. The bridge was opened for traffic in October 1915, but a temporary connection remained between its northern end and the north abutment. Built on fill, the abutment had already settled two and half inches and was expected to settle even further due to traffic.[46] A permanent connection was completed the following year, but by 1919, freezing temperatures had caused the pavement to buckle and the bridge was closed for repair.[47]

The neighbourhood surrounding Bellwoods had become predominantly working-class by the 1960s; characterized by run-down rooming-houses. With little protest from local residents, the ravine below the Crawford Street Bridge was selected by the City as a dump site for fill excavated from the construction of the Bloor Street subway.[48] Crawford Street remained, but the bridge was buried and its balustrades and lampposts were demolished.

In 2003, large cracks had formed in the pavement of Crawford Street south of Dundas Street. Engineers inspecting the pavement discovered a three metre void that had developed beneath the road due to the settling of fill below the buried bridge. A report was issued recommending the excavation and demolition of the top five metres of the bridge to allow for the construction of an adequate foundation and new asphalt resurfacing.[49] Word of the excavation spread, provoking proposals from citizens to unearth and restore the bridge. Restoration of the bridge was declared too expensive and, as a compromise, only the sidewalks were demolished and the voids were filled with a *foaming, non-shrink grout* that would be removable should the bridge ever be excavated by future generations.[50]



2.10

The Estate

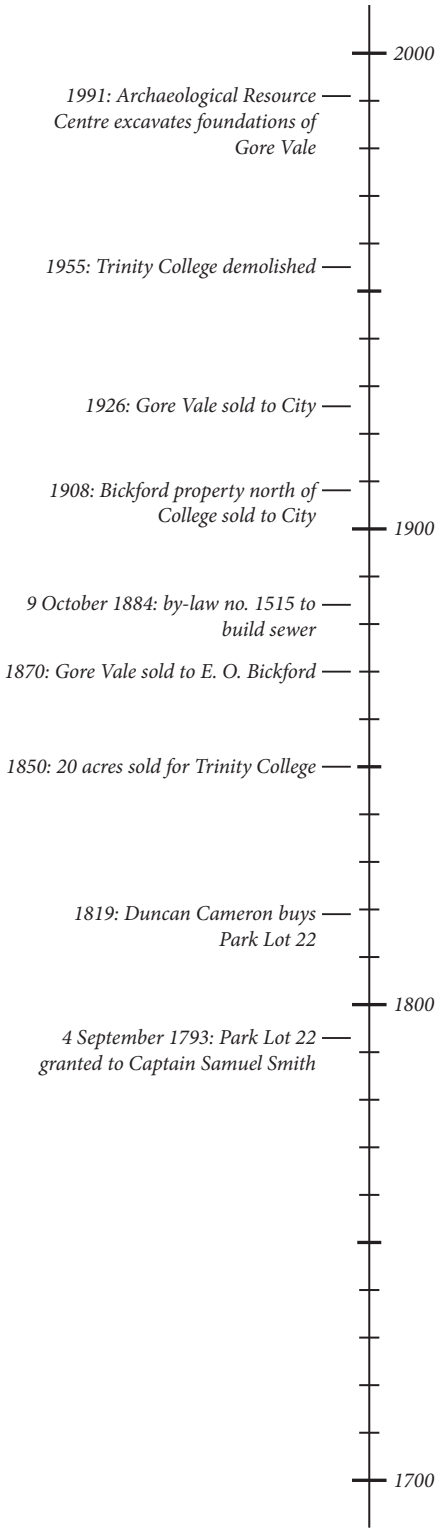
Also known as *Gore Vale* | demolished

In 1819, Duncan Cameron, the newly-appointed Secretary of Upper Canada, purchased Park Lot No. 22 for £600 to build a country house. The property was nicknamed *Gore Vale* after Lieutenant-Governor Francis Gore and the valley of the Garrison Creek which it overlooked. It was the last vacant 100-acre lot near the town as it was crossed by the Garrison Creek, making access difficult and reducing the farmable land. Construction of a picturesque, two-storey Georgian villa soon followed. It was set back amongst the trees and from its southern veranda the lake could be seen and the sound of the creek could be heard.[51] At the time, Queen Street was still *full of logs and stumps,* making it impassable and requiring construction materials to be brought up the creek by boat, with the exception of bricks, which were made and fired on site from Garrison Creek clay.[52]

A decade after Cameron's death, twenty acres of the Gore Vale estate was sold to Bishop John Strachan for the building of Trinity College. The remainder of the estate was passed under various leases and ownerships until it was sold again in 1870 to E. O. Bickford for $14,400. Bickford began an extensive renovation project to rebuild most of the house and add a third floor and a conservatory. The total living area was expanded to 10,000 square feet, making it one of the largest private homes in Toronto.[53]

In October 1884, construction began on a portion of the Garrison Creek Sewer that ran through the properties of Trinity College and Gore Vale. Upon discovering that the entire creek would be converted into an underground sewer, Bickford filed an injunction to halt construction.[54] Despite his protests and the legal battle that ensued, construction of the sewer continued the following year. Over the following twenty-five years, the estate was gradually subdivided and developed north of Dundas Street. In 1926, the remaining 4.5-acre property of Gore Vale was sold to the City for the expansion of Trinity Bellwoods Park and the house was demolished.

In 1990, a group of students, led by the Archeological Resource Centre, began an excavation of the Gore Vale site. Stairs leading to the mansion's basement, sections of the basement floor, walls and a fireplace were uncovered, as well as a latrine full of broken china and Chateau Lafite wine bottles.[55] Seventy thousand fragments, including broken glass, old nails, and animal bones, were measured, drawn, numbered and bagged.[56] In 1994, the program was cancelled before a thorough excavation could be completed and the site was covered with soil. Today, there remains no visible trace where the house once stood.



2.11

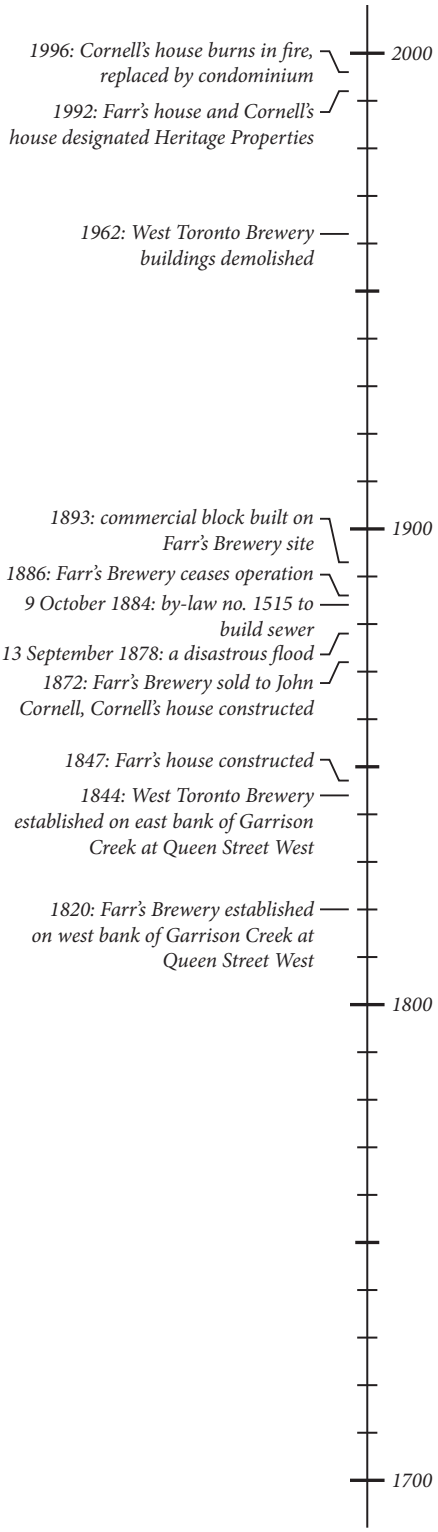
The Brewery

Also known as *Farr's Brewery*, *Cornell's Brewery* | demolished

In 1819, John Farr purchased a piece of property near the town of York and opened a brewery, but, with the clearing of the surrounding lands, the water supply dried up only a few short months later.[57] The following year, he petitioned the government to lease a portion of the Garrison Military Reserve and moved his business to the valley of the Garrison Creek. The stream provided the power necessary for grinding and a water supply for brewing, earning its nickname *Brewery Creek*. By 1820, there was only one other brewer in the city, but as the city's water supply became progressively less potable, the number of breweries flourished and in 1844 a second brewery—the West Toronto Brewery—opened on the Garrison Creek.[58]

Over the four days and nights leading up to September 13th, 1878, five inches of rain fell over the city. The rivers and streams swelled and swept up loose lumber, carts, barrels, hundreds of uprooted trees, and entire buildings, piling them up and collapsing the bridges in their path. The Don River had risen to eight feet above its normal level, washing away thirty mills and twenty bridges and cutting off any connection with the east side of the city. The water-powered mills on the Humber River to the west were almost all completely destroyed, most never to be rebuilt again. Farr's Brewery on the Garrison Creek was completely submerged and numerous beer barrels were washed out into the harbour.[59] City streets were filled with water, opening up sinkholes and causing cave-ins where water could not drain away. Sewers were too small to carry away the large quantity of water and instead forced it back up into cellars and basements, causing flooding of up to twelve feet of water.

Two years later, the recent memory of *The Great Rainstorm* underlay the plans to convert the Garrison Creek into a covered trunk sewer. In 1881, an editorial in the *Globe* newspaper read that *this proposal ought to receive warm and general support* and by October 1884 financing had been set in place and a by-law was passed for the construction of the sewer between College Street and Wellington Street.[60] Just a few months later on January 12th 1885, a heavy rainstorm flooded the creek and caused a section of the unfinished sewer to collapse.[61] A second collapse occurred again that November.[62] By 1886, most of the sewer had to be rebuilt. As construction was continued South, Farr's Brewery, lying in its path, was demolished and a block of stores at No.s 875-895 Queen Street was built on its foundations.



2.12

The Asylum

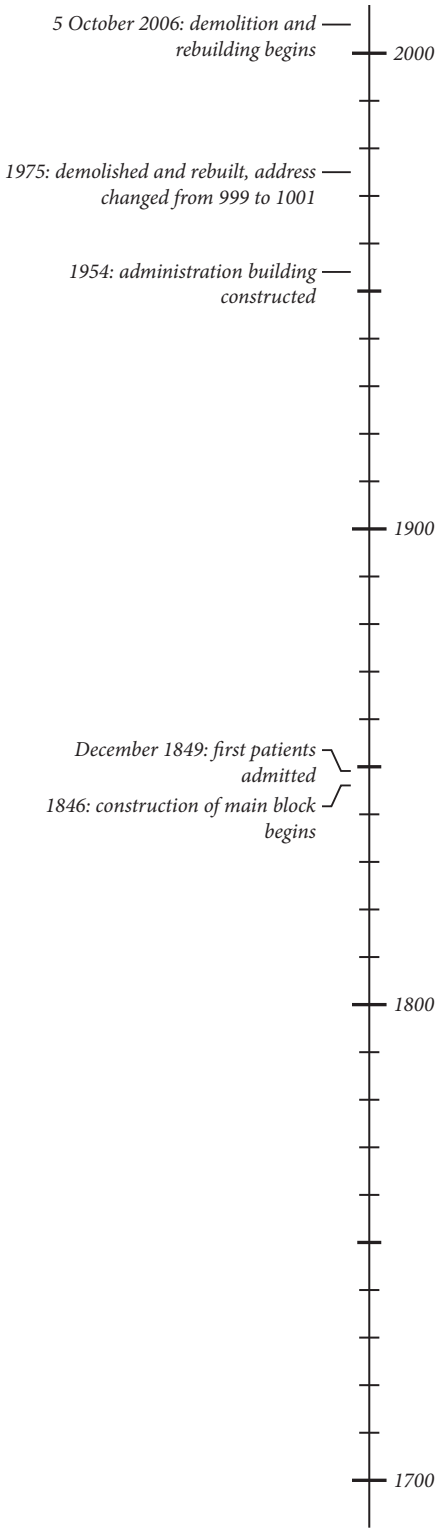
Also known as *the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, '999',* etc. | construction, currently *CAMH*

In May 1845, fifty acres of the northwestern portion of the Garrison Reserve were granted by the British Ordnance to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum. The site was swampy, forested and crossed by several small tributaries of the Garrison Creek, the largest of which was later named Asylum Creek. By the following year, the trees had been cleared and on August 22 the cornerstone for the asylum was laid.[63] Although the two wings of the original plan were never completed, upon opening in January 1850, the asylum became the largest public building in the nation—584 feet long and four stories high, with a central dome housing a 12,000 gallon water reservoir and a lantern visible from the lake.[64] The building was soon enlarged and the grounds developed to include a farm, a garden and an orchard, all of which were enclosed by brick walls.

By 1905, overcrowding and neglect had taken their toll on the asylum. Reports by two of the asylum's Medical Superintendents cited *pestilential conditions,* with inadequate heating, outdated plumbing, air pollution from the nearby trains and factories, and ceaseless noise from Queen Street traffic.[65] Over the years, land trades and sales had left the asylum with only twenty-seven acres and no farm.[66] It was argued that the site should be sold and the money used to build a new asylum closer to the city.

In 1954, construction began on a new administration building three storeys high and six hundred feet long running parallel to Queen Street, completely obscuring the old building from view.[67] Only a decade later, plans were announced to demolish the entire complex and replace it with updated accommodation and rehabilitative facilities.[68] Many argued that the old building was *a forbidding presence* and *a visible reminder of a previous era of treatment of the mentally ill from which, thankfully, we have emerged.*[69] With construction approved, the old asylum building was demolished and the address of the complex was officially changed from No. 999 Queen Street West to 1001.

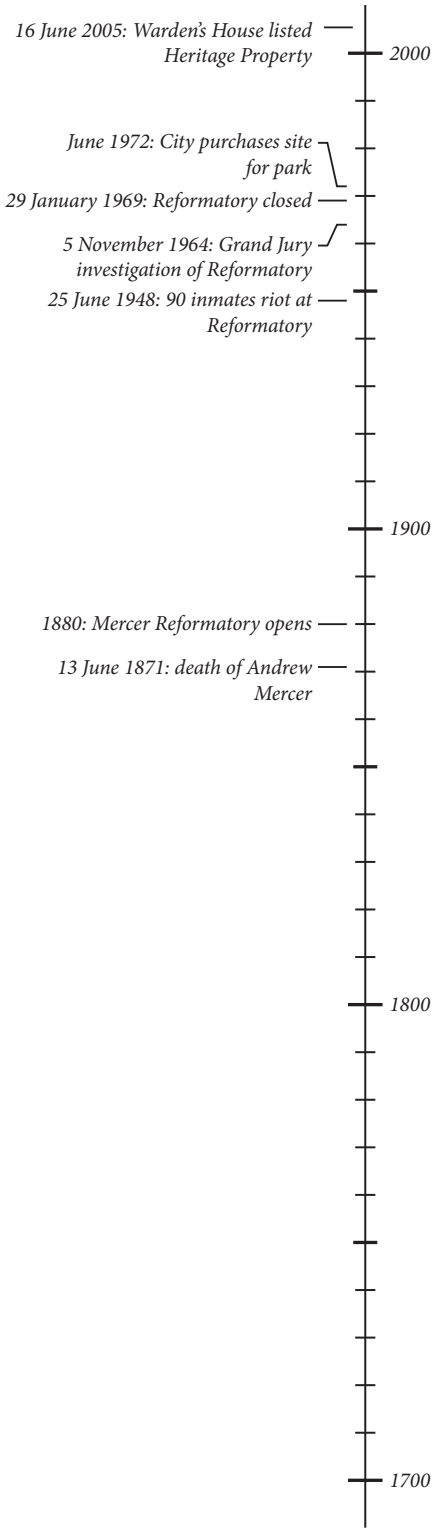
On October 5, 2006, a project broke ground for a full redevelopment of the complex to extend streets through the site and transform it into an *urban village.* Planners, once again, cited that this would *erase physical barriers separating patients from society, and the stigma afflicting mental illness and addiction*.[70] Today, the original brick perimeter walls remain in place along the south, east and west sides of the site.



2.13

The Reformatory

Also known as *Andrew Mercer Ontario Reformatory for Females* | demolished



Unmarried and intestate, Andrew Mercer lived the latter part of his life as a recluse with his housekeeper in a dilapidated cottage at the corner of Wellington and Bay Streets. Land holdings, mortgages—*the growth of the city*—had brought him a large estate valued at nearly $140,000.[71]

Following Mercer's death on June 13, 1871, claims to his estate began to surface and a court battle ensued for the next eight years. An Englishman named Robert Mercer, alleging to be a nephew, claimed the estate as an heir, but was found to have no relation. Then, Mercer's housekeeper, declaring herself as his wife and mother to his son, named Andrew J. Mercer, also laid claim to the estate, but the entry in the marriage registry was declared a forgery. A will pencilled on a scrap of paper dated a few days before his death suddenly surfaced, but was also declared a forgery. Numerous searches through personal possessions failed to discover any evidence of Mercer's true intentions and, with the exception of grants to his alleged son and his housekeeper, the estate was escheated to the Crown.[72]

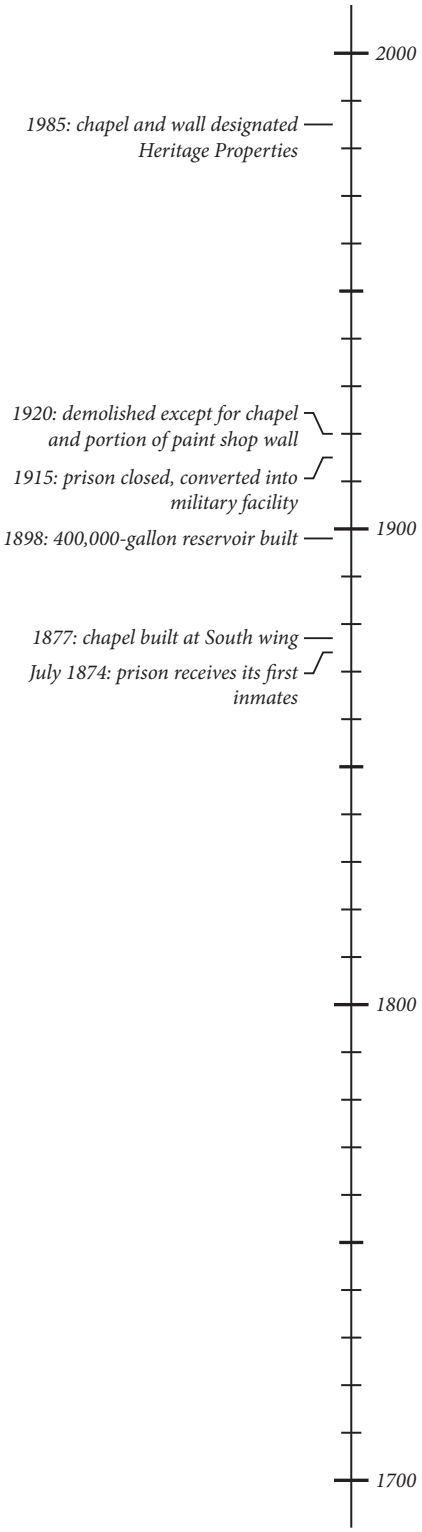
In 1878, the Government declared that a purpose for the funds would be established that would be not only a *noble and permanent benefaction … but a lasting memory to the deceased*. A portion of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum farm was appropriated for a site and the Andrew Mercer Ontario Reformatory for Females was established as the first institution of its kind in Canada.[73] Here, *fallen* women would be reformed through a strict regime of moral and religious training and domestic labour such as laundering, sewing, and knitting.[74] The institution would be entirely run by women and would have a *home-like* atmosphere rather than that of a *gloomy* or *prison-like* facility.[75] Despite its promises and impeccably clean interior, the Reformatory was not a pleasant place to be. It was not long before a *certain stigma* [became] *attached to the name 'Mercer'* and it was suggested that its name be changed to the *Ontario Industrial School for Girls*.[76]

By 1964, allegations of torture, beatings and inadequate medical care had surfaced. A Grand Jury inquiry report stated that investigators *could find no one with anything good to say about it* and that its name should be changed to *'Jail'*.[77] The allegations were dismissed and the Reformatory continued operation until its closure in 1969, when the women exchanged their prison uniforms for dresses and received the new designation as *residents* at the Vanier Centre for Women in Brampton.[78] The interior of the old Mercer building was stripped and everything, including cell furniture and barred-steel doors, was put up for sale for as little as a dollar a piece. In December 1969, the Reformatory was demolished and its bricks were dumped into Lake Ontario as fill for the construction of Ontario Place.[79] Today an obelisk stands over Mercer's grave in St. James Cemetery; the part of the inscription naming his place of origin neatly chiselled out.[80]

2.14

The Prison

Also known as *the Central Prison, the Strachan Avenue Prison* | partly demolished



In 1870, the Provincial Government purchased a triangular plot of land between the Grand Trunk and the Great Western Railways for the construction of a new prison. It would not be Toronto's first prison, but it was by far its largest, with a capacity of 336 prisoners.[81] The main building was one hundred feet wide with a cell wing and workshop at each end. It had a farm, a tailor shop, broom shop, shoe shop, twine shop, machine shop, railway car shop, paint shop, blacksmith shop, and, for some time, a commercial brick yard. The entire complex was enclosed by brick walls two feet thick and twenty-two feet high.[82]

The Central Prison was an industrial facility run by military-style discipline and hard labour. Prisoners worked, earning a small wage while also raising money for the institution. From the time of its opening, the prison was contractually tenured to manufacture railway cars for the neighbouring Canada Car Company, which after only a few years announced bankruptcy and in 1881 was purchased by the John Inglis & Sons Manufacturing Company.[83] For the remainder of its operation, the prison struggled to become a paying enterprise, engaging inmates in the manufacture of brooms, shoes, and twine.

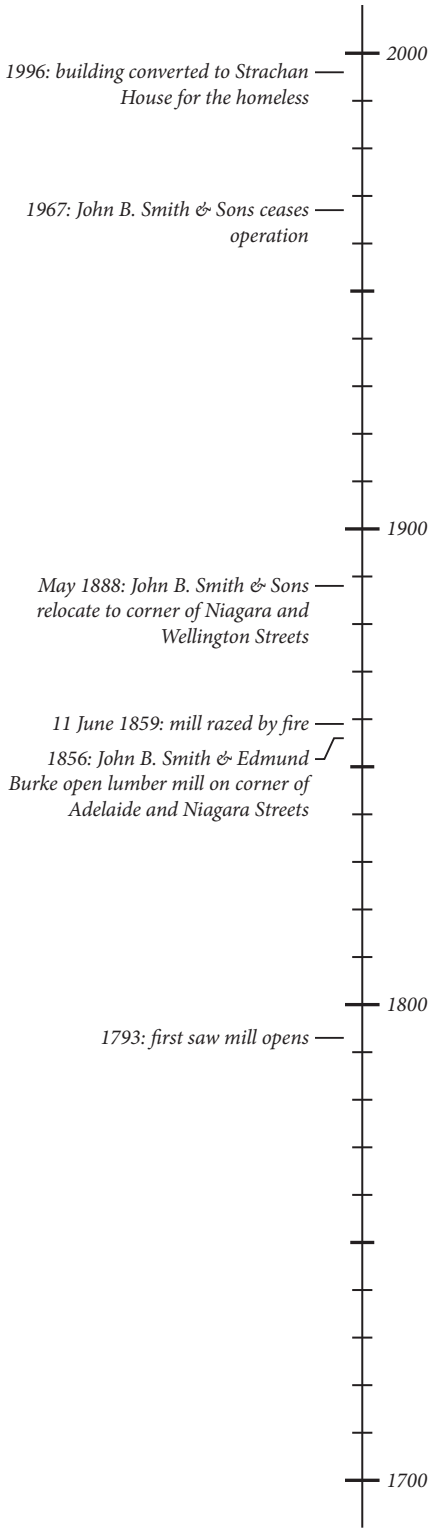
The prison quickly earned a reputation for its brutality. Under the watch of its first warden, William Stratton Prince, an alcoholic ex-military officer, refusal to work or breaking the rule of silence were often met with whippings, solitary confinement or *ironing* to the walls. Sanctioned beatings were common, requests for medical treatment were regularly ignored, and deaths went unrecorded. Rumours circulated of secret nighttime burials outside the prison walls.[84] No one knows where these graves lie, nor how many bodies may have been buried.

In 1876, an official enquiry was launched by the Provincial Secretary and Director of the prison into the allegations of mismanagement and abuse of prisoners. Even with much compelling testimony of violence, the formal report of the 1885 Royal Commission fully exonerated the prison administration.[85] Despite changes in management and the reforms that followed, in 1915 the prison was closed down. The lands surrounding it were gradually annexed by the railway companies and the complex was eventually sold to John Inglis & Sons to expand their appliance and artillery factories. All of the buildings—with the exception of a chapel built in 1877 at the tip of the south wing, and a fragment of the paint shop wall—were demolished in 1920. The original foundations of the entire complex likely still lie below ground. A 400,000-gallon water reservoir constructed in 1898 is also presumed to still exist, though its location remains unknown.[86]

2.15

The Lumber Mill

Also known as *John B. Smith & Sons Lumber Mill* | Currently *Strachan House Shelter*



When Governor John Graves Simcoe and the Queen's Rangers visited Toronto Bay on May 2, 1793, *dense and trackless forests lined the margin of the lake and reflected their inverted images in its glassy surface.*[87] Forests, swamps, lakes and rivers stretched in all directions for hundreds of thousands of kilometres, *impressing the mind with an indescribable sensation of awe, loneliness and astonishment.* Few dirt roads sliced into it. Stands of giant white and yellow pines grew north of the town. Standing 150 feet tall and six feet in diameter, the largest trees were over five hundred years old. The forest canopy was so dense that nothing grew at their bases.[88] By August 27, 1793, a small clearing had been made and the first few houses were built. The new town was named York.

Arriving settlers were granted land on the condition that the forest be cleared. Trees were quickly chopped for lumber or burned to clear land for corn. The clearings expanded against the threat of forest fires and wolves, which were sometimes bold enough to enter cabins.[89] Many of the largest pine and oak trees were sold for masts to the British Royal Navy. Scouts toured the forests and marked the best trees to be cut for export.[90]

With the rapid clearing of the forests, rivers and streams diminished in size and even ran dry. Forests retained rainfall and maintained a high water table, feeding rivers and streams in a steady flow. Unrestrained heavy rains and spring meltwater began to cause turbulent, muddy floods.[91] Many sawmills were forced to close down as rivers dried up or became clogged with sediments.

By the time John B. Smith opened a lumber mill in 1856, much of Toronto's surrounding forest had long vanished. Smith opened a sawmill at Angus, near Barrie and transported harvested timber from the surrounding townships to Toronto by rail. As availability of timber in the area declined, the sawmill moved its operation further and further north, first to Frank's Bay on Lake Nippissing and later to Callander.[92] By the mid-1890s, John B. Smith & Sons had grown to be one of the largest and most important lumber operations in Canada, selling their products across North America. Less than thirty percent of forests cover remained in most townships in Eastern Ontario and wood had become so scarce that houses were primarily heated by coal.[93] John B. Smith & Sons continued operation until 1967, when the timber supply at Callander was exhausted.[94]

2.16

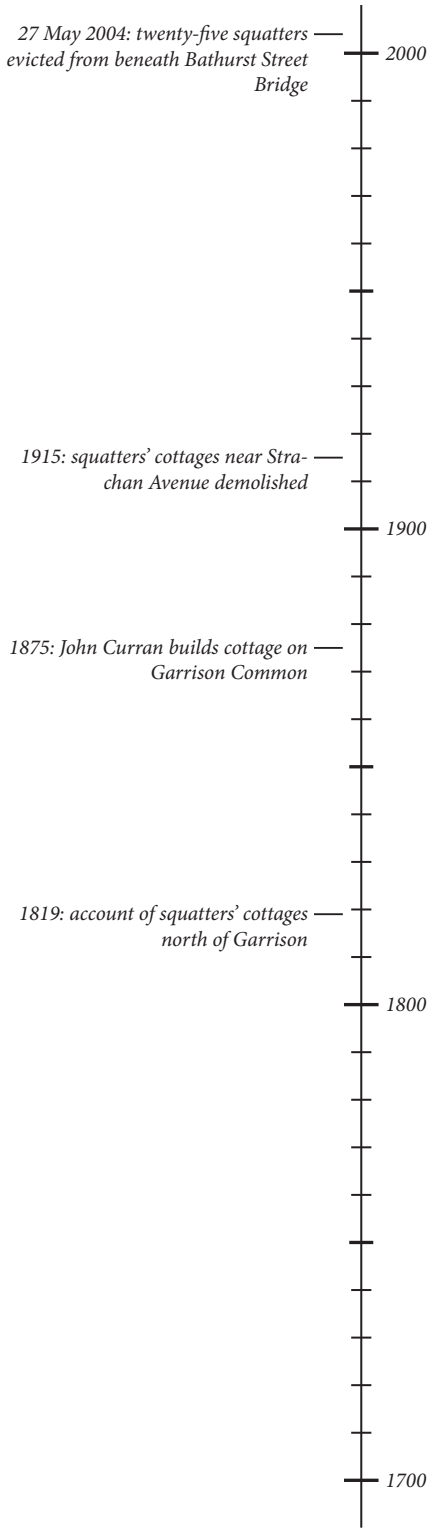
The Squatter Shacks

Also known as *Squatter Cottages* | demolished

On April 24, 2004, a volunteer cleanup was held at Fort York to collect garbage from the grounds and the north side of the site, which was newly-acquired from the Canadian National Railway. Steel drums, railway ties, bicycle parts, metal office chairs, bottles, steel strapping, mattresses and clothing were collected and piled up for removal. The cleaning of some areas, however, was left to the City Works Department: a squatter's shack still stood near the central bastion of the Fort from long before the land was transferred to the City in 1996, and scattered personal possessions could be found beneath the Strachan Avenue Bridge to the West.[95] On May 27, twenty-five squatters were evicted from beneath the Bathurst Street Bridge east of the Fort when demolition of a nearby building began.[96]

Squatters' cottages on the Garrison Common near Strachan Avenue have existed since at least the 1870s, when records indicate the construction of at least three cottages. In 1875, a John Curran was given official permission by the Government to settle on the Common. He built a cottage, planted fruit trees and lived there for the following thirty-eight years with his family.[97] In 1915, all of these cottages were demolished to make way for the rebuilding and straightening of the Strachan Avenue Bridge, but today evidence of occupation is still present beneath both the Strachan Avenue and Bathurst Street bridges.

Until the 1840s, under a provisional law of *Squatters' Rights*, squatters were granted possession or compensated for *improvements* made to land with relative ease when a title was contested. Some settlers advanced ahead of the Government's official surveying and built their homes without title to the land. Occasionally, a legal settler would arrive at his granted or rightfully purchased lot only to find that another was already living there. Initially, squatters were viewed positively, but increasing conflicts, land speculation and the rise of an impermanent population caused society to eventually turn against them.[98]



2.17

The Slum

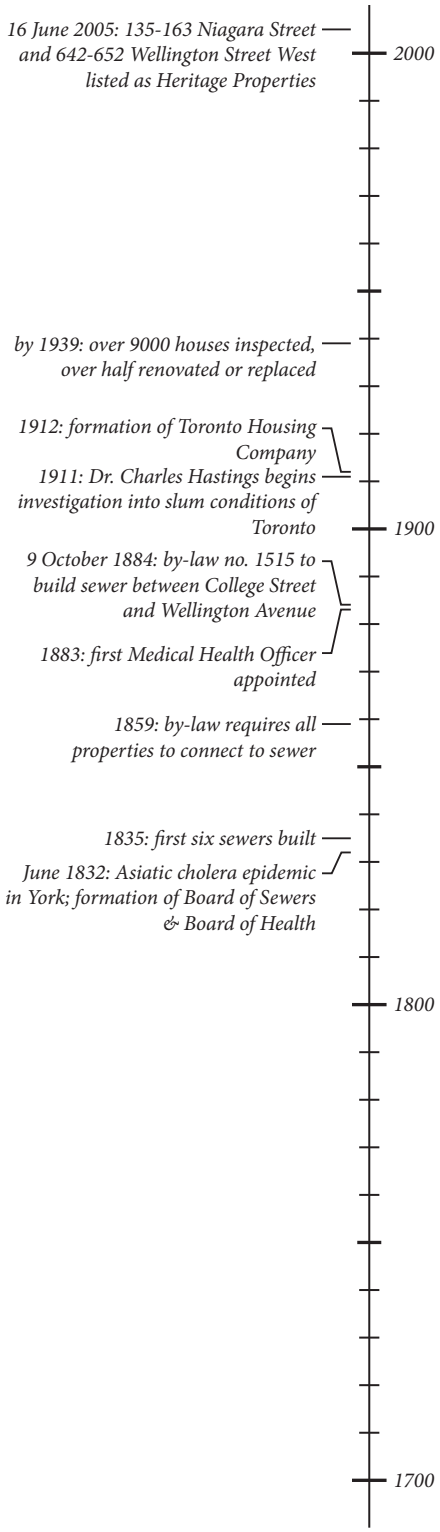
Also known as the *Niagara Street District* | currently *Niagara Neighbourhood*

[A] low, narrow stream of filth, after pursuing its sinuous way, here joins the creek … This is the sewerage of many houses on the south side of King-street. North of King-street there is a large heap of lane garbage and rubbish, and the dangerous nature of it is at once recognized by reason of the slowly trickling streams of foetid matter which is plainly exuding.[99]

With the arrival of the railways in the 1850s, the Niagara Street District, bisected by the Garrison Creek, became an emerging industrial area populated almost exclusively by immigrant workers. It was considered a slum by most. By the time Dr. Charles Hastings, Medical Health Officer, began his investigation into the slum conditions of Toronto, the polluted creek had long been buried out of sight, but the conditions in the area surrounding the creek had not much improved.[100] Over several months in 1911, Hastings' team of four inspectors visited and extensively documented 4,693 houses throughout the city, which was divided into six districts.[101]

In the Niagara Street District alone, there were reported 133 dwellings with no sewer connection; 34 dwellings with no water supply; only 280 baths; 365 indoor water closets variously placed in sheds, kitchens, cellars, dining rooms, landings, and bedrooms; 327 outdoor water closets, including privy pits, box closets, drain closets, closets flushed by waste water from the kitchen sink, closets flushed by pull chain, and some dry closets not cleaned for over two years.[102] In his report, Hastings wrote: *The slum germ produces its diseases as truly as the germ of tuberculosis, but both are curable and preventable, largely by means of plenty of fresh air, sunshine and sanitary homes.*[103] The immediate clean-up of each individual house was ordered and plans were put in place for the development of more permanent improvements. What resulted was the intensive renovation of thousands of slum houses in the Niagara Street District and across the city over the next twenty years.

Following the construction of the Gardiner Expressway in the 1950s, industries began to recede from the Niagara Street District, demolishing their buildings and leaving behind vacant, barren lots.[104] The designated commercial-industrial zoning of the area further prevented the construction of any new housing, but by that time, the neighbourhood had earned the nickname *The Lower Ward* and was considered *the least desirable residential area in the city*.[105] Since the late 1980s, new residential developments, attracted by cheap land, have gradually edged into the neighbourhood.



2.18

The Destructor

Also known as *the Wellington Street Destructor* | vacant

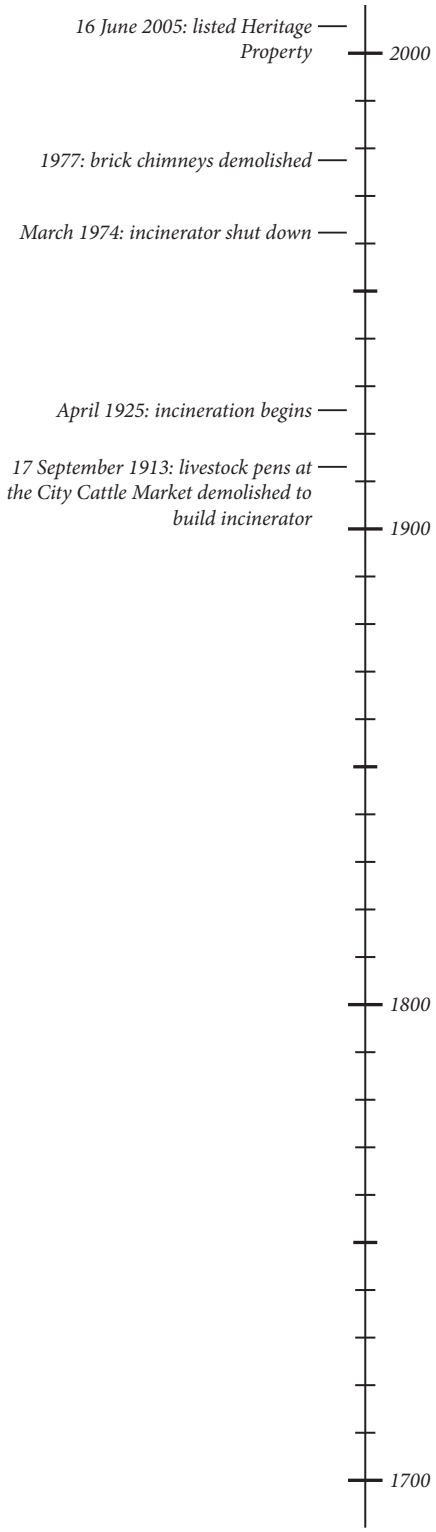
In the midst of a great park in the old world setting it would be taken for a castle. But in Toronto on Wellington street near Niagara street, it is only the new "destructor" that will burn up the city's garbage.[106]

By the 1920s, the majority of Toronto's ravines had been filled and convenient dump sites for the city's increasing quantity of garbage were becoming scarce.[107] In 1923, construction began on the Wellington Destructor, which, together with its predecessor, the Don Destructor, was to incinerate all of the city's garbage. The building was said to be *the finest in the world,* equipped with four Sterling continuous grate furnaces, three of which would burn continuously night and day at a daily capacity of 360 tonnes, *without causing odor or any inconvenience to the citizens living near the building.*[108]

By the 1950s and '60s, the Department of Public Works had received numerous complaints regarding emissions of flaming paper and ash that were settling over the surrounding neighbourhood. In January 1972, the City was ordered to either renovate or close it and six other garbage incinerators, which were deemed responsible for twenty percent of Toronto's air pollution.[109] The Wellington Destructor's two brick chimneys were demolished and it continued to operate as the Wellington Street Transfer Station until the mid-1990s.

Since its closure, rumour has it that a man lives inside, meticulously collecting and organizing garbage. Old bicycle frames line the corridors, newspapers and books are stacked along the garbage pit walls, old television sets and computers are piled inside one room, discarded toys in another. One of the old administration offices has been wired with electricity and is outfitted with a working television, computer, a stack of microwaves, and a few lamps.

The building is slowly disintegrating.




TORONTO MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR
TORONTO MUNICIPAL ABATTOIR
1409
GRAND TRUNK
46205
GRAND TRUNK
20828
AUTOMOBILES
GRAND TRUNK
46217
GRAND TRUNK
20717

2.19

The Abattoir

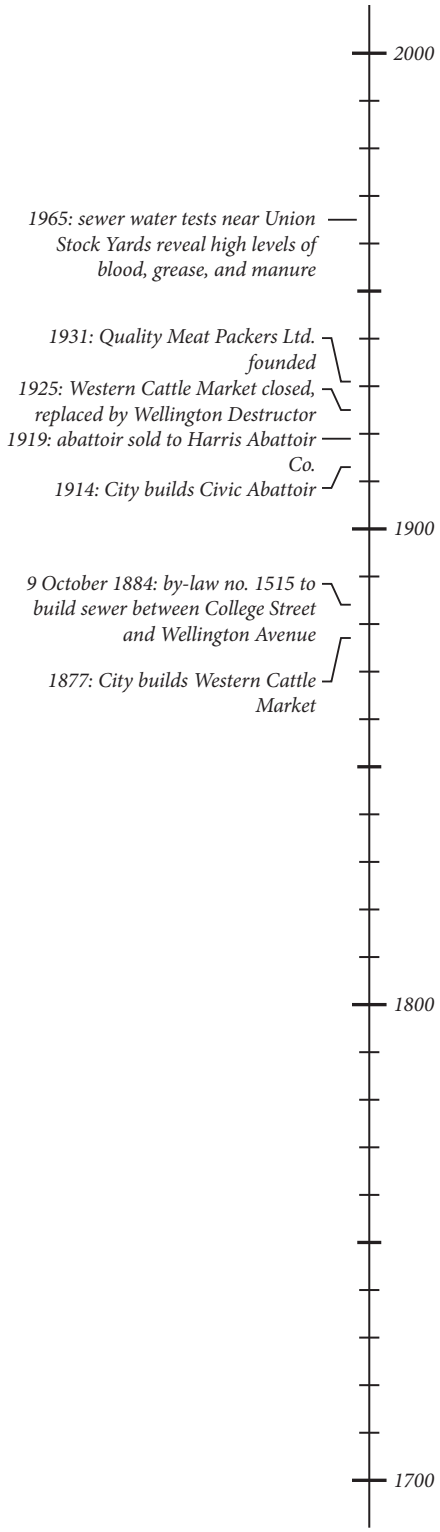
Also known as *Toronto Civic Abattoir* | currently *Quality Meats Inc.*

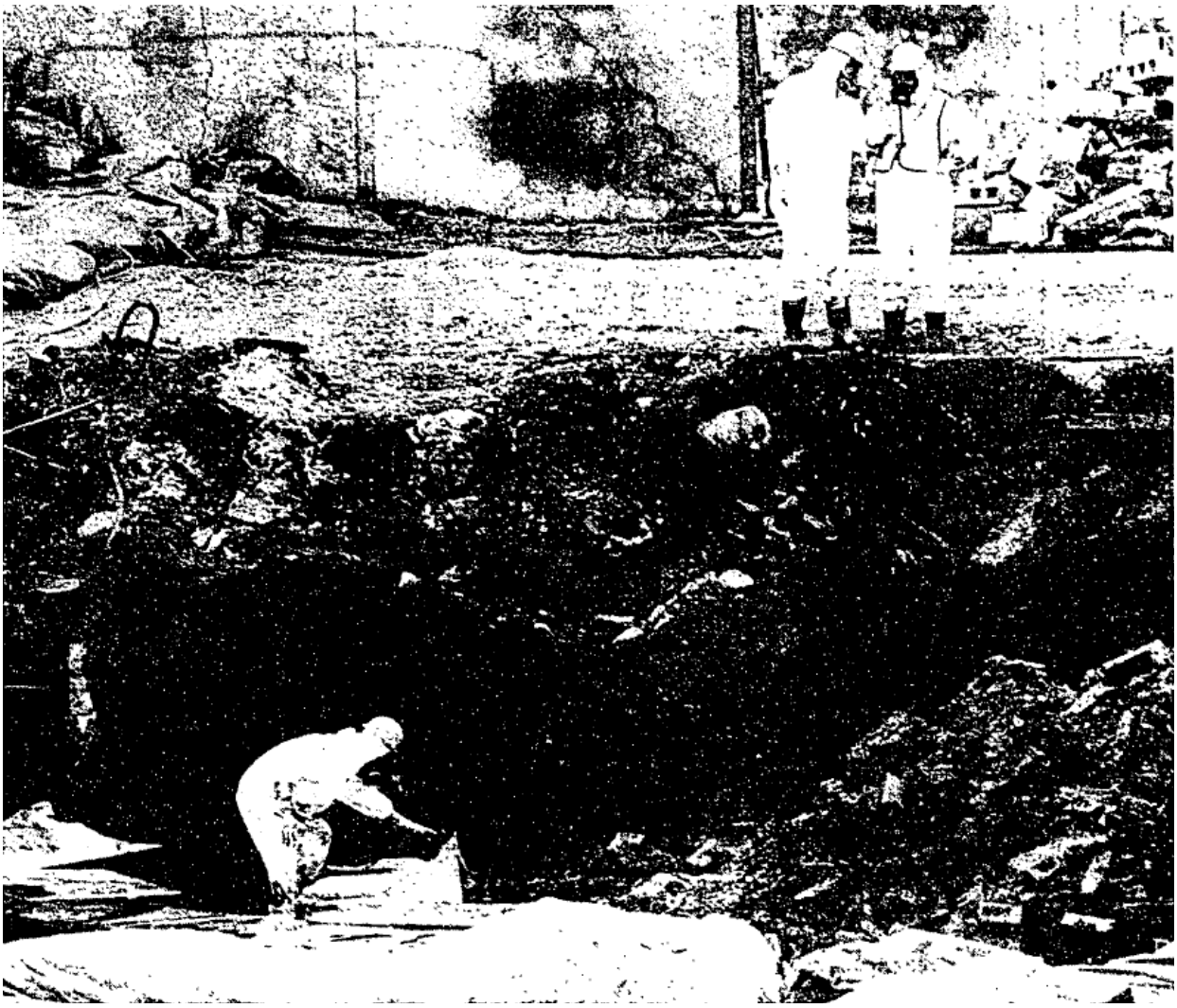
In June 1883, Mayor Arthur Boswell received a report from the Medical Health Officer on the *abominable* state of the Garrison Creek. In addition to the increasing number of houses, slaughterhouses and public institutions drained directly into the open stream and in some places the water was visibly tinged with blood.[110] A reporter for the *Globe* noted that the creek south of King Street could be *seen gradually to assume a ruby hue, which deepens rapidly till the water becomes quite red* before it *gradually subsides, and the creek here assumes its previous leaden colour.*[111]

The following year, the Mayor called for the conversion of the creek into an enclosed sewer. The sewer was constructed, but the smell emanating from its outlet at the lake continued to rouse complaints. Rather than carrying the sewage away, the slow-moving currents of the harbour pushed it close to shore. In 1896 and again in 1897, the surgeon to the Garrison complained about the *stench* and requested that city authorities remove the accumulation at the outlet.[112] Even the National Yacht and Skiff Club complained about the *filthy state* of the water there.[113]

In 1901, Alderman Hubbard threatened to disconnect the Junction neighbourhood's sewer connection to the Garrison Creek unless the recently established Union Stock Yards kept their runoff free from offal. The Board of Health, while collecting samples of the runoff by lowering hooks into manholes, retrieved not only blood and grease, but also intestines and entire sets of lungs.[114] It was promised that an abattoir department would be established in the future to ensure that all blood, hair, and offal would be separated.[115] By 1913 the flow from the Garrison Creek sewer had been diverted to a sewage treatment plant and the issue was largely forgotten until well into the 1950s.

MR. BYNOE: *As of April the 15th, 1957, what was happening to the blood?* MR. OSTADER: *Well, at no time that I know of, the blood at the Civic Abattoir has ever been used. It goes down the sewer.*
MR. BYNOE: *What happens in most of the other abattoirs?*
MR. OSTADER: *Every other packing house I have been in, and I think I have been in every one in Toronto, the blood goes into a boiler and it is cooked and it is a very valuable commodity … [A boiler would be] a great relief to the sewer -- the sewage department of the City of Toronto … It costs hundreds of dollars to keep that sewer at the Civic Abattoir open; with the blood clotting and the fats going down the sewer, they have more trouble at the Civic Abattoir that in any other place in the City of Toronto.*[116]

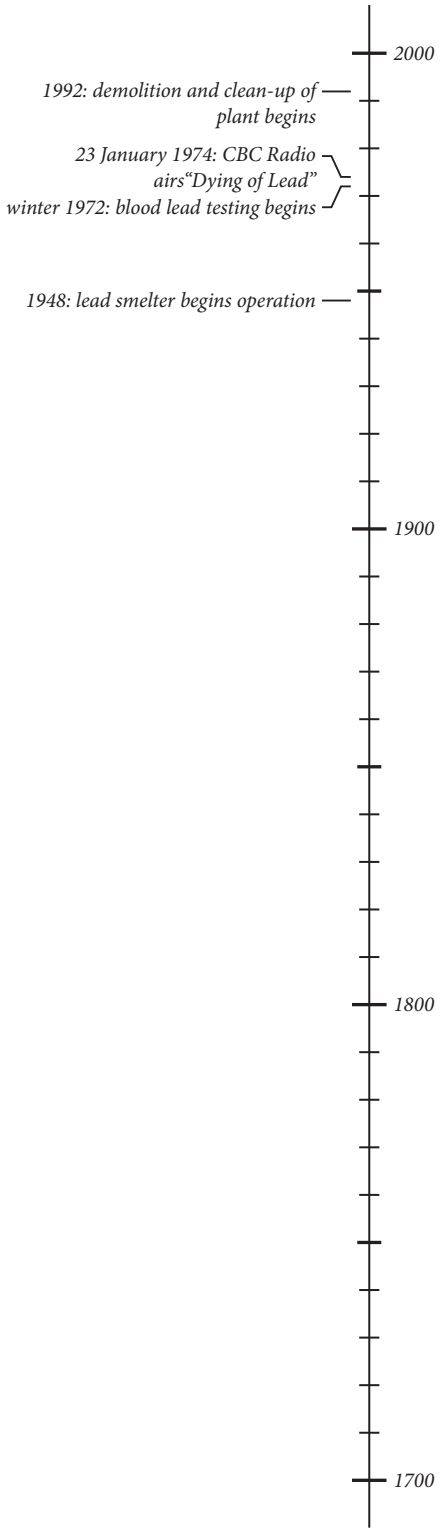




2.20

The Lead Smelter

Also known as *Toronto Refiners & Smelters Ltd.* | demolished



In the 1960s, lead poisoning cases began appearing in the Niagara neighbourhood. A smelter compound, which had grown out of a former metal scrap yard, came to share a fence with a row of residences on Niagara Street. It extracted lead from old car batteries by cutting away their steel cases and tops, draining the acid, and melting the lead out into moulds. In the process, clouds of sulphur dioxide bearing particles of lead, cadmium, arsenic, and antimony were sent up into the sky.[117]

A 1970 investigation into the smelter was initiated following a neighbour's complaint about the black dust settling on his backyard picnic table. Throughout the 1970s and 80s, regular testing of local children revealed high blood lead levels.[118] As a result, the plant was ordered to install new pollution controls and build a smokestack 175 feet tall to send the fumes higher above the rooftops. The company's lawyer suggested that a nearby high rise apartment complex be built with sealed windows and enclosed balconies to *reserve upper-storey air for industrial pollution*.[119] Newspaper headlines read *'No Foundation' to Neighbours Fears: Lead Firms Not Health Hazard, Expert Says* and *Even Experts Can't Agree on Lead Poisoning*.[120] The company's lead expert argued that no one had ever been able to prove that environmental lead has *toxic effects,* and knew of no case where people who lived near refineries developed symptoms of lead poisoning. Nevertheless, warnings were issued to Niagara residents not to eat fruits or vegetables grown within three hundred feet of the smelter.

In August 1986, soil bore tests revealed the average lead concentration had doubled since 1980 to reach 11,745 parts per million—more than twenty-three times the levels considered normal.[121] In some areas soil contamination had reached three metres deep and in others had reached a concentration of ten percent pure lead.[122] The smelter site was expropriated by the City in July 1988 with plans to extend Front Street through it and expand the Gardiner Expressway. The company was ordered to pay for the removal of topsoil from eighty-three of the two hundred most polluted properties in the area. By then, few children lived in the neighbourhood. In April 1992, workers, wearing sealed protective suits and three layers of gloves, sandblasted contaminated layers from nearby buildings and removed topsoil from the smelter site. A total of 1,500 truckloads were sent to a hazardous waste facility near Sarnia.[123] The building was carefully stripped and demolished over a period of thirty-two weeks.

The Front Street extension project has since been cancelled. In 2003, a daycare and a homeless shelter were built over half of the site. The remainder of the site is fenced-off and remains vacant.

2.21

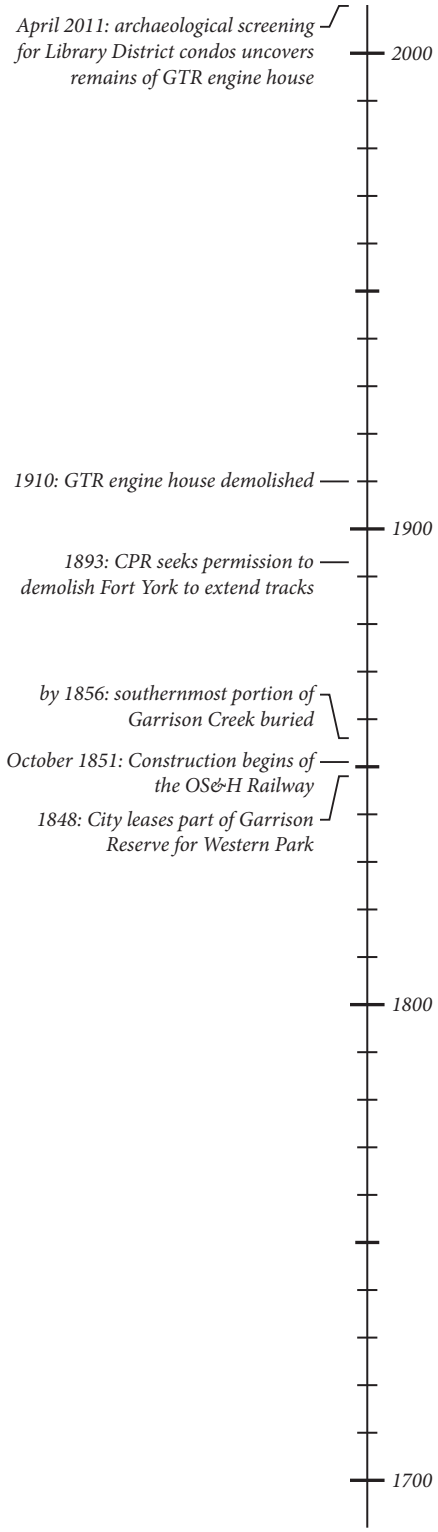
The Railway

Also known as *Ontario Simcoe & Huron, Great Western, Grand Trunk* | currently *CN, GO*

I … wended my way along a quiet but businesslike thoroughfare, which terminated at an overhead bridge. This spanned what had been at one time a deep ravine, through the centre of which Garrison Creek once ran. But now, instead of the gentle ripple of its waters, is heard the shrill whistle of some inward or outward bound train, or the swish, swish of some steam-fretted engine as it shunts to and fro on its iron roadway … [124]

In 1848, the Ordnance Department leased 287 acres of the Garrison Reserve lands, bounded by the Garrison Creek on the east, Dufferin Street on the west, the Asylum on the north and the New Fort on the south, to the City of Toronto on the conditions that it would be landscaped and converted into a new *Western Park*. In October 1851, construction began on Ontario's first railway, the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron, connecting Toronto through Aurora to Collingwood. Its tracks would run along the north side of the Garrison Creek and arc across the Reserve to Queen Street with a spur line to Queen's Wharf wrapping around the east side of Fort York. In an effort to preserve the park, the Mayor John G. Bowes wrote to the Ordnance Department in March of 1852 urging that the rail companies be persuaded to run their lines up the Garrison Creek ravine instead.[125] The Department soon broke its lease with the City, arguing that *since the Reserve extends over nearly 250 acres, such a space is never likely to be required merely as a Park or pleasure ground for so small a town as Toronto.*[126] The railways were granted permission to cross the land plans for the Western Park were officially abandoned.

In order to extend its tracks west from its depot, the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron Railway diverted the southern portion of the Garrison Creek into a sluiceway, filled much of its ravine and levelled its eastern bank. Construction soon followed on the Great Western Railway connecting to Hamilton and the Grand Trunk Railway connecting to Brampton. Great Western further filled the ravine in order to construct its tracks, roundhouse and passenger station between the northern ramparts of Fort York and the tracks of the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron Railway. Grand Trunk built its tracks, freight house, passenger station and locomotive house south and east of the fort, initiating lake filling and burying the mouth of the creek.[127]



2.22

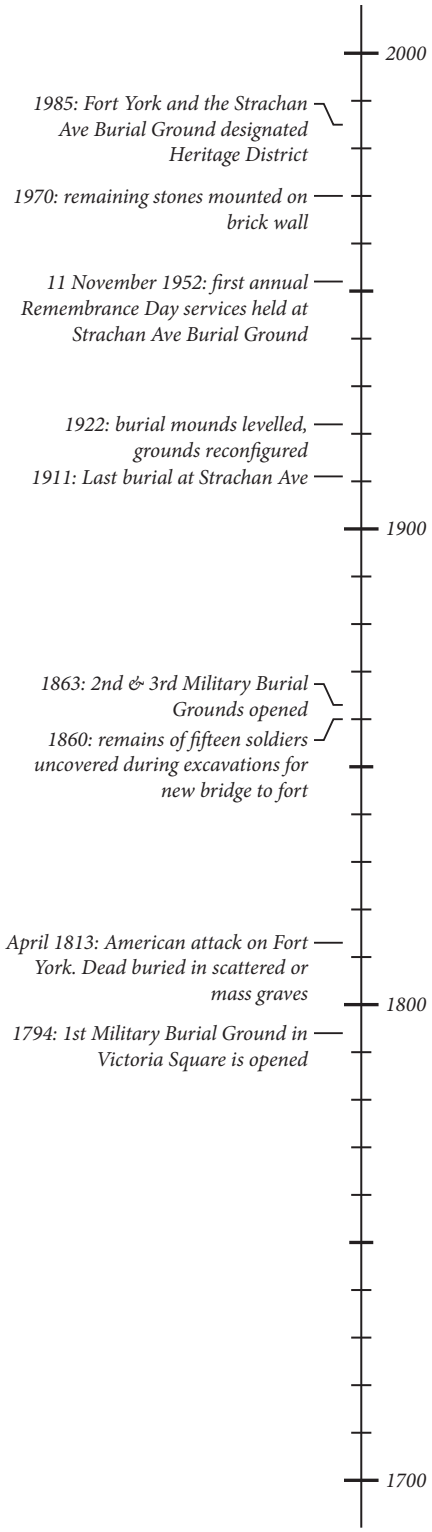
The Burial Ground

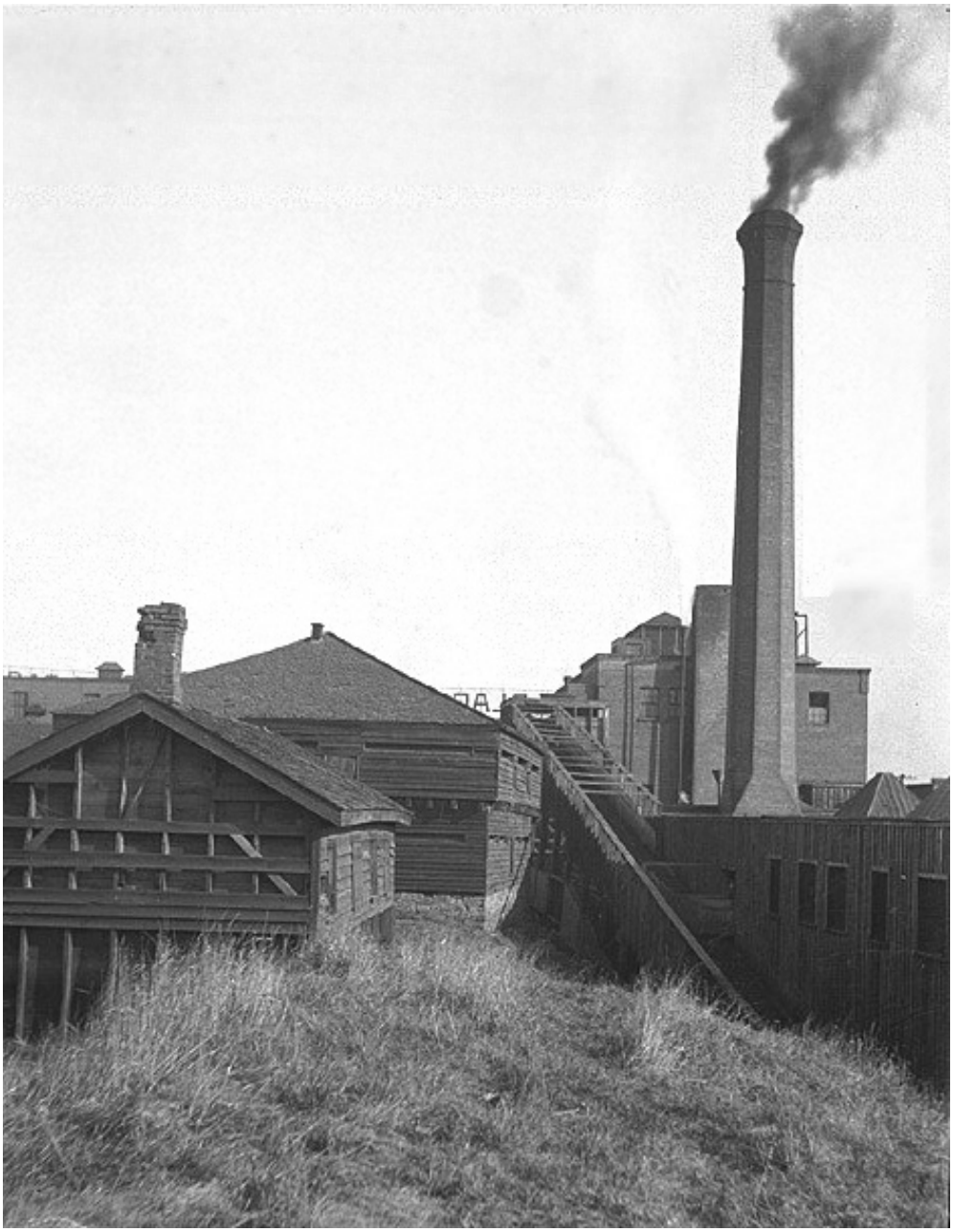
Also known as *Strachan Avenue Burying Ground, 3rd Military Burying Ground* | reconfigured

In July 1863, a swampy corner of the Garrison Common at the Western limit of the expanding city was chosen as the site of the Second Military Burying Ground. Over the next few months a total of five or six burials were held there, until the walls of last grave to be dug collapsed, nearly burying a gravedigger. Because of a high water table and constant flooding, the site was declared unfit for a cemetery and called *one of the worst pieces of ground that could possibly be chosen for the purpose, it being a swamp in which water lodges*.[128] In October, the burial ground was condemned, the bodies exhumed and transported to a new site between the old Fort and Strachan Avenue—the Third Military Burying Ground.

By the 1920s, the grounds had become an eyesore overgrown with grasses, thistles and ivy since the British army had returned home fifty years earlier. A sudden campaign to restore the cemetery was sparked in 1921 by a newspaper article describing its disgraceful state, bounded *on the east, by a dumping ground*, with the *black, ghostly ribs of an old broken board fence* protruding from the ground.[129] Only a handful of stones and wooden crosses remained scattered amongst two hundred burial mounds, mostly unnamed or undecipherable, many broken and toppled.[130] The following year, the City's Parks Department was authorized to level the mounds. Stones considered salvageable were collected and neatly arranged in a constructed plot at one end of the site. The officers' plot was left intact. A new path was built across the site, grass was planted, and a flagpole erected. The grounds remained in this configuration until, in 1970, the Toronto Historical Board reconfigured the burial ground for a second time, collecting all remaining stones and mounting them on a brick wall, where they remain today.[131]

No register of burials exists. Historians have scoured newspapers, telegrams, and regimental documents and uncovered the names of ninety-seven buried. According to the historians' calculations there should be another fifty graves, totalling around one hundred and fifty.[132] Fifty of the two hundred counted decades earlier remain unaccounted for. A memoir surfaced written around 1910 by an anonymous veteran that mentions the transfer of sixty or seventy bodies from the Garrison Common to Strachan Avenue. It is possible that these were the remains from the scattered burials following the American attack on the fort in 1813 and that these are the unaccounted graves. Today, the locations of all but thirty-eight graves remain unknown.[133]





2.23

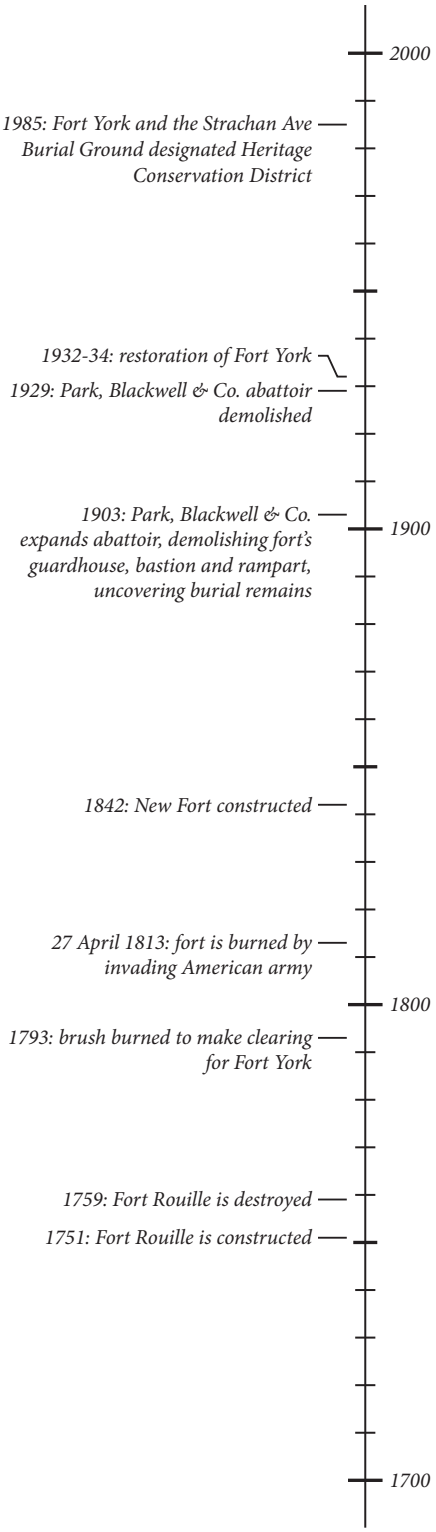
The Garrison

Also known as *Fort York, Old Fort* | restored

Fort York was bounded by railways on two sides and had long fallen into disrepair by the time the Park, Blackwell & Co. decided to build an abattoir and packing plant along its eastern side in 1898. In 1903, an agreement was reached to transfer ownership of Fort York and the Garrison Common lands from the Government of Canada to the City of Toronto under the provision that they would be restored to their original condition and maintained that way forever.[134] Barely two weeks later, Council gave permission to Park, Blackwell & Co. to expand their plant and demolish the fort's guardhouse, southeastern bastion, and eastern rampart.[135] In 1905, the City announced that it would build a streetcar line through the centre of the Fort to connect downtown to the CNE grounds. The project would involve the demolition of two barracks buildings as well as the Fort's east and west gates. *Naturally, some old buildings will have to come down,* announced Mayor Thomas Urquhart.[136] Years of public meetings, lobbying, and petitions followed until, as a compromise in 1916, the Toronto Street Railway Company was given permission to extend their streetcar line from the Bathurst Street Bridge along the top of the Fort's northern rampart, cutting through its bastions.[137]

Despite restoration efforts and an official designation as a National Historic Site, Fort York faced another threat in 1958 when it was announced that the proposed path of the Gardiner Expressway, which had started construction three years earlier, would be built overhanging the Fort.[138] Two piers for an on-ramp from Bathurst Street would be located within the Fort's southern rampart and the expressway's deck would cantilever over the complex by up to fifty feet. In response to the Roads Commissioner's declaration that an alternate route was *impossible,* City Chairman Frederick Gardiner proposed that the Fort and burial ground be moved out of the way to a new site in Coronation Park, near the Canadian National Exhibition grounds. It was contended that since the fort had long become landlocked by lake filling, this move would not only serve to restore its historical context on the lakeshore, but would facilitate easier access for visitors.[139] Addressing the Toronto Historical Board, the Chairman said that he was *fond of historical sites, but it wouldn't be the first time one had to be moved in the name of progress.*[140]

On May 7, 1958, it was announced that the Gardiner Expressway would be built on an alternate route avoiding the Fort, but the debate to move the Fort continued. *It was a pity that the fort interfered with the progress of such a fine Expressway,* lamented the Premier at the project's ribbon-cutting ceremony.[141]



2.24

The Wharf

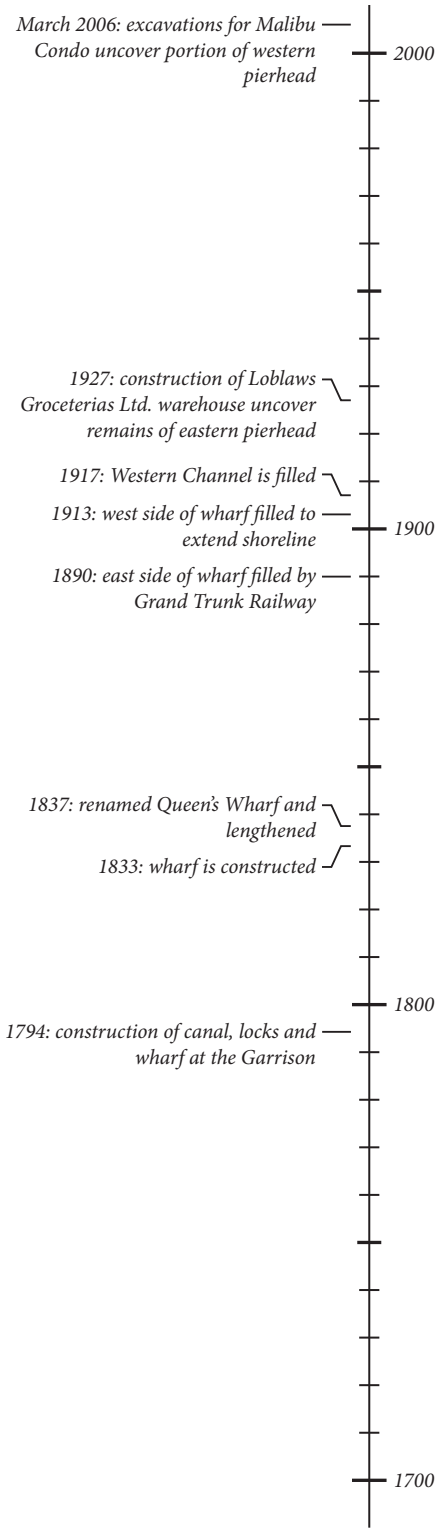
Also known as *King's Wharf, Queen's Wharf, Government Wharf* | buried

In 2006, excavations for the foundations of the Malibu condominium development at the northwest corner of Bathurst and Fleet Streets exposed a large section of the old Queen's Wharf. The uncovered structure was determined to be the cribwork foundations of the wharf's western pierhead. The cribs were photographed, recorded in drawings, and a corner portion was removed and transferred to Fort York before the archaeological team gave permission for the rest to be demolished.[142]

The wharf was constructed in 1833 on the east side of the mouth of the Garrison Creek to provide a docking and cargo facility for Fort York and nearby businesses, as well as with the aim of altering the water currents at the western entry to the city's harbour and slow the growth of a sandbar that continually threatened to block it. By the mid-1860s, further additions, including a lighthouse, the keeper's cottage, store houses and a railway spur line had been added. Numerous alterations and additions had enlarged the wharf to eight hundred feet long and one hundred feet wide, with an eight-hundred-foot long eastern pierhead and a six-hundred-foot long western pierhead, making it the largest and most important dock in the harbour.[143]

To maintain its width and depth, the Western Channel required constant dredging to remove the accumulation of silt and sand that washed down the Don River and out of the bay, as well as the sewage flowing from the Garrison Creek and the city's other sewers. Though the wharf ultimately proved unsuccessful at stopping the accumulation, subsequent expansions provided a convenient place to dump the dredged material, while at the same time creating new land.[144] On October 22, 1907, plans to construct a new, deeper and wider Western Channel four hundred metres to the south were approved and construction commenced the following year.[145] In 1910, outbreaks of typhoid fever from contaminated drinking water sparked complaints about the opening of the new channel to the polluted bay. A proposal was discussed to build a sandbar across the new channel to keep sewage from entering the lake and reaching the water intake pipe, but was never carried out.[146]

The new Western Channel was opened to navigation in 1910 and by 1917, the old channel had been filled and the Queen's Wharf buried.



2.25

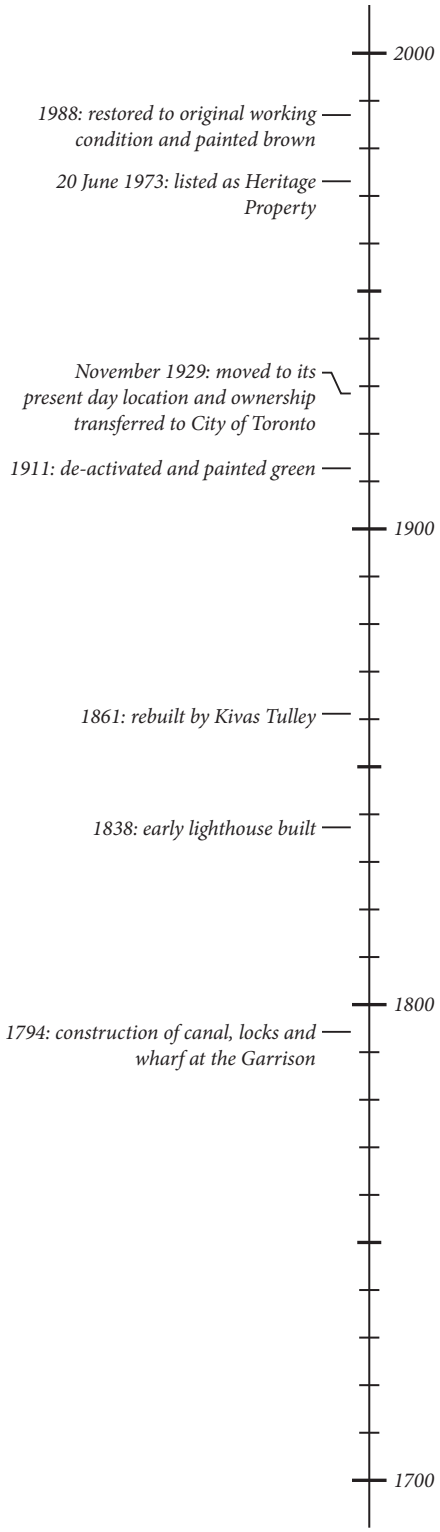
The Lighthouse

Also known as *Queen's Wharf Lighthouse, Western Gap Lighthouse* | moved

Since 1861, a small red lighthouse marked the only navigable entrance to Toronto Harbour. It had a fog bell, a white range light, and a red whale oil lantern, which were replaced in 1880 by six patent gas burners and semaphore lenses.[147] Every year the lights were fired around the end of April, and put out around the middle of December, according to the freeze and thaw cycles of the harbour. Its lights guided vessels through the narrow channel, helping skippers avoid the treacherous underwater sandbar.

By the 1890s, five million gallons of sewage flowed daily from the mouth of the Garrison Creek Sewer, which combined with silt from the harbour, made it difficult to maintain the channel at the necessary depth for ships. The City had been in discussion for years over a proposal to construct a system of intercepting sewers to divert the sewage east to a point outside the harbour, but the project was deemed too expensive and rejected. Several alternatives to deal with the sewage, including the proposal to construct an experimental treatment system of septic tanks and bacterial beds at the mouth of the Garrison Creek, were investigated, but none were realized.[148] Consensus was reached in 1908, and construction of the interceptor sewers was finally approved. Following the project's completion in 1912, the Garrison Creek ceased to flow into the harbour, except when storms pushed the system over capacity.

When the new Western Gap opened for navigation in 1911, the old lighthouse was de-activated and fell into disrepair. The old channel was filled, leaving the lighthouse and the keeper's cottage landlocked *back among big buildings on Harbor land.*[149] In 1929 plans to demolish the lighthouse were announced, but a movement to preserve it formed.[150] On November 26 that same year, the lighthouse was hitched to a team of horses and dragged to a new location 450 metres to the west.[151] It remains at this location today, inside the streetcar turnaround loop at the fork of Fleet Street and Lake Shore Road.



… the voices of its storytellers may indeed be the reason a city has a centre, a past, a dream, a story.

- Dan Yashinsky, *Suddenly They Heard Footsteps*[1]

Epilogue

A collector rescues lost or discarded artefacts from oblivion not necessarily for utilitarian purpose, but to place them back into conscious awareness where they cannot be forgotten. Collecting is a way of transmitting experience through a compendium of objects, a way of allowing their stories and fate to unfold. The story of each artefact—how it was produced, received, forgotten, and remembered—becomes a piece of a greater narrative that reveals how seemingly disparate things are necessarily connected. Walter Benjamin, in a reflection on his own extensive collections, asserted that by applying a simple principle of montage, whilst allowing the material to speak for itself, the fragments of a quickly-receding past would amass into a constellation through which the reader might perceive at once the past, present and future.[2]

As the artefacts exhibited in this thesis physically vanish, their images—whether photographs, maps, details gathered from newspaper articles and diaries, familiar stories or rumours—are all that remain to carry forth their memory and tell their story. Though the archival photographs reproduced herein were captured as a record of works built, damaged, or demolished, they afford more than a simple practice of objective documentation. Each of these photographs captures not only its subject, but also isolates a specific moment in time. Each acts as a memory cue for the stories of the city's past. In his essay "Understanding a Photograph," John Berger suggests that the *true content of a photograph is invisible, for it derives*

from a play, not with form, but with time [and] *is as revealing about what is absent from* [it] *as about what is present*.[3] Similarly, historical newspapers offer a wealth of information through both the direct and indirect images of the past. Often compiled with haste and edited with bias, even seemingly mundane events and contradictory accounts reveal much more than what was intended. The value of these first-hand accounts lies in the accuracy of their facts, but within that same parlance of information—in bursts of conjecture, projection, and speculation—is an aspect of storytelling.

Because the past exists in this fragmented form, the problem becomes one of reconstruction. In *The Art of Memory,* historian Frances Yates illustrates an ancient memory technique of constructing of an imaginary series of places, within which is assigned an image that serves as a memory cue or prompt for a specific piece of information. In order to recall these stored memories, one would imagine a narrative walk through these places, be they the rooms of a house or the streets of a city.[4] In this way, one can also imagine reading the physical city and its artefacts. In *The City of Collective Memory,* urban historian Christine Boyer expands on this idea by applying it to actual cities. Her connection is that reading *across and through the different layers and strata of the city requires that spectators establish a constant play between surface and deep structured forms, between purely visible and intuitive or evocative allusions*.[5] She concludes that a spectator's experience of moving through the physical city thus becomes inseparable from these images that reflect the significant narratives of the city.[6] The disparate stories of these artefacts weave together into a narrative that forms our experience and understanding of the city and our place within it.

Toronto, like many North American cities, has a history of demolishing, editing, or simply burying the messy parts of its history. Here, these discarded fragments of the past lie latent waiting to be uncovered and reconstructed by a storyteller. The stories that we create out of the memories of these pieces give new meaning to the contemporary city by allowing personal readings of seemingly forgotten or narrowly defined images. Because our capacity to tell stories is so inherently tied to our need to make sense of where we live, we are offered no choice other than to assemble the past in this manner and draw out our own juxtapositions, allusions and conclusions. Yet there always remains something irretrievably left behind, something waiting to be discovered. The collector is never finished; there will forever remain another artefact to collect, one more to examine and add to the story.

Archive

The following is a small sampling of an extensive collection of newspaper articles, invaluable not solely for the accuracy of their facts, but for their conjecture, projection, and speculation—their storytelling

CHOLERA SCOURGE.

Needful Precautions to be Taken Against its Spread.

Dr. Oldright Advises—Condition of Garrison Creek—University Creek—Filthy Lanes—Some Suggestions.

Garrison Creek is a close competitor with Yonge-street sewer for the premier place among Toronto's nuisances, but it must be admitted that it falls slightly behind it in the race. Entering the lake east of the Old Fort, Queen's Wharf forms a protection to its mouth on the one side, and on the other a low lying island or mud bank performs a similar office, so that the wind and waves do not buffet it so much as to spread the filthy water it pours into the lake with any degree of rapidity. The consequence is that the sluggish stream of impure water lingers about the shore, and gives off its harmful gases with peaceful serenity, and no effort is made to counteract its baneful influences. As it passes through the T. G. & B. R. Co.'s yard it feels the influence of the high water in the lake, which has backed it up till the current is only perceived with some little difficulty. A little higher up it has received considerable impetus from the greater fall, and it dashes merrily over the stones with a deceptive ripple. At this point the water is quite clear, and a hasty conclusion would be that it was also pure, but the entire absence of the smallest and hardiest fish is the first suspicious circumstance noted, and then remembrance is had of the fact that water which has been proven to contain germs of typhoid infection has been remarkable for its clearness, and presently a most convincing proof of the dangerous character of the water is received. The creek winds along the side of the Fort and then passes under the railway tracks. Here it is covered in, and on bending down to look at its condition through a hole in the planks an unmistakeable scent of organic matter in course of decomposition shocks the sense of smell. The full meaning of the brightly clear water passing over filth-covered stones now forces itself on the investigator, and the recent heavy rains serve also as an important factor to account for the present condition of the creek. The banks bear unmistakable testimony to the extent of the flushing the rains have treated the stream to, but no natural means can be sufficient to remove the traces of daily and constant pollution. This year the stench proceeding from the creek has not been unbearable even when a south wind blows, as it was last year, and this must be accounted for, not by any lessening of polluting matter, but by the more frequent flushing and the greater body of water which has the duty of diluting the sewerage and carrying the refuse away.

THE FIRST CAUSE.

On the south side of King-street, and between that street and Front, the first visible signs of the impour of filth are met with, and they are not inconsiderable. A low, narrow stream of filth, after pursuing its sinuous way, here joins the creek, and the cause of the miry stones is apparent. This is the sewerage of many houses on the south side of King-street. North of King-street there is a large heap of lane garbage and rubbish, and the dangerous nature of it is at once recognized by reason of the slowly trickling streams of fœtid matter which is plainly exuding. A little south of King-street men are engaged in making "eligible building lots" by the now common process of filling up depressions with garbage and matter which can only be designated as concentrated uncleanliness. Watching the creek a few minutes at this point, it is seen gradually to assume a ruddy hue, which deepens rapidly till the water becomes quite red. The slaughter-house offal is descending, and in such quantities as to overcome all the other polluting influences. This again gradually subsides, and the creek here assumes its previous leaden colour. North of King the nuisances poured into the stream multiply as the number of "bayous," as they would be termed in the South, increase. On both sides there are drains emptying into the creek, but it is at the point immediately south of Queen-street, that the accumulation of nastiness is the worst. From this point to its entrance into the lake the creek generally is of the same character, with slightly varying degrees of filthiness. The rank vegetation at the banks suggests the usefulness of sewage as an irrigating and fertilizing agent. North of Queen-street a rapid change for the better takes place, and a school of minnows is disturbed. Here the clear, sandy bed of the creek bears additional testimony to the comparative freedom from pollution. THE GLOBE reporter is bound to accept the two circumstances as testimonials of respectability, and so far as Garrison Creek is concerned, he feels that his occupation is gone.

UNIVERSITY CREEK.

Now for University Creek, and in making his way there he goes along Nassau-street. At the east end of 39 the lane presents rather an inviting appearance for investigation. The deep cart ruts are filled with slimy water, the ground damp, and the remains of recently cleared-away rubbish heaps suggest that there might be more behind. A turn to the right brings a scene before one's gaze and a stench to the nostrils which show that the prescience was correct. Some boys are found rejoicing in the dirt, and one holding in his hand a fish's head partly decayed, remarks, "There's been a big fish to that once." The closets on the north side of the lane belonging to the houses in Nassau-street appear to be in a very tidy state, but the reverse condition obtains as regards those in the rear of the houses in Clyde-street. It is the old story of exuding fœcal matter and consequent noisome effluvia. University Creek can never be as bad as Garrison Creek, for the simple reason that there is less of it, but its presence immediately opposite the large houses on College street surely will not add to the value of property or the healthfulness of the residents. The fact that this nuisance has not been taken in connection with the condition of Avenue-street is testimony that the slums are not the only places where sanitary matters do not receive due consideration.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

In view of the foregoing facts an interview was had with Dr. Oldwright, chairman of the Provincial Board of Health, for his views of the means necessary to be taken to restore Toronto to a sanitary condition and place the city in as fair position as possible for meeting an outbreak of cholera would it unfortunately occur.

In answer to a question as to what should be done to meet the threatened danger he said :—

"The first step is to thoroughly clean up the whole place. THE GLOBE is well aware of the condition of the city and has been doing its best to stir the city authorities up to begin preventive measures. Of the preventive measures the first as I have hinted is that every place should be clean. If the disease is imported then with the assistance of filth it would spread like wildfire. All the closets should be at once cleaned out and a regular system of inspection should be established. It would be better if some one of the systems of dry removal such as those recommended in the pamphlet on the 'Disposal of Sewage,' issued by this Board were adopted in all places where they have not got the water-carriage system. In connection with this system of dry removal disinfectants, such as sulphate of iron, should be used. These systems have already been fully described. Where they have the water system there should be similar disinfection, and the utmost attention to cleanliness. In thickly-populated districts in England, and also in some cities on this continent, trough closets are used even in connection with water-closets. Resort to the dry-earth system, or the introduction of these latrines, is a thing that will require time, but the thorough cleansing, proper inspection, and disinfection, ought to be attended to immediately."

"Has the Provincial Board done anything to bring the matter to the attention of the city authorities?"

"A deputation composed of myself and Dr. Covernton had a conference with Dr. Canniff to urge upon him the need of something being done, and we found that he was about making recommendations in that direction. We regret that these recommendations were not carried out."

"What other suggestions can you make?"

"There should be some provision made for a public laundry ready to be put in operation for the washing and purification of infected linen and clothing. The germs of disease are spread very rapidly by infection caused by people washing their clothes at home. The germs are thrown upon the ground, and becoming diffused through the air, are mixed with the water and articles of food. There should also be an isolation hospital, in order that patients may be separated as soon as the symptoms are discovered."

"What is your opinion of Toronto well water?"

"Provision should be made by the Legislature for the closing of all polluted wells, and in the meantime the health officers of the various municipalities should advise the Council that greater attention be paid to the condition of wells, and that the water should not be used when it is found to be impure."

"Do you approve of the filling up of pools, etc., with garbage?"

"It is to be regretted that in Toronto a great deal of decomposing organic matter is employed to fill up unevenness in the surface. The effect of this is likely to be much more permanent after the ground becomes in such a condition as to be described as eligible building lots. Houses are then sunk in them, and the warmth of the house draws up the gas and become fertile sources of disease.

"I should advise the establishment of regularly organized Boards of Health in all municipalities throughout the Province, not only to attend more effectually to sanitary conditions, but to act as outposts by which the literature and recommendations of the Board could when necessary be carried to every household. In connection with this subject a circular—noticed in THE GLOBE a few days ago—has been sent to every councillor and alderman in the Province through the clerks of the various municipalities.

"The reporting of diseases, as provided for by the Act of 1882, should be strictly carried out by the municipalities. The object of this is that the disinfection and isolation of infected districts may be more efficiently carried out." Dr. Oldwright concluded his statement by insisting on the necessity of strict quarantine and inspection of emigrants.

Drs. Workman and Covernton, both of whom have had to deal professionally with the cholera disease, state that there is a concensus of opinion that filth in any form is to be guarded against, and it would seem that the following injunctions should be observed :—

See that all your surroundings are clean.

Avoid impure water.

Pay regard to the first symptoms.

Procure the directions for dealing with contagious diseases issued by the Provincial Board of Health.

3.1 *Globe,* August 1, 1883, 2.

PUBLIC OPINION.

OUR SYSTEM OF DUMPING REFUSE.

Letters

Dumping Refuse.

To the Editor:—Now that there appears to be some prospect of warm weather, would you permit me through your columns to call attention to an evil, in the hope that it may not be perpetuated in our city? I allude to the prevailing system of dumping refuse, largely composed of decayed vegetable and animal matter, with no small quotient of night filth, in the thickly-populated district, or districts, which in the near future will be populous ones. The vicinity of the Garrison Creek and Defoe street possess so many natural attractions that it is spoken of as one of our public parks to be. Yet here the most offensive refuse is being deposited. Every person knows that such stuff as is being dumped in the locality named will not emit all its poisonous gases in one season. It is a long time since the old hollow opposite the Western Cattle Market was filled in in this manner, and to-day the effluvia is intolerable there in warm weather. The reason, of course, is that the objectionable matter deposited is undergoing a gradual course of decomposition, which is somewhat retarded owing to the fact that the air is partially excluded. It will, in the ordinary course of events, take years to eradicate the evil, and during the interval the place will be in all probability converted into a residential quarter, the inhabitants of which cannot escape pestilence in some form or other, and as it will be undoubtedly of the contagious character, is bound to spread, despite the most strenuous efforts of the Public Health Department. A similar process is now going on in various parts of the city, and, as official returns will show, districts where houses are built on "made ground," so called, are those in which disease is now most prevalent, excepting of course where drainage is conspicuously bad, or in congested quarters. As I pointed out in a former letter, which you were kind enough to publish, it is the bounden duty of those responsible for the proper management of the city to see that Toronto, with all her natural advantages, can show a clean record as to health. With such an abundant water supply as we possess this ought to be the case, if only—and again I must allude to my former communication—her sewerage system is conducted on a scientific basis and her garbage effectually destroyed, instead of, as at present, being allowed to breed disease—slowly, it may be, but surely. The cost of a garbage cremator would not be felt by a city of our resources, while its use would, I feel confident, more than save the expense in the prevention of disease which our usually warm summers bring to us. Alex. Patterson, jun.

Toronto, June 27.

3.2 *Globe,* July 2, 1889, 6.

The Cattle Market.

To the Editor of The Globe.—Now that for a time the present market for the reception of all live stock is likely to remain in its present position I would like to make the readers of The Globe acquainted with its first inception. Previous to its establishment on the present site a small market existed behind the present City Hall; an attempt was made to establish a market near the Don in 1874 and 1875; after many difficulties the present hole was selected, and let me say that at the time it was a most undesirable location, badly drained, and in close connection with the Garrison Creek, which brought much scandal on many who made money by that Garrison Creek sewer that was afterwards built. Year after year under the careful management of the City Commissioner this dirty market became passable, yard after yard was built, stout fences were arranged whereby cattle were divided and sub-divided, sheep pens were added and comfort assured for the reception of thousands of sheep and as many cattle as were shipped to Toronto for years.

The export trade became a factor in the interest taken in this small market and Mr. Coatsworth, the City Commissioner, was equal to the occasion. Unsightly mounds were removed, level places were made and about 70 additional yards were made. Another thing I should mention, at the foot of the market, opposite Wellington avenue, there was a possibility by excavation to make warm yards under sheep pens for 1,000 sheep or 250 cattle. Mr. Coatsworth accomplished all this at very little expense to the city and established a perfect market that is sufficient for years. An annex was arranged for, a staunch bridge was built across the railroads, giving facilities that few markets in Britain enjoy. Indeed this annex I speak of enabled a self-made, determined man to make the hog trade an institution in Toronto. This man, Wm. Harris, had paid out more than once in one year over one million dollars, notwithstanding the foolish talk in our Legislature about complaints in pigs that have no foundation only in a Pickwickian sense.

Well, Mr. Editor, this letter is written simply to state a few facts in connection with a market that has and is doing good, for much of the work I speak of was done during the time I was Chairman of the Markets and Licenses Committee, and to guard our Aldermen from taking much notice of men they know nothing about. Just think for a moment, our present market has become consolidated in its present position after twenty years' thought and work. It has more than paid for itself, it will pay more in the future, and bids fair to become the richest franchise the city holds at present.

I will conclude by saying Toronto has been well advertised. I boomed her myself for a quarter of a century without charging the city a cent, and if merchants or manufacturers want to locate in Toronto let them come and fight for their trade as I did for the ocean cattle trade. G. F. Frankland.

Ottawa, March 29.

3.3 *Globe,* April 2, 1894, 26.

THE WASTE BASKET.

I am not much of a sportsman, and didn't even know that duck shooting was out of season until I heard about the experience of a friend of mine who is a law abiding citizen, except in one particular. Although no epicure, he has a strong mania for wild ducks and will shoot them in and out of season. His general haunt was the water front, from Bathurst street west to the Humber, but his favorite spot was the mouth of the Garrison sewer, where the birds are wont to feed.

Game Warden McGuire had been in chase after the mysteriouse shooter for days, but could never locate him. He would hear the report of a gun, and a splash, sometimes, when the bird fell, but he could not find the shooter's "hide."

A few mornings ago the warden went forth with a vow in his heart that he would put an end to the mystery. Just about daylight he heard the report of a gun, and saw a flock of ducks rise near the mouth of the Garrison sewer. He hastened cautiously to the spot, and was just in time to see a flash of light in the gloomy cavern. He had solved the mystery, but the unknown shooter had also discovered him. McGuire ran the poacher into the sewer a distance of a hundred yards, and then gave up the chase.

The frightened sport kept on and on in the filthy mass, stumbling, crawling, falling and rolling until he beheld a faint light ahead. He had been afraid of the warden, but he was terrified by the awful darkness that enfolded him. He imagined he could feel slimy animals crawling about his neck and up his trouser-legs, and he blessed the speck of light he beheld afar. He hurried forward and upon clamoring up into the fresh air, he was astounded to find that he had made his way through all that awful filth to Queen street, to a man-hole.

And what a picture he presented! But why picture it? The thing that disgusted him most was the sewage, but that which puzzled him most was this: In all that awful journey, half suffocated by the mass through which he had plunged, he had clung to his gun and ducks. But what ducks! Although newly killed, they were the gamiest ever brought to market.—P.

* * *

3.4 *Toronto Daily Star,* January 11, 1896, 4.

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

CITY ENGINEER AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES DISAGREE.

Secretary of Ontario's Board of Health Says Lake Must Not be Used as Receptacle for Crude Sewage—Engineer Rust Sticks to His Scheme.

There is every appearance of a lively contest between City Engineer Rust and the Provincial Board of Health regarding the system to be adopted for the disposal of the city's sewage. The City Engineer is strongly in favor of discharging the crude sewage by means of a trunk sewer into the lake, east of the city. The Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health contends that public health would be endangered by such a policy, and in support of his contention points to the fact, that at the present time analyses by the Provincial Analyst frequently discover the presence in the city water supply of bacteria, which are of intestinal origin, and, therefore, indicative of sewage contamination.

Discussing the statement attributed to Mr. C. H. Rust, City Engineer, that he still favored the original proposal to discharge the trunk sewer in the lake to the east of the city, Dr. Horgetts yesterday expressed surprise. He pointed out that the Provincial Board of Health, without whose consent the city could not construct a trunk sewer, had definitely pronounced against any proposal by the city to pour its crude sewage into the lake. As protector of the interests of other municipalities bordering on Lake Ontario the Provincial board could not, he said, permit the pollution of their water supply by 30,000,000 gallons of sewage being poured into the lake every 24 hours. It was useless, Dr. Hodgetts said, for the city authorities to say that sewage did not find its way under existing conditions to the intake pipe. The Provincial chemist had in his yacht traced the current of black sewage from one of the western sewers out in the lake to a point opposite the Sick Children's Hospital. The city health department had frequent analyses of the city water, and the number of colonies of bacteria reported were such as to prove satisfactory. The Provincial analyst also carried on an analytical inspection of the city water daily, but on a different basis. His examination was to determine the quality of the bacteria, and the records showed that on 42 days last year a class of bacteria which is absolutely known to be of intestinal production was found in the water, thus proving conclusively that sewage found its way to the intake. Dr. Hodgetts was assured that the Provincial board would not allow crude sewage to be discharged into the lake. The remedy lay either in the adoption of a system of sewage disposal or filteration of the water supply, or possibly a combination of both. The financial question was, he admitted, a potent factor in deciding what system would ultimately be adopted. When asked for specific instances of polution of the water supply, Dr. Hodgetts promptly rang up the Provincial analyst and was informed that no later than the 11th and 13th instant he had found bacteria of the quality referred to in the city water.

City Engineer Rust is not content to accept as final the dictum of Dr. Hodgetts, the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, that Torofito sewage must not be poured into the lake at a distance of nine miles away.

"With all respect for their opinions, I cannot understand why the members of the Provincial Board of Health should force the unnecessary expenditure of some two million dollars upon the people of Toronto," said the Engineer yesterday. "Why, it is complained now that the sewer outlet will be too close to our intake pipe. It will be ten miles away. For twenty years we have been pouring sewage, latterly at the rate of five million gallons per day, into the lake from the Garrison Creek sewer. That is less than two miles from the intake pipe, and there has never been any complaint from the Provincial Board of Health.

"The scheme of pouring the sewage into the lake involves an expenditure of two millions less than that proposed under any other plan. Dr. Hodgetts should not therefore offhand condemn the scheme, which can involve no danger to people down the lake. We could provide East Toronto and adjacent municipalities with water for the next fifty years, and there are no towns down the lake, nor will there be, that could possibly be damaged."

Mr. Rust pointed out that every large city on the great lakes poured its sewage into the water in front of their doors, and there were no harmful results. At Buffalo the intake pipe was below the sewer outlet.

3.5 *Globe,* August 16, 1906, 8.

IT WAS A DOUBLE RESCUE, BOY CLUNG TO MAN'S LEGS

Charles Hughes Fell Into Pond Near Willowvale Park, and So Did James O'Donoghue Rescuing Him—Robert Martin Pulled Both Out Together.

Place—Bloor and Crawford sandpits, containing a sixteen-foot water hole.

Rescued—James O'Donoghue, caretaker for the Construction and Paving Company, Limited; Charles Hughes, aged 8, son of John Hughes of Queen street firehall.

Rescuer—Robert Martin of 758 Crawford street, beadle at University of Toronto.

When Robert Martin, of 258 Crawford street, beadle at the University of Toronto, jumped into a pool of water sixteen feet deep in the sandpits west of Willowvale Park shortly before six o'clock yesterday afternoon and rescued James O'Donoghue, caretaker for the Construction and Paving Company, Limited, who had fallen into the hole in his endeavor to save eight-year-old Charles Hughes, son of John Hughes, of Queen street firehall, he was more than a little astonished to find the Hughes boy clinging to O'Donoghue's legs when he hauled him ashore.

When he appeared on the scene he saw O'Donoghue's arm clinging to a raft in the pool, and not knowing what had occurred he was unaware of the presence of the Hughes boy in the water.

Leaving O'Donoghue out of danger, Martin carried the boy to his own house, and there, assisted by his wife, he worked on him for half-an-hour. He was finally resuscitated, and sent home, after he had had his tea, little the worse for his narrow escape from drowning.

Went on a Raft.

On the invitation of another lad, the Hughes boy went to the sand pits after school, and when Caretaker O'Donoghue saw three boys on a raft in the pond, Hughes was one. O'Donoghue called to the trio, and two of the three jumped. This shoved it out, and when Hughes, the smallest boy, jumped also he missed the bank and fell into the water.

When O'Donoghue ran down to the pond the boy had disappeared, so he leaped in the direction of the spot where the boy had gone down.

He, too, went down, and though he could not seize the boy, the boy caught hold of him by the legs, and had not Martin plunged in at this stage both O'Donoghue and young Hughes would have drowned.

Mr. Martin's Story.

"I was coming home at five o'clock from the University," said Mr. Martin to-day. "Coming up Crawford, I heard O'Donoghue's yell.

"I did not know that there was a boy in the hole until I had gone in after O'Donoghue. When I saw that a boy hung to the man, I dragged the man on the beam, and then secured the boy.

"The boy must have been in the water eight or ten minutes. He was unconscious, and we had great difficulty in bringing him to. I had never resuscitated a drowning person, but had read a good deal about it, and my wife and I rolled him, worked his arms, and applied hot plates. Mrs. Martin had already telephoned to a number of doctors, but not one was at home."

The Martins have a little boy, just about Charlie's age, and when young Martin took young Hughes home the latter wore a suit of the former's clothes.

In the interval, Mr. Martin had telephoned to the Lombard street fire station, and a messenger was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Hughes.

There a Year.

"The 'death trap' has been there a year," said Mr. Martin. "The wire fence on the street doesn't keep anyone out, and the hole is sixteen feet deep. It was made when the company pumped water-washed sand out last year.

"The city should do something, because Willowvale Park is contiguous, and, during the warm weather, the children simply flock to the park.

"I saw O'Donoghue chase four boys away on Sunday. They had stripped, and were intending to go for a swim in the hole.

"In Willowvale Park itself the city is making a swimming hole again this summer, and there is no protection for the children."

Mr. Martin is a prominent Orangeman, a Past District Master, and Charter-Secretary of Londonderry, L. O.L. 2, 145, the new Wychwood lodge.

O'Donoghue's Story.

"I had been up to the house getting a drink of water," said Mr. O'Donoghue this morning, "and was returning to work when I saw a boy in the water.

"I noticed that he had his clothes on and could not be in swimming, so I ran down the bank to the pool and tried to shove the raft to him.

"He sank before I could get the raft to him, so I jumped in. He grabbed me by the legs, and then Mr. Martin helped us out."

3.6 *Toronto Daily Star,* June 22, 1910, 7.

GARRISON CREEK WILL BE NO MORE

CITY ENGINEER RECOMMENDS AN APPORTIONMENT OF $25,000 TO COVER IT FOR A SEWER.

The pretty purling brook which meanders through what is now called Willowvale Park, but is known far and wide to the youngsters as the Christie street sandpits, will soon disappear. Not that it will be swallowed up by the earth or be dried up by the evaporation of the summer days, but the ruthless hand of civilization will shortly cover it over from view, because, forsooth, there will be sewage emptied into it from drains recommended by the City Engineer's Department in the northwest portions of the city.

This Garrison Creek, as it is known to everyone, is now "sewered" from Bloor street southward, then there is a gap between Ossington avenue and Bloor street. Money is provided to extend this sewer from Ossington avenue to Shaw street, leaving an open creek from Shaw to Bloor.

"On sanitary grounds it is absolutely necessary that the creek should be covered in," the City Engineer will tell the Works Committee this afternoon, and he estimates the cost at $25,000, asking that this amount be inserted in the estimates for the year.

3.7 *Globe,* April 7, 1911, 9.

MORE RAIN FELL IN SUCH SHORT TIME THAN EVER BEFORE

Sunday Storm Made a New Record, and Burst Garrison Creek Sewer.

"157 EMPRESSES" IS WEIGHT OF RAIN

Two Million and a Quarter Tons of Water Deluged Toronto Thoroughly.

HUNDRED SEWERS FLOOD

Complaints of Water in Cellars All Over the City—Hot Weather Now.

Never before in the history of this city has so much rain fallen on Toronto in so short a space of time as gurgled down sewers and people's necks yesterday afternoon. The breaking up of the Garrison Creek sewer in Willowvale Park, involving a loss to the city which may run into thousands of dollars, the overflowing of sewers in many parts of the city, the flooding of cellars, the undermining of sidewalks and roadways, and the reducing of Sabbath school attendance and the soaking of much Sunday raiment—these were some of the features of the big storm. As an aftermath, the weatherman announced to-day that Toronto was in for a long seige of fine and very warm weather.

In addition to being the heaviest rainfall in Toronto this year, the downpour continued for eighteen minutes at the rate of three inches an hour. On other occasions rain has fallen at the rate of four and four on a half inches an hour, but the duration has not been more than five to seven minutes. Therefor, although the total amount of rain which fell was not out of the ordinary, the amount of rain which fell in so short a time, constituted a new record. The actual amount was .88 inches. Figuring on the area of Toronto, 2,228,438 tons fell. The tonnage of the late Empress of Ireland was 14,191, so that enough rain dropped to fill the ill-fated liner a little more than 157 times.

Heat Preceded Storm.

At the Meteorological office in Bloor street to-day, it was explained that the unequal heat of the atmosphere was the cause. Owing to the warm winds from the south and the enormous pressure, the air immediately adjacent to Mother Earth became excessively warm. According to the Public school books, air, when heated, rises, and yesterday was no

(Continued on page fifteen.)

MORE RAIN FELL THAN EVER BEFORE

(Continued From Page One)

exception. The warm air in rising came into contact with the exceptionally cold atmosphere above, and thunder and lightning resulted, the condensation causing the remarkable downpour.

The storm here was more severe than in any place in Ontario. Kingston was next up with half an inch and Ottawa had .16 of an inch. In Western Ontario very little rain fell. Rain has been falling generally since Saturday in the three prarie provinces, and showers have occurred in Quebec and the Maritime provinces. Weather officials declared that the atmospheric conditions were much the same here as they were in the Woodstock cyclone, except that heavy winds made it more severe in Woodstock.

The wind in Toronto was terrific in some places; at others practically nil. At the storm signal station at the Eastern Gap, the instrument made no record in the afternoon until 4.15, when the wind velocity became 20 miles an hour. Twenty minutes before that there was no wind, and a dead calm preceded the falling of rain. The temperature yesterday was 81 in Toronto and early to-day the mercury had already climbed to 84. In Detroit it was 90 yesterday. The weatherman declares that fair weather was on order for the next few days, and the indications were for an excessive hot spell, to which the rain yesterday

Sewer Simply Blew Up.

The most severe damage Toronto experienced was in the Garrison Creek sewer. At one stage in Toronto's history a creek flowed down Bickford ravine under Harbord street, between Grace and Montrose streets. Then the city turned the natural fall into a sewer, which does duty for an immense proportion of the north middle-west section of the city. Yesterday the immense quantity of water pouring into sewers overtaxed the Garrison conduit, and a huge break followed. Bricks were thrown into the air, and the whole side of the brick structure was torn out, though the sewer is ten feet under the surface of the earth. Owing to the quantity of mud, it was impossible for the officials of the Works Department to learn the whole damage, but it was known definitely that one rent in the pipe measured fifteen by two feet. It was impossible to estimate the damage in money, but it may amount to thousands of dollars. City employes were busy all day repairing the damage.

Seventeen Holes Found by Officer.

Ward seven came in for a good share of the damage. Contractors in charge of the various sewer constructions in the southern [illegible] the western suburb, will lose [illegible] owing to the cave-ins. Excavation work was about finished on the trunk sewer in Annette street, between Western and Woodville avenues. The rain destroyed the bulwarks and the whole mass of earth was thrown completely filling the twenty-foot excavation. The water continued and lawns and sidewalks were flooded on the south side of the street, in one place the sidewayk was undermined for many feet.

The breaking of a water main caused another serious collapse in the roadway at Bloor and Woodville streets, and the recently completed trunk sewer was threatened.

In other parts of West Toronto roadways sank in spots owing to the deluge. One policeman walking his beat, found seventeen holes. Lights or other gurads were put on them to protect traffic.

Hundred Cellars Were Flooded.

Officials at the Works Department, however, said that the Garrison smash was the most serious loss. Reports of flooded cellars were received on the telephone all day, and it was estimated would reach a total of 100. The department had twenty-five men on yesterday, and every man available was on the job to-day.

During the flood the archway at the Union Station became filled with water, in some places to a depth of more than three feet, which disorganized traffic for a time.

The life-saving crew on the Bay had only one call. Two young men were caught in a sailboat. They got their sail down in time and the lifesavers towed them to the National Yacht Club dock.

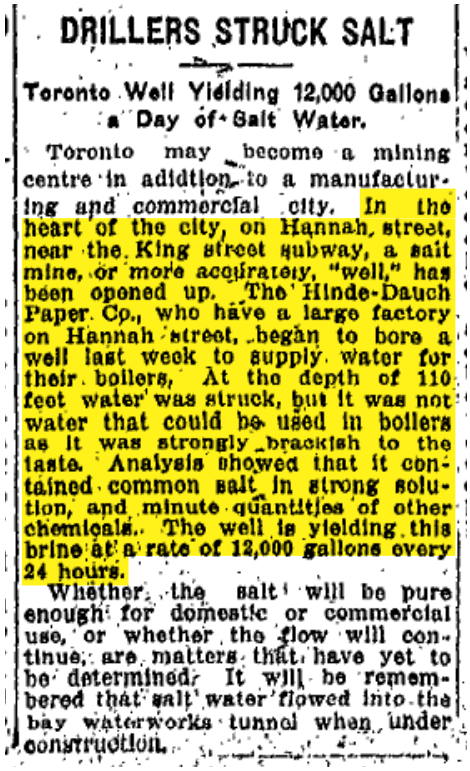
At the Humber the boating enthusiasts were not so lucky. Many canoeists were far up the river when the storm broke. The canoes were half filled with water and the occupants drenched. Hundreds along the lake shore were soaked through.

Sunday Schools Depleted.

The warm day had brought many out for a walk in the city streets, and the sudden downpour sent most of these to the nearest verandahs. It was just at the time when youngsters were on their way to Sunday school or were preparing to leave, and, as a result, the attendance was greatly reduced. In one family in Rosedale, the youngsters started for Sunday school by different routes. They ran for shelter and met on the same verandah. On another verandah three other youngsters took shelter, and when the storm was over they returned home, each still retaining the collection. Outside this particular house, a party of young people were preparing to go for an auto ride. They were sitting in the car when the rain came, and were marooned there until it was over.

Roadways were turned into small lakes by the backing-up of sewers in many sections of the city. At the north-west corner of Carlton and Church streets two motorcyclists raced through the water with all the delight of a small boy in a mud puddle, while the crowd in a passing car looked on.

3.8 Toronto *Daily Star,* June 8, 1914, 4.



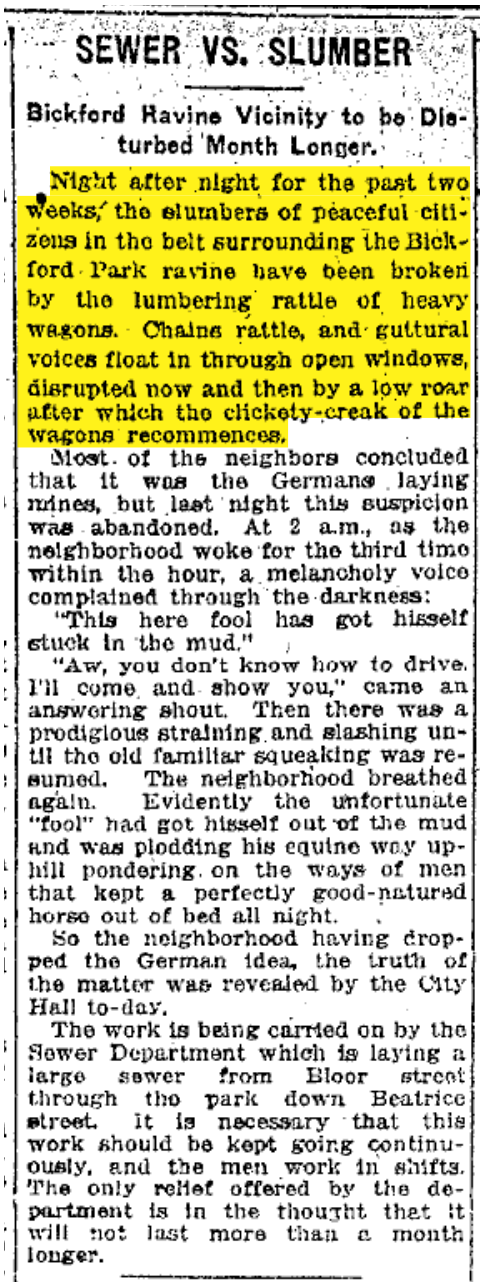
DRILLERS STRUCK SALT

Toronto Well Yielding 12,000 Gallons a Day of Salt Water.

Toronto may become a mining centre in addition to a manufacturing and commercial city. In the heart of the city, on Hannah street, near the King street subway, a salt mine, or more accurately, "well," has been opened up. The Hinde-Dauch Paper Co., who have a large factory on Hannah street, began to bore a well last week to supply water for their boilers. At the depth of 110 feet water was struck, but it was not water that could be used in boilers as it was strongly brackish to the taste. Analysis showed that it contained common salt in strong solution, and minute quantities of other chemicals. The well is yielding this brine at a rate of 12,000 gallons every 24 hours.

Whether the salt will be pure enough for domestic or commercial use, or whether the flow will continue, are matters that have yet to be determined. It will be remembered that salt water flowed into the bay waterworks tunnel when under construction.

3.9 *Toronto Daily Star,* June 8, 1914, 1.



SEWER VS. SLUMBER

Bickford Ravine Vicinity to be Disturbed Month Longer.

Night after night for the past two weeks, the slumbers of peaceful citizens in the belt surrounding the Bickford Park ravine have been broken by the lumbering rattle of heavy wagons. Chains rattle, and guttural voices float in through open windows, disrupted now and then by a low roar after which the clickety-creak of the wagons recommences.

Most of the neighbors concluded that it was the Germans laying mines, but last night this suspicion was abandoned. At 2 a.m., as the neighborhood woke for the third time within the hour, a melancholy voice complained through the darkness:

"This here fool has got hisself stuck in the mud."

"Aw, you don't know how to drive. I'll come and show you," came an answering shout. Then there was a prodigious straining and slashing until the old familiar squeaking was resumed. The neighborhood breathed again. Evidently the unfortunate "fool" had got hisself out of the mud and was plodding his equine way uphill pondering on the ways of men that kept a perfectly good-natured horse out of bed all night.

So the neighborhood having dropped the German idea, the truth of the matter was revealed by the City Hall to-day.

The work is being carried on by the Sewer Department which is laying a large sewer from Bloor street through the park down Beatrice street. It is necessary that this work should be kept going continuously, and the men work in shifts. The only relief offered by the department is in the thought that it will not last more than a month longer.

3.10 *Toronto Daily Star,* April 14, 1915, 4.

SMELLS FOR BREAKFAST ON PENDRITH AVENUE

Residents Chuckle When Court of Revision Decides to Visit This Locality.

Eighteen residents of the south side of Pendrith avenue besieged the Court of Revision to-day, and went away tickled to death when the commissioners decided to visit the property to-day and view it for themselves. "If you come up, we won't be assessed at all," they declared in chorus as they filed from the room.

The properties in question were all faced with increases in the assessment over last year, some from $15 to $28, some from $20 to $28, some from $15 to $25, and others from $14 to $25. Reductions were made last yeear, but this did not deter the assessors from increasing the figures this year.

The court had the time of its life listening to the objections.

"There is a dump at the back and another at the front," said one resident.

"We have a smell every morning for breakfast," chimed in another.

"The water stands eighteen inches deep in front of my front door after every rainfall," declared a third.

"That is an act of God," declared Commissioner W. A. Smith.

"There are four cases of diphtheria on the street," came another objection.

"The street has not been improved as the city promised, and rents have dropped $10 and $12," said another.

Mr. H. Nixon pointed to the fact that recent sales had been registered showing that properties had been sold at a profit of $200. All the houses had been built in the last two years, and he declared the same conditions existed when the people bought the properties as exist to-day. He insisted that the assessors had assessed the properties according to their value.

"Why didn't you put them up last year, then?" asked Commissioner Ardagh.

Mr. Dixon replied that the street had been more thoroughly looked into this year.

"This is not a year to level up," declared Mr. Ardagh. "It is a year to level down."

"I don't think the year has anything to do with it," retorted Mr. Nixon.

Commissioner Smith declared that the residents had shown that they were not getting value for the taxes they pay.

"Go up and see the property before you decide," suggested Mr. Nixon.

The suggestion was hailed with delight by the residents.

"Come up," they shouted with one voice. "Your auto will get stuck in the mud. You will never get through."

"Where are you going?" one of the residents was asked as he made for the door.

"I am going to tell the maid to be sure not to clean the mud off the sidewalk before the commissioners get there," he declared.

"Don't get your spades out and shovel the mud on the sidewalk," suggested a member of the court.

"No, we will need the shovels to dig you out," was the reply.

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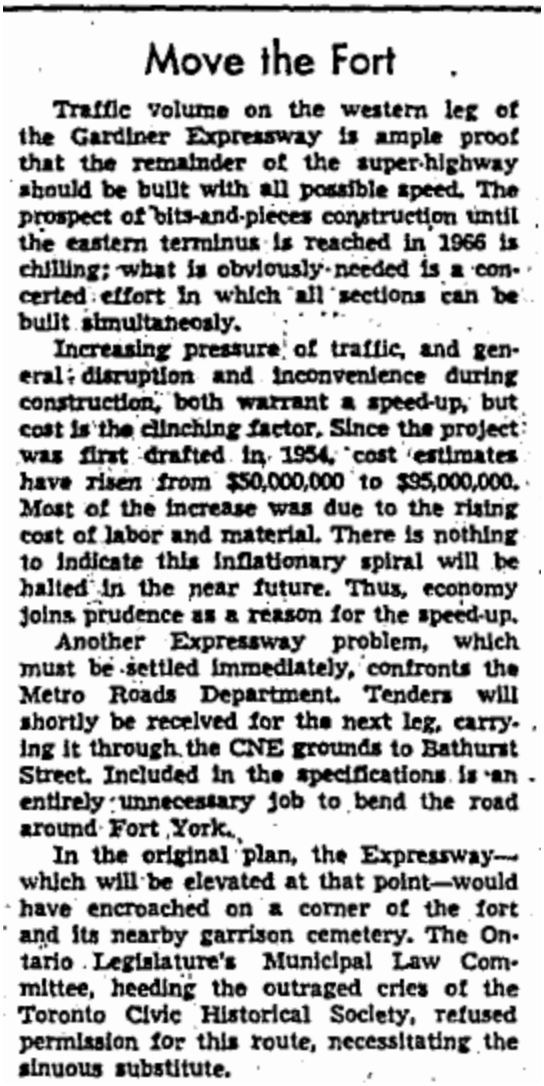

Move the Fort

Traffic volume on the western leg of the Gardiner Expressway is ample proof that the remainder of the super-highway should be built with all possible speed. The prospect of bits-and-pieces construction until the eastern terminus is reached in 1966 is chilling; what is obviously needed is a concerted effort in which all sections can be built simultaneously.

Increasing pressure of traffic, and general disruption and inconvenience during construction, both warrant a speed-up, but cost is the clinching factor. Since the project was first drafted in 1954, cost estimates have risen from $50,000,000 to $95,000,000. Most of the increase was due to the rising cost of labor and material. There is nothing to indicate this inflationary spiral will be halted in the near future. Thus, economy joins prudence as a reason for the speed-up.

Another Expressway problem, which must be settled immediately, confronts the Metro Roads Department. Tenders will shortly be received for the next leg, carrying it through the CNE grounds to Bathurst Street. Included in the specifications is an entirely unnecessary job to bend the road around Fort York.

In the original plan, the Expressway—which will be elevated at that point—would have encroached on a corner of the fort and its nearby garrison cemetery. The Ontario Legislature's Municipal Law Committee, heeding the outraged cries of the Toronto Civic Historical Society, refused permission for this route, necessitating the sinuous substitute.

Veneration of historical objects is a commendable thing, so long as it does not become blind fanaticism. The purpose of history and its artifacts is to help us understand something of ourselves by learning something of our past. Fort York could best fulfill that function if it were in an easily accessible location, yet one which did not sacrifice any of its historical veracity.

It most certainly does not fulfill that function now. Hemmed in by a bridge, railways and factories, its environment is incongruous, its visitors few. Once upon a time, the lake almost washed its ramparts, but the reclamation of land has pushed back the lake half a mile, leaving the fort a strategic miscarriage, on a site where no military commander would build it (unless he were trying to conceal it from the enemy).

Metro has offered to move Fort York to a much more suitable spot on the lakefront, in the park due south of its present location (again, much to the disgust of the Historical Society). The fort would there regain its original position, guarding the harbor entrance. More important, it would be in a proper setting, in no danger of becoming a private shrine; all who passed by would see and recognize it.

Left where it is, Fort York will be of even less value when the Expressway is built. If it is difficult to reach now, it will be almost impossible then. Indeed the only means of entry may be by helicopter.

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