

Historical Walking Tour
of the
Danforth

Barbara Myrvold



An Historical Walking Tour of the Danforth

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Toronto Public Library Board

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Danforth Avenue at Broadview Avenue, looking east, ca. 1911.
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Playter's Bridge Across the Don, 1794. Drawing by Elizabeth Simcoe.
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Key to Abbreviations in Picture Credits

CTA	City of Toronto Archives
MTLB	Metropolitan Toronto Library Board
TPL-PDLHC	Toronto Public Library-Pape/Danforth Branch, Local History Collection

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Preface

This walking tour covers only one of the several neighbourhoods that converge on Danforth Avenue. The route begins on the east side of the Prince Edward (i.e. Bloor-Danforth) Viaduct and progresses generally eastward along the Danforth to Pape Avenue, with a few diversions north and south of the main street.

Information for the walking tour was taken largely from my earlier study, *The Danforth in Pictures*, published by the Toronto Public Library Board in 1979, but long out of print. Supplementary research was conducted to bring the story up to date. I am grateful to those who kindly shared information with me: Helen Whidden, St. Barnabas Anglican Church; Les Wayne and Theresa Cosentino, Sunkist Markets; Paul Klamer and Pat Buchner, Chester Village; David Walsh, Carrot Common; Lynn Jemison Marsh, Danforth Baptist Church; Richard Stromberg and Joan Crosby, Toronto Historical Board; Barry Ralph, Ecuhome Corporation; and Elizabeth Cuthbertson, City of Toronto Archives.

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Barbara Myrvold
Toronto, October 1992

The Danforth; an historical overview

“The Danforth,” as local residents call both the street and the district surrounding it, is a major Toronto east-west thoroughfare and one of the city’s most colourful and distinctive areas. It stretches 10 km. in 91 blocks, from the east side of the Don River Valley to merge with Kingston Road in Scarborough. Three principal neighbourhoods converge on the Danforth: from Broadview Avenue to a few blocks east of Pape Avenue; the area of Woodbine Avenue; and from Main Street to the eastern city limit at Victoria Park Avenue.

During the nineteenth century, the “Don and Danforth Road,” as Danforth Avenue was known until 1884, was a sleepy byway traversing open fields, market gardens, brickyards, and butchering concerns. John McPherson Ross recalled in a reminiscence published in the *Evening Telegram* in 1920: “It was a typical country road, dusty in summer and muddy in wet weather, while in winter often blocked with snowdrifts from the unbroken sweep of wind across the large sandy stretches of land, termed the Plains.” Fronting the road were scattered houses, the odd church, and the occasional hotel or road house, where Torontonians gathered for weekend revels.

Fledgling industries had been established early in the 1790s just north of the Danforth. They were located on the east bank of the Don Valley to take advantage of the water power potential of the Don and, later, to exploit the valley’s rich clay deposits for brick-making purposes. Eventually small communities, bearing such British names as Todmorden, Doncaster and Chester, developed by these enterprises. Further east at the crossroads with Dawes Road was another hamlet called Coleman’s Corners or Little York. It grew dramatically in the 1880s when the Grand Trunk Railway established a yard closeby.

But mostly the Danforth of the 1800s merely connected the more important Don Mills Road (Broadview Avenue), which led to the riverside mills, to the main highway to the east, Danforth Road. It was a quiet backwater, a rural backyard for the more populous communities that existed further south along Queen Street East and Kingston Road. Ironically Asa Danforth, the American contractor for whom Danforth Avenue is named, actually had nothing to do with its construction; rather, he was commissioned in 1799 to build a military road linking the Town of York to the Bay of Quinte, Ontario. His road followed the route of present-day Queen Street East, Kingston Road and Danforth Road.

The rise in prominence of Danforth Avenue is a twentieth-century phenomenon, the result of demographic, political and technological factors. In the late 1800s, the City of Toronto was experiencing growing pains due to a burgeoning immigrant population. The settlements east of the Don were unincorporated and, therefore, largely unserved - something which lessened their attractiveness for prospective homeowners. This changed in 1884, however, when lands south of the

Danforth, north of Queen, and east of the Don to Greenwood became part of Toronto. The annexed area, which had been known as Riverside and Leslieville, became St. Matthew's Ward (later renamed Ward One). Then in 1909, the village of Chester and lands north of the Danforth and east to Donlands Avenue were annexed to the city.

The change in political status resulted in a number of transportation improvements that made the previously remote properties accessible. In 1888, the Toronto Street Railway established a streetcar line along Broadview Avenue from Queen Street to the corner of Danforth Avenue in Chester village. In 1913, the Danforth line of the municipally-owned Toronto Civic Railways began service east from Broadview Avenue. Following close on this important occasion was the start of construction of what has become the single most important event in the Danforth's history: the building of a viaduct across the precipitous Don River Valley to link Danforth Avenue with Bloor Street. Finally completed in 1919, the Prince Edward Viaduct allowed a flood of speculators and developers to breach the barrier imposed by the Don, heralding a period of major development along the Danforth. The retail section extended only to Pape by the beginning of the First World War; frenetic building activity continued throughout the 1920s stretching the long line of two-storey, brick and mortar commercial buildings still characteristic of the Danforth today.

The people moving into the newly subdivided neighbourhoods surrounding Danforth Avenue were, for the most part, of working class origins and of British descent. Writer Robert Thomas Allen described the area as, "a flat suburb of English, Irish and Scotch cops, TTC motormen, and T. Eaton Company tie clerks." After the Second World War, the Danforth community continued its role of accommodating new immigrants, this time receiving waves of Italian and, later, Greek families. In the mid-1970s, young professionals began moving to the area, attracted by its abundance of relatively inexpensive houses and its convenience to downtown, made even more accessible by the opening of the Bloor-Danforth Subway in 1966. Renovation or restoration of the old homes became fashionable. The Danforth of today is still the vibrant heart of Riverdale and has a distinct cosmopolitan flavour due to the cultural diversity of the local population it serves.

1. Prince Edward Viaduct

Edmund Burke, Architect; Thomas Taylor, Project Design Engineer; Roland Harris, Commissioner, City of Toronto Public Works Department. 1915-1919.



Bloor Viaduct, looking west, 1918.

The first bridge across the Don was constructed in about 1794 by the Playter family, who owned property on both sides of the river north of today's Bloor/Danforth. Elizabeth Simcoe described "Playter's picturesque bridge" as "a butternut Tree fallen across the river the branches still growing in full leaf. Mrs. Playter being timorous, a pole was fastened thro' the branches to hold by." During the nineteenth century, several other bridges were constructed over the Don but there was no crossing north of Gerrard Street, other than a rickety foot bridge at Winchester Street.

The proposal to build a bridge across the Don River Valley to connect Danforth Avenue with Bloor Street and downtown Toronto met with a storm of controversy in the early 1900s. Few Torontonians saw any need for the bridge, and Toronto's leading newspapers were all against it. Critics questioned its cost (estimated at \$759,000 in 1910 and escalated to \$2,500,000 in 1913) and its purpose - it was called a bridge to nowhere. At that time, the Danforth area was sparsely populated, although its prospects brightened considerably in 1909 when Chester was annexed to Toronto. Toronto voters defeated plans for a viaduct twice, in 1910 and 1912, but they finally approved the proposal by a majority of 9,236 votes in a plebiscite held on 1 January 1913.

The route of the viaduct and the method of construction were debated

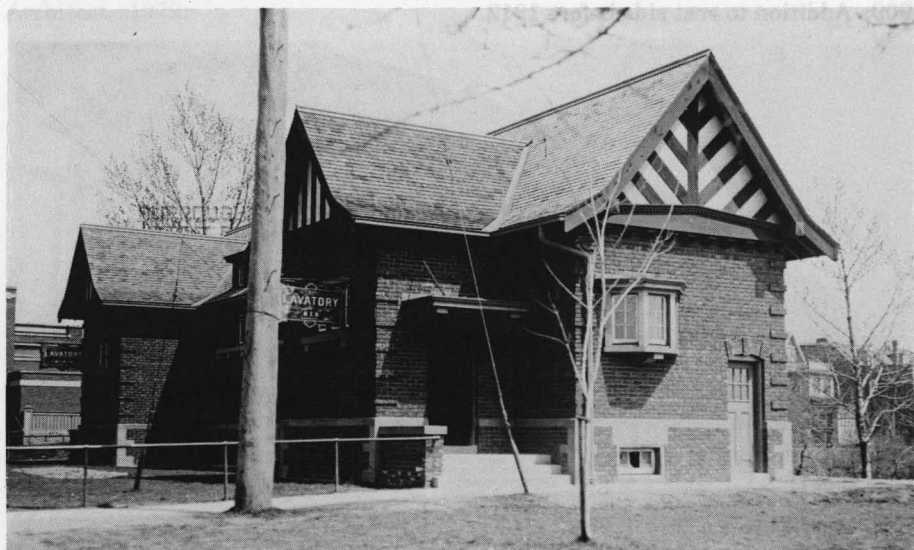
fiercely as well. Finally, it was decided to construct a steel and concrete bridge in three parts totalling 1,620 feet: a Bloor section from Sherbourne to Parliament; a Rosedale section from Parliament to Castle Frank; and a Don section, the most ambitious portion, a massive structure 125 feet above the Don River linking Castle Frank with Danforth Avenue. Civic officials were also persuaded that one day rapid transit would connect the city and the suburbs, and agreed to include a lower deck beneath the roadway solid enough to bear the weight of future subway trains. This decision saved governments millions of dollars more than half a century later, when the Bloor-Danforth Subway was finally built. The Rosedale Bridge opened for traffic on 29 October 1917, the Don section on 18 October 1918 and the Bloor section on 23 August 1919.

Initially the bridge was called the Bloor Street Viaduct. But on 11 September 1919, Toronto City Council unanimously agreed to rename it the Prince Edward Viaduct to honour Edward, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII), who had received a tumultuous and enthusiastic welcome a few weeks before in his first visit to Toronto.

Toronto's longest bridge was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act on 2 May 1988. It was extensively and sympathetically repaired in 1991 by the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Transportation Department.

2. Prince Edward Viaduct Public Lavatory

55 Danforth Avenue. City Architect, G. F. W. Price. 1920-1.



CTA DPW 1-629

Danforth Lavatory, 7 May 1924.

City-owned public washrooms were first introduced in Toronto in 1904 when health and hygiene were of great concern, and when few retail stores, hotels and restaurants offered such public facilities. Often, public lavatories were located at the intersections of major streetcar routes for the convenience of waiting travellers.

The public lavatory at 55 Danforth Avenue opened only few years after the Prince Edward Viaduct began to bring large numbers of settlers and visitors to the district. It was also contemporary with the formation of the Toronto Transportation Commission, a municipally-run public transit system.

The red-brick, stucco and wood, one-storey building was designed to relate to the nearby residential neighbourhood. It incorporated such domestic detailing as half-timbered gable ends, oriel windows, an entrance canopy and brick quoins. Shed roof dormers were used for lighting the washrooms which included wood stalls and brass fixtures. Another feature was the steeply pitched roof with flared eaves and extended rafters.

Use of public washrooms declined

over time, and by 1988 the Danforth Avenue lavatory was one of only three such facilities still operated by the city. After a year-long study in 1987, city officials determined it was too expensive to maintain. The study found that with two full-time attendants and only 30 daily users, the Danforth washroom cost \$500 a day, or almost \$17 a flush, to operate. At its meetings on 7 and 11 March 1988, Toronto City Council decided that "the public lavatory at 55 Danforth Ave. be declared surplus to the city's requirements."

Several groups offered to re-use the 3,068 sq. ft. building: the Greek consulate in Toronto, the Junior League for its headquarters, and the Pat Shulz Memorial Fund as a neighbourhood centre including a parent-child drop-in centre, a parent information centre and a toy lending library. A public meeting to solicit suggestions from local residents for possible future uses of the old washroom was held on 23 May 1990, but the building remains closed. The Toronto Historical Board placed the public lavatory at 55 Danforth on its *Inventory of Heritage Properties* in 1984.

3. Playter Society Building

757 Broadview Avenue, southeast corner of Danforth Avenue. Builder: F. Brink. 1909. Addition to east side before 1912.



Playter Family Collection TPL-PDLHC

Playter Society Building, ca. 1910.

This imposing three-storey, brick and stone structure frames the western entrance to Danforth Avenue and was one of the first blocks of stores along the thoroughfare. It was built by Albert E. Playter (1859-1941) and his brother, William, two market gardeners interested in developing the area and members of an influential founding family (see No. 12). They strategically placed the building where the Broadview Avenue streetcars wye, and it soon became a commercial and social centre for the district. Stores were on the bottom floor and offices for dentists, doctors and other businesses on the second storey. The top floor was used for meetings of associations and societies (the local Orange Order had its headquarters there), card parties and bingo games. The hall also became the east end place to dance nightly to big name bands in the 1920s, '30s and '40s - Guy Lombardo's orchestra played at Playter's regularly in the 1930s.

In the 1980s, Playter Hall, as the

building is often called, was subject to two fires within 5 years. On 25 August 1981, the quarters of the Toronto Theatre Centre, a coalition of five avant-garde groups then using the top floor for an experimental theatre and a rehearsal hall, were gutted by fire. A \$1 million blaze on 21 March 1987 kept 80 fire-fighters battling more than six hours with 17 trucks, pumpers and aerials. The east side of the building on Danforth was especially damaged. Playter Hall is now used as an office, restaurant and apartment building.

Playter Hall was placed on the Toronto Historical Board's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* in 1984. Architectural features noted by the Board included the large, projecting sheet-metal cornice; the angular corner with a name plaque above the third floor window; the long elevation flanking the Danforth with simple fenestrations and stone quoining motif; and double-hung windows.

4. Chester Village

717 Broadview Avenue, southeast corner of Dearbourne Avenue. Sieven Piper, Architect. 1972.



Photo by Lillian Salmon

Chester Village, 1992.

Chester Village, a residence for seniors, demonstrates how two local churches dealt with declining memberships and changing community demographics in the 1960s.

North Broadview Church stood on the site from 1911 to 1967. The congregation had been founded two decades earlier, *Robertson's Landmarks of Toronto* noted, "principally through the exertions of the late Mr. E. A. Macdonald, sometime Mayor of Toronto." The "Baron of Chester," as Macdonald was dubbed by the Toronto press, was the major real estate developer in Riverdale and Chester in the 1880s. He started Chester Presbyterian Church to encourage settlement in his subdivisions because, a church history stated, he believed "no intelligent citizen would care to establish a home in a community where no church was readily accessible." In 1889, a pretty frame church was built, largely at Macdonald's expense, on the west side of Don Mills Road (now Broadview) just north of Danforth.

However, when Toronto's expanding population began to move to the northeast suburbs in the early 1900s, the newcomers did not settle on the Don Mills Road in the village of Chester as

had been anticipated, but rather along the Danforth and the streets running south of it. In 1907 the congregation of Chester Presbyterian Church resolved to relocate, and two years later purchased a site at the southeast corner of Broadview and Dearbourne avenues. North Broadview Presbyterian Church, as the congregation was renamed, dedicated its new church on 3 December 1911. In 1925 it became part of the United Church of Canada.

The Danforth community changed radically in the 1950s and 1960s. Robert Thomas Allen's "flat suburb of English, Irish and Scotch" became multicultural, with immigrants from Italy and Greece the most predominant newcomers. In 1967, North Broadview United Church joined with Danforth United Church at 310 Danforth Avenue, and the Broadview Avenue church was demolished. The two congregations called themselves Eastminster United Church, and decided to build a home for senior citizens on the old North Broadview site. Chester Village opened in 1972. It now houses 165 residents, and is run by the Broadview Foundation. Seven of the Foundation's twelve directors must be members of Eastminster United Church.

5. William Peyton Hubbard House

660 Broadview Avenue. G. W. Gouinlock, Architect. 1908-9.



Portrait by W. A. Sherwood. City of Toronto

William Peyton Hubbard, 1913.

Toronto's first black alderman was born in 1842, two years after his family moved to the city as freed slaves from Virginia. A baker by trade, William Peyton Hubbard became one of Toronto's most popular local politicians. Known as the "Cicero of the Council Chamber" because of his oratorical abilities, he was first elected to City Council in 1894 and then served 13 consecutive terms, frequently as senior controller. In the municipal elections of 1908, Hubbard was defeated, largely because of his support for a publicly-owned electric power system. He re-entered politics only once, briefly, in 1913, but retired when his wife became seriously ill. Hubbard was a champion of the rights of various minorities and a pioneer in the founding of Toronto Hydro. He also served in such capacities as justice of the peace, school trustee, harbour commissioner, and, for four decades, as a representative to the House of Industry.



Photo by Lillian Salmon

660 Broadview Avenue, 1992.

Hubbard moved his family to the large, 14-room house at 660 Broadview Avenue following his defeat in 1908. There he resided until his death in 1935 at the age of 93. The house was designed by G. W. Gouinlock, then architect to the Canadian National Exhibition. Frederick Langdon Hubbard (1878-1953), a Toronto Transportation Commissioner, lived next door to his father, at 662 Broadview Avenue. Both houses have long since passed out of family hands.

The William Peyton Hubbard house was placed on the Toronto Historical Board's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* in 1978. On 29 September 1979 an historic plaque commemorating Hubbard's achievements was unveiled at the southwest corner of Broadview Avenue and Montcrest Boulevard in Riverdale Park, only a few hundred yards from his home.

6a. Robert Powell House 6b. James Harris House

6a. 648 Broadview Avenue. H. Warren, Architect. 1907.

6b. 646 Broadview Avenue, northwest corner of Montcrest Boulevard. James L. Havill, Architect. 1908.



648 Broadview Avenue, 1992.



646 Broadview Avenue, 1992.

Both of these large, well-built houses have been listed on the Toronto Historical Board's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* since 1976. In size and style, they are later manifestations of the type of houses that E. A. Macdonald built in the 1880s in Riverside, an area he promoted as "Rosedale East." Apparently so many physicians came to live along Broadview Avenue, that it became known as "Doctors' Row."

Broadview Avenue was originally called Mill Road or Don Mills Road because it gave access to the mills on the Don River. In 1884, the section between Queen and Danforth was renamed Broadview Avenue because of its spectacular views. John Ross Robertson decried the new name as a "high sounding, fanciful appellation."

Robert Powell received a building permit to build a two-storey stone dwelling on the west side of Broadview, just north of Hogarth on 13 May 1907. He

worked for E. L. Foy Wholesale Liquors and Cigars.

James Harris received a permit to build a two-storey house with attic at the northwest corner of Broadview and Hogarth on 22 June 1908. (Montcrest Boulevard was not so named until 1918.) Harris was then the managing director of the Harris Abattoir Company. His family had run a large butchering business, W. Harris & Co., in the east end from 1870. It was located first on Kingston Road (Queen Street East), then on Pape Avenue, and finally at the northeast corner of Danforth and Coxwell avenues. The Harris Abattoir Company, a separate but associated corporation, was formed in 1901, and became part of Canada Packers Ltd. in 1927. James Havill was architect of 646 Broadview. His major commission at that time was the impressive four-storey brick emporium for Holt, Renfrew & Co., still standing at 118 Yonge Street.

Photos by Lillian Salmon

7. Riverdale Park



CTA Parks 1009

Riverdale Park, 13 May 1922.

Riverdale Park has been a community recreational spot for year round activities for well over a century. During winter months in the early days, skaters thronged to the frozen Don River running through the park. The park's bobsled run was an exciting ride for the daring. If you were good, you could make a run of more than a half-mile down South Hill all the way to Winchester Street. During the summer, the Don was still fresh enough for swimmers, fishermen and boaters. And, of course, Riverdale Zoo, started in 1899 with donations from private citizens, was a fascinating place to view exotic animals. The park was also the site for sports and other community events. For example, the Fair for Britain in August 1942, featuring J. W. Conklin's All-Canadian show, raised nearly \$43,000 for the *Evening Telegram's* British War Victims' Fund.

Riverdale Park was established through a series of fortuitous events. In 1856, the City of Toronto paid the Scadding family £10,000 (or \$40,000) for the remaining 119.75 acres of their farm. The property had been a crown grant to John Scadding in 1793, and originally consisted of 230 acres running from the waterfront to the Second Concession Road (Danforth Avenue), between the Don River and today's Broadview Avenue. The City considered this a safe

location for a jail and industrial farm, for at that time this land was still outside the city limits, and unpopulated except for farmers and market gardeners. The Don Jail was opened in 1865 and still stands.

Meanwhile, in the 1870s the City acquired property on the west side of the Don River for a park, initially referred to as the "Eastern Public Park." However when the park officially opened on 11 August 1880, it was called Riverdale Park. In 1890, the park increased in size to 162 acres when the City set aside for park purposes all the lands acquired from the Scadding estate, except for a small portion reserved for the Don Jail, the Riverdale Isolation Hospital and the Smallpox Hospital.

In the early 1960s, Riverdale Park was bisected by the Don Valley Parkway and its area was reduced to 104 acres. To compensate, Toronto Parks Department unveiled in 1962 a \$1,250,000 plan to improve the park's recreational facilities. This included soccer and football fields, baseball diamonds, a quarter-mile track, a wading pool, a fifty-foot toboggan slope, a swimming pool, an ice rink, field houses, and an indoor centre which could include tennis courts. Riverdale Zoo closed in 1974. Riverdale Farm opened on the site in 1978.

8. Hogarth/Heys House

58 Hogarth Avenue, northwest corner of Bowden Street. Ca. 1875. Addition by architect R. McCallum, 1913.



TPL-PDLHC

58 Hogarth Avenue, ca. 1975.

This house, with its large open verandah, rural style and well-treed lot, harkens back to a time when orchards and market gardens, not houses and stores, characterised the area. In 1858, John Wilson Bowden, a builder, acquired most of the land north of the present Hogarth Avenue to the Danforth, between today's Broadview and Logan avenues. He subdivided the largely undeveloped property in 1871.

In 1875, Thomas Hogarth, principal of York Township School Section 10, Riverside, bought the lot now known as 58 Hogarth Avenue (the street was called Wilson until 1896) and built the major part of the brick, one-and-a-half-storey house which stands today. He sold the property in 1882 to his daughter, Elinor, and her husband, Thomas Heys. Heys was an analytical chemist and assayer who also taught at the Toronto School of Pharmacy. The Heys kept chickens on the property and had a barn to house the family carriage. They added

a north wing and attached verandah to the house.

The house remained in the Heys family until 1964. After that, it was allowed to deteriorate. It was a rooming house for a time and then left vacant for two years, when it was badly vandalized. New owners planned to tear down the house and erect two pairs of semi-detached dwellings on the site, but were blocked by local ratepayers at the Ontario Municipal Board in 1974.

Subsequent owners have restored and repaired the old house. It still has many original doors and window frames - one of the most interesting features is the pair of floor to ceiling windows on the south ground floor. The huge lower sashes lift up into the second floor walls. There are several large fireplaces in the seven-room house and much of the original wood flooring remains. The Hogarth Avenue farmhouse was placed on the Toronto Historical Board's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* in 1974.

9. Owen Staples House

69 Hogarth Avenue. Architects: Owen Staples and C. W. Jeffreys. Builder: C. T. Jeffreys. 1904.

The front wall of 69 Hogarth Avenue bears a small plaque "Owen Staples Studio." Owen Staples (1866-1949) was a man of many parts, with exceptional talent in fine art, music, writing, nature study and historical research. He is best known, though, for his watercolours and etchings, and for the hundreds of sketches, illustrations and paintings he did of the Toronto scene, depicting his own time and reconstructing the city's past. His work is preserved in collections at the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Royal Ontario Museum, the John Ross Robertson Collection at the Metropolitan Toronto Library, and in many private collections.

Staples was born in the village of Stone-sub-Hamdon, Somerset, England, and came to Canada at the age of six with his family, settling in Hamilton. In 1878, when Owen was ten, his father died, and the family moved to Rochester, New York where Mrs. Frances Staples obtained work as a nurse. Owen worked also and in due course was employed at the Rochester Art Club as a messenger boy. He soon was inspired to try etching and painting, and when he was only 13 years old won his first prize for a canvas exhibited at the Powers Art Gallery, Rochester. Staples later studied at the Rochester Art Club, the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts, and with G. A. Reid in Toronto, as well as at the Art Students' League, New York City.

Orphaned at the age of 14, Staples returned to Toronto in 1885 and secured a job as staff artist at the *Mail*. In the mid-1890s, he went to work for John Ross Robertson's *Evening Telegram*, where he was to be employed until two

years before his death. At first, Staples did political and portrait cartoons but soon he was assigned the job of illustrating Robertson's vast historical collection, given to Toronto Public Library in 1911. *Robertson's Landmarks of Toronto*, a six-volume history published by John Ross Robertson from 1894 to 1914, contained many Staples illustrations including almost all the 300 churches in volume 4. During that period, Staples was commissioned by Robertson to paint a series of panoramic views depicting York and Toronto from 1792 to 1908. The nine enormous paintings were given to the City of Toronto.

Owen Staples and C. W. Jeffreys, a fellow historical artist, designed the cottage-style house on Hogarth Avenue in the early 1900s. It was built in 1904 by Jeffreys' father, using discarded bricks from local Don Valley yards. The northern ground floor was designed as the hub of the house, and served as the family living room and Staples' studio. The house cost about \$2,000 to build and the 30-foot lot was \$300 or \$10 a foot. (Dorothy Staples later observed that her father was not much of a businessman - the going rate for land in the Danforth area at the time was \$8 a foot.) There were then only a few houses on Hogarth. The surrounding hills, open fields and orchards were an ideal place for the five Staples children to play. With his wife, Lillian, Staples hosted popular "Sunday afternoons" at their home where well-known business figures, artists and local residents mingled and were entertained. The Owen Staples house was placed on the Toronto Historical Board's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* in 1976.



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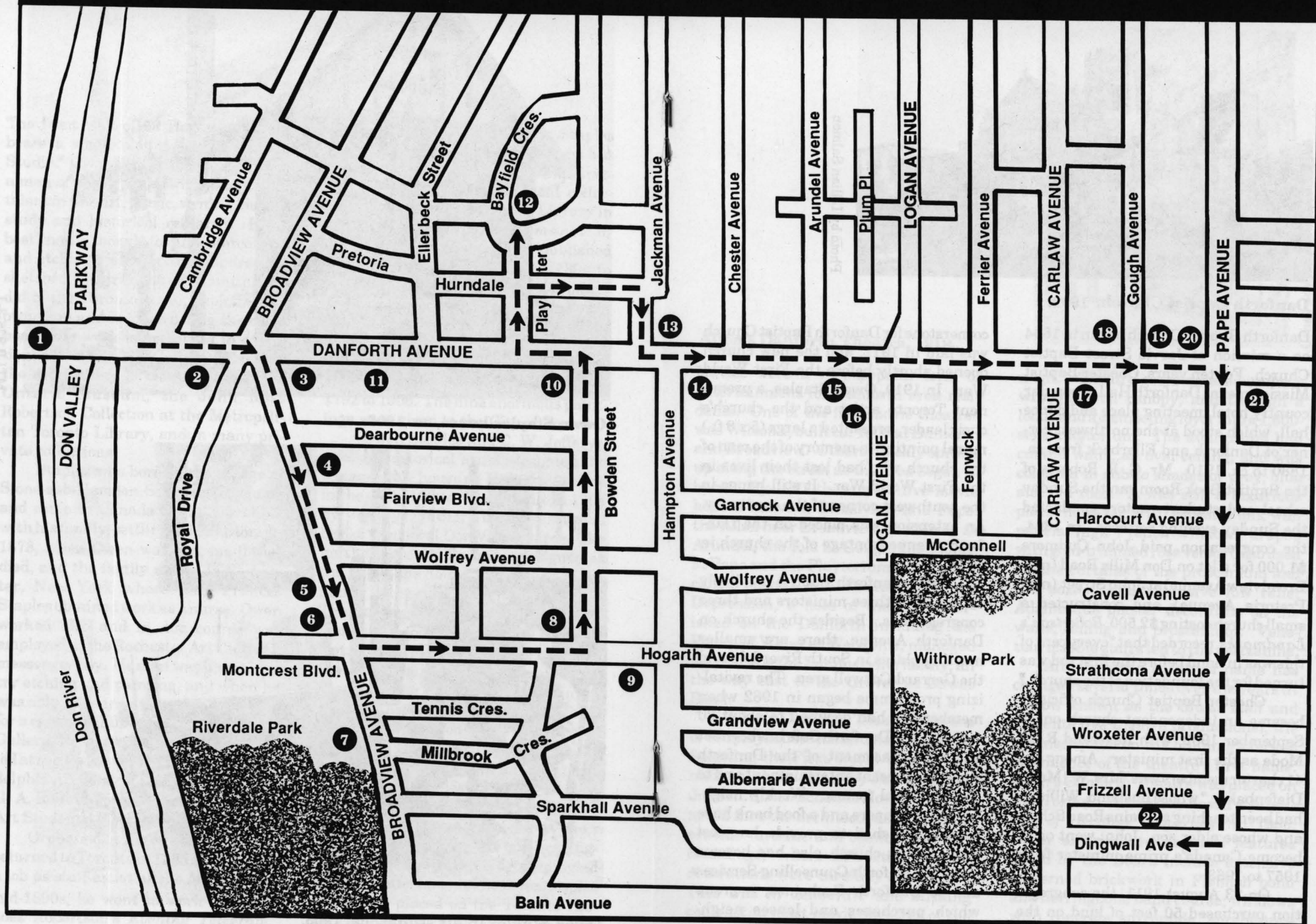
Owen Staples house, ca. 1905.



MTLB 976-3-5

Owen Staples in his studio, ca. 1905.

Historical Walking Tour of The Danforth



10. Danforth Baptist Church

60 Bowden Avenue, southwest corner of Danforth Avenue. Ca. 1914. Extension to Danforth frontage, 1931.



Photo by Lillian Salmon

Danforth Baptist Church, 1992.

Danforth Baptist Church began in 1884 as a mission of Jarvis Street Baptist Church. For ten years, Chester Baptist Mission met at Danforth Hall, a popular country hotel, meeting place and dance hall, which stood at the northwest corner of Danforth and Ellerbeck from ca. 1880 to ca. 1910. Mr. G. R. Roberts of the Baptist Book Room ran the Sunday school and student pastors conducted the Sunday evening services. In 1894, the congregation paid John Cudmore \$1,000 for a lot on Don Mills Road (now Broadview Avenue) at John Street (now Pretoria Avenue), and constructed a small church costing \$2,500. *Robertson's Landmarks* recorded that "every cent of this was in hand before the first sod was turned for the foundation of the church."

Chester Baptist Church officially became an independent church on 10 September 1903, with Reverend R. H. Mode as the first minister. Among the 41 charter members was "Mrs. W. [Mary] Diefenbaker," whose husband, William, had been teaching at Plains Road School and whose elder son, John, went on to become Canada's prime minister from 1957 to 1963.

On 23 August 1911, the congregation purchased 50 feet of land on the south side of Danforth Avenue for \$2,690 and relocated from Don Mills Road. The

cornerstone for Danforth Baptist Church was laid in 1911, and the new church opened shortly before the First World War. In 1919, Owen Staples, a prominent Toronto artist and the church's choir leader, presented a large (5 x 8 ft.) mural painting in memory of the men of the church who had lost their lives in the First World War. It still hangs in the southwest corner of the sanctuary. An extension was placed on the Danforth Avenue frontage of the church in 1931.

Today Danforth Baptist is a lively church with three ministers and three congregations. Besides the church on Danforth Avenue, there are smaller meeting places in South Riverdale and the Gerrard/Coxwell area. The revitalizing programme began in 1982 when membership had declined to about 30 seniors. The Danforth Cafe has been set up in the basement of the Danforth church to present entertainment and to discuss social issues. Weekly neighbourhood suppers and a food bank have been established to provide low cost meals. The church also has become home to Danforth Counselling Services and to Danforth Ecuhomes, a group which purchases and leases neighbourhood properties to low-income earners for communal homes.

11. Allen's Danforth Theatre

147 Danforth Avenue. Hynes, Feldman & Watson, Architects. 1919. Altered in 1929 for H. J. Chown.

Allen's Danforth Theatre, 1919.

Movies were a very popular form of entertainment for Danforth area residents. One of the first movie theatres was Wilson's, built ca. 1908 at Danforth and Broadview. Others quickly sprang up along the street as the area began to boom. By 1921 there were five movie houses between Broadview and Pape: the Allen near Broadview, the Model at Arundel, the Iola at Gough, the Palace at Pape and the Playtorium (sometimes called Playter Fun Theatre). By the Depression, a host of theatres flourished on the Danforth including the Prince of Wales at Woodbine, managed for years by the Summerville family, all the way east to the Grover at Dawes Road.

Allen's Danforth Theatre was one of ten playhouses constructed in Toronto following the First World War by the national chain owned by Jule and John J. Allen. *Construction* of November 1919 noted that the architects designed it to provide "artistic and comfortable surroundings," where distracting interior decorations were carefully eliminated. This was in deliberate and striking contrast to most movie theatres of the day which were in "remodelled structures [with] a plethora of heavy orna-



Construction, November 1919

ment." Theatre-goers entered under a wrought iron canopy, and through a lobby and a connecting foyer into a 1,600-seat auditorium. The auditorium had curved walls, an oval ceiling, and was coloured in subtle shades of grey, blue and old rose. It was still a luxurious place, however, with tapestry silk wall panels, high French windows draped with gold-trimmed rose velour (also used for the curtains of the proscenium and the boxes), and extensive low relief Adamesque plaster decoration on the walls, ceiling and proscenium. Venetian marble stairs led to the mezzanine.

Although the theatre's name has changed several times over the years (it is now known as the Music Hall and presents live theatre productions), the AT inscription on the building's facade is evidence of the theatre's first name. Allen's Danforth Theatre was placed on the Toronto Historical Board's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* in 1985. Other exterior architectural features noted by the Board include extensive patterned brickwork in Flemish bond and herringbone band course; windows with concrete surrounds, entablature and sills; opal glass windows; and a marquee on chains.

12. Playter Farmhouse

28 Playter Crescent. Ca. 1875.



Playter Family Collection
TPL-PDLHC

Playter farmhouse, ca. 1890.

The Playter family were among the earliest settlers in Toronto. Captain George Playter (1736-1822), a Loyalist officer, was granted a front town lot in York in 1793 as well as a park lot and two farm lots totally 500 acres in York Township. He established a farm on the river meadows of his 200 acres on the west side of the Don (Lot 20, Concession 2 from the Bay), and built his home on the western edge of the hills above Castle Frank, and "where is now the property known as Drumsnab," according to Toronto historian Henry Scadding.

George Playter had five daughters and five sons. John, James and Ely patented land grants on the Don River in 1796. James Playter's 200-acre lot (Lot 11, Concession 2 from the Bay) was directly across the river from his father's. It ran east from the Don and was roughly bounded by the present-day Donlands, Danforth and Browning avenues. Evidently, though, John Playter (1770-1853) lived on or near this property almost from the beginning - he was appointed pathmaster of the Mill Road (later Broadview Avenue) in 1799 - but did not formally buy it from his brother's family until 1831.

The farmhouse at 28 Playter Crescent was erected in the mid-1870s by John Lea Playter (1846-1923), a grandson of John Playter and his wife, Sarah Ellerbeck. Like many Playters, he was a dairy farmer and market gardener, and was also involved in local government - he was assessor, then collector

for York Township in the 1880s. The red brick, rectangular house was decorated with "white" (i.e. yellow) brick patterns which are still discernible. The segmented arch at each window features alternate red and white brickwork. An arrow-pattern white brick band circles the middle of the house and the sills of the second floor windows. The series of arrowheads meet at the central opening to the second floor verandah above the main entrance.

Two brothers of John Lea Playter, Albert E. and William, altered the appearance of the original house in the early 1900s. The open, airy wooden porch, with its spool-turned trim and delicate fretted brackets, was replaced with a sun room and a verandah of wood with fieldstone wall base. All but one of the unusually high triple-hung sash windows on the first floor were shortened. The carved posts on the balcony were replaced by straight slats. Roof dormers and a stone fence were other later additions.

The land around the house continued to be used for farming until ca. 1910. By 1912 the property was subdivided, streets were opened up and substantial houses erected on what is still known as the Playter Estates. The Playter farmhouse, which remains in the Playter family possession, was placed on the Toronto Historical Board's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* in 1981. An historic plaque was unveiled there on 2 June 1984.

13. Carrot Common

348 Danforth Avenue. 1926. Second storey and west addition, 1986-8.
Paul Reuber, Architect.

Nothing exemplifies the Danforth's transformation from the string of car lots and discount stores of the 1950s and 1960s to the colourful, trendy shopping district of today more than Carrot Common. The site was part of the original crown grant to the Playter family, and in the 1890s John Lea Playter built a grand, three-storey brick house on the northeast corner of Danforth and Jackman avenues.

With the opening of the Prince Edward Viaduct in 1918, automobile traffic along the Danforth increased dramatically. W. S. (Bill) Giles opened one of the district's first car dealerships in 1919. Instead of going into downtown Toronto to seek his fortune, "he pinned his faith in the Danforth district." Giles, Rice & Peters Ltd. sold Chevrolets and McLaughlin-Buicks at Danforth and Chisholm. When the Pontiac car was introduced in 1926, Giles immediately organized the firm of W. S. Giles, Limited to handle the new line, and opened a second showroom, at Danforth and Jackman. One of his sales managers, George Hogan, took over the business in October 1928.

As car sales soared in the 1920s, other entrepreneurs soon followed Giles. Before long virtually every block along Danforth Avenue had at least one car lot. By the 1950s, the Danforth, especially east of Pape, was the centre of Toronto's used car business. A decade later the car business has spread all over the city and into the suburbs. The Danforth lost its preeminence as an automobile centre, and many new and used car firms closed or relocated. Hogan Pontiac Buick, however, continued to

thrive: in the 1960s it tore down John Lea Playter's house for a used car lot. The firm was sold in about 1982 and renamed Peter Burdon Pontiac Buick.

Land values along the Danforth boomed during the 1980s. Tridel took out an option on the Danforth-Jackman property in about 1985 and planned to build a high-rise building, but strong neighbourhood opposition forced cancellation of the project. In July 1986, Big Carrot Natural Food Market, a cooperatively-owned natural food store then located across the Danforth at Hampton, and developer David Walsh acquired the site from the Playter family. The following year, in October 1987, they and other partners opened Carrot Common, named in tribute to the mall's most famous tenant. The 36,000 sq. ft. shopping centre combined old and new structures around a central plaza, and included stores, offices, a restaurant and parking. The old automobile showrooms were renovated and extended to Danforth Avenue. A second storey was placed on existing buildings, and a new two-storey structure was added to the west side of the property.

Carrot Common is an interesting blend of commerce and community. Fifty percent of the mall's profits go into Carrot Cache, a foundation which supports small, worker-owned businesses and social justice groups. The central courtyard has become a popular neighbourhood meeting place. The second floor houses organizations such as Natural Health Centre, *Common Ground* magazine, and Bread and Roses Credit Union.



Photo by Lillian Salmon

Carrot Common, 1992.

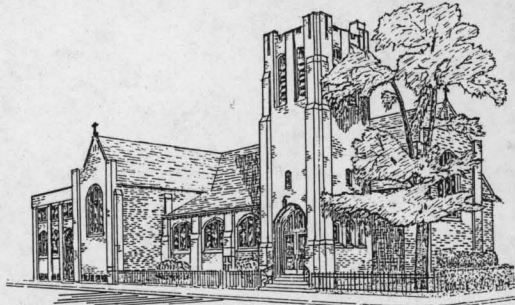


Playter Family Collection/TPL-PDLHC

John Lea Playter house, ca. 1895.

14. St. Barnabas Anglican Church

361 Danforth, southeast corner of Hampton Avenue. 1910. Architect: Andrew Sharp. Addition for parish hall and Sunday School, 1918. Addition, 1923.



Pen and Ink Sketch
by W. L. Prideaux

St. Barnabas (Chester) Anglican Church, 1910s.

St. Barnabas Anglican Church is the oldest congregation in the Danforth district. It was established in 1858 as a mission church of St. John's, Norway during the rectorship of Dr. James Beaven (1801-75). He is credited with giving the community the name of Chester after the old Roman city in Cheshire, England.

On 22 July 1858, John Playter's widow, Sarah, and her three sons, Emmanuel, John, and Richard Ellerbeck, conveyed to the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto a quarter-acre site on the east side of today's Ellerbeck Avenue, some 200 yards north of the Don and Danforth Road (now Danforth Avenue). The following year, a pretty Gothic-style, board and batten church was constructed. Known first as St. John's, Playter's Corners; then as St. John's Chester, and even as the Church of the Epiphany from 1862-71, it took the name of St. Barnabas' (Chester) in 1872. Chester was used to distinguish it from another Toronto-area Anglican church also named St. Barnabas, but now is used less frequently since the other St. Barnabas Church closed.

For nearly half a century, the clergy and laymen of St. John's, Norway ministered in this "quaint, plain structure, picturesque among the surrounding trees." In 1903, Toronto's northern expansion justified the appointment of full-time rector, Reverend Frank Vipond, and two years later St. Barnabas' be-

came a separate parish.

Between 1904 and 1906, the original church was enlarged, but an attempt to buy adjacent land for a Sunday School and rectory failed. Realizing that population had shifted to the Danforth, St. Barnabas' moved its church to its present site in September 1907. Heavy rains slowed down the process, and the church was grounded, according to a church history, "standing on beams, on the King's highway, about eighty yards from its final destination." The congregation was determined to have its regular Sunday services in the church, so it installed a temporary ramp, and worshipped in the middle of Danforth Avenue. One hymn that was sung with particular fervour that Sunday morning was "The Church is One Foundation."

The old building soon was hopelessly overcrowded. On 10 December 1910, Bishop Sweeny opened a new brick church with seating for 500 people. The original church stood as a parish hall until 1918, when more land was purchased on Hampton Avenue and a new parish hall and Sunday school was constructed. The land for the parish hall cost \$8,000, a far cry from the \$400 paid for the church site in 1907. An addition to the east side of the church was completed in 1923, extending its seating capacity to 1,000 persons and joining the main building to the parish hall.

15. Percy Waters Florist

445 Danforth Avenue



Kenneth Waters TPL-PDLHC

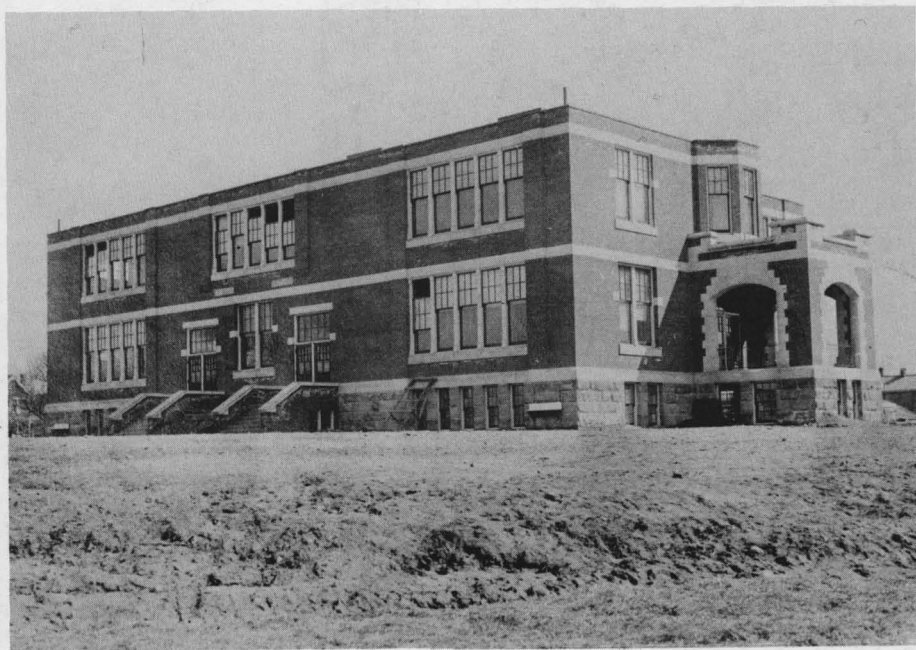
Percy Waters Florist, Armistice Day, 11 November 1918.

Percy Waters Florist has been on the Danforth for more than 80 years. Percy and Lulu (Louise) Waters opened a flower and nursery stock store on the south side of Danforth Avenue between Hampton and Logan in 1911. The Danforth was an ideal location for an enterprising young family to set up shop. There were no other retail nurseries in the area; new houses in need of landscaping were being built on nearby streets such as Logan, Wolfrey and Jackman; and with the city planning to construct a streetcar line along Danforth and to build a viaduct across the Don River, there was the prospect of many more residents and customers. Like the other early merchants on the Danforth, Waters worked long hours: weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Saturdays until midnight. How-

ever, he was never far from his family as they lived right above the store. At that time, Waters had to travel by horse-drawn wagon down the dirt road that was Logan Avenue in order to pick up the plants and flowers that were express shipped to him at the Riverdale Station at Queen and DeGrassi streets. To supplement his income, Waters used the same wagon to deliver laundry along the Danforth as far east as Victoria Park Avenue, while Lulu minded the store. This taxing life style weakened Waters' resistance, and he died of influenza in 1917. His widow and three sons, Kenneth, Russell and Victor, were left to carry on the fledgling business. Kenneth eventually became an alderman and school trustee for the area. The business continued to be operated by the Waters family until 1978.

16. Frankland School

816 Logan Avenue. 1981. Brook, Carruthers, Shaw, Architects.



MTLB T12209

Frankland School, 1912; demolished 1980.

Frankland School began in 1909 in a two-room portable structure on the present site with Miss Edmunds and Miss Calvert, two teachers from Chester School, in charge. The first permanent building was erected the following year, and on 25 October 1910 the school officially opened although only four of the eleven rooms were ready. With the building of the Bloor Viaduct and the opening of the Danforth streetcar line, the community of "good honest working-class people" in the Danforth-Broadview area grew rapidly. Eighteen rooms were added to the school within four years. By 1917, Frankland had the third highest enrolment of any Toronto school with over 1,400 pupils, and classrooms of more than 50 pupils each were common. Frankland became a junior school, kindergarten to Grade 6, in

September 1951. The school property was completely redeveloped in the early 1980s, although the original entrance way was preserved. The new school officially opened on 8 May 1981.

Frankland School was named in honour of the Frankland family. Garrett Frankland settled on the Don and Danforth Road, as Danforth Avenue was known then, in the 1850s. Both he and his son, Henry Robert, were butchers by trade who represented the area for many years at local government.

Counted among Frankland graduates are former Toronto mayor Donald Summerville; broadcaster and journalist, Gordon Sinclair; and author Robert Thomas Allen, whose nostalgic writings often were based on his boyhood in the Danforth area. (All are deceased.)

17. Sunland Fruit Market

561 Danforth Avenue, southeast corner of Carlaw Avenue.



CTA Roadway 1364

Sunkist Fruit Market, 15 October 1934.

The open-air fruit and vegetable market is a well-known feature of Danforth Avenue that adds to the district's "Old World" atmosphere. Two of the busiest examples of this colourful style of business are found at the corners of Danforth and Carlaw, and Danforth and Gough avenues.

Before the Second World War, the city's Italians dominated the fruit retail trade. Italian immigrants began to open fruit stores on the Danforth in about 1914, with the building of the Prince Edward Viaduct. By 1925, fruit traders from Sicily were operating at least nine stores along Danforth Avenue, according to historian John Zucchi. Around that time they included Vito Simone, the Acquannobrothers, Joseph Comella, the Azzarellos, and Salvatore and Maria Badali.

The Badalis came to Toronto from Termini Imerese, Sicily on their honeymoon in 1905 and opened their first fruit store at King Street East and Sumach Street. The growing family returned to Italy for a visit just as the First World War broke out. Mr. Badali, though a Canadian citizen, was drafted into the Italian army. The family did not get back to Toronto for another six years. Upon their return, the Badalis acquired a fruit store at 449 Danforth Avenue, near Logan Avenue, which they operated in the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1929, Sam Badali, the eldest of

Salvatore and Maria's five sons and two daughters, and his partner, Sam Comella, began to run a fruit market at Danforth and Carlaw avenues. According to owners of the market, "the sun would shine from sunrise to sunset at this corner, which led to the name Sunkist Fruit Market." The store wasn't large enough to hold all the produce so some was displayed on the sidewalk. Sunkist Fruit Market was one of the first in Toronto to remain open 24 hours a day - ironically to save the time of moving the ever-increasing quantities of produce in and out of the store each day.

Most of the city's Italian fruit stores were passed on within the family, or from townsman to townsman. When Badali retired in 1950, Sam Comella took over the business and, a decade later, upon his own retirement, passed the business to his son. In 1967, Jack Comella, who had been working for Sunkist Food Markets for several years, purchased the business from his cousin and brought his friend, Angelo Pugliese, into the fold. The first Danforth Avenue store was followed by larger, additional stores offering a wide range of grocery products. Sunkist Food Markets today operates three modern supermarkets, two in Markham and one in Mississauga. The Danforth store was sold in 1986, and is now called Sunland Fruit Market.

18. Greek Orthodox Church of Ste. Irene Chrisovalantou

66 Gough Avenue.

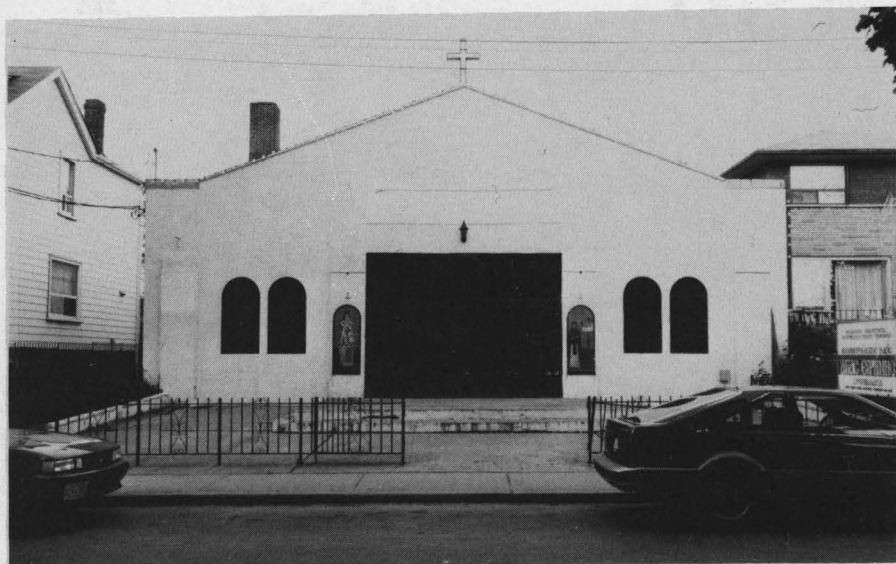


Photo by Lillian Salmon

66 Gough Avenue, 1992.

Greeks began coming to Toronto in the early 1900s, but substantial emigration did not occur until after the Second World War, peaking between the years 1966 and 1970. The early emigrant's purpose was quite simple, states historian Lia Douramakou-Petroleka: "to make money in order to improve his economic and social standing in his home village."

Toronto's "Little Greece" sprang up on Danforth Avenue in the sixties, bringing the sights, smells and sounds of the Aegean: fresh-killed lambs hanging in butcher shop windows; steaming cauldrons of moussaka and spits of sizzling souvlaki cooking in restaurant kitchens; and bouzouki music playing in tavernas and kaffenions. Since then many Greeks have moved out of the area to suburbs in Etobicoke, North York and Scarborough, but they continue to return for shopping, socializing and worshipping.

Today, the Danforth is the centre of the Greek community in Metropolitan Toronto, numbering around 100,000 people. Numerous restaurants and businesses (serving a new upscale clien-

tele), Greek street signs, and the classical architecture of the National Bank of Greece and other buildings bearing the names of Hellenic associations signify the neighbourhood's most prevalent and flourishing culture. Each year on the Sunday nearest March 25, Danforth Avenue is filled with spectators waving Greek flags and blue and white banners as children dressed in national costumes, marching bands and horsemen parade along the street. The huge procession commemorates Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1821, and coincides with the Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. Another parade along the Danforth is held on the nearest Sunday to October 28, Ohhe Day (Memorial Day), which honours resistance fighters and those who lost their lives in the Second World War.

Several Greek churches are in the Danforth area. Ste. Irene's Church was established in 1975, and has grown dramatically since then. If the design of the church appears to be a bit curious, there is a good reason. The building was originally an automobile repair shop.

19. Church of the Holy Name

606 Danforth Avenue, northeast corner of Gough Avenue. A.W. Holmes, Architect. 1914-26.



Construction June 1926

Holy Name Church, 1926.

The Renaissance styling of Holy Name Church blends in well with the Mediterranean atmosphere of Danforth Avenue today. However when the parish was established in 1913, it was largely an Irish-Catholic congregation. Initially Father Michael Cline celebrated mass on the second floor of the separate school which opened in 1913 on Carlaw Avenue just south of the Danforth.

Excavations for Holy Name Church began in 1914, and by 1915 the basement was completed. However, the magnificent superstructure was not opened and formally dedicated for another 11 years, on 14 March 1926. The architect was Arthur W. Holmes, described by Eric Arthur and Stephen Otto in *Toronto, No Mean City* as, "the pre-eminent architect for Roman Catholic

commissions in the Toronto area." He designed Holy Name to follow the general lines and proportions of S. Marie Maggiore in Rome, Italy. The front entrances were not placed directly on to the busy Danforth but rather to a tiled terrace enclosed by a stone balustrade. Stone steps at either end gave access to and from the street level. The 68 x 170 foot limestone church was built at a cost of almost \$200,000, and could seat 1,050 people. It was only the second church in Canada to use indirect lighting.

The Church of the Holy Name was listed in the Toronto Historical Board's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* in 1976. It remains unchallenged as the Danforth's most impressive architectural landmark.

20. Royal Bank

646 Danforth Avenue, northeast corner of Pape Avenue. Bond & Smith. 1925.



Photo by Lillian Salmon

Royal Bank, 1992.

The Toronto Historical Board has listed two Danforth Avenue banks in its *Inventory of Heritage Properties*. One is the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce at the northeast corner of Danforth and Broadview avenues, designed by architect V. D. Horsburgh in 1918. The other is the Royal Bank, originally a Union Bank branch, at the northeast corner of Danforth and Pape avenues. Both buildings are in prominent corner locations, with architectural designs well suited to their prime sites.

In its architectural assessment of the Royal Bank branch, the Toronto

Historical Board stated: "646 Danforth is a significant example of a late Beaux Arts bank building, and exhibits fine terracotta detailing." Important features include the shallow terracotta columns with recessed spandrels and concrete base. Especially noteworthy is the beaux arts ornamentation in the entablature, between the columns and the eaves. It includes a metal cornice with modified triglyph, metope and dentils; and a frieze and an architrave with signage, cartouches (rounded, convex decorations) and bay leaf garland mouldings.

21. Pape/Danforth Library

701 Pape Avenue. George, Moorehouse & King, Architects, 1929. Retrofit by Sankey Partnership Architects, 1977. Retrofit by William Woodworth, Architect, 1983. Retrofit by Lett/Smith, Architects, 1992.



TPL-PDLHC

Danforth Branch, Toronto Public Library, 1929.

In 1928, Toronto Board of Control granted \$100,000 for buildings and sites for branch libraries in the Danforth and Runnymede districts. A 40 x 110 foot site for the former was acquired at a cost of \$10,578, and Danforth Branch opened on 20 November 1929. On opening day, the Danforth Business Men's Association gave a celebration luncheon where speeches were made by Mayor Samuel McBride, library officials, local aldermen and business people.

Chief Librarian George Locke described the new building as, "confessedly a library adapted to commercial conditions - the most attractive shop in a district of shops." An article in the December 1930 issue of *Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Journal* described how store architecture was reflected in the library's design:

The front of the building is in the style of an old English shop front: bay windows, small glass

panes, an overhang to the upper storey, a timbered front, a heavy panelled door, a shingled and gabled roof. A swinging sign, painted in bright colors, completes the scheme.

The building was built for \$34,814 and covered almost the entire lot. The lower floor housed the adult and adolescent library rooms, and the upper, with a separate approach, the children's reading and story-hour rooms and staff work and rest rooms.

Originally designed to hold upwards of 13,000 volumes, in 1991 the library had a collection of 46,732 books and other media in a several languages and circulated 228,903 items. The library has had interior renovations to cope with growing collections and changing needs. Exterior changes have altered the building's Tudor facade. It was renamed Pape/Danforth Branch on 20 June 1979.

22. Bain House

14 Dingwall Avenue. 1860.



TPL-PDLHC

Bain House, ca. 1979.

This lovely Georgian-style cottage is one of the oldest buildings in east Toronto and a significant local landmark. It was built in 1859-60 by Robert Sargent, and sold in 1869 to Neil Kennedy Bain, an immigrant from Dingwall, Scotland, employed by John Taylor and Co., the prominent manufacturer of safes and vaults. Bain's original address for the property was listed as Mount Pleasant, Leslieville, probably in reference to its commanding position overlooking the low lands and lake to the south. Apparently Bain had a market garden on his property, and sold the produce at three grocery stores and a flour and feed store he operated.

James Bain (1877-1974), a son of Neil Kennedy Bain, was the last family member to own the house. From his birthplace in the north side bedroom at 14 Dingwall Avenue, James Bain became a world traveller and adventurer. He was in the Yukon during the Klondike gold rush of the 1890s, and served in the U. S. Navy during the First World War where he survived the sinking of three ships. In the 1920s, Bain went on three Arctic explorations, including one expedition with the famous Danish explorer, Knud Rasmussen.

James Bain sold the house in 1966 to Edit A. Koivula who operated the

Withrow Park Day Nursery there. Through her efforts, the Neil Bain house was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act by a bylaw passed by Toronto City Council on 18 April 1988. At that time, Council's minutes recorded:

The building is symmetrical with a balanced facade. Important features include a raised basement floor, shuttered casement and double-hung windows, decorative quoins and tall chimneys. Other significant elements include the pedimented porch, exterior steps, and panelled doorway.

The Toronto Historical Board presented Mrs. Koivula with a letter of commendation in 1989 "for the dedication of one property owner to the preservation of her historic property at 14 Dingwall Avenue."

Ecuhome Corporation, an ecumenical coalition of seven Christian denominations dedicated to providing "clean, safe, and affordable housing to single adults who are on a low or fixed income" purchased the property in 1990. It has converted it into a shared accommodation residence.

Origin of Danforth Street Names

Bain: The family of that name, which owned the house at 14 Dingwall Avenue from 1869 to 1967. See Dingwall.

Bowden: John Wilson Bowden, a builder, who purchased land in the area in 1858 and subdivided it in 1871. See Hogarth.

Broadview: For the broad view obtained from it. Renamed in 1884; originally it was Mill Road, being but a wagon trail through the woods from Kingston Road (Queen Street) to the mills on the Don. In 1798, the government instructed Timothy Skinner, owner of the mills, to build the road. The section south of Queen was called Scadding Street; parts north of Danforth were called Don Mills Road until 1913 and 1922.

Butternut: It was cut through an old butternut grove that stood for many years at the rear of the Playter farm. See Playter.

Cambridge: Likely the English university of that name.

Carlaw: Major J. A. Carlaw (b. 1840), cashier of the Grand Trunk Railway in Toronto and land owner in the area.

Chester: After Chester, the old Roman city in Cheshire, England. Dr. James Beaven (1801-75), the first minister of St. Barnabas' Anglican Church (Chester), is credited with giving the community the name.

Danforth: Asa Danforth (1746-1836), an American contractor, who was hired by the government of Upper Canada in 1799 to construct a road from York east to the Bay of Quinte.

Dingwall: A burgh in the Highland region of northern Scotland, near the head of Cromarty Firth. It was the birthplace of Neil Kennedy Bain, who bought a house in the area in 1869. See Bain.

Ellerbeck: Sarah Ellerbeck, a Loyalist, who married John Playter (1770-1853) on 1 August 1796 in Kingston, Ont. See Playter.

Ferrier: J. L. McLaren noted in *Stories of the Danforth* (1921): "Opened on a ten acre lot by a market gardener named Ferrier, well known around the St. Lawrence Market about the beginning of the present century." Later the Ferriers operated a hardware store at the northeast corner of Danforth and Ferrier.

Frizzell: Rev. William Frizzell (d. 1910), a native of County Tyrone, Ireland, who in 1882 became the first minister of Leslieville (now Queen Street East) Presbyterian Church.

Gertrude: A daughter of Henry Robertshaw Frankland (1858-1921), butcher and cattle exporter; alderman for Toronto's Ward 1, 1894-5 and 1898-9; appointed Collector of Inland Revenue, 1899; director of Canadian National Exhibition, 1903-21; and school trus-

tee for York Township School Section No. 27, Chester. The Frankland family settled at the northeast corner of Pape and Danforth in 1858. See Muriel.

Gough: Renamed 1922, was Moscow. J. L. McLaren wrote: "One of the very earliest streets in the Danforth district. Before annexation it was but a series of small houses, while today, it is as up to date as any of the streets along the avenue."

Hogarth: Thomas Hogarth, principal of York Township School Section 10, Riverside, who in 1875 bought a lot and built the major part of the house which still stands at 58 Hogarth Avenue. Renamed 1896, was Wilson. See Bowden.

Ingham: Joshua Ingham (b. 1833), a butcher and cattle dealer from Lancashire, England, who was an alderman for St. Matthew's Ward (1887) and a trustee for Chester School. He lived on the Don Mills Road, Chester Village.

Jackman: Mary Jackman who married John Lea Playter (1846-1923) in 1875.

Logan: The Logan family who were market gardeners from the 1850s, and who later operated brickyards in the area.

Muriel: A daughter of H. R. Frankland. See Gertrude.

Pape: The Pape family who were market gardeners in the area for three generations. Joseph Pape came to Toronto from Leeds in 1842 and soon established a market garden along Kingston Road (Queen). His son, James, was a florist on Carlaw in the 1880s, and an alderman for St. Lawrence Ward.

Playter: The Playter family, Loyalists, who patented crown land grants in the area in 1796. See Butternut, Ellerbeck, Jackman.

Pretoria: To honour the participation of Canadian soldiers at Pretoria, the capital of the South African Republic, which fell to the British in August 1900. Renamed 1910, was John Street.

Royal: So named in 1939 (was Winchester Dr.) to commemorate the visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to Toronto on 22 May 1939. The royal couple drove on it in a visit to Riverdale Park; they also travelled along Danforth Avenue.

Sparkhall: Cubett Sparkhall (b. 1821) a native of Norfolk, England, who operated a butcher shop in Toronto, 1839-70. He purchased a farm on Logan's Lane in 1845 and lived there for many years.

Withrow: John J. Withrow, of Withrow and Hillock, lumber dealers. Withrow was an alderman, 1873-8; a founder of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition (later the CNE), and its president, 1879-1900.

