

The Most Attractive Resort in Town:

PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE
IN WEST TORONTO JUNCTION,
1888-2009

2nd revised and expanded edition

BARBARA MYRVOLD

[WITH BARBARA FORSYTH]

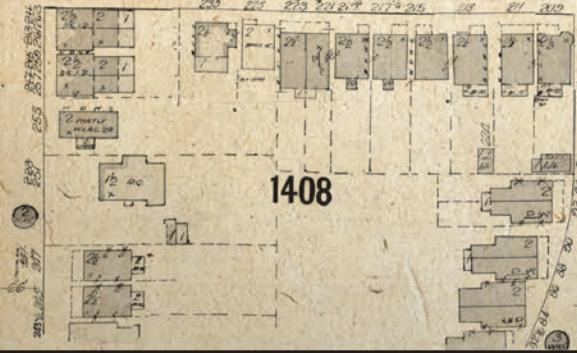
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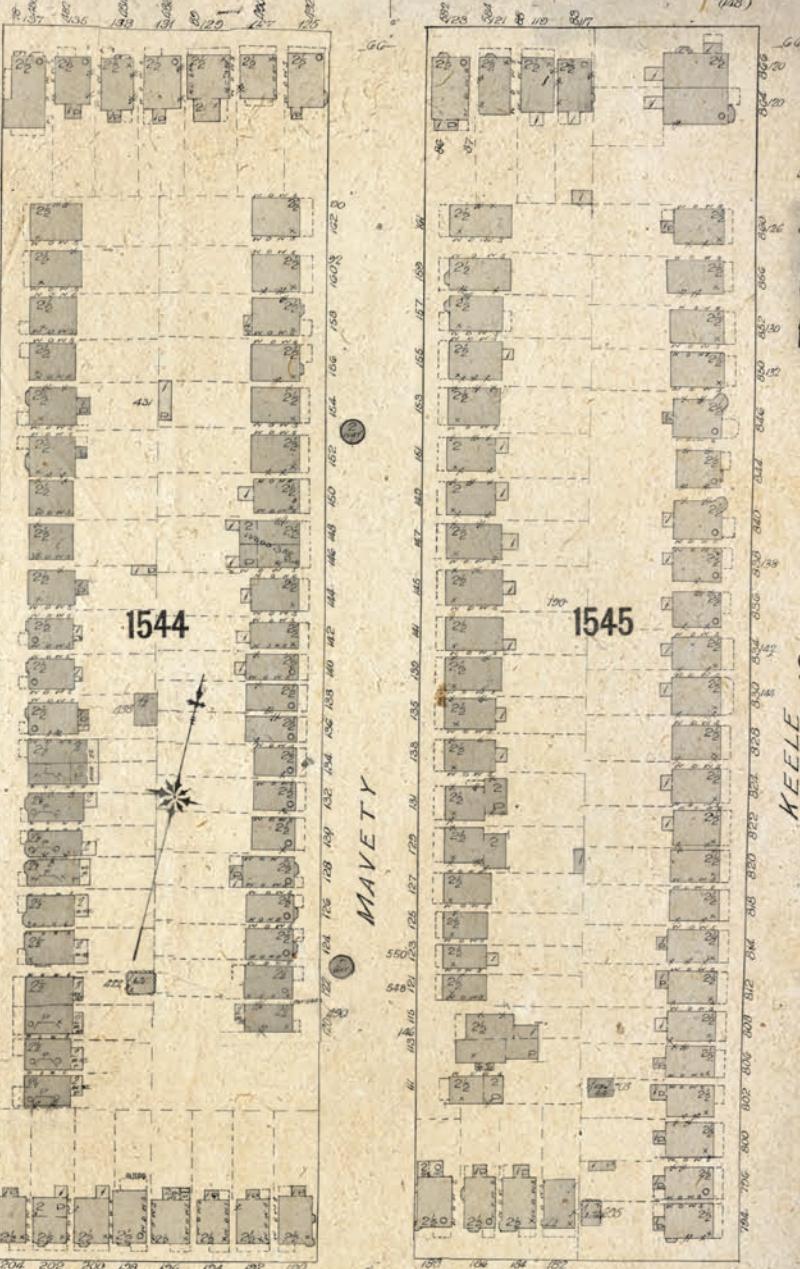
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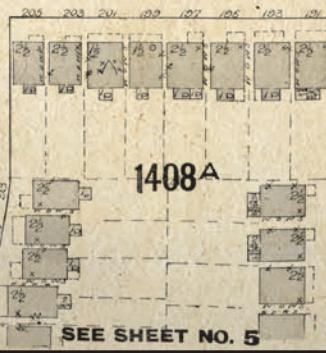
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IN WEST TORONTO JUNCTION,
1888-2009

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BARBARA MYRVOLD



The Most Attractive Resort in Town

Published by the Toronto Public Library Board

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*Annette Street, showing the Masonic Temple
and Library, West Toronto, Ont., Canada, 1914*
TPL TRL PC 1469

Guide to Abbreviations in Picture Credits and Notes

AO	Archives of Ontario
Charlton's	<i>Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory, 1890-1891</i>
CLC	Carnegie Library Correspondence. Carnegie Corporation of New York
CT	City of Toronto
CTA	City of Toronto Archives
Fisher	Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto
Globe	<i>Toronto Globe</i>
Hermes	<i>Hermes: [Yearbook of Humberstone Collegiate Institute]</i>
Junction Comet	<i>Junction Comet and West York Gazette</i>
LAC	Library and Archives Canada
LC	Library of Congress
Leader	<i>Toronto Junction Leader</i>
TDSB	Toronto District School Board. Museum and Archives Department
TPL	Toronto Public Library
TPL AN	Toronto Public Library. Annette Street Branch. Local History Collection
TPL NYCL	Toronto Public Library. North York Central Library. Canadiana Department
TPL TRL	Toronto Public Library. Toronto Reference Library. Special Collections Department
Tribune	<i>The Tribune Souvenir, 1901: Telling the Wonderful Story of Toronto Junction</i>
WTJHS	West Toronto Junction Historical Society
WTMT	West Toronto Masonic Temple

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Annette Street Branch, Toronto Public Library, 2005

TPL

Preface

to the Second Edition

Two decades have passed since the Annette Street Branch initiated this history to commemorate its 80th anniversary, 1909-1989. Now the branch has reached its centennial year, and Toronto Public Library is publishing a second edition of *The Most Attractive Resort in Town* to recognize this significant milestone. A related anniversary also is being celebrated in 2009 – the 100th year of the annexation to Toronto of the City of West Toronto, under whose jurisdiction the Carnegie grant was obtained and the library was partially built.

Over the past 20 years, considerable information has become available, or more easily accessible (especially electronically), adding to our knowledge and understanding of libraries and the Junction community. This new edition is revised and enlarged accordingly, with much new content and images. The book is now divided into chapters. The first two chapters, about early library service in the Junction and the building of the Carnegie library, are far more detailed than before. Material also has been added to the other two chapters, particularly about the activities of the past 20 years to bring the story up to date. As before, major community events and trends that influenced the library's growth are included to place the library in its social context, and now biographical details about key personalities also are included.

I am indebted to the staff at many institutions for their assistance in locating material for the second edition, namely, Anglican Church of Canada, General Synod Archives (Laurel Parson) and Diocese of Toronto Archives (Mary-Anne Nicholls); Archives of Ontario (Sarah Jensen); Bethany College, Nashville, Tennessee (McGarvey Ice); City of Toronto Archives; Grey Roots Museum & Archives, Owen Sound (Amelia Ferguson); Huntsville Public Library (Roberta Green); The Law Society of Upper Canada, Osgoode Hall, Corporate Records & Archives (Susan Lewthwaite); Meaford Museum (Pamela Woolner); Swansea Historical Society (Norm McLeod); Toronto District School Board, Museum and Archives Department (Marie Passerino); United Church of Canada Archives (Erin Greeno); and the West Toronto Junction Historical Society Archives (Gib Goodfellow and David Wencer). The Canadian Jewish Congress Archives also was consulted for the first edition.

This book could not have been completed without the support of my colleagues at the Toronto Public Library. Assistance with the library's collections was provided at the Toronto Reference Library, Special Collections Department (Bill Hamade and Alan Walker) and Periodical and Newspaper Department (Gary Liddell); Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books (Leslie McGrath); North York Central Library, Canadians Department (Andrew Loft, David Bain and John Jakobson); Annette Street Branch (Pam Mountain) and Runnymede Branch (Diane Deandrade). Staff in other departments also were helpful: Dona Acheson, Chris Coutlee, Fiona O'Connor (Preservation and Digitization Services); Dragan Soso (Web Team); Alison MacPhail (Collections); Cathy Izawa (Marketing and Communications); and Debbie Mair and Ellen Rogosin (Branch Libraries).

A special thanks is given to my managers, Elizabeth Glass and Phyllis Malette, and my co-workers in the Planning and Development Department, especially Lynn Pasternak, Lina Kim, Antonia Castro, Shubha Jakate and Diana So, who helped with library and community statistics. I am particularly indebted to Teresa Stangl-Walker, whose dogged research unearthed many facts and images that enriched the book, and to Laurie Ruscica, who organized its contents, including preparing the index, and kept the project on track.

Several individuals were very kind in sharing their memories and knowledge. For the first edition, thanks to Robert Hill, Joan Miles, Diana Fancher, Ray Kennedy, Anne Wright, Margaret Murray, Helen King, Helen MacMillan, Sandra McCallum, Katrin Soots, Ingrid Khasnabish and Pat Bull. For the second edition, I appreciate the cooperation and help of the West Toronto Masonic Temple (John Breakey, Brian Hillyer, Anthony Sangwine, Bob McIntosh) for granting access to their building and allowing us to photograph selected portraits of Masons that served on Junction library boards.

I am grateful to those who read sections of the manuscript and offered helpful suggestions: Leslie McGrath, Pam Mountain, Cheryl Skovronek and Tita Zierer of the Toronto Public Library; Sue McGillivray, CNIB Library; David Wencer, West Toronto Junction Historical Society and Lorne Bruce, University of Guelph. I appreciate the talent of Todd Bennett of Wee Studios who redesigned

the book, and was endlessly accommodating and diligent in making changes and meeting deadlines.

Recognition and thanks are owed to the Toronto Public Library Board, the Toronto Public Library Foundation and the West Toronto Junction Historical Society for their support in producing the second edition.

Finally, I acknowledge the work of Barbara Forsyth, my co-author on the first edition of this history. Two decades ago, Barbara was the Young People's Librarian at the Annette Street Branch. In her own enthusiastic and indefatigable style, she not only started the branch local history collection, but also became an expert on the neighbourhood's history. Barbara assisted researchers; solicited materials to expand the collection; prepared units on local history that she presented to school classes; and became an active member of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society. The germ of this book came from her essay, "The Most Attractive Resort in the Town," which was published in an early issue of the Society's newsletter, *Leader and Recorder* (and reprinted in *The Leader and Recorder's History of the Junction*, 2004). As part of Toronto Public Library's reorganization in 1995, Barbara's position at the Annette Street Branch was eliminated, and she was 'redeployed,' ultimately becoming the head of the Mount Pleasant Branch. Now retired, Barbara generously read parts of the manuscript of the second edition of the book, and shared her knowledge about the Junction's history and her working conditions at the Annette Street Branch. I thank her for her insights, and her contributions to local history services at the Toronto Public Library.

Barbara Myrvold, Toronto, August 2009



Barbara Forsyth at the Annette Street Branch, 1986
TPL AN Villager, August 1986



Western Branch, Toronto Public Library, about 1910
TPL AN

Introduction

Annette Street Branch, at the southwest corner of Medland Street and Annette Street, is one of the Toronto Public Library's prized heritage buildings. Second only to Yorkville (1907) as the library's oldest structure, the building has a unique pedigree. Construction started in September 1908 using a \$20,000 grant that philanthropist Andrew Carnegie promised to the Town of Toronto Junction on 6 April 1908, shortly before it became the City of West Toronto.

Toronto architects Ellis and Connery designed the library in the fashionable Beaux-Arts style, thought to give an appropriate seriousness to a civic structure. Typical of many Carnegie libraries, it is marked by a broad flight of stairs leading to a raised single storey, and by strong symmetry and eclectic detailing best seen in the imposing central entrance bay. Double doors are flanked by a pair of Corinthian columns and surmounted by a broken pediment, a keystone, and, in the parapet high above, a rectangular stone frame carved with the words 'Public Library.' Constructed of orange-red brick with grey Ohio sandstone trim, the library faces north to Dundas Street, the neighbourhood's main street.

The new building replaced various rented quarters where library service had been provided since 1888, the year when both the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute and the Village of West Toronto Junction were established. There were high hopes for the Institute's new library almost as soon as it started. In a letter sent to the *Junction Comet* newspaper in March 1889, the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) suggested the library could embody a strong moral tone, and lessen temptations with alternative attractions:

Inspector Archibald tells us that in his experience in the City of Toronto, both pool and billiard rooms have a most demoralizing effect on the community. Could not the present Mechanics' Institute be made the most attractive resort in the town, provided with first-class reading of all kinds, and various games of an innocent nature, so that young men would be encouraged to go there and improve themselves by so doing?¹

For the next 21 years, the library and the municipality grew and sometimes struggled together. Renamed Toronto Junction Public

Library in 1895, it became West Toronto Public Library in 1908. With West Toronto's annexation to Toronto on 1 May 1909, the building was completed and opened as the Western Branch of the Toronto Public Library. Services began on 1 September 1909 with the opening of the men's and women's reading rooms. Within a few weeks, the circulation department was ready to lend books. Readers could browse the shelves on their own, a new policy that Toronto Public Library introduced in its branches in 1909, replacing the old system of staff retrieving books for patrons from closed stacks.

Andrew Carnegie would have been proud of the library he funded on Annette Street, for it met his notion of a perfect branch library. In a whirlwind visit to Toronto in April 1906, he stated: "I want the branch libraries to be near the people. I want them to attract the young, for young men may go to other objectionable places if the libraries are not convenient. The building should look quiet, dignified and classic."²

The formal opening ceremonies for the new library were held on the evening of Monday, 27 September 1909. Local citizens filled the 400-seat basement auditorium, an innovative feature for Toronto Public Library branches of that time. They listened to musical solos and heard speeches by such dignitaries as Hugh T. Kelly, chairman of the Toronto Public Library Board; Chief Librarian George H. Locke; W. A. Baird, the first and last mayor of the old City of West Toronto and now an alderman for Toronto's Ward Seven; and former MPP John T. Gilmour, who had served on West Toronto Junction's first Mechanics' Institute Board in 1888.

But the evening truly belonged to 51-year-old Allan Berlin Rice, one of West Toronto's most prominent citizens, who, more than anyone else, was responsible for the new library being built. It was Rice, as the chairman of the old Toronto Junction Public Library Board, who negotiated the \$20,000 Carnegie grant in 1908 to finance the new building. It was Rice, as the chief promoter of the campaign for better library accommodation, who persuaded Toronto Junction Council to meet the three Carnegie conditions: pay for the site and the library's on-going operations, and transform the old subscription-based library into a free public library. It was Rice's next-door neighbour, architect James A. Ellis, who designed the library with his partner William Connery. It was Rice who arranged for

Elizabeth McCallum, the Junction's librarian since 1893, to be hired by the Toronto Public Library Board; she continued to work at Western Branch until her retirement in 1928.

Western Branch was renamed Annette Street Branch in 1962, the year when Toronto Public Library completed the first of two major renovations. The second renovation took place in 1979-80 with a restoration of the rotunda and an addition on the west side. The library was declared a heritage building in 1998 by the newly amalgamated City of Toronto.

Collections and services also have adapted to changing times. Once only for adults, Toronto Public Library now serves people of all ages and backgrounds, beginning with the very young. No longer limited to a fee-paying few, free and equitable access to public library services is provided. Rather than promoting any particular moral code, the library upholds the principle of intellectual freedom.

But, Toronto Public Library has not strayed from the vision and aspirations of those early citizens. The library's mission still is to inspire "the spirit of exploration, the joy of reading, and the pursuit of knowledge." It still envisions being a neighbourhood cornerstone that connects "people to each other, to their community, and to their hopes and dreams." It continues to supply rich resources to "provide the opportunity for everyone to treasure the past and to create a future that is full of possibility."³ In more than a century of service, the Junction's library continues to be 'the most attractive resort in town.'



Dundas Street looking west from east of Keele Street, 1890

From 1889 to 1893, the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute was housed at 16 Dundas West in the Campbell Block (centre right). The library and reading room were in two rented rooms on an upper floor at the far end of the three-storey building, still standing in 2009 at the northwest corner of Dundas and Keele.

The entrance to the Mechanics' Institute was opposite the West Toronto Junction Post Office, the two-storey white building (centre left) at 15 and 17 Dundas West, where postmaster John S. Kirkwood also operated a grocery and dry goods store. The white building with the porch was Chas Sinclair's West Toronto Junction Hotel at the southwest corner of Dundas and Keele. The large, three-story brick structure at the southeast corner was known as the Thompson Block, and it still stands. The smaller adjacent building, then 13 Dundas East, was occupied by J. B. Bruce, a real estate broker and the Junction agent for Bates and Dodds, undertakers.

By 1894, the Toronto Junction Public Library, as it soon was known, relocated to the northwest corner of Dundas and Van Horne (later Heintzman Street). It was housed in the Kilburn Block, constructed in 1891 near the site of the old W. Greenwood Real Estate Office, the frame building (bottom right) near the street light. To its left is Peake's Block at the northwest corner of Dundas and Keele.

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1. INDEPENDENT LIBRARY, 1888-1909

Creation of West Toronto Junction

West Toronto Junction began in the 1880s, and owes its existence to its location near the two junction-diamonds of five railway lines. The Canadian Pacific Railway operated three of the lines: the old Credit Valley from the west, the once-independent Toronto Grey & Bruce from the north, and the Ontario & Quebec from the east, whose Toronto bypass just north of Dupont Street was completed in 1879. The three lines met at the Junction and their trains ran into Toronto from there. Two other railways also were in the vicinity, and had provided service since the 1850s – the Northern (originally the Ontario, Simcoe & Huron) using Davenport Station and the western Grand Trunk at Carlton Station. ‘Junction’ had added meaning because, prior to European settlement, two native trails intersected in the area, forerunners of Davenport and Weston roads. Dundas Street, the other major local road, was laid out in the 1790s to connect Toronto (then known as York) to the province’s western settlements.

Land speculators quickly realized the money-making potential of these railways, especially after the CPR acquired 40 acres in the vicinity of Dundas and (Old) Weston Road in 1882, possibly to establish a major facility. One of the first developers was Daniel Webster Clendenan, who bought



Daniel Webster Clendenan (1851-1913?), 1891

West Toronto Junction's founder, first reeve and first mayor, Clendenan was one of the applicants to form a mechanics' institute there and he served on its first board in 1888.

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property in the area in the late 1870s. Then, in 1882, the 31-year-old Toronto lawyer, with backing from his uncle, John M. Laws (c.1824-1897), a successful storekeeper from Jordan, Lincoln County, Ontario, acquired 240 acres (100 hectares) of the Keele estate in York Township. This acreage formed the basis for Registered Plan 553 –‘The West Toronto Junction Property.’

The partners laid out streets and building lots on the property bounded roughly by Dundas, Bloor, Keele, and Lake View Crescent (now Evelyn Avenue), which they offered for sale in 1883. Part of the new subdivision was on Carlton Park, a racetrack from 1857 to 1876 and the site of the first four Queen’s Plates, starting in 1860 and now North America’s oldest consecutive thoroughbred horse race. High Park Avenue and Pacific Avenue, created on the two main straight-aways of the old track, soon became the enclaves of the new development’s wealthiest citizens. The Keele family held back one centrally situated 30-acre block enclosed by Keele, Annette, Aziel and Humberstone, where their homestead called *Glenside* was situated; the property was subdivided in the early 1900s and the library was built at the northwest corner in 1908-9.¹

Considered to be the Junction’s founder, Daniel Webster Clendenan was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1851. He was a son of George Clendenan, a pastor in the Disciples of Christ Church who served congregations on both sides of the border including Bowmanville, Ontario (1868-71) and Kankakee, Indiana (1880); George also worked in Toronto in the 1870s as the editor of *Bible Index*. ‘D. W.,’ as the son was known, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bethany College, West Virginia, a private school affiliated with the Disciples of Christ. In 1872, he was admitted as a student-at-law at the Law School of Ontario, Osgoode Hall, Toronto, and was called to the bar by the Law Society of Upper Canada in 1876.² He joined the prestigious Toronto law firm of Beaty, Hamilton & Cassels, Barristers, Attorneys and Solicitors, becoming a partner by 1878.

On 5 June of that year, Clendenan, now 27, was married at Erin, Ontario to 20-year-old Clarinda (Clara) McMillan, the daughter of a local farmer. They had met at a revival meeting at the Wellington County village (about 80 kilometres northwest of Toronto) led by George Clendenan, who also performed their marriage. At first the couple lived in Toronto,

but by 1884 they moved to the Junction where Clara raised their family that eventually included seven children.³ Meanwhile, the popular and outgoing lawyer, “with the carefully trimmed beard, always carrying a brief case,”⁴ energetically promoted his subdivision, even conveying prospective customers by van from downtown Toronto on public holidays in the summer of 1883.

West Toronto Junction grew quickly. In 1884, a post office was established and the CPR let contracts for a brick engine house and a large wooden passenger station with a dining room capable of seating 100. By that time, Clendenan had sold 400 lots to 170 people, graded over five miles of streets and planted more than 1,500 shade trees (most of which died); and some pioneering businesses had opened.⁵ A census taken in 1887 for York County Council found 879 residents, and West Toronto Junction was incorporated as a village in June, receiving provincial assent on 1 January 1888. Within 15 months, its boundaries were expanded to include Carlton and Davenport, two unincorporated villages to the northeast, and on 23 March 1889, West Toronto Junction was elevated to a town with more than 3,000 people. In 1891, its population had reached 4,518.

The corner of Dundas and Keele streets was the centre of town surrounded by several large, well-built, business blocks. The streets near the railway tracks were filled with a mix of workers’ dwellings, while southwest of Annette Street and Quebec Avenue, stretching down to High Park, was an upscale section of larger homes, later dubbed ‘Nabob’s retreat.’

Clendenan became the village’s first reeve in 1888-9 and the town’s first mayor in 1889. (He had been a deputy reeve of York Township before the Junction was incorporated.) He and Junction council pushed for services such as schools and a waterworks, fire and police protection, and they also supported a local library. They encouraged industrial growth, pointing out that West Toronto Junction not only offered excellent transportation facilities – 30 trains a day ran to Toronto from four railway stations – but the local council also gave generous tax exemptions and reduced rates on municipal services.

In the late 1880s and early 1890s, manufacturers of pianos, ploughs and pulleys; furniture, flour and mattresses; and showcases, shoes, corsets and hats set up businesses in the Junction. The largest employer was the Canadian Pacific Railway, whose decision in

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION PROPERTY.

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION PROPERTY

Plan of Building lots on the Old Carlton Race Course lands at West Toronto Junction, extending from Bloor Street, opposite High Park, to Dundas Street, where the Ontario & Quebec and Credit Valley Railways (Canada Pacific System) have just purchased 45 acres for their new station. The Grand Trunk, Toronto Grey & Bruce, North-West, and Great Western Railways. The proposed Midland extension, east and west, will tap the Grand Trunk between these lands and Carlton, making the centre for the Grand Trunk system east, west and north.

The Ontario & Quebec will be finished this year to Ottawa and Montreal and form a link in the Canada Pacific and Vandyke's combination, making Toronto one of the most important points on each of these great competing lines between the Canadian and American Northwest and the sea board. Proposed

City Drive and Boulevard

100 FEET WIDE.

passes through this property. The situation is high and dry, offering great timber, deer, and abundance of game and spring water, and commanding a view of Lake Ontario across High Park containing nearly 400 acres. Large factories and works are in course of construction, and others proposed within easy distance, but the real need is to buy now, before the Snowball Railways propose to extend their line into High Park this summer at some point near Bloor Street. **Taxes low.**

In fact all the surroundings point to this locality as one of the most desirable around Toronto in which to select a **Permanent Home**.

If you fail to buy lands in West Toronto it is to your disadvantage since prices from **50%** to **1500 per cent.** are still increasing in value, don't let the present opportunity pass of acquiring an interest at bottom prices in one of the most promising cities of the Dominion. Lots from \$150 to \$500 each.

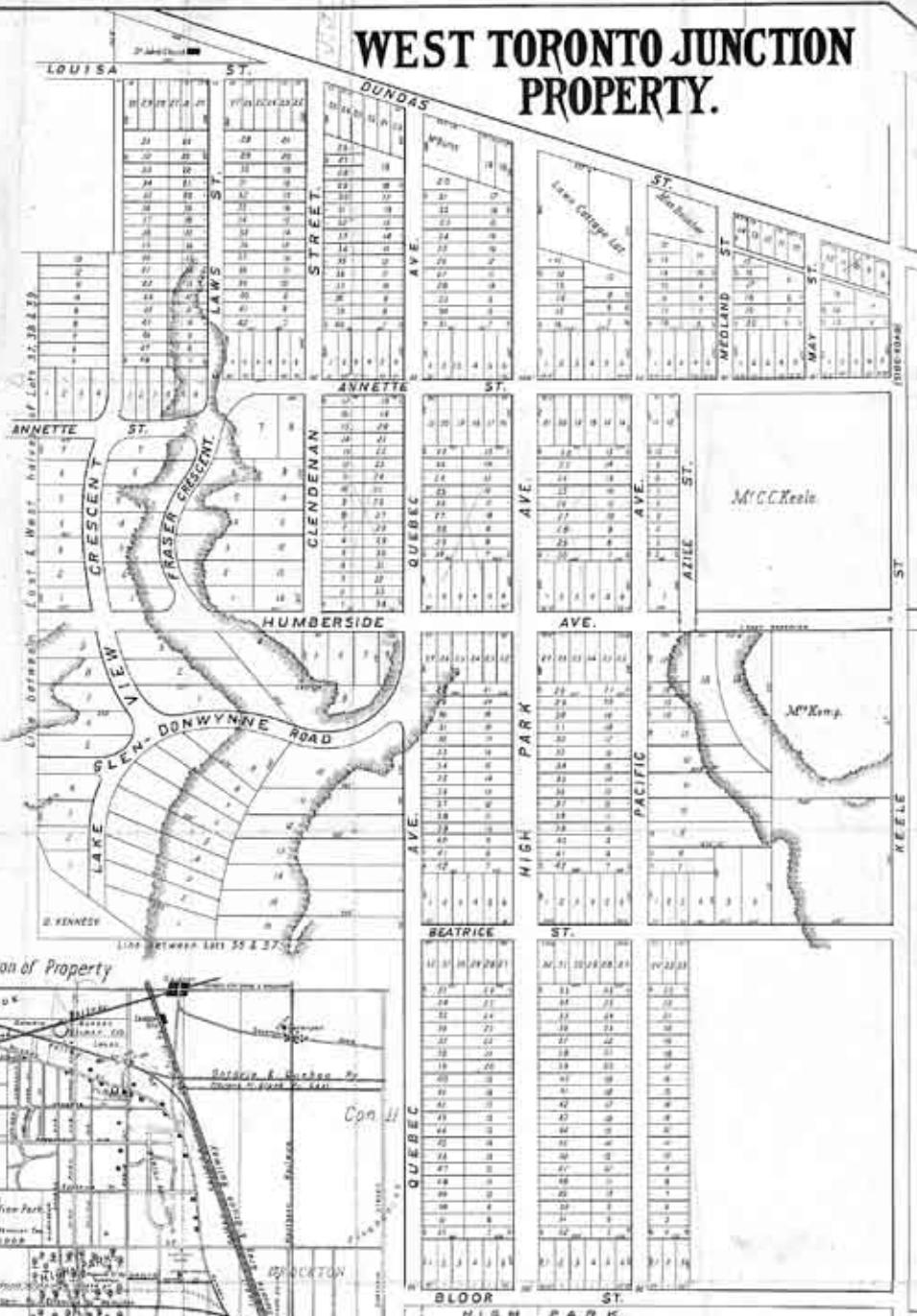
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The West Toronto Junction Property, 1883

Clendenan and Law's subdivision plan for West Toronto Junction did not include a 30-acre section enclosed by Keele, Annette, Aziel and Humberside, which Charles Conway Keele (c. 1847-1884) held back for his own use. After his premature death, his young widow, Augusta Ann Street, and their infant son (named for his father) remained on the old homestead, but eventually the property was subdivided. In 1908-9, the Carnegie library was constructed on a portion of the Keele Estate, at the southwest corner of Annette and an extension of Medland. The latter street was named for William Medland (b. 1825), the so-called 'Father of the Junction,' who got into the real estate business after emigrating from England to Toronto in 1869. In the late 1870s, notes Medland's biography, he "had charge of an estate belonging to Mr. Charles Keele... He disposed of the Keele property to another energetic man, D. W. Clendenan, who had it surveyed into town lots and placed [them] on the market."

October 1889 to locate its Ontario headquarters at the Junction led to the construction of repair shops, a large roundhouse and other facilities on a huge yard located just west of the passenger station north of Dundas Street West and west of (Old) Weston Road. (In 1982, despite public opposition, CP demolished the historic West Toronto Station.) With a workforce of 1,000, the CPR later opened a second yard at Runnymede with workers' houses built between the two so employees could walk to either place.

The Junction was prone to economic booms and busts. A. B. Rice identified three phases during the Junction's two decades as an independent municipality:

First, there was the land boom that followed the completion of the CPR in which for a brief period numerous people lived in the fools' paradise of belief that they had grown rich; secondly, there was the period, four or five years in length, when the Junction reminded some people of Goldsmith's 'deserted village' and others of Bunyan's 'slough of despond'; thirdly, there was the renascent period which began about 1897 when a silver lining appeared upon the cloud as the Junction welcomed its first large employing industry – the H. A. Lozier & Co., whose name was later changed to the Canada Cycle & Motor Co.⁶

West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute, 1888-95

West Toronto Junction was still in its infancy when, in February 1888, 29 citizens agreed to establish a Mechanics' Institute in the village, and to apply for its incorporation. They included several builders, real estate agents and merchants, some railway employees – a baggage master, a station agent, an engineer and a ticket clerk – along with a druggist, a barber, a barrister at law, a physician, a mechanic and a gentleman.⁷

The forerunner of public libraries in Ontario and elsewhere, mechanics' institutes were called 'peoples' colleges'⁸ by Dr. Samuel Passmore May, a 'permanent fixture' in the Ontario government from the 1850s to 1905 and responsible for library services during many of those years. In 1889, as the Superintendent of Mechanics' Institutes and Art Schools, May explained:

The chief purposes for which Mechanics' Institutes are established is, to promote

the education of the people; to assist in the intellectual development of adults whose education was neglected in their youth; to provide information for the young, after they leave school, on technical subjects applicable to their various trades and employments; also, to entice young people from the streets, the saloon, and low amusements injurious to their moral welfare, and provide them with entertaining and instructive reading.⁹

Mechanics' institutes began developing in the province in the 1830s. The first was started at York in 1830, which, after the incorporation of the City of Toronto in 1834, became the Toronto Mechanics' Institute. It housed a lending library and a reading room, and, before long, hosted educational lectures and classes for the betterment of the working classes. By the 1880s, mechanics' institutes, then under the supervision of the Ontario Minister of Education, had spread across the province. In 1888, Dr. May reported, "we have no less than 178 Mechanics' Institutes in operation, representing 20,000 members."¹⁰

In addition, there were eight free libraries in communities that had taken advantage of the *Free Libraries Act of 1882*. Once again, Toronto had led the way, with its mechanics' institute evolving into the Toronto Public Library after city voters passed one of the province's first free library bylaws (along

with Guelph) on New Years Day 1883. The main difference between the two institutions was that public libraries were rate supported and available, free of charge, to all citizens, while the use of mechanics' institutes was limited to members who had paid a subscription fee to help support them.

Arthur J. (John) Reading was the driving force behind the creation of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute. An artist who then resided with his young family at 253 Clendenan Avenue, Reading's was the first signature on the charter list of subscribers, who all signed their names in his presence. He



Town of West Toronto Junction seal, 1889?

The locomotive and the factory symbolize the Junction's economic base, while the three lions rampant and the crown demonstrate its British loyalties and the beaver and garland of maple leaves indicate its Canadian location.

WTJHS



"Heintzman & Co., Pianos," 1890

Established in Toronto in 1866, the piano manufacturer built this new factory in West Toronto Junction in 1888, and continued its operations at the top of today's Heintzman Street south of the railway tracks until the late 1970s.

AO Library Collection PAMPH 1890 #71

also filed the petition to have the Mechanics' Institute incorporated, at York County's

Registry Office on 21 February 1888, and was the contact on a letter that the Education

Department drafted two days later acknowledging "receipt of declaration of incorporation of West Toronto Junction M. I. which has now been filed with the records of this Dept." The subscribers requested incorporation "under Section 2 of the Act respecting Mechanics' Institutes and Art Schools,"¹¹ a new provincial act (49 Vic., c.35) assented to on 25 March 1886 with new regulations approved in April 1886.

Mechanics' institutes, which began in Great Britain in the 18th century, had originally "attempted to educate all working men (mechanics) by setting up libraries, and offering classes ranging from philosophy to architecture and mathematics."¹² Arthur Reading had a strong connection with education. Born in Toronto in 1856, he was a drawing master at the Toronto Normal School (where teachers were trained) in 1885; that autumn he became a teacher of Mechanical and Prospective Drawing at the Ontario School of Art.¹³

He also provided training to teachers in provincial counties, and was a sporadic contributor to *Educational Weekly*, published in Toronto by the Grip Printing and Publishing Company, which in 1888 produced a five-volume book of his work called *The High School Drawing Course*.¹⁴ The series contained exercises in freehand, industrial design, linear perspective, object drawing and practical geometry, and were designed to develop draftsmanship in high school students. He later became the superintendent of drawing of Toronto schools, responsible for improving and standardizing art instruction for the Toronto Board of Education, earning \$822 in 1893. Not coincidentally, in 1894, he produced another series of instructional books, *The Progressive Drawing Course*, in eight volumes.¹⁵ By 1901, Reading had returned to Toronto and worked as a draughtsman.

West Toronto Junction's fledgling organization was listed in "Mechanics' Institutes and Free Libraries for the year 1887," a provincial report tabled on 15 March 1888, with the note, "(new) no report."¹⁶ When the province's regular annual survey was prepared for 1887-8,* West Toronto Junction was one of 23 new mechanics' institutes reporting for the first time. Still in its formative stages, its total receipts and expenditures were \$175 each, and its assets were \$146.36. Most of its revenue came from a \$150 municipal grant from West Toronto Junction Council. Its only

We, the subscribers hereby agree to establish a Mechanics' Institute in the Village of West Toronto Junction, and we further agree that the name of the corporation shall be the "West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute" and we hereby apply under Section 2 of the Act respecting Mechanics' Institutes and Art Schools, for incorporation.	
Arthur J. Reading	Artist
James T. Jackson	Estate Broker
Geo. J. Parker	Hardware Merchant
William Greenwood	Real Estate Agent
D. W. Clendenan	Barrister at Law
Joseph Morris	Engineer
Rich J. Leigh	Builder
Roll D. Joy	Barber
Geo. C. Dasher	Books of Shows Merchant
W. Kirkwood	Builder
John G. Spears	Builder
D. Lapp	Brassfounder
William Myatt	Merchant
Reuben Armstrong	Goldbeater
John Farmer	Baker
Wm. James	Barber
Mr. Townsend	Blacksmith
G. W. Clendenan	Physician
J. Mayne	Painter
John	John
Ackrown	Sight Clerk
Geo. Cordenough	Station Agent
John Anthony	Mechanic
A. L. Thompson	Broker
Robert McCormick	Merchant
William Headland	State Agent
Geo. Groves	Contractor
W. Macpherson	Carpenter
William Wilson	Joiner
<u>Geo. Luard</u> Signed in the presence of Arthur Reading	Agent

Applicants to establish the West Toronto Junction Mechanics Institute, February 1888

The 29 applicants for library service included many prominent Junction residents. Reflecting the land boom, several of the signatories were builders or real estate agents.

AO RG 2-42-0-2365.

other source of income was \$25 from the sale of memberships.

A rudimentary library and reading room had opened by spring 1888. Two-thirds of the Mechanics' Institute's expenditures were used to purchase a beginning collection of 118 books, and to subscribe to eight newspapers and eight periodicals costing \$3.79. Reflecting the didactic role ascribed to libraries at that time, \$97.75 of its budget was spent on non-fiction compared with \$12.65 on fiction. Its 25 members had paid an annual fee of one dollar each to borrow a total of 50 books. At this early stage, the facilities of the Mechanics' Institute must have been minimal and its staff mostly volunteers, for only \$12.35 had been spent on rent and \$5 on salaries!¹⁷



"Oakland, [sic] R. L. McCormack residence, Toronto," 1908

McCormack and his wife, Amelia Sharpe, raised their nine children in this grand house at the northwest corner of Annette and Laws streets, living here from about 1890 until their deaths three months apart in 1917 — Amelia died of tuberculosis on 24 June and Robert in an automobile accident on 23 September. The house was built in 1888 for lumber merchant John Stewart, remodelled and enlarged by architect James A. Ellis in 1906, and demolished in 1936.



First council and officials of the Village of West Toronto Junction, 1888

The municipality was a great supporter of the local library, and several officials (in bold) either signed the application to establish the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute or were members of the first board. (L-R) Front Row: treasurer Abraham H. Clemmer; assessor John B. Bruce; collector **James A. Fisher**; Mr. Rowntree; village clerk **Robert J. Leigh** and Dr. **J. T. Gilmour** MPP. Back row: Reeve **Daniel W. Clendenan**, Councillors **John D. Spears**, **Robert L. McCormack**, Thomas Peake and David Lapp.

WTJHS

Like all other such institutes in the province, an independent governing body managed the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute. This was a private, voluntary board selected from the institute's members, not a publicly-appointed free public library board. In 1888, the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute Board was comprised of the Junction's political, commercial and intellectual elite; six of the ten members had been charter subscribers. They came from a variety of professions: a trio of merchants, a pair each of physicians and church ministers, and a teacher, a lawyer and a house painter, all males (of course). Several of the directors also held elected or appointed government positions, and the early board included the member of the provincial parliament for York

West, the reeve and three-quarters of the 1888 village council, as well as the medical officer of health and a local magistrate.

Professional and personal ties connected many of them, a pattern that would continue over the next two decades. There also was a preponderance of Presbyterians of Scottish origin. The background of this group "had a direct influence on the development of libraries in this province," claim the authors of *The Best Gift; a record of the Carnegie libraries in Ontario*, "since parochial, presbyterial, and synodical libraries were familiar institutions in Scotland from the beginning of the eighteenth century."¹⁸

The head of the 1888 board was Robert Latham McCormack (1854-1917), elected to the village's first council in January 1888. Born in Cashel, Markham Township, York County, McCormack moved to the Junction in 1885, and established a lumber and coal business at Keele and Vine in partnership with Michael Jackson. "Councillor McCormack was a large and handsome young man, possessed of rare business acumen and was the only Junction pioneer businessman who amassed a considerable fortune," recalled Allan Berlin Rice.¹⁹ In 1890, the town purchased McCormack's business property to facilitate subway (underpass) construction at the Keele Street level crossing. With the proceeds, McCormack acquired a half interest in the Conger Coal Company of Toronto.²⁰

He then purchased a grand house called *Oaklands* at the northwest corner of Annette and Laws, where he and his wife, Amelia



Robert Latham McCormack (1854-1917), 1901

One of the Junction's most successful entrepreneurs, McCormack was the first president of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute in 1888. WTJHS Tribune.

Sharpe, raised a large family.²¹ (Junction architect James A. Ellis designed additions and renovations to the house in 1906.) McCormack died in a freak automobile accident on 23 September 1917. His death was reported on the front page of the Toronto *Globe*,²² and, Rice recalled, “The esteem in which he was held was testified by the largest attended funeral in the history of this community.”²³

The vice-president of the fledgling board was George Washington Clendenan (1861-1939), the coroner of York Township, the village’s medical officer of health and a surgeon to the Canadian Pacific Railway. A cousin of the Junction’s founder and a descendent of Loyalists, George was born on 7 March 1861 at Jordan, Ontario, where his father, also named Daniel Clendenan (d. 1885), was a carriage maker. After graduation from the Toronto School of Medicine in 1882, George became a physician in the village of Norwich in south-western Ontario, but in about 1885/6, at the urging of his cousin, he moved to the Junction. Then a “good looking, stoutly built young man on the sunny side of thirty,”²⁴ Dr. Clendenan went into practice with Dr. John T. Gilmour, and in April 1889 married his partner’s sister, Annie Maria Gilmour. The couple soon moved into a large new home at the northeast corner of Dundas and Pacific, where they raised a daughter and a son, and Clendenan had his medical office for many years.

Community-minded, Clendenan served on the local mechanics’ institute and public library boards for many years; was a trustee on the public and high school boards; and the town’s mayor for three terms from 1896 to 1898. “His sound judgment, kindness and generous support of every worthy cause had a salutary effect on the community throughout the twenty years of its existence,” Rice claimed.²⁵

G. W. Clendenan’s brother-in-law also served on the 1888 Mechanics’ Institute board, although he was not a subscriber in February 1888. A native of Newcastle, Durham County, Ontario, John Taylor Gilmour (1855-1918) graduated from the Trinity Medical College, Toronto in 1878. In 1884, he started a practice in the hamlet of Davenport and the following year was appointed as a surgeon to the Canadian Pacific Railway. Entering journalism, he edited the weekly *York Tribune*, the Junction’s first newspaper, started in January 1888 with two local real estate agents, J. A.



George Washington Clendenan (1861-1939), about 1891
A cousin of the Junction’s founder, Dr. Clendenan served on the boards of the mechanics’ institute and the public library for many years. He was the president in 1889.
TPL TRL 971.354 B78



John Taylor Gilmour (1855-1918), 1891
Dr. Gilmour, the Liberal MPP for York West (1886-94), promoted education and was on the first West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute Board in 1888.
TPL TRL 971.354 A21 \B BR

Drs. Gilmour & Clendenan PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS. CENTRAL OFFICE:--Wyllie's Drug Store, Dundas street. Telephone to residence.

Drs. Gilmour & Clendenan advertisement, 1889
Gilmour established a medical practice in Davenport in 1884, and Clendenan joined him at West Toronto Junction a few years later.
TPL TRL Junction Comet, 25 October 1889.



G. W. Clendenan House, northeast corner of Dundas and Pacific, about 1891
Clendenan built this house for his family and his office shortly after his marriage in April 1889 to Annie Maria Gilmour, the sister of his medical partner.

Hoover and J. T. Jackson.

The taciturn but witty Gilmour was elected as the Liberal MPP for York West in 1886, and guided the bill that elevated West Toronto Junction to a town through the provincial legislature. Allan Berlin Rice, who began working at the *York Tribune* in February 1889 and took over as the editor that July, described his predecessor as being “of striking appearance – of medium height, of swarthy complexion and with a pair of black eyes which seemed capable of reading one’s inward thoughts.”²⁶ Gilmour retired from politics and medicine in 1894, and subsequently became the registrar of deeds for York County (1894-6); then the warden of the Central Prison at Toronto and, after its closure, of the Guelph Reformatory; and finally, at the time of his sudden death at 63 years, he was the Parole Commissioner for Ontario.

Gilmour’s sometime political rival was Daniel Webster Clendenan, who also was on the pioneering board of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute. D. W. was the Conservative candidate in an unsuccessful bid to unseat Gilmour in the 1890 provincial election; the year before he founded a Conservative newspaper, the short-lived *Junction Comet and West York Gazette*, to compete with Gilmour’s Liberal

York Tribune. Clendenan maintained a large personal library at his home, still standing at 191 High Park Avenue. “Father had quite a law library, but I never saw him open a law book,” his eldest son, Charlie, later claimed. “He was too much the extrovert to be studious.” (Clendenan withdrew from active legal practice in about 1884, giving him less need to consult his law books.) His library also contained a good selection of popular fiction as well as newspapers, magazines and religious publications. Charlie was given the freedom of his father’s library. “We were a pretty straightlaced household,” he recalled, but, in keeping with the Disciples of Christ belief in intellectual freedom, “nobody ever censored my reading; I read whatever was around.”²⁷

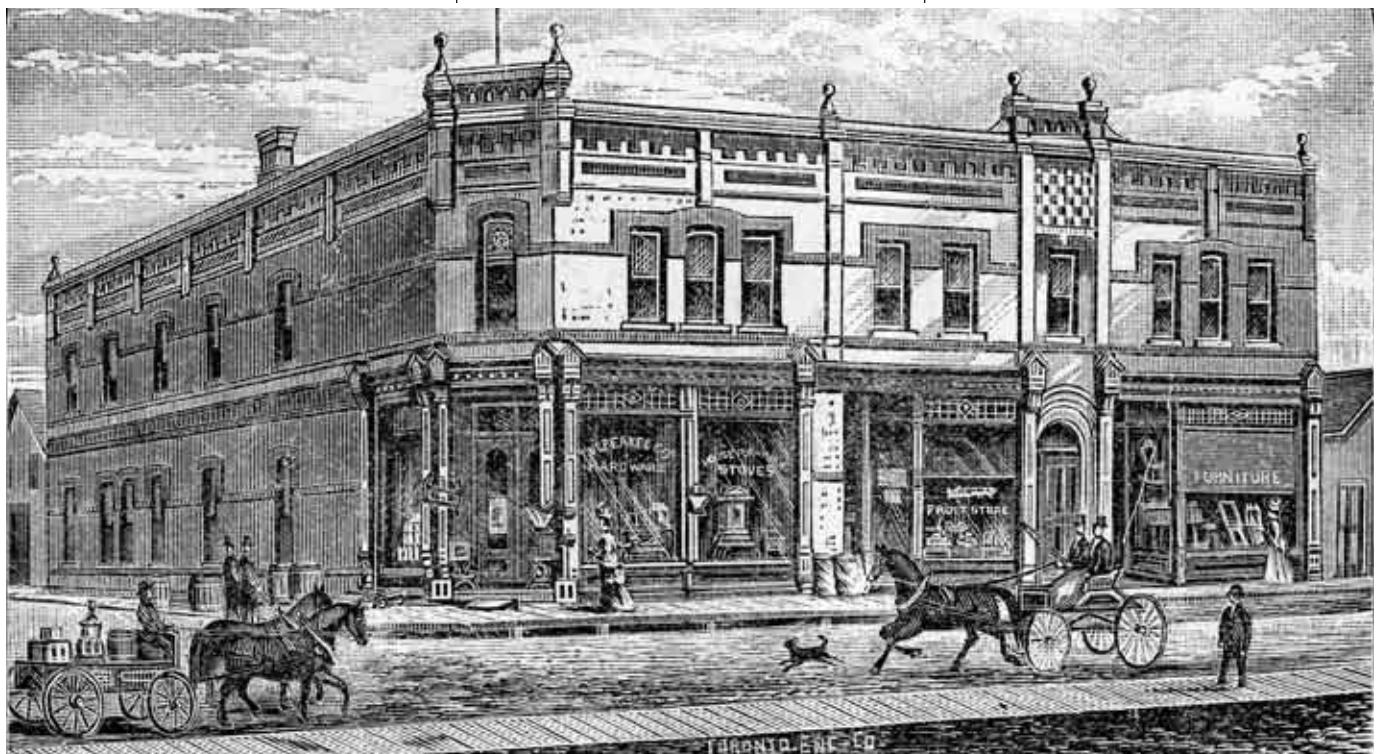
Other directors on the 1888 Mechanics’ Institute Board also were civic leaders. Thomas J. L. Peake was a Junction councillor in 1888 and the reeve in 1890. Then in his late 20s, “Councillor Peake was a sparsely-built, full-bearded gentleman,” Rice recollects. “He had no flair for public life, was fond of attending to his own business and probably only served in that village council from a sense of duty.”²⁸ Born in England in 1859, Peake came to the Junction in 1885 to manage a hardware store, but within six months he

had his own business in partnership with his brother, William Peake. Thomas J. L. Peake & Co., Hardware and Home Furnishings, was housed in Peake’s Block, a two-storey building designed by architect James A. Ellis, and situated on Dundas Street at the northeast corner of Keele Street, the main intersection of the burgeoning town. Ellis also planned Peake’s residence on Lakeview Avenue (now Evelyn Avenue), which took its name from Lake View Park, the picturesque estate of his father-in-law, David Kennedy.²⁹ By the



Thos. J. L. Peake & Co. advertisement, 1889

Peake was on the first Mechanics’ Institute Board in 1888, the same year that he was a Junction councillor, becoming the town’s reeve in 1890. TPL TRL. *Junction Comet*, 25 October 1889.



Peake’s Block, Dundas and Keele streets, northeast corner, 1890

James A. Ellis designed this building for Thomas J. L. Peake, who located his hardware and home furnishings business there. David Lapp, who also was on the Mechanics’ Institute Board, occupied the unit at 4 Dundas East for his business as well as for his wife’s Central Fruit Store, and the couple lived upstairs.

PIC Turecode 123, Item 456

mid-1890s, however, Peake and his family lived in Toronto on Afton Avenue, and he was the basement manager of R. Walker & Sons, a King Street East store selling dry goods, carpets and house furnishings.

Board member David Lapp (1832-1912) was a village councillor in 1888-9 and represented Ward Four on the first town council formed in April 1889. He also was a local justice of the peace. Descended from a pioneering Markham Township family, Lapp had operated a saw mill and worked as a carpenter and a merchant in his native township, but went to Winnipeg in the early 1880s during its real estate boom and worked as a produce dealer there. "Councillor Lapp was an elderly gentleman," Rice recollects, who relocated to the Junction in 1885 also "to engage in land speculation ... He and his wife were a childless couple and were deeply devoted to the work of the Presbyterian Church."³⁰ Lapp was a Junction contractor and builder, and Sarah Lapp operated the Central Fruit Store, which in 1890 advertised "foreign and domestic fruits of all kinds."³¹ Both businesses and the Lapp residence were located in Peake's Block at Dundas and Keele. The Lapps returned to Markham by 1901.

The first board also included the clergy of two Junction churches. Although neither was a charter subscriber, their presence on the board gave it a certain moral authority. Arthur Chipman Miles (1861-1915), the first rector at St. John, Toronto Junction, was known as "an eloquent and educated gentleman performing his duties in a way that is highly credible to himself and the church of which he is the head."³² Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and a graduate of the University of Toronto and Wycliffe College, Miles served at the Anglican parish from 1887 to 1892, being officially appointed as the incumbent

on 31 March 1888.³³ During his tenure, the first plain wooden church was replaced with a building "of Credit Valley stone and red brick with open timber roof," whose cornerstone was laid in May 1888 on the church property at the southwest corner of Dundas and Louisa Street (now St. John's Road).³⁴ Miles went on to minister at churches in Horning's Mills, Creemore and then Sunderland three years

before he died.

Scottish-born James A. Grant (1857-1908) was the first permanent minister at West Toronto Junction Presbyterian Church, and was formally inducted to serve there on 11 January 1887, the same day as his ordination.³⁵ Grant first came to the Junction in 1885 while he was a student at Queen's College, Kingston. Initially the Presbyterian congrega-



St. John's Anglican Church, Dundas Street West near today's St. John's Road, about 1888

Arthur C. Miles, rector of the church from 1887 to 1892, was on the first Mechanics' Institute Board in 1888. The 1881-90 church is shown here after it had been moved slightly northwest for use as parish hall, which was located behind the 1890-1923 church.
TPL TRL T 10762



West Toronto Junction Presbyterian Church, Pacific Avenue, east side between Annette Street and Humberside Avenue, about 1886.

James A. Grant, an inaugural member of the Mechanics' Institute Board and its president in 1890-1, was the Junction's Presbyterian minister when this church opened in autumn 1885, as well as its grand replacement in 1892 at the northwest corner of Annette and Medland streets. The old building subsequently was used for the first classes of Toronto Junction High School and then acquired in 1895 for St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church.
TPL TRL T 10687

DAVID LAPP.

No. 4 Dundas St. E. West Toronto Junction.

CONTRACTOR AND BUILDER.

Estimates Furnished for all Kinds of Buildings.

JOB WORK ATTENDED TO AT SHORTEST NOTICE.

David Lapp advertisement, 1889

A member of the first Mechanics' Institute Board in 1888, Lapp also was a village councillor in 1888-9 and served on the first town council formed in April 1889.

WTJHS Charlton's

tion held its services in the waiting room of the first CPR station, “but as the passing trains made too much noise, the place of assembling was changed to a hall in Carlton.”³⁶

That autumn, under “Mr. Grant’s vigorous style,”³⁷ the Presbyterian congregation opened a small, plain wooden church on the east side of Pacific Avenue between Annette Street and Humberside Avenues,³⁸ followed by a “commodious and handsome church” constructed at the northwest corner of Annette and Medland streets, with the first service held there on Sunday, 11 September 1892.³⁹ (Robert L. McCormack was the chairman of both building committees.) Renamed Victoria Presbyterian in 1897 (in honour of the Queen) and Victoria Royce in 1969 (with amalgamation with Royce Presbyterian), the church held its last service on 25 June 2006; subsequently the building was converted to condominium apartments.

Not surprisingly, Arthur John Reading also served on the first board of the Mechanics’ Institute. Little is known about the last director on that board, Frederick A. Brooks (1843–1909), who was the only representative of the working classes, whom mechanics’ institutes were intended to serve. Born in New York State, Brooks came to Canada as a child. He was a house painter at the Junction in 1890 and a labourer there in 1901. Brooks lived on Medland Street with his wife and daughter until the early 1900s.

When the West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute filed its second report to the province for 1888–9, its total receipts and expenditures had tripled to \$508.21, as had its assets, now worth \$506.85.⁴⁰ Most of its revenue continued to come from a municipal grant from Toronto Junction Council, which had doubled the amount, prompting the *York Tribune* to comment: “The progress which has been rendered possible for the Mechanics’ Institute to make, illustrates the public spirit of the citizens, and the desire which the representative men of the town have for the welfare of the community, for this year, a handsome donation of \$300 has been made from the funds of the town to the institute.”⁴¹ It now had 55 members who contributed \$57.30 with their annual subscription fee of one dollar.

There now also was a legislative grant of \$114. Under the 1886 *Act Respecting Mechanics’ Institutes and Art Schools* and its regulations, legislative grants were distributed to mechanics’ institutes on the principle that equivalent amounts were to be raised locally

to match provincial dollars. Institutes with 50 members received \$25 per year and those with 100 members received \$50 a year. In addition, institutes with libraries were eligible for \$150 (20 percent was allowed for fiction) and reading rooms could receive a maximum of \$50. Evening classes could qualify for up to \$100.⁴²

In operating a Mechanics’ Institute at West Toronto Junction (and in order to receive the legislative grant), the directors had to adhere to the 1886 act and its regulations. Both the reading room and the library had to be conveniently situated. The reading room was to be properly heated and lighted, and furnished with suitable racks and paper files; there were to be chairs for at least ten people; it was to be open at least three hours every alternate week-day; and it was to subscribe to two daily newspapers, five weeklies and three magazines. The library itself was to be open at least one hour every week; its books were to be properly numbered and in order on shelves and there was to be an accurate record of charges and discharges.⁴³

The West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute directors met or exceeded many of the provincial regulations almost from the beginning. It received a glowing report in the *York Tribune*’s Exhibition number of 1889 – 20,000 copies were printed for distribution at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition held in September.

“One of the most useful and flourishing institutions in West Toronto Junction is the Mechanics’ Institute. Although organized but a comparatively short time the institution has made rapid and substantial progress.”⁴⁴

By that time, the reading room and ‘the nucleus of a handsome library’ were ideally located at 16 Dundas Street West, on an upper floor of the Campbell Block at the northwest corner of Dundas and Keele streets. Developer Donald Campbell, a retired banker who lived in Parkdale, constructed the large, three-storey structure in 1888 at a cost of \$40,000. Rice later described it as “the most ambitious building project Junctionites had seen in their midst. As soon as the building was completed all of the large stores it contained were leased by merchants eager to establish businesses at the hub of the large community they believed the railway village would become.”⁴⁵

A bank and five stores were on the ground floor, while offices and a hall (occupied by

the Locomotive Brotherhood of Engineers No. 295 and also used by the Disciples of Christ in 1889) were on the top two floors. The Mechanics’ Institute’s ‘comfortable and spacious quarters in the Campbell Block’ were described in the *York Tribune*’s special Exhibition issue:

There is a large, comfortably furnished and well-lighted room, in which may be seen the current numbers of all the leading newspapers and periodicals. Another room is fitted up with tables for playing draughts, chess and other harmless games.⁴⁶

The reading room, then supplied with nine magazines and seven newspaper subscriptions (well exceeding the requisite number), was one of 119 included in a provincial survey of 1888–9 when Dr. May reported:

The reading rooms are now well frequented; the well warmed and lit rooms so liberally supplied with literary pabulum adapted to the tastes of all classes are an attraction to the readers of the different degrees of culture. When visiting the institutes, I also noticed sitting side by side in the reading rooms, clergymen, lawyers, physicians, manufacturers, merchants, laborers, factory boys and school pupils. In a few reading rooms, ladies also were present.⁴⁷

The West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute’s new space was undoubtedly a major factor for the jump in the annual expenditure for rent, light, and heating to \$73.50 in 1888–9 and \$200 in 1890–2. Opening hours also exceeded provincial regulations. On 22 November 1890, the *Daily Tribune* advertised “Reading room, open every evening from 7 to 10, Library open Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10; and Saturday from 1 to 6, and from 7 to 10.”⁴⁸ These 23 weekly opening hours were more than double Ontario’s requirement of ten hours a week.

The directors of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute ensured that the library was supplied with new books, and that spending for fiction did not exceed the 20 percent limit. (Members recommended new book titles; many institutes delegated their selection to a committee.) In 1889–90, for example, 495 new books were purchased for the library: \$174.68 was spent to purchase 375 non-fiction books and \$41.96 for 120 fiction books.

Nevertheless, fiction was the most popular selection with the Institute's 82 members. Although it comprised about a quarter of the library's collection, fiction accounted for almost 60 percent of the overall circulation, more than any other category. This pattern was widespread in mechanics' institutes, as well as in free public libraries, and was a source of some criticism that these institutions could hardly claim to be educational bodies when 'light literature' was the chief circulating staple.⁴⁹

"The functions of Mechanics' Institutes are to provide public education and higher knowledge, quite as much as to supply books of entertaining reading," Superintendent May preached in 1890.⁵⁰ He considered evening classes as "the most important branch of the Mechanics' Institutes, providing technical education for all classes of the community."⁵¹ The provincial government granted \$3 for each pupil in classes of 25 or less, and \$1 for each additional pupil to a limit of \$100. To receive the grant, the 1886 regulations stipulated that pupils had to be more than 15 years

old and attend at least 20 lessons; each course was to consist of 25 lessons of two hours each; and teachers must have certificates approved by the Education Department.⁵²

The West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute attempted to provide a night school in December 1888, and invited applicants to contact the reading room, selected board members or Robert J. Leigh, the village clerk. Their efforts met with little interest, the *York Tribune* reported:

The Night School – The directors of the Mechanics' Institute have not yet received sufficient applications from intending pupils to warrant the establishing of evening classes. Some have already given in their names. Any further ones will oblige by doing so without delay, either at the reading room or to Mr. McCormack, Mr. Leigh, Mr. Reading, or Rev. Mr. Miles.⁵³

In October 1889, the directors made another attempt, and advertised a night school for the coming winter and requested

interested persons, "to send in their names at once to the secretary ... W. A. Thring."⁵⁴ This time they met with more success, and in 1889-90, a commercial course in bookkeeping, arithmetic, and writing was offered; and there was an enrolment of 43 students. The Institute spent \$50 providing the class and received fees of \$41.50 and the legislative grant jumped to \$147.55 (the municipal grant now was \$350). The commercial course was repeated in 1890-1, but enrolment dropped to



Night school notice, 1889

Evening classes for adults over 15 years old were offered from 1888 until 1894.

TPL TRL. Junction Comet, 25 October 1889.



West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute at the Campbell Block, Dundas and Keele streets, northwest corner, 1891

Located here from 1889 to 1893, the Mechanics' Institute occupied 'comfortable and spacious quarters' on an upper floor at no. 16 Dundas West, at the west end of the three-storey building (just left of the window cleaner). The ground floor of the Campbell Block was home in 1889 to Molson's Bank (in the prominent corner unit at no. 2); Williams & Co., pharmaceutical dispensing chemists (at no. 6, where the CPR telegraph office also was located); a dry goods & millinery operated by R. D. Laidlaw (no. 10); Hoar & McMurtry, hardware dealer (no. 12); and Albert J. Gabel, jeweller (no. 14).

18 students.

Two new courses were given in 1891-2: an English course in two parts – English and Canadian history, and grammar and composition (18 students) and a primary drawing course – freehand, geometry, perspective, model and blackboard drawing (15 students). No classes were offered the following year, but 34 students took the commercial course in 1893-4, the last year evening classes were offered at the local institute.

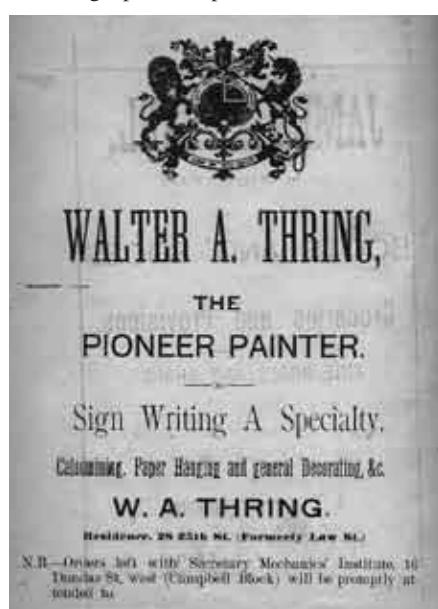
Walter Albert Thring, the secretary-librarian of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute, was appointed to his position by the summer of 1889; the *York Tribune* then described him as "the capable and accommodating Librarian."⁵⁵ By that time, the annual expenditure for salaries had increased dramatically from \$15 in 1888-9 to \$160 in 1889-90, escalating to \$175 in 1890-2. Thring probably only worked part-time, and his annual salary was in line with what some women earned for full-time library work.

A report on working conditions and wages in 1892 found that the Toronto free library paid women \$300 for their first year and \$400 for their second; a head assistant could make \$450 a year. These were relatively low wages, but there was no formal training for library workers, and the pay compared favourably with the annual salary of \$296 that teachers were making.⁵⁶ By comparison, Reverend James A. Grant was offered an annual stipend of \$750 in December 1886 by the Presbyterian congregations at West Toronto Junction and Dixie "with the hope of \$100 being added within the year."⁵⁷

Thring was born in London, England on 20 June 1860 and was the sixth of nine children born to Charles Thring, a cutter (of cloth?), and his wife, Catherine. He immigrated to

Canada in 1873, and was a shipper in Toronto in May 1882 when he married to Ontario-born Mary Ann Marsh. Subsequently, Thring worked in the city as a clerk and for a confectionary manufacturer, but later in the 1880s, he moved to the Junction. He already had some family connections with the village and 'Thring Bros.' took "an active part in its development". In 1884, they helped build a community church at Quebec and Annette streets, the beginning of Annette Street Methodist Church.⁵⁸ The brothers probably consisted of Frederick Thring and Alfred Thring, two of Walter's brothers who married daughters of early Junction residents in 1885 – the former to Isabel D'Eye and the latter to Eva Uttley.

Thring's previous positions had little obvi-



Walter A. Thring advertisement, 1889

Thring was the 'capable and accommodating' secretary-librarian of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute from 1888 to about 1893. As this ad shows, he also used the library as an office for his painting business.
WTJHS. *Charlton's*

ous connection with modern librarianship, but his business background was an asset, especially at this time when, historian Lorne Bruce notes, "the [Education] department believed observance of superior business practices would promote greater efficiency" in mechanics' institutes.⁵⁹ Being a sign painter, Thring had flawless handwriting, an important skill in the days when library records were kept manually, and his secretarial duties for the Mechanics' Institute Board would have included handling its correspondence and keeping minutes of its meetings. (Unfortunately none of these records have survived.) George Clendenan may have helped Thring get the job at the Mechanics' Institute – Clendenan was its president in 1889 and both men were on the town's Health Board that year.⁶⁰

As indicated above, in 1890, Thring worked at least 23 hours a week at the Mechanics' Institute. He held several other jobs as well, as he attempted to cobble together a living to support his growing family, which in 1891 included his 26-year-old wife, two daughters, Ethel Maud (eight) and Olive May (six), and



Walter A. Thring advertisement, 1889

Thring held several jobs as he attempted to cobble together a living to support his growing family.
TRL Junction Comet, 25 October 1889.

Census entry for Walter A. Thring and family, 1891

Thring was the census enumerator for his home district, demonstrating his flawless handwriting, an important skill for a secretary-librarian in the days before library automation. Here he lists himself, along with his 26-year-old wife, Mary, their two daughters, Ethel Maud (eight) and Olive May (six), and one son, Herbert Walter (two).

one son, Herbert Walter Thring (two). As well as being mentioned as the ‘Sec. Librarian’ of the Mechanics’ Institute in *Charlton’s West Toronto Junction Directory* published in December 1889, Walter A. Thring was listed twice in the classified section, and he was included with both the house and sign painters and the real estate agents.⁶¹ (Many Junction residents sold real estate part-time during the land boom; at its height some 26 real estate offices were scattered on Dundas Street between Quebec Avenue and Indian Road.⁶²) Thring conducted both of these businesses at 16 Dundas Street West, the same address as the Mechanics’ Institute in the Campbell Block.

In addition, from 1888 to 1890, the hard-working Thring also either applied or was appointed to be the municipality’s assistant constable and lamp lighter, deputy returning officer, health officer and assessor (his occupation on the 1891 census for which he was an enumerator). Family ties and community organizations also kept him busy. His widowed mother and four of his siblings also lived in the Junction in 1891, the same year that Walter was the secretary of the Loyal Orange Lodge. Thring stopped working at the Mechanics’ Institute by spring 1893. A year later, he and his family left the Junction, shortly after the birth of a second son, Charles H. Thring, on 13 April 1894. They returned to Toronto where Thring was a clerk (1894), then a shipper (1895) and a ‘gas meter man’ (1901), but eventually they relocated to Saskatchewan. Walter A. Thring was the postmaster at the Bone Creek Post Office (near Swift Current) from 1910 to 1917.

During Thring’s tenure as the secretary-librarian, three presidents led the West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute Board, following the term of Robert L. McCormack. Dr. George W. Clendenan took over in 1889, and led a board of directors that included Vice-President McCormack and an eight-member committee comprised of “Jas. A. Fisher, F. J. Rumble, Rev. J. A. Grant, Rev. A. C. Miles, F. W. Wagner, F. A. Brooks, A. Jenner, J. J. Carruthers.”⁶³

Fisher had purchased the first lot on Dundas Street for a store site in 1885, on the south side between Keele and May (now Mavety), where he operated the Railroad and Junction Shoe Store and also lived with his family. He was one of the 29 original subscribers of the Mechanics’ Institute. Frank J. Rumble was a builder and a County of York constable who

resided on Weston Road. Frank W. Wagner was involved in the Dominion Show Case Company as well as a planing mill that had a factory and yards on Vine Avenue. Alfred Jenner and John J. Carruthers were both foremen at the Wagner mill.

Reverend James A. Grant became the Mechanics’ Institute president in 1890 and 1891. Known as “an able and cultured gentleman,”⁶⁴ Grant had headed the Literary Society in 1888, the same year that the popular Presbyterian minister was given “a stem-winding gold watch and a secretaire” by his appreciative congregation, Robert L. McCormack making the presentation.⁶⁵ Grant left the Junction to become the minister of the Presbyterian church in Richmond Hill in June 1895, and served there until his death on 10 August 1908, of pernicious anaemia and exhaustion at the age of 51.

Thomas Beresford Phepoe (c.1861-1918) was the Mechanics’ Institute president during 1892 and 1893. He was the manager of the West Toronto Junction Branch of Molson’s Bank, headquartered in Montreal,⁶⁶ which in 1888 established the village’s first bank, located in space leased in the prominent corner unit of the Campbell Block, the same building in which the Mechanics’ Institute was housed. “The Molson’s Bank opened for business even before the roof was on their building,” one old-timer recalled. “Business was done over a board table on two horses (with four legs and no head) and the room was heated by a stove set in the corner.”⁶⁷ Molson’s handled the municipality’s accounts, as well as those of the Mechanics’ Institute (and later the public library’s), and, Rice observed, “enjoyed a monopoly of the community’s patronage for several years.”⁶⁸

Born in Limerick, Ireland, Phepoe came to Canada in 1885 with his wife, Emma, and their young daughter, Francis. He rose steadily through the ranks of Molson’s Bank, first working as the manager of the branch at Norwich, Ontario (perhaps overlapping with G. W. Clendenan’s residency there) and coming to the Junction in 1891. “Mr. Phepoe is very popular as a banker, possessing those qualities which are essential to a successful financier,” enthused the *Toronto Globe* in July 1891. “Since taking management of the Toronto Junction branch the volume of business has largely increased.”⁶⁹ Phepoe resided at 142 Louisa Street (now 142 St. John’s Road), in an attractive Queen Anne Revival style villa purchased soon after it was

built. After nearly four years in the Junction, Phepoe was promoted in 1894 to be head of the bank’s Winnipeg branch; he was in charge during a much-publicized and mysterious robbery of \$62,000 in 1898. Phepoe subsequently managed branches at Trenton, Hamilton, Montreal and Vancouver, before becoming a ‘principal officer’ of Molson’s Bank in 1914, with his appointment as the western inspector. He died in Vancouver on 2 December 1918.

Phepoe was the Mechanics’ Institute Board president when Councillors John B. Bruce



Thomas Beresford Phepoe (c.1861-1918), 1891

The Mechanics’ Institute president during 1892 and 1893, Phepoe was the manager of the West Toronto Junction Branch of Molson’s Bank. TPL TRL, *Globe*, 25 July 1891.

THE MOLSONS BANK	
INCORPORATED 1855.	
PAID UP CAPITAL	\$2,000,000
REST FUND	\$1,200,000
PRESIDENT JOHN H. B. MOLSON.	
GENERAL MANAGER F. WOLFERSTAN THOMAS.	
TORONTO JUNCTION BRANCH: CORNER KEELE AND DUNDAS STREETS	
Drafts on New York and Sterling Exchange bought and sold. Deposits received and interest allowed.	
Savings Bank Department.	
Interest allowed from date of deposit to date of withdrawal. Farmers’ Notes discounted at current rates. Prompt attention paid to collections.	
T. B. PHEPOE, Manager.	

Molson’s Bank advertisement, 1894

Molson’s was the Junction’s first bank, and an early tenant in the Campbell Block.

TPL TRL, *Leader*, 27 July 1894.

and Charles A. Hart proposed two motions regarding library service at West Toronto Junction Council's meeting of 28 March 1892. The first moved "That the Mechanics' Institute be granted the sum of \$300" (it was referred to the Finance Committee, which approved the amount). The second moved, "That this Council take into consideration the advisability of instituting a Public Library in the Town" (it was to stand as a notice).⁷⁰

However, the idea of a tax-supported library open to all without membership fees was slow to gain acceptance in Ontario. Prior to 1895, only 12 free public libraries were established in the province, and the Junction would not form one until 1908, when it was a requirement to receive a Carnegie grant. Cost was the major factor. Mechanics' institutes probably were cheaper for taxpayers than public libraries, or so claimed no less an authority than Samuel P. May in 1891, who now supervised both types of libraries for Ontario: "Mechanics' Institutes constitute the public library system of this Province; although not absolutely free, they are nominally so, the subscriptions varying from 25 cents to one dollar per annum, a smaller amount probably than they [ratepayers] would have to pay if taxed for a free library."⁷¹

West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute's annual membership fee of one dollar would have been affordable for many Junction workers at that time. For example, Rice claimed, "Most of the railway employees had effective organizations called brotherhoods, which insisted upon and obtained pretty fair remuneration for the labor of its members, all of whom were skilled workers."⁷² Three brotherhoods of railroad workers existed in the Junction in 1889-90: locomotive engineers, locomotive firemen and railroad brakemen.⁷³ Unorganized workers and women did not fare as well. During the economic recession in 1894, the CPR was paying its section men "\$1.25 per day of 10 hours, \$7.50 per week of 60 hours. . . . Girls worked in stores and offices for as little as three dollars a week."⁷⁴

It was also during Phepoe's term as president that Miss Elizabeth W. McCallum was hired to succeed Walter Thring as the secretary-librarian of the Mechanics' Institute, and she was in the position by April 1893. One of six children of James McCallum and Mary Stirling, both natives of Scotland, McCallum was born in New York State on 24 November, probably at New York Mills in the mid-1840s

(her estimated and reported birth date varies considerably⁷⁵) and she likely received most if not all of her education in the United States. The McCallum family moved to Canada in 1863/6, possibly after Elizabeth's mother died, and settled on a farm in Hope Township, Durham County, Canada West (now Ontario). In 1871, Elizabeth McCallum was 23 years old, according to Canada's census, and lived on the Hope Township farm with her father, a farmer, his second wife, Mary Ann, and four brothers: William (age 25) was a cotton manufacturer while Robert (age 21) and Edwin (age 18) were both farmers and Frank (age 14) was in school.

The McCallum property was close to the farm of John Rosevear, a major in the local militia and a member of Hope Township Council for several years. He went on to be the Conservative MPP for Durham East from 1875 to 1881. (Rosevear Boulevard in Port Hope is named for the family.) John's eldest son, Matthew Rosevear, had married Jane McCallum, Elizabeth's older sister, in 1868; they too farmed in Hope Township. After James McCallum's death in 1878, Elizabeth remained in Hope Township, staying with her younger brother, Edwin, and his wife. By 1891, she had moved to the Junction, and lived on Clendenan Avenue with Jane and Matthew Rosevear and their two sons, Matthew (age 21) and James (age 16). "Rosevear & Son, Wholesale and Retail Detailers in Flour and Feed, 93 Dundas St. East," advertised their business in *Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory*, published in December 1889.⁷⁶

"Miss McCallum, diminutive of size,



Rosevear & Son advertisement, 1889
The Rosevears were relatives of Elizabeth W. McCallum, librarian at Junction from 1893 until 1928.
WTJHS. Charlton's

widely known and highly esteemed in the community and a most efficient librarian,"⁷⁷ had no apparent education, training or experience for the job: Canada's censuses from 1871 to 1891 listed no occupation for her. Perhaps, freed from the responsibility of caring for a husband and children, and not working at a paying job for several decades, Elizabeth could devote time to reading and developing her mind. She had ready access to a library. The McCallum farm at Dale Post Office was only a few miles from Port Hope, where a mechanics' institute first was established in 1852 and then was revitalized in 1874, although Elizabeth's name is not included in its surviving records.⁷⁸

The directors of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute may have decided that it was cheaper and less troublesome to hire a single woman as its secretary-librarian than a man with a family to support. In 1881, Dr. May recommended that "women can be employed at far less cost" than men.⁷⁹ By the time McCallum was hired, male dominance in public libraries was ebbing and library work was viewed as a suitable female occupation. Several women had risen to the post of chief librarian in small cities and large towns, and by the mid-1890s, they occupied most positions in urban libraries, including all of the reference positions in the Toronto Public Library.

With McCallum's arrival, the Junction's library was open longer hours, 36 hours a week, the *Daily Tribune* reported in April 1893, "every afternoon from 3 to 6 and every evening from 7 to 10."⁸⁰ Apparently collections also improved. In 1894, when the Mechanics' Institute had 1,221 volumes, the *Toronto Junction Leader* of 17 February reported it had "made a valuable addition to their already large library by purchasing a number of the latest books in travel, history, fiction, humour, etc., and can now boast of one of the finest circulating libraries in the province."⁸¹ "There was no printed catalogue and such an aid to the library operation was unnecessary," Rice claimed, "for every volume with its location was registered on the tablets of Miss McCallum's wonderful memory."⁸²

Charles C. Going (1859-1902) became the president of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute in 1894. He was the municipality's first solicitor, "a position he filled very efficiently until his death."⁸³ Born in London, Ontario, Going attended Hellmuth

College and studied law in his native city and at Osgoode Hall, Toronto. After being called to the bar in 1881, he practised law in Winnipeg, London and Strathroy for a time, but moved to the Junction in 1888, where, in partnership with Ernest Heaton, he opened one of the village's first law offices. Going was shrewd and strategic, although Rice characterized him as "a gentle mannered lawyer, who followed the line of least resistance and had no enemy in the world."⁸⁴

By 1894, the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute had moved its library and reading room to the second floor of the Kilburn Block at the northwest corner of Dundas and Van Horne (later Heintzman Street). Junction architect James A. Ellis



Charles C. Going (1859-1902), 1891

Going was president of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute in 1894.

TPL TRL 971.354 A21 \B BR



Going & Heaton advertisement, 1889

Going moved to the Junction in 1888, where, in partnership with Ernest Heaton, he opened one of the village's first law offices.

TPL TRL Junction Comet, 25 October 1889.

designed the three-storey block in 1891 for Lucius Kilburn (1834-1913), a Quebec-born developer then in his mid-50s, and relocated his own architectural offices there by the following year. The Kilburn building faced the Occidental Hotel, a respectable establishment that Charles Kelly operated at the northeast corner.

Ellis's plan included "a place for entertainment that would have been a credit to any city," Rice recollects. "It had a large stage, two spacious dressing rooms and a sloping floor on which 800 people could sit on chairs."⁸⁵ Kilburn Hall was used for a variety of performances and community fund-raising events. On 18 March 1895, for example, it was the site of a celebration in honour of St. Patrick, the first in West Toronto Junction according to the *Catholic Register*, with the proceeds going to the building fund for St. Cecilia Church.⁸⁶ The Calvert-Currier Specialty Company was greeted with 'a good house' for its first performance at Kilburn Hall on 22 February 1897, with the artists providing, the *Globe* noted approvingly, "a good entertainment and heaps of fun without vulgarity."⁸⁷ There was 'a fair attendance'

when the Alcantara Opera Company of Toronto presented the drama *The Crimson Scarf*, the *Daily Mail and Empire* reported on 25 March 1899.⁸⁸ The hall was the site of many boisterous political rallies. One of the largest was held on 11 June 1894 when Ontario Premier Sir Oliver Mowat came out to endorse W. J. (Billy) Hill, the Liberal candidate for York West, who went on to win the election by a substantial majority.

The Kilburn building became a 'white elephant,' when the Junction real estate market crashed in the 1890s, Rice remembered. "Some of its stores were soon rented at nominal rates, quarters on the second floor for the public library and above it the community's first Masonic lodge, Stanley, No. 426, GRC."⁸⁹ Rice leased the auditorium in the 1890s, and, because of the depressed rents on Dundas Street, "all I had to pay for it, heated, lighted and cleaned whenever used, was ten dollars per month. But the lease did not make me rich. The community had become so poor that few people had cash to pay for amusements."⁹⁰

From 1888 to 1890, the Junction enjoyed a period of great prosperity. But after the initial



Dundas Street West, looking west from Indian Grove, showing the Kilburn Building, 16 June 1941

From 1894 until August 1909, the Junction's library and reading room were located in two rooms in the three-storey building shown in the middle of the photograph. Designed in a Romanesque Revival style by Junction architect James A. Ellis in 1891, the considerably altered building was listed on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties in 1994.

James Salmon/CTA Fonds 1231, Item 1985

land boom and industrialization, the Junction entered its second phase, the economic ‘slough of despond’ that lasted for about five years. Between 1891 and 1896, construction stopped, most of the factories shut down, and many workers were laid off or had their wages cut. Businesses closed and families left. Significantly, only three of the ten-person Mechanics’ Institute Board of 1888 still were Junction residents in 1901: Robert McCormack, George Clendenan and Fred Brooks. The rest had all moved elsewhere.

The disappearance from the Junction of its founder, Daniel Webster Clendenan, was nothing short of spectacular. Already over-extended from financing his losing political campaign of 1890, D. W. lost his shirt when



Mayor Daniel Webster Clendenan, about 1890
West Toronto Junction’s mayor in 1889, 1891 and 1892, a disgraced Clendenan disappeared from the town a few years later.
J. W. L. Forster/CT

the Junction real estate market collapsed. His personal reputation was ruined by a ‘notorious Junction episode’ recalled in a sensational slander case, *Marron v. Youmans*, heard in the Assize Court in April 1894. A dignified and resolute Clara Clendenan testified that on Hallowe’en night 1891, “she found her husband asleep in the bed which Miss [Rebecca] Marron and her [D. W and Clara’s] ten-year-old daughter May also occupied ... Mr. Clendenan threatened her [Clara] with his revolver, and tried to induce her to take back statements she had made about Miss Marron.”⁹¹

As a result of these events, “the Clendenan [sic] family was broken up, the Junction’s ex-mayor and king going to Buffalo.”⁹² Clara moved the family to Guelph sometime after their seventh child, Mary Marguerite Clendenan, was born at 193 High Park Avenue on 15 January 1892, and became a seamstress. D. W. eventually surfaced in Lincoln, Nebraska, evidently practicing law and living with a new wife. A 1913 letter stated that Clendenan “died very suddenly under suspicious circumstances at his home, and his wife is under suspicion as the cause.”⁹³

Nevertheless, the finances of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute were healthy in 1894, with assets of approximately \$1,990 and liabilities of about \$243, although its municipal grant in 1894 had been reduced to \$100.⁹⁴ In 1894-5, receipts and expenditures were each about \$730 and the library’s 80 members borrowed 2,192 times from the collection of 1,396 books.

Toronto Junction Public Library, 1895-1906: Financial Crisis and Recovery

In 1895, the provincial government consolidated all of its previous legislation on free libraries and mechanics’ institutes. *The Public Libraries Act, 1895* (58 Vic, c. 45) required the West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute to change its name but little else was altered. The renamed Toronto Junction Public Library was ‘not free,’ that is, it still charged membership fees, and its revenue remained as before, dependent on these fees as well as municipal and provincial grants.

Part III of the 1895 Act applied to public libraries whose board of management was not appointed by the municipal council, as was the case for Toronto Junction. Membership was limited to persons 12 years of age and older; to qualify for the legislative grant the public library had to have at least 100 members, with 50 of them over 21 years. The general provisions stated that \$46,000 was available from the legislature to support public libraries, which would be distributed proportionately to match local expenditures dollar for dollar, to a maximum of \$150 (for towns) to buy books and \$50 for newspapers and magazines, as well as \$100 maximum for evening classes.

With the legislative grant reduced and membership fees minimal, the municipal grant continued to be the largest source of revenue for the Toronto Junction Public Library, putting it in great jeopardy when the town



Clarinda (Clara) McMillan Clendenan and her family, about 1905
Clockwise from bottom left: Annie Lillian Katherine, b. 1886; Claude Ernest Frank, b. 1890; Charles (Charlie) George Robinson, b. 1879; Clara May, b. 1881; George Oswald Albrechte, b. 1884; and Mary Marguerite, b. 1892. Missing is Daniel Wallace Douglas Clendenan, b. 1883, and Daniel Webster Clendenan, the children’s father. The family probably lived in Guelph when this group portrait was taken, but, by 1911, Clara and several of her children had moved to Winnipeg.
WTJHS



Mayor James Bond, about 1895
Bond was the mayor of Toronto Junction in 1894 and 1895 when the town’s debt became unmanageable, leading to a serious financial crisis.
Charles M. Hall/CT

itself underwent a severe financial crisis in the 1890s. By the early 1890s, the town had accumulated a huge debenture debt paying for services such as schools, waterworks, and fire and police protection; and financing such large capital projects as the Keele Street subway (underpass) and Weston Road Bridge, with their accompanying damage compensation claims. At his inaugural address on 21 January 1895, Mayor James Bond declared, "The debt of this Town is now so large that it is impossible to collect sufficient taxes to meet the payments of principal and interest as now called for, and at the same time provide sufficient for the actual necessary expenses of several departments."⁹⁵

Meeting the 4.5 percent interest payments on the debt, which was owed to private bondholders, became increasingly difficult during the country-wide economic depression of the 1890s. Unpaid taxes on some 1,800 vacant parcels of land held by speculators increased the town's financial woes. This was particularly devastating because the Junction's taxes were based on landowners – as an enticement to relocate there, industry was exempt from taxation. Rice recalled the results. "At the beginning of 1895 . . . the town was a year in default of interest payments on a million dollars worth of its bonds . . . Tax revenue . . . was barely enough to pay the salaries of town officials and school teachers."⁹⁶ Reverend J. W. Rae, the new minister at the Presbyterian Church, recalled that in 1895, "we were all so poor that we were ashamed to meet one another on the street."⁹⁷

The effect on the library was devastating. Receipts in 1895-6 plummeted 70 percent from the previous year: from \$735.28 to \$221.17. The legislative grant was \$104, but the municipal grant fell to a mere \$20. While there was an unprecedented number of members (105), revenue from membership fees dropped to \$39.50, no doubt due to the impoverished condition of many local residents. With such drastically reduced finances, it appears that the library at Toronto Junction had to suspend its operations for at least part of 1895-6. Its expenditures fell dramatically: only \$32 was spent on salaries and \$59.13 on rent.⁹⁸ The 1896 Toronto city directory has no listing for the Toronto Junction Public Library.

Fortunately the library had a leader with sound fiscal experience to guide it through these unstable times. Robert C. Jennings (1844-1920), the president of the board

from 1895 to 1898, was the manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, the Junction's second bank. The branch initially was located in the town to serve the banking needs of a long-time customer, Archibald Campbell (1845-1913) of Chatham and MP for Kent, who opened the Queen City Flour Mills in the Junction in 1892. "It was the mill that had led to that great monetary institution opening business here," Jennings explained in October 1893, and, infusing a note of optimism into the Junction's gloomy situation, "he knew that other industries were sure to come."⁹⁹

Jennings was in his early 50s when he was transferred from Paris, Ontario to start the Junction Branch of the bank, which



Samuel Hume Blake (1835-1914), 189-?

One of the province's most respected lawyers, Blake was hired by Toronto Junction Council in 1897 to negotiate a reduction on interest payments on the town's municipal debt.

AO. Verschovle Benson Blake collection C 123-1

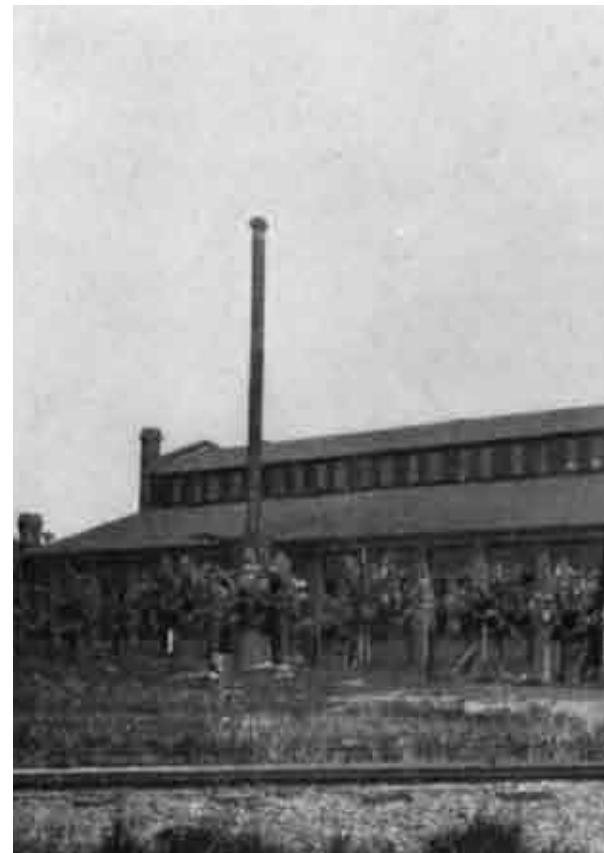


Mayor George Washington Clendenan, about 1897

Clendenan was mayor for three terms, 1896-8, and under his leadership, Toronto Junction recovered from its financial crisis.

was housed in the Kilburn Block, the same building as the library. "Mr Jennings evinced interest in town affairs,"¹⁰⁰ Rice recalled, and he also served on the high school board and represented Ward Five on West Toronto's council in 1908. Devoted to the Presbyterian Church, Jennings is credited with having Thomas Street renamed Jennings Avenue in 1909, in honour of his father, John Jennings, who died at 155 Jarvis Street, Toronto on 25 February 1876, after serving as the minister at Bay Street Presbyterian Church for 36 years.¹⁰¹ Jennings continued to serve on the library board until the end of 1908, and was the treasurer of the free public library established that year.

By 1897, the midway point of Jennings's term, the picture was much brighter for both the town and the library. Charles C. Going (Jennings's predecessor as the library board chair) persuaded Junction Council to hire Samuel Hume Blake, one of the province's most respected lawyers, to represent the town's interests in its negotiations with the bondholders. Blake used his considerable prestige to convince Ontario Premier Arthur Sturgis Hardy to appoint two arbitrators,



Alexander Ross, the provincial treasurer, and his predecessor, Samuel Wood, who proposed a settlement that was satisfactory to both parties. Rice viewed their report, which called for a new issue of bonds at a lower rate of interest and a 45-year repayment period, as “the turning point from despondency to hopefulness in West Toronto.”¹⁰²

Mayor George W. Clendenan reported on the Junction’s economic turnaround in his address to the town council in January 1898. He blamed the crisis on “the reaction following the boom and the extravagance of former Councils,” and anticipated “during the next decade the influx of a number of large manufacturing concerns and a consequence increase of population, so that we will soon rank as one of the cities of our Province, and will have outgrown the financial burden which has of recent years retarded our progress.”¹⁰³

When the good times returned, industries were drawn to the Junction once again. In 1901, these included the CPR shops, the Canada Cycle & Motor Company (soon manufacturing automobiles and ice skates as well as bicycles), Heintzman and Co. Piano Factory, the Dodge Manufacturing Company,

Wilkinson Plough, Queen City Flour Mills, Comfort Soap Works, Laces and Braids Mfg. Co. and the Gasoline Engine Works. Just east of the town limits at Davenport and Lansdowne, the Canada Foundry, a subsidiary of Canadian General Electric, was constructing a ‘city of industries.’ Another large concern opened in 1903: the Union Stock Yards at Keele and St. Clair just north of the CPR shops, which attracted meat packers and other related industries that gave employment to many.¹⁰⁴ The town became a federal port in 1898, allowing local businesses to clear customs within the town, and credited with greatly boosting the local economy.

The Minister of Education’s report for 1896-7 showed the Toronto Junction Public Library was also back on its feet as receipts soared to \$847.33 and expenditures climbed to \$830.64. It had \$2,444.69 in assets and liabilities of only \$148.04. The Library Board continued to attract high-calibre members following Jennings’s three terms as president. Many were relative newcomers to the town, who had arrived in the mid- to late-1890s when the Junction’s fortunes began to improve.

Captain John Ross, a retired officer with Her Majesty’s First Border Regiment, took over as the president in 1899 and 1900. Born in Scotland on 2 May 1844, Ross came to Canada in the 1880s and moved to the Junction in about 1896, living at 166 Louisa Street (now St. John’s Road). He also served on the Junction’s High School Board and was the president of the Gaelic Society of Toronto.

It was during Ross’s first term as the chairman that the board decided in October 1899 to move the library to the south room of the Kilburn Block and lease its present location to the Bank of Commerce.¹⁰⁵ The following month, the board learned that the provincial government was changing the fiscal year for public libraries from May to May to the calendar year, meaning the 1899 grant was for only eight months. In consequence, it “decided to purchase books to the value of \$200 instead of \$125 as originally proposed.”¹⁰⁶ Several members had been appointed in April 1889 to “a committee to buy books to a value of \$100 for the library shelves: Capt. Ross and Messrs. A. B. Rice, A. J. Anderson, C. F. [sic] Colbeck and J. Constantine.”¹⁰⁷



The Wilkinson Plough Co. Limited, southeast corner of Brandon and Campbell (now Adrian and Wiltshire) avenues, 1897

One of the Junction’s pioneering industries with this large brick factory constructed in 1889-90, Wilkinson Plough had 125 skilled workers in 1901 that produced ploughs and a variety of farm and garden implements.
TPL TRL 917.1354 T588

Franklin C. Colbeck became the chairman of the library board in 1901. One of the Junction's most respected citizens, Colbeck was the principal of Toronto Junction High School (later Humberside Collegiate) from 1894 until his retirement 32 years later in June 1925. Born near Brantford, Ontario in 1859 and a prize-winning graduate of Victoria College, Colbeck also taught Classics and English at Toronto Junction – there were only four teachers and 100 pupils when Colbeck started at the school. A highly respected scholar, Colbeck was the Classics examiner at the Normal School and at Victoria College and



Franklin C. Colbeck (1859-1946), about 1926

For 32 years the respected principal of Toronto Junction High School (later Humberside Collegiate), Colbeck advocated 'solid reading' while a member of the local library board; being its chairman in 1901.

NYCL 373.713541 H



A. R. (Alexander Robert) Fawcett (1858-1919), 1901

Known as a 'virile writer and a clever newspaperman,' Fawcett was a strong supporter of the Junction's public library.

WTJHS. Tribune.

the University of Toronto, and also served on the senate of the latter two schools for many years.¹⁰⁸ As further evidence of the connection among library board members, Colbeck purchased Thomas Pheope's old house at 142 Louisa Street (later St. John's Road) from the banker in 1898, and lived there to his death in 1946. Colbeck Street is named in his honour.

Also serving on the 1901 Toronto Junction Public Library Board was William Patrick Hartney (1831-1910), who came to the Junction from Stouffville in 1896, and established a coal, wood and building supplies business on Weston Road near the Grand Trunk Railway Station.¹⁰⁹ He was a member of the library board for several years, and also was the chairman of the Board of Health in 1904-06.¹¹⁰

Another member in 1901 was A. R. (Alexander Robert) Fawcett, the 42-year-old editor of the *Leader and Recorder*, a Conservative newspaper whose head office was in Toronto Junction. Established in December 1893 as the *Leader*, Fawcett soon amalgamated the newspaper with the *Recorder* (purchased from Captain C. Allen of Deer Park), also absorbing several other local papers. By 1897, 60 or so correspondents filed stories at the *Leader and Recorder*'s five offices in York County.¹¹¹

Fawcett was born in Beaver Valley, Grey County, Ontario in 1858, and got into journalism in his early 20s, publishing the first issue of the weekly *Flesherton Advance* on 1 June 1881.¹¹² Fawcett sold the paper in 1888, and became the editor and proprietor of the *Streetsville Review*, a weekly newspaper published in Peel County since 1848. The *Leader and Recorder* continued to operate at the Junction until about 1908. For several years, Fawcett also "represented the *Toronto Telegram* in the Western District."¹¹³ A 'virile writer and a clever newspaperman,' Fawcett

THE LEADER
Is Published
EVERY - FRIDAY - MORNING.
At THE LEADER OFFICE,
10 DUNDAS STREET W., TORONTO JUNCTION.
Telephone : No. 36.
A. R. FAWCETT, EDITOR & PROP.

Toronto Junction Leader, 27 July 1894

Established by Fawcett in December 1893, the newspaper soon became known as the *Leader and Recorder*, and died with *The Tribune* for Junction readers.

TPL TRL

was the publisher of the *Burke's Falls Arrow*, when he died on 2 August 1919.¹¹⁴

By the turn of the 20th century, fees to use the reading room had been waived. A ditty from 1901 entitled, 'What the Junction Has,' included two lines boasting, "An excellent Public Library/A free reading room."¹¹⁵ In 1903, the Toronto Junction Public Library proclaimed that a membership fee of 'only one dollar a year' was charged to those wishing to borrow books but the reading room was free to all: "The Municipal Grant makes it possible to supply the tables and desks with the best periodicals and papers, to which the citizens have free access."¹¹⁶ The reading room then subscribed to six Toronto dailies, 11 weeklies, and 13 monthlies.

Despite the extension of this free service, the Toronto Junction Public Library Board was not improving the wages of its librarian. Elizabeth McCallum earned \$150 in 1901, \$25 less than Walter Thring had received a decade earlier and he had worked fewer hours. Wages for women in library work were generally low, due in part perhaps to its having become a female-dominated job, a fact that the National Council of Women publicized in 1900: "A large percentage of those employed in library work are women, but not many women are heads of Libraries, except in the small institutions. Salaries vary from nothing to a maximum of \$600. The Public Library of Toronto, the largest circulating Library in the Dominion, gives employment to 25 persons, of whom 22 are women."¹¹⁷

Miss McCallum's wages were minimal compared to other Junction men and women at that time. For example, Henrietta Charles, B. A., appointed in 1900 to teach English, History, French and German at Toronto

FREE READING ROOM.

In connection with the Library there is a free Reading Room. The Municipal Grant makes it possible to supply the tables and desks with the best periodicals and papers, to which the citizens have free access. The following papers may be found on the tables:

DAILIES—*Mail and Empire*, *Globe*, *World*, *News Star*, *Telegram*.

WEEKLIES—*Toronto Saturday Night*, *Toronto Junction Tribune*, *Toronto Junction Leader and Recorder*, *London Times (England)*, *Christian Standard*, *The Templar*, *Scientific American* and *Supplement*, *Harper's Weekly*, *Illustrated London News*, *Tis Bits*, *New York Life*.

MONTHLIES—*Locomotive Engineer*, *Canadian Magazine*, *Munsey's*, *McClure's*, *Blackwood's*, *The Century*, *Nineteenth Century and After*, *Chambers' Journal*, *Boys' Own*, *Strand*, *Delineator*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *The Pilgrim*.

E. W. McCALLUM, Secretary and Librarian.

Free Reading Room, 1904

This excerpt from the *Catalogue of Books in the Toronto Junction Public Library* indicates that, at the turn of the century, Junction residents were given a fairly extensive and cosmopolitan selection of newspapers and magazines in the free reading room.

TPL TRL O17.1 TS82

Junction High School, earned an annual salary of \$1,000 as of January 1901, while Principal Colbeck received \$1,500 to teach Classics, English and History and to supervise four staff.¹¹⁸ McCallum's working neighbours, those listed on the same page as her on the 1901 Canada Census, all earned more money than she did.

Several were well-paid railway workers, mostly unionized, whose annual earnings included \$800 for an engineer, \$600-\$700 for brakemen, \$500 for a carpenter, \$350 for an upholsterer and \$300 for a wiper. A streetcar motorman's salary was \$360 and a conductor's was \$180 (for six months work). Factory workers also fared better than our librarian, with labourers at the pulley works and the bicycle factory earning \$400 a year, \$360 at the soap factory and \$300 at the piano factory. Besides McCallum, only two other neighbouring women reported earning an income, a [telephone?] operator who earned \$240 and a nurse who received \$200 to work for eight months.¹¹⁹ Elizabeth still lived with the Rosevears, at 45 Union Street in 1901, and her brother-in-law was a superintendent with the Toronto Suburban Railway Company making \$480 a year.

The president of the Toronto Junction Public Library Board in 1902 and 1903 was John C. Constantine (1841-1913), an English-born architect who was "practically retired from active business pursuits" when

he moved to the Junction in the mid-1890s. Constantine "took a keen and intelligent interest in the civic affairs,"¹²⁰ and also served on the health and high school boards.¹²¹ He led a nine-member library board in 1903 that also included three merchants, two teachers, and a lawyer, a banker and a physician. There were several familiar faces – Hartney, Colbeck, Jennings and Dr. G. W. Clendenan – but also some new names.

One was Herbert T. Ward, a grocer who lived at the Junction briefly at 73 McMurray Avenue. Another was Edwin R. Rogers (1860-1917), the scion of an important Peterborough family. He returned to Ontario from the Canadian North-West in the late 1890s and took over Thomas Peake's old hardware business at Keele and Dundas.¹²² Rogers lived at 137 Lakeview Avenue (Peake's old street) with his second wife, Emily Pellatt, a sister of Henry Pellatt of *Casa Loma* fame, and three children. He became inspector of Public Charities for Ontario in about 1906, and moved into Toronto.

William Edgar Raney (1859-1933), another board member, moved to the Junction a few years after being called to the provincial bar in 1891. In 1903, he resided at 274 High Park Avenue with his family. Raney went on to become "probably the most spectacular legal figure in Ontario in the past two decades," his obituary assessed in 1933.¹²³ He served as provincial attorney general during the

four-year term (1919-1923) of Premier Ernest Charles Drury, leader of the United Farmers of Ontario, and was known for his zealous application of Ontario's prohibition laws, no doubt a legacy from his time in the Junction. In September 1927 he was appointed as a justice of the supreme court of Ontario.

Richard Gourlay (1863-1925), also on the 1903 library board, was appointed to the staff of Toronto Junction High School in fall 1893 to teach mathematics and English. He became the school's vice principal in February 1903, assisting Principal F. C. Colbeck, also a library board member.

It was under the 1903 board's direction that a printed catalogue was prepared of the



William Edgar Raney (1859-1933)

Later a provincial attorney-general and supreme-court justice, Raney was sometimes on the library board while he was a Toronto Junction resident.



Richard Gourlay (1863-1925), about 1900

Relaxing with a book at Go Home Bay, Gourlay joined his teaching colleague, Franklin Colbeck, on the library board. Both were members of the Madawaska Club on Georgian Bay.

WTJHS



Rogers Hardware, Dundas and Keele streets, northeast corner, 1901

Edwin R. Rogers (1860-1917) took over Thomas Peake's old store in the late 1890s, and, like his predecessor, he served on the board of management of the local library.

WTJHS, Tribune

library's collections, which had continued to grow in the late 1890s and into the new 20th century. Its production may have been encouraged by S. P. May, the provincial Superintendent of Public Libraries, who inspected the Toronto Junction Public Library during 1903. *The Catalogue of Books in the Toronto Junction Public Library*, printed by the *Leader and Recorder* (proprietor A.

R. Fawcett was a library board member in 1901), informed the public that "the library consists of 3,451 volumes of selected and well chosen literature of different classes, the classification being the one adopted by the Department of Education."¹²⁴ Book catalogues and the Department of Education's 'uniform classification' were becoming passé by this time. Modern libraries were introduc-

ing card catalogues and the Dewey Decimal Classification. "By 1900 the department's entire classification," historian Lorne Bruce assessed, "had become a muddled combination of subject matter, printed format and readers' ages or preferences."¹²⁵

Toronto Junction's collection was divided into 11 categories: Biography, Fiction, History, Literature, Miscellaneous, Poetry, Religion, Science, Voyages and Travels and Works of Reference. Fiction was the largest category by far, and novels appeared in other sections as well. Thirty fictional works by G. A. Henty were classified in History, for example, and fiction by Arthur Conan Doyle was placed both in Literature and Miscellaneous. In addition to those authors, there were other writers, such as Jules Verne, Mark Twain and J. M. Barrie (as well as *Boys Own* magazine), that some children might enjoy, but their parents would have to borrow the books for them since, as previously mentioned, library membership was limited to those more than 12 years old. In 1903, the Toronto Junction Public Library had 181 members and issued 6,395 books.

The Junction's new economic prosperity led to an explosion of business at the town's six licensed hotels. The taverns were always full, even on Sundays, and drunken brawls and rowdyism were common. By 1903, alcohol was a big problem for families and a public embarrassment for the town. The *Toronto Star* reported: "It was not unusual to find a dozen men lying drunk in snow-covered ground, when the other men were headed for work in the morning."¹²⁶ A prohibition movement grew, led by the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) and many of the local clergy. Reverend T. E. E. Shore of Annette Street Methodist Church denounced the town's hotels as 'cesspools of harlotry, vice and iniquity' in a sermon preached on Sunday, 22 February 1903.¹²⁷

In January 1904, Toronto Junction voters approved a 'local option bylaw' – 869 for and 679 against – to prohibit the sale of liquor, effective on 1 May. Library staff and patrons would have been first-hand witnesses to the revels of 30 April, when 10,000 people descended on the town from near and far to be part of the last day of legalized drinking. Towards evening, the *Toronto Daily News* reported, "hundreds of rowdy spirits lined both sides of the street outside the Occidental" (located opposite the library), trying to get inside, but proprietor Charley Kelly already

452 Correlli, Marie	The Sorrows of Satan
464 Correlli, Marie	The Mighty Atom
506 Correlli, Marie	The Murder of Delicia
681 Correlli, Marie	The Master Christian
718 Correlli, Marie	Temporal Power
671 Cholmondeley, Mary	Diana Tempest
367 Collins, Wilkie	No Name
368 Collins, Wilkie	My Miscellany
369 Collins, Wilkie	Hide and Seek
370 Collins, Wilkie	After Dark
371 Collins, Wilkie	The Two Destinies
372 Collins, Wilkie	Queen of Hearts
406 Collins, Wilkie	The Moonstone
434 Collins, Wilkie	Blind Love
435 Collins, Wilkie	The New Magdalen
436 Collins, Wilkie	Evil Genius
437 Collins, Wilkie	The Guilty River
705 Collins, Wilkie	Man and Wife
706 Collins, Wilkie	The Woman in White
376 Caine, Hall	The Last Confession
387 Caine, Hall	Manxman
451 Caine, Hall	Capt. Davy's Honeymoon
513 Caine, Hall	The Christian
521 Caine, Hall	The Deemster
529 Caine, Hall	Shadow of a Crime
401 Cary, Rosa N.....	Wooed and Married
402 Cary, Rosa N.....	For Lillias
443 Cary, Rosa N.....	Averil
444 Cary, Rosa N.....	Our Bessie
629 Cary, Rosa N.....	Mollie's Prince
672 Cary, Rosa N.....	Life's Trivial Round
714 Cary, Rosa N.....	Wee Wifie
714½ Cary, Rosa N.....	Not Like Other Girls
530 Crockett, S. R.	Lad's Love
691 Crockett, S. R.	Stickitt Minister's Wooing
708 Crockett, S. R.	Cinderella
666 Carruth, Hayden	Mr. Milo Bush
668 Carman, Albert R.	The Preparation of Ryerson Embury
692 Clouston, J. S.	The Duke
593 Churchill, Winston	The Celebrity
641 Croker, B. M.	Infatuation
643 Croker, B. M.	Peggy of the Bartons
113 Ballantine	Black Ivory
114 Ballantine	The Giant of the North
116 Ballantine	The Rover
119 Ballantine	The Lonely Island
318 Beaconsfield, Earl of..	Tancred
319 Beaconsfield, Earl of..	Venetia
349 Beaconsfield, Earl of..	Sybil
351 Boisgilbert, E.	Caesar's Column
621 Buchanan, R.	Come Live With Me

Excerpt from "Catalogue of Books in the Toronto Junction Public Library," 1904

Fiction was the largest section in the library's collection of 3,431 books. Some of these authors continue to be read, while others have faded into obscurity.
TPL TRL 017.1 T582

had locked his hotel doors for good.¹²⁸

Portions of the Junction remained dry until 1994 and 1997, the last areas in Toronto to ban alcohol sales. Bootleggers had a thriving business during the 90-year dry spell, and alcohol also was available in neighbouring communities. In the 1911 census, Matthew Rosevear was the manager of a liquor store; he and his family (including librarian Elizabeth McCallum) then resided at 11 Hook Avenue.¹²⁹

There was stability in the management of the Toronto Junction Public Library. Appointed to the board of directors at the annual meeting held in January 1906 were F. C. Colbeck, Dr. Clendenan, Dr. Hopkins, A. B. Rice, R. L. McCormack, R. Gourlay, R. C. Jennings, W. P. Hartney and J. Constantine.¹³⁰

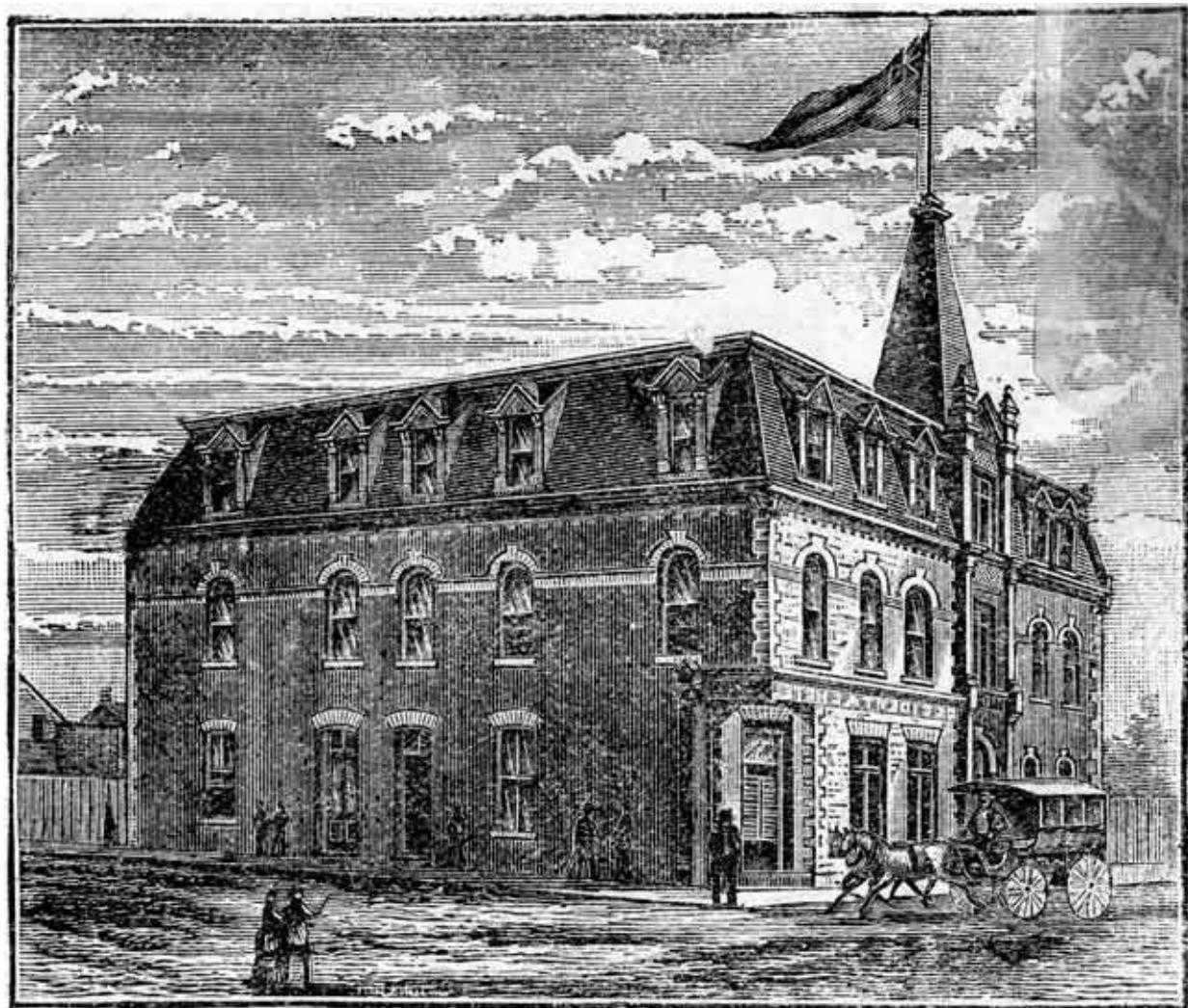
One newcomer was Richard Rutt Hopkins

(1855-1927), the town's medical officer of health, whose practice was in his home on the east side of Pacific Avenue, south of Dundas. Born in Wiltshire, England, Hopkins had been a school teacher in Huron County and then a physician for more than a decade in Grand Valley, Wellington County before moving his family to the Junction in the early 1900s. Like many of the other library board members, Dr. Hopkins was a Mason, eventually the grand master of the Prince of Wales Lodge; a large oil portrait of him hangs in the West Toronto Masonic Temple next to the library.



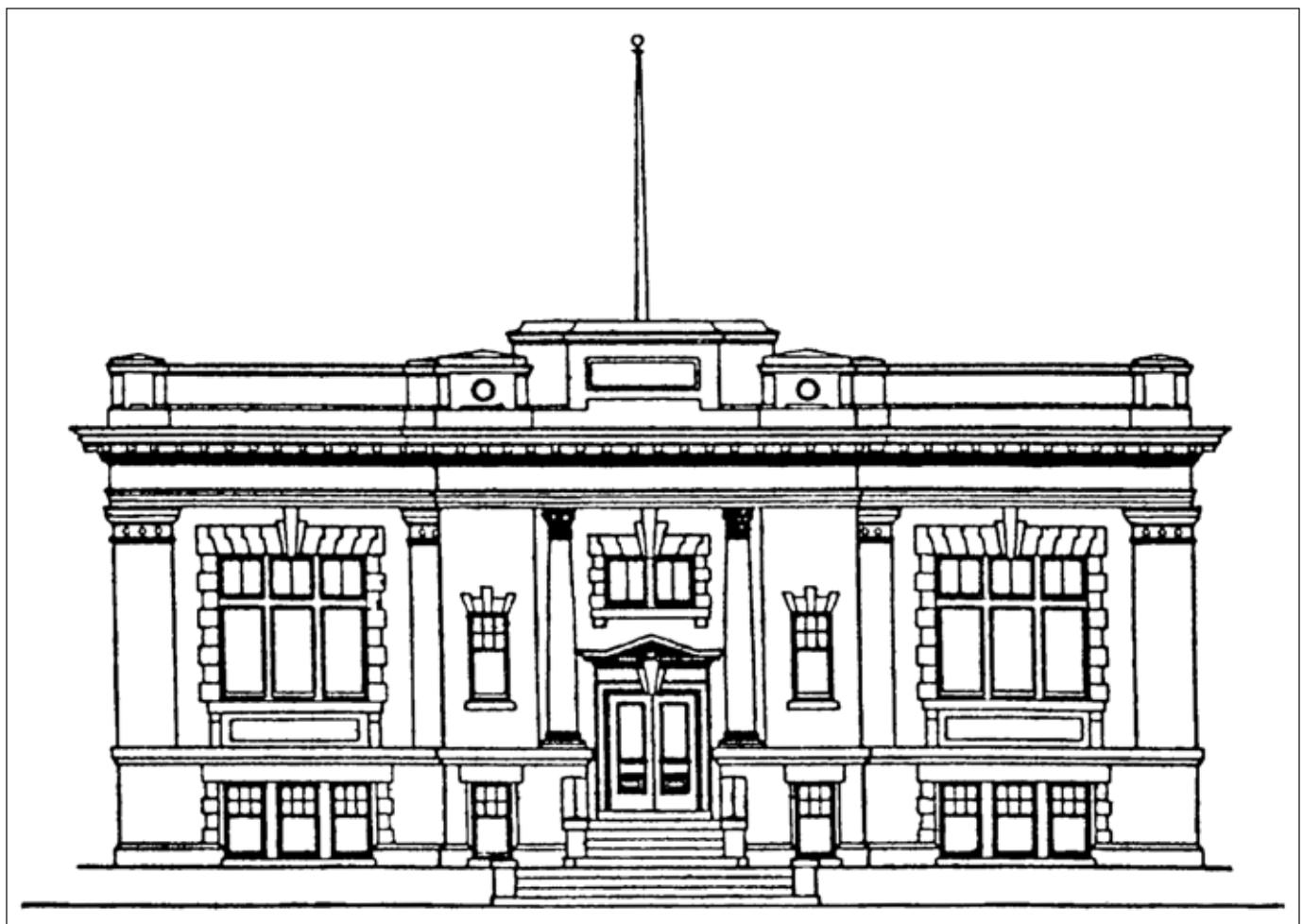
Dr. R. R. (Richard Rutt) Hopkins (1855-1927), about 1920?

Like many library board members, Dr. Hopkins was a Mason, with high ranking positions, as indicated by this oil portrait and the design on his apron.
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Occidental Hotel, northeast corner of Dundas and Van Horne (later Heintzman Street), 1890

The Occidental Hotel, "a substantial three-storey brick structure, 51x62 feet in dimensions and of pleasing appearance,"² was across the street from the library and reading room in the Kilburn Building, which was at the northwest corner of the intersection. Charles A. Kelly, the proprietor of the hotel, claimed in 1889 that his was 'the only first class house in the Junction,'³ but he closed the business when the town's 'local option bylaw' (prohibiting the sale of liquor) went into effect on 1 May 1903. That morning, Kelly employed a gang of workmen to cover "the doors and windows of that once popular hostelry with the most disreputable lumber he could find. It was his contribution to the effort of the wets to make the dream of blue ruin come true."⁴



Front Elevation, new Public Library, West Toronto, Ellis and Connery, Architects
TPL TRL Construction, September 1909, 64

2. THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY, 1902-9

Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Grants

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), the Scottish-born, American industrialist, spent much of his adult life amassing a huge fortune. Reputed to be ‘the richest man in the world,’ in 1901 he sold the Carnegie Steel Company to J. P. Morgan for the astronomical sum of \$480 million, and devoted the rest of his life to giving away most of his money. Carnegie supported causes that would help people educate themselves and build stronger communities, and he donated funds to universities, and for church organs, concert and meeting halls and world peace.

Andrew Carnegie’s best known philanthropy was public libraries, and he gave more than \$56 million to build 2,509 free public libraries around the world, starting in 1883 in his home town of Dunfermline, Scotland. Of the 125 Canadian libraries built with Carnegie funds of \$2.5 million, 111 were in Ontario including ten in present-day Toronto.

With the first grant of \$350,000 given in 1903, the Toronto Public Library opened a new central library in 1909, and three branches: Yorkville (1907), Queen and Lisgar (1909-1964) and Riverdale (1910). A second Carnegie grant of \$50,000 built Beaches, High Park and Wychwood branches (1916). As well as West Toronto (1909), libraries at Weston (1914) and Mimico (1915-1966) also



Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), 1913

The Scottish-born, American philanthropist gave more than \$56 million worldwide to build 2,509 free public libraries, including \$20,000 in 1908 for a new library at Toronto Junction.

Theodore C. Marceau/LC-USZ62-101767

were constructed with Carnegie money; these would be absorbed into the Toronto Public Library system as the city amalgamated nearby communities. Victoria College also received a Carnegie library grant in 1910.

Grant Conditions

The terms for receiving a Carnegie grant were straightforward, and civic officials had to state their compliance in a formal letter. First, the municipality would provide a suitable building site; and second, the council annually would appropriate by taxation no less than 10 percent of the cost of the building to support its operations.¹

There was a third requirement: the library must be free to its citizens. Public libraries that charged membership fees, those that were classified in Ontario as ‘not free’, were excluded from Carnegie’s generosity. Their communities could apply for Carnegie grants but they were not eligible to receive them until they adopted those procedures in the

provincial *Public Libraries Act, 1895*, which refashioned the power, funding and governance of their board.² The Toronto Junction Public Library was in the ‘not free’ category.

The day-to-day procedures of the library grant program were managed by James Bertram (1872-1934), Carnegie’s private secretary from 1897 to 1914 and the secretary of the Carnegie Corporation of New York from 1911 to 1934. It was Bertram who ultimately decided if a library building was to be awarded, and the process often took months or more of correspondence back and forth between local library officials and the taciturn and idiosyncratic administrator. Grants were to be used for the construction of a new, single-purpose library building only – not for books or other city or recreational facilities. A small auditorium or lecture room was permissible, but, as one Ontario community was told, “that feature must not over shadow that of the Library proper.”³

Bertram gradually made the grant application process more bureaucratic. Communities

TORONTO JUNCTION PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Toronto Junction Feb-25-He 1902

Mr John Bertram -
P. Secy
Andrew Carnegie Esq
Dear Sir -

Toronto Junction is
a town of between 5000 and 6000 inhabitants
Will Mr Carnegie donate \$50,000 for a building to be used
as a Public Library on condition of the town
giving free site and \$1000 a year towards
Maintenance?

Yours truly
Elizabeth McCallum
Toronto Jet -
Ontario

Elizabeth McCallum letter to John [James] Bertram, 25 February 1902

Although calling him by the wrong first name, Toronto Junction’s librarian initiated a correspondence with Carnegie’s secretary in 1902. However, the town’s library board, then headed by architect John C. Constantine, ‘did not take kindly to the project’ and the matter was dropped temporarily.

had to complete forms that provided detailed answers to his questions about the town's population and finances and the status of the current library (if one already existed), and pledge its commitment to the Carnegie grant conditions. He also became more involved in library design, and produced *Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings* [sic] in 1911 to guide local communities. (Bertram usually used a simplified spelling but curiously not in his letters with Toronto Junction.)

Securing a Carnegie Grant for Toronto Junction

Andrew Carnegie made his first grant for Ontario library buildings in 1901. The following year, on 25 February 1902, Toronto Junction librarian Elizabeth W. McCallum wrote to James Bertram. (She was four months ahead of Toronto Public Library's first request, sent by Board member W. T. J. Lee to Carnegie on 21 June 1902, although a private citizen, Goldwin Smith, had composed a handwritten note to "my dear Carnegie" from the *Grange* on 28 November 1901; neither received a response.) Erroneously addressing Carnegie's private secretary as 'Mr. John Bertram,' McCallum requested confirmation about the grants, prefacing her request with a brief introduction to the town.

Toronto Junction is a town of between 5000 and 6000 inhabitants. Will Mr. Carnegie donate to any Public Library the sum of \$10,000 for a building to be used as a Public Library on condition of the town giving free site and \$1,000 a year towards maintenance?⁴

Miss McCallum had correctly surmised the two main grant conditions, although, of course, the amount was not fixed at \$10,000. No reply is recorded as being sent from Carnegie to her letter, but a 'Special Despatch to the *Globe* from Toronto Junction' on 29 January 1903 provided information about the fate of her request:

Several months ago Miss McCallum, librarian of the Toronto Junction Public Library, had some correspondence with Mr. Andrew Carnegie as to a conditional grant which he might make for a library building here. At that time the directors of the library did not take kindly to the project and the matter was dropped. Since the recent negotiations

were opened up as to a Carnegie library in Toronto, a friend of the Junction library has begun correspondence with Mr. Carnegie as to what might be done for this town.⁵

The 'friend of the Junction library' may have been A. B. Rice, who occasionally reported on Junction events to the *Toronto Globe*. The anonymous person obviously was encouraged by Carnegie's offer of \$350,000 to the Toronto Public Library on 23 January 1903.

Subsequently, consideration of a Carnegie grant for Toronto Junction simmered for almost two more years. On 11 November 1904, the *Toronto Star* reported that at the town council meeting held the previous evening, "The Carnegie library question came up again." Discussion centred on the town's ability to maintain a new library building. Councillor Alfred Harshaw Perfect "did not think the town was in a position to give \$1,500 a year," indicating that a \$15,000 grant was being considered. Councillor William Alexander Baird "thought that if the Government granted \$600 for maintenance of a public library, the town would only have to contribute \$900. The solicitor thought this was feasible."⁶ (Despite the opinion of Alexander J. Anderson, the town's solicitor since the death of Charles C. Going in 1902, the local municipality solely was responsible for the annual maintenance of 10 percent minimum.) A motion submitted by Councillors Baird and William Waugh Howell was carried:



Allan Berlin Rice (1858-1950), 1901

Rice was the chairman of both the 'not free' Toronto Junction Public Library Board in 1908, and the 'free' West Toronto Public Library Board in 1908-9 during the momentous period of the Carnegie grant and the annexation to Toronto.

WTJHS. Tribune

That this Council places itself on record as willing to submit to the Electors of the Town a Bylaw to provide for the levying of a special rate or tax equivalent to 10 percent of a building to be erected by the Carnegie Trust for a free Library Building in this Town, the cost of such building to be determined by this Council."⁷

There are no reports of a library bylaw plebiscite, however, and soon the attention of Toronto Junction voters was focussed on the issue of the town's very survival, not a new library. On 7 January 1905, the local electorate voted overwhelmingly, 521 yes and 161 no, in favour of a bylaw to annex the Junction to the City of Toronto. It would be a few more years before the matter of a local Carnegie library was raised again.

In 1908, the status quo remained: the town was in existence and the Toronto Junction Public Library operated in two small rented rooms in the Kilburn building – the library was 20 x 20 feet and the reading room 30 x 15 feet, and new quarters were desperately needed. Allan Berlin Rice, then the chairman of the Toronto Junction Public Library Board, later explained the situation,

...when prospects began to brighten as to Dundas street real estate, it began to look like the library [would be] losing its comfortable home in the Kilburn building.

Finally proof that our fears were well founded came in the form of notice that we



Post Office and Custom House, Toronto Junction, Keele and Dundas streets, southwest corner, about 1904

The cornerstone of this landmark building was laid by Archibald Campbell, MP for York West, on 7 November 1903. It was demolished in the mid-1960s, and replaced with a parking lot.

WTJHS

must vacate in time for alterations in the premises a few months hence. In vain, alternative premises were sought. There was nothing available in the town that could be used as a shelter for the library and it looked as if the town must wind up its library, dispose of its assets and deprive its patrons of what had for many years brought joy to their hearts as the source of supply of good books to read.

I called a meeting of the board of directors, explained the situation to my colleagues and asked their approval of my proposal to apply to Mr. Andrew Carnegie for a grant of \$20,000 to pay for the erection of a free library . . . The directors were readily acquiescent but were dubious as to the success of the effort.⁸

The library board was fortunate to have Rice, an energetic and enthusiastic advocate, as its chairman at this crucial time. As previously mentioned, Rice came to the Junction in 1889 to work at the *York Tribune* newspaper, soon becoming the editor and later the proprietor, also managing the printing company that published it and other works. Then 30 years old, married since 24 January 1882 to teacher Elizabeth (Lizzie) Grant and the father of a young son, Rice already had some experience in education, journalism, local history and libraries, four areas in which he would make significant contributions in his new home.⁹

Born on 19 November 1858 of Loyalist stock in Thorold Township, Welland County, Ontario, Rice graduated from Welland High School and was a teacher for several years before he joined the staff of the weekly *Welland Tribune* newspaper. In 1887, the *Tribune* produced a 600-page *History of the County of Welland, Ontario* that Rice co-authored and edited. That year, he also was a director of the Welland Mechanics' Institute that operated a 2,000-volume library.

As a Junction resident, along with being a member and sometimes a director of the public library board, Rice served on the high school and public school boards and the town council (1896 and 1901), and was active in the Presbyterian Church, the Liberal Party, the Masons and several other fraternal organizations.¹⁰ He also was a member of the West York Board of License Commissioners for two years.

In 1904, Rice sold the *Tribune* and secured a comfortable, secure position as the federal collector of customs working at the Port of West Toronto in the Custom House, located on the second floor of the newly-opened Toronto Junction Post Office at the southwest corner of Keele and Dundas.¹¹ He continued to be involved in journalism, occasionally reporting on the Junction for the *Toronto Globe* (although he received no by-line for

his stories). From about 1925 until his death on 3 August 1950, he wrote a regular column called "Stray Thoughts about Matters of Public Concern" for the *West Toronto Weekly*. Most of his columns in 1949 and 1950 were devoted to his recollections about the Junction's early days, and are an invaluable source for local historians.

Rice was ably assisted on the 1908 library board by members who had years of experience including George Clendenan, Franklin Colbeck, Richard Gourlay, Richard Hopkins and Robert Jennings, now retired as the Canadian Bank of Commerce manager, who also was a member of Toronto Junction Council.

On 27 January 1908, Rice wrote the first letter in what was to be an intense correspondence with Carnegie. (Rice always wrote directly to the philanthropist but the responses came from James Bertram, designated only as 'P. Secretary.') Handwritten on Customs Canada letterhead and addressed simply to 'Mr. Andrew Carnegie, New York, N. Y.' Rice wrote:

I would like an opportunity of placing before you a statement showing how well this town of Toronto Junction could be served by one of the libraries which you are so kindly distributing over this continent.

This town is a growing industrial place with a population of 12,000. Train works are the principal industries.

If you use a form for the purpose of receiving applications for your benefactions, I would be obliged if you would send me a copy.¹²

Three days later, on 30 January 1908, Carnegie's 'P. Secretary' sent this terse response (typed on plain paper):

Yours of January 27th received. The form is not for receiving applications, it is for summarizing afterwards for our convenience information otherwise given.¹³

Forty years afterwards, Rice recollected a much fuller response to his initial inquiry. "By return mail, Mr. Carnegie's secretary wrote that funds were available providing the municipality would provide the building site and agree to make the minimum annual grant of \$2,000 for the upkeep of the library."¹⁴ However, Bertram did not convey this message until early April, after more than two



Rice (left) at work in the Custom House, about 1910

In 1904, Rice sold *The Tribune* and became the collector of customs for the Port of West Toronto, and worked in the Custom House, located on the second floor of the newly opened Toronto Junction Post Office.

WTJHS

months of correspondence.

Nevertheless, Rice was well aware of these two Carnegie grant conditions when he spoke about a new public library and the amenities it could include at a meeting of Toronto Junction Council held on the evening of 3 February 1908. Rice was a clever negotiator, and started by proposing a \$5,000 library, quickly increasing the amount by \$5,000 increments until eventually he gained acceptance of the \$20,000 building with the facilities he wanted:

Mr. Rice informed council that a communication had been sent to Mr. Carnegie and that his secretary had replied stating that the desired amount would be forthcoming providing the town would undertake to find ten per cent of the cost of the building per annum for maintenance. Mr. Rice urged Council to take active part in the proposal. He pointed out that a \$5,000 building would mean a cost to the town of \$500. The town now paid \$400 for its library. He suggested that a sacrifice be made and that \$1,000 per year be provided for the maintenance of a still larger building in which there would be an auditorium suitable for public meetings, a public lavatory in the basement, and in which a number of facilities similar to those enjoyed by a Y.M.C.A. could be provided. It would be non-denominational, but ministers could make use of it to the advantage and edification of young people.¹⁵

Getting a good response to his remarks, Rice broached the subject of the cost to taxpayers declaring that the maintenance of a \$10,000 library could be had for ‘a trifling cost’ of less than 20 cents per annum to the average ratepayer. “An even better building would be a good investment for ratepayers who might never darken the doors.” Rice left the meeting with a commitment that the Executive Committee would cooperate with the Library Board in its efforts to get a library. “With pleading like that no wonder the laird of Skibo winks a sympathetic eye through a turret in his castle,” commented the *Telegram’s* ‘Own Reporter’ at the Junction. (This may have been A. R. Fawcett, who was a strong library supporter. The ‘laird of Skibo’ was, of course, Andrew Carnegie, who bought his Scottish estate in 1898 as a summer retreat.)

On 16 March, Rice led a deputation of board members (including Dr. Clendenan, Dr. Hopkins, Principal Colbeck and Vice-Principal Gourlay) to persuade Council

to support Carnegie’s terms so that a new library could be built. They arrived with the knowledge that, according to the *Telegram*, “having a handsome library is gaining support from all quarters, and if the feeling of the people can be adequately gauged there is little doubt but the council will make the necessary gift of a site.”¹⁶ Speaking first, Rice began by reminding Council that the library board did not know how long it could stay in its present quarters and the rent was liable to take a prohibitive jump. He also harked back to his correspondence with Carnegie, and, embellishing Bertram’s brief response, claimed that “in reply received a request from the laird’s secretary asking for information: 1. Is there a site available? 2. What amount will the town be prepared to spend on annual expenditure?”

Rice then got to the crux of the matter: “The immediate need, therefore, gentlemen, is a site and a readiness to spend annually 10 per cent of the amount Carnegie advances in maintenance.” Rice did not indicate directly that the status of the Toronto Junction Public Library would need to be changed from not free to free, but from newspaper reports, that was clearly understood. *The Public Libraries Act, 1895* had broadened the meaning of free status and eliminated the necessity for a local bylaw vote. “No bylaw is required,” Rice told the Council. “A simple resolution of council will suffice.”

As in 1904, Toronto Junction Council’s main concern was the cost to operate a new library. It reviewed the library board’s receipts in 1907, which included a municipal grant of \$400, \$182.50 from members’ fees and a legislative grant of \$99.17. W. A. Baird, now the town’s mayor, asked, “What amount would turn it into a free library?” Rice responded, “With the \$400, we could no doubt run some sort of a free library. But we have the librarian to pay, and rent, etc. It would hardly be worth the name.” Council Alexander Hain wondered if Council would have to pay 10 percent of the Carnegie gift each year on top of the provincial grant, to which Rice replied, “I presume so,” adding, “The Government grant does not go up according to the amount spent on maintenance.”

Robert Jennings also disabused council of any thought that its financial obligations to support the library would not increase with a Carnegie building: “As a councillor and a member of the Library Board, I favor this matter. There is no doubt the expenses would

be larger.” Mayor Baird pointed out that a larger building would mean a larger staff and additional expenditure. “One lady in a \$20,000 building would look lost,” he said “The more elaborate the building, the more expense.”

The municipality’s assessed worth and Council’s willingness to commit taxpayers’ money to support a new library would be the determining factors in the amount that could be requested from Carnegie. Mayor Baird thought a \$10,000 building wouldn’t be large enough, and that \$1,500 a year could be managed. Councillor Frank Whetter countered, “It would not cost more to maintain a \$20,000 building than one costing \$15,000.” All local taxpayers, not just voluntary members, would finance a rate-supported library. Rice estimated: “A man assessed at \$1,000 a year wouldn’t have to pay more than forty cents a year,” for a free public library. This was less than half of the annual membership fee of one dollar that members now paid to borrow books from the ‘not free’ public library. “The site would involve another \$1,500,” Mayor Baird calculated, “and [would] have to come out of this year’s taxes.”

West Toronto’s inevitable annexation to Toronto also was considered. “It seems to me it would later be a branch of the Toronto Library,” the mayor stated. “In case of annexation, would the city assume the liability,” inquired Councillor Whetter. “No one knew, but everyone thought so,” reported the *Toronto Daily News*.¹⁷ (Pledges to support library operations had no legal basis and were not enforceable, one of the reasons for Carnegie discontinuing the library grant program in 1917.)

The advantages of having a new library with enhanced funding also were discussed. Increased use, improved services and an important new civic building were all potential benefits. These would be achievable at a relatively small cost, for as Dr. Clendenan observed, “\$20,000 is not easily picked up nowadays.” He acknowledged, “The present library is only patronized by a comparative few,” understating its almost total lack of use. In 1907, the Toronto Junction Public Library had 232 members, just 2.3 percent of the town’s population of 10,151. They borrowed the library’s 4,147 books 6,639 times, giving an extremely low turnover rate (circulation/stock ratio) of 1.6.¹⁸ Principal Colbeck indicated that a small budget limited the collection: “at the present time only \$150

was spent on books at the library. If the board had a greater sum at its disposal more solid reading could be provided." Apparently the reading room was busier. "The free part of the Public Library is used a great deal," Rice claimed, although he presented no use statistics to substantiate his assertion.

"If the council would contribute more liberally we would be enabled to do greater things and give much needed service," Dr. Clendenan remarked. Councillor Jennings suggested, "A \$20,000 building would fill a long felt want and could contain a gymnasium, lecture room or similar accommodation of which the town is in great need." Fees could be charged for such uses, noted Councillor William J. Sheppard. Dr. Hopkins amplified Jennings's suggestions in remarks reminiscent of the Women's Christian Temperance Union's sentiments two decades before:

There is nothing for the young fellows of the town to do in the evenings that is of benefit to them. Many go to the technical classes in Toronto. Why not have a building here in which such classes could be held? We owe it to our young men to provide them with these kinds of benefits.

The timing to approve the Carnegie grant also was raised. The library board wanted Council's affirmation immediately, whereas Councillor Alexander Hain preferred to wait



Alex Hain, 1901

Although claiming to be 'thoroughly in accord with the scheme,' Toronto Junction Councillor Alex Hain voted against the Carnegie grant on 16 March 1908, advocating holding a plebiscite instead to approve the grant conditions.

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until the next municipal election at the beginning of 1909 and hold a plebiscite, similar to what Council had approved in 1904. Hain was one of the Junction's first settlers, "whose name has always been" (according to Rice) "a synonym for probity and sound judgement."¹⁹ He declared: "I wouldn't support such a grant without the people's consent, although I am thoroughly in accord with the scheme." Dr. Clendenan contended, "Our millionaire won't last forever. Council should strain a point to bring this matter to a successful issue while Mr. Carnegie is in the land of the living," to which Hain dryly responded, "Let us hope that he will last until January." (Born on 25 November 1835, Carnegie was then 72 years old. He died on 11 August 1919.)

Generally Carnegie grants enjoyed a high degree of acceptance among local elites, opinion makers and the general public. At the end of February, the *Telegram* had claimed, "The town is in immediate need of a good library, and the general feeling is that the Council would not go astray in assisting the project by increasing the grant now made to the Board."²⁰ Mayor Baird now declared, "The construction of a library is a good thing... We have to build for the future." He recalled "when the High school was built there was a cry it would be a white elephant. It has proved to be anything but that."

Rice pointed out "there are very few people who object to such a library." He then proceeded to report on two opponents that he had encountered at the Junction: "One man told me he did not believe in libraries; and a second did not want the money accepted as a gift, as he thought it was unbecoming on the part of the town to accept charity."²¹ (The latter remark was reminiscent of the reaction to Toronto's Carnegie grant in 1903 by Edmund Boyd Osler, the president of the Dominion Bank, Member of Parliament for West Toronto and a Toronto Junction bondholder, who declared "Toronto has dignity enough to attend to her own education and her own libraries in her own way."²²)

Considering Toronto Junction was such a lunch-bucket town, it is curious that no objections were reported from the labour movement, which in many places was opposed to taking Carnegie 'blood money.' The term referred to the violent strike in 1892 at the Carnegie Steel Company in Homestead, Pennsylvania where Pinkerton guards were called in, several deaths and many injuries resulted, and the union was broken.

The Toronto District Labour Council and the Council of Allied Printing Trades both passed motions opposing Toronto's grant in 1903. The headline of the *Toiler* screamed on 30 January 1903, "Save us the disgrace: the workers will protest against any of the Carnegie blood money being given to this city." The paper characterised Carnegie as "a foreigner, a crusher of his business rivals and despoiler and destroyer of his workmen."²³ Byron E. Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, countered this worker opposition claiming, "if Carnegie had done anything to offend the labor people he was now making amends for it."²⁴ Attempting to control the damage, Chief Librarian James Bain sent a handwritten note to James Bertram on 7 February 1903: "I regret that so much annoyance has been given to Mr. Carnegie. The trouble has arisen entirely from the insane action and utterances of a portion of the trade unionists who are in sympathy with the Homestead rioters."²⁵

Meanwhile, at Toronto Junction on 16 March 1908, Councillors Sheppard and Whetter moved:

That this Council does hereby agree to procure a site for a Public Library and that an Annual grant of not more than \$2000.00, for Maintenance of the Library, provided that Mr. Andrew Carnegie, will pay for a Library building costing \$20,000.00, complete.²⁶



"The labor troubles at Homestead, Pa. - attack of the strikers and their sympathizers on the surrendered Pinkerton men," 14 July 1892

The labour movement in many places, although apparently not in Toronto Junction, was opposed to taking Carnegie 'blood money,' referring to the violent strike at the Carnegie Steel Company in Homestead, Pennsylvania. Drawn by Miss G. A. Davis, from a sketch by C. Upham/LC-USZ62-75205

Mayor Baird voted against the motion as did Councillor Hain.²⁷ Councillors William Waugh Howell, Jennings, Whetter, Sheppard and William Maher voted for it and the motion carried. (Absent were Councillors John E. Weatherill, William H. Ford, William G. Veal and William J. Armstrong.) Rice later stated, "I found the concurrence of the town council easier than I had anticipated."²⁸

On 19 March 1908, Rice sent Carnegie a certified copy of this resolution, which Mayor Baird and Town Clerk W. J. Conron had signed three days before (on the same evening as Council agreed to the Carnegie conditions), as well as the completed form that Bertram had sent him in January. Rice must have thought that the philanthropist needed further convincing, for he added his own letter boosting the Junction:

Toronto Junction is a rapidly growing Town and a bill granting it a City Charter and changing its name to West Toronto is now before the Legislature.

Although a suburb of Toronto, this Town has an importance independent of that which it derives from its proximity to that City. The work-shops for the Ontario division of Canadian Pacific Railway Company are here, and the excellent shipping facilities has [sic] attracted to this place many large factories and the most extensive stock-yards in Canada with kindred industries.

Most of our citizens are therefore of the mechanic and working classes including locomotive engineers, machinists, iron-moulders, boiler-makers, piano-makers, etc., the very kind of a community on which a good library would exert a powerful influence.

The library board chairman also sent three newspaper accounts of the 16 March Council meeting, but he must have felt uncomfortable about some of the press reports, for he cautioned Carnegie:

In order to answer the questions as to site and town grant for maintenance, we approached our Town Council, and, for convenience in explaining the project to the Councillors, we took the liberty of tentatively assuming that our application would receive the same generous response as those of other Canadian Towns. I make this explanation lest you judge from the newspaper reports, which I am sending herewith, that we have presumed too much as to your reply.

Rice also expressed some urgency about having the grant request approved, so that the best site could be purchased:

In stating that a site is available we mean that there are two or three suitable properties for sale, but of course the Council will not purchase until we hear from you.

I may add that the owner of the best of these sites intends beginning the erection of a residence on it in the Spring unless it is sold in the meantime. An early decision as to our appeal will therefore give us a wider choice of sites.²⁹

Evidently Bertram was unmoved by this not-so-subtle pressure and on 21 March he sent Rice a letter demanding additional information:

Yours of March 19th received. Should like to see a statement showing the assessed valuation of Toronto Junction for the year 1900 and each succeeding year, showing also the basis of assessment, that is to say the relation which the assessed value bears to the actual value.³⁰

Within two days, Rice had collected the data Bertram requested, and on 23 March, he sent him Toronto Junction's assessed valuation and population from 1900 to 1907, taken from the assessment rolls, as well as projections for 1908. The 1907 assessment was pegged at \$4,983,460 and the population was 10,151 (both about double the 1900 amounts). Rice noted, "The basis of assessment has remained about the same through all these years, viz., about sixty per cent of the actual valuation." To demonstrate that Toronto Junction could finance the ongoing expenses of a Carnegie library, Rice concluded his report with an explanation of the section of the province's *Public Libraries Act, 1895* regarding the special rate for library purposes, which allowed a tax rate of one-half a mill on existing assessments:

Under the laws of Ontario, the maximum rate that can be levied for library purposes is still 1/2 mill in the dollar. As our assessment will be at least \$5,000,000 this year, the first levy would be about 2/5 of a mill should you favourably answer our appeal for a \$20,000 building. Growth prospects are so good that a constantly increasing valuation seems inevitable and I have no doubt that in the course of

a couple of years a levy of 1/4 mill will yield the necessary \$2,000.

I may say that in fixing the sum to be asked for at \$20,000 the Council had in mind the certain future growth of this little city.³¹

Rice's information convinced Carnegie of the town's financial viability and its current population, and on 6 April 1908 Bertram conveyed the favourable decision to Rice:

Responding to your communication on behalf of Toronto Junction. – If the City agree [sic] by resolution of Council to maintain a Free Public Library at a cost of not less than Two Thousand Dollars a year, and provide a suitable site for the building, Mr. Carnegie will be glad to give Twenty Thousand Dollars to erect a Free Public Library Building for Toronto Junction.³²

Bertram followed the standard Carnegie grant formula of \$2 per person, which happily also coincided with the amount that local officials had requested. He was not about to increase the grant based on a projected population of 12,000 people for 1908 (although this was accurate) nor strap the municipality with annual operating costs that would be more than the legislation would allow it legally to raise.

Nevertheless, the grant of \$20,000 was very generous. Of the 111 libraries in Ontario that received grants, only one other received



Andrew Carnegie and James Bertram, about 1900

James Bertram (1872-1934), Carnegie's private secretary from 1897 to 1914 and the secretary of the Carnegie Corporation of New York from 1911 to 1934, administered the library grant program. He and A. B. Rice corresponded for several months in 1908 negotiating a grant for the Junction.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Photo #C-1099

the same amount (Sarnia in 1902) and just 20 percent (18 libraries) got more, the largest by far being Toronto Public Library in 1903 with \$350,000 to build a central library and three branches.

Meeting the Grant Conditions

It had taken a little more than two months in 1908 for Toronto Junction to obtain a promise from Carnegie to finance a new library building, but meeting or pledging to adhere to his three conditions would require another four months; only then would funds be released to start construction.

Rice quickly responded to the good news, and on 9 April sent a fulsome letter of thanks to Carnegie, also peppering him with questions about implementing the library project. He also proudly announced the municipality's imminent elevation to city status – the City of West Toronto, with 12,563 citizens, was created on 14 April 1908.³³

I am in receipt of Mr Bertram's letter of the 6th. inst., containing the intimation, so pleasing to the people of this City, that you generously responded in the affirmative to our appeal for \$20,000 to erect a Free Public Library Building for Toronto Junction on conditions to which the City Council has already agreed by resolution.

As our Library Board will desire to take the matter up with the City Council at its next meeting in order that the building may be erected without delay, may I ask that Mr Bertram kindly inform me at his earliest convenience as to certain details as to which the aldermen will desire to be informed. The following questions will probably be asked:

1. Has the Council a free hand as to the selection of the site?
2. Is the title deed of the site to be in the name of the City?
3. Do we employ our own architect and pass upon the plans?
4. Is the Architect's fee reckoned as part of the cost of the building and payable out of the \$20,000?
5. How is the money advanced?, i.e., will it pass through our City Treasury or will you pay it directly to the Contractors?

The Bill incorporating this place as the "City of West Toronto" has passed the Third reading in the Legislature and will take effect as soon as sanctioned by the Lieutenant Governor.³⁴

Given the seeming lack of written directions from Carnegie at this time, Rice's questions appear valid, but clearly Bertram found them annoying and he impatiently responded to Rice on 11 April:

Yours of April 9th received. In giving 1700 library buildings we have not found it necessary to give further particulars than are contained in our letter of April 6th, which states this matter clearly. We cannot go into details now. When you fulfill the conditions and send plans of which we can approve Mr. Carnegie will make arrangements about payment.³⁵

Rice led another library board delegation to the new City of West Toronto Council on 21 April to announce Carnegie's promise and to inform the aldermen (as they were now designated) "that it was now necessary to put into motion the necessary machinery by appointing a library board, in accordance with the act."³⁶ The present board was elected by its members, but under the *Public Libraries Act, 1895* (similar to the *Free Libraries Act of 1882*), the board of management of a free library, "shall be composed of the mayor of the city or town...and three other persons to be appointed by the council, three by the public school board, or the board of education of the municipality and two by the separate school board, if any."³⁷ Members of appointing bodies were not eligible to serve. Since West Toronto did not have a Catholic school board, its public library board would consist of three members selected by the City Council and three by the public school board along with the mayor.

Council faced a conundrum. It "felt it was only fair to the subscribers of the present library to continue it until the time covered by the subscription expired." But in order to meet the Carnegie grant condition, it had "to appoint a new board to take over the library and make it free."³⁸ In the end it decided to do both, and have the present library board continue until the end of the year, and also to establish a new board, that would, "of course exercise full control over the construction operations of the new building."³⁹

Council started the process to establish a 'free' public library on 4 May 1908, when, following motions by Aldermen Jennings and Sheppard, it took the unusual step of pushing through two readings of "a bylaw to establish a Public Library and to appoint a Public

Library Board in the City of West Toronto."⁴⁰ The bylaw received a third and final reading on 20 July 1908, and a free public library was formed in West Toronto.

Even before the free library was established officially, local citizens applied to serve on the new West Toronto Public Library Board, probably the reason for a communication "From A. B. Rice & 6 others re Public Library" tabled at Council's meeting on 18 May 1908.⁴¹ Subsequently Council selected Richard R. Hopkins, Thomas Ferguson and Allan Berlin Rice, the latter becoming the chairman of the new board and also remaining in the same position on the old board. On 26 May 1908, the Public School Board appointed its representatives: Professor W. J. Alexander, Dr. A. T. Macnamara and Dr. G. W. Clendenan. (Also nominated but not accepted were William Wilson, 'the supervisor,'⁴² and W. P. Hartney, a long-time member of the old public library board.⁴³) Because he was a member of City Council, Robert C. Jennings could not be appointed to the new public library board, but he became its treasurer.

William J. Alexander (1855-1944) was the first chair of English at University College, University of Toronto, appointed in 1889 and retiring in 1926 after 37 years of service. He moved to the Junction in about 1906, living at 274 High Park Avenue (W. E. Raney's



William John Alexander, (1855-1944), 1887

The long-time chair of English at University College, University of Toronto and a prolific literary critic and compiler, Alexander was a public school board representative on the West Toronto Public Library Board in 1908-9. William Notman and Son/Fisher MS Collection 155

old address) with his wife, Laura, and their large family, and he resided on the street until June 1920. (A son, Flight Sub-Lieutenant J. Morrow Alexander, was the first Canadian aviator to die in the First World War, killed on 12 September 1915.) Alexander was a prolific literary critic and compiler. "He prepared many texts for use in the high schools of the province," Malcolm Wallace said of Alexander, "and in this way did more than



Albert Thomas Macnamara (b. 1864), about 1915?

Macnamara was the third medical doctor on the 1908 West Toronto Public Library Board. However, probably owing to the death of his wife in January 1909, he did not serve on the 1909 library board, which was dissolved at the end of April when West Toronto was amalgamated with Toronto.

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any other single person to establish standards of taste and of the teaching of English in Ontario."⁴⁴

The third medical doctor on the 1908 board, Albert Thomas Macnamara was born in Muskoka on 17 September 1864 and moved to the Junction in his mid 20s, living in 1891 in the household of John R. Hoover, a flour and feed merchant, whose daughter Francis he later married. He trained at the University of Toronto Medical School, began to practice in 1897 and eventually was a surgeon on the staff of Grace and St. Joseph's hospitals.⁴⁵ In 1901, the extended Macnamara-Hoover family resided on Davenport Road, close to Davenport Methodist Church, where they were active members. Little is known about the sixth board member, Thomas Ferguson. A Thomas Ferguson was a carpenter for the CPR and lived at 40 McMurray Avenue; that also was the name of a Mason who was the grand master of Stanley Lodge in 1906.

William Alexander Baird served on the library board in his capacity as the city's mayor. Born on 10 September 1867 in Middlesex County, Ontario and the son of a railway station agent, Baird was admitted as a student-at-law at Osgoode Hall in 1886 and was called to the Bar in 1891, also earning a Bachelor of Common Law (BCL) degree from Trinity College in 1901. He moved to the Junction shortly after his marriage on 27 June 1896 to Annie Mary Gilbert, one of 13

children of Thomas Gilbert of *Aikenshaw*, a prominent local resident. The newlyweds settled in a large double house built that year at the southeast corner of Keele and Humberstone, perhaps designed by architect John Constantine, who lived in the other half. Baird soon became involved in local politics, and first was elected to Toronto Junction Council in 1901. He successfully ran to become the mayor in 1907, and was re-elected the following year. Baird was instrumental in having the town incorporated as the City of West Toronto in 1908, and was the mayor when it was annexed by the City of Toronto in 1909, making him the only mayor the City of West Toronto ever had. After annexation, he joined Toronto City Council as an alderman for Ward Seven, serving from 1909 to 1912. During his tenure, Baird was responsible for having a park established at Keele and Humberstone (directly across from his house), later named in his honour. From 1926 until his death on 30 May 1940, Baird was the Conservative MPP representing High Park.

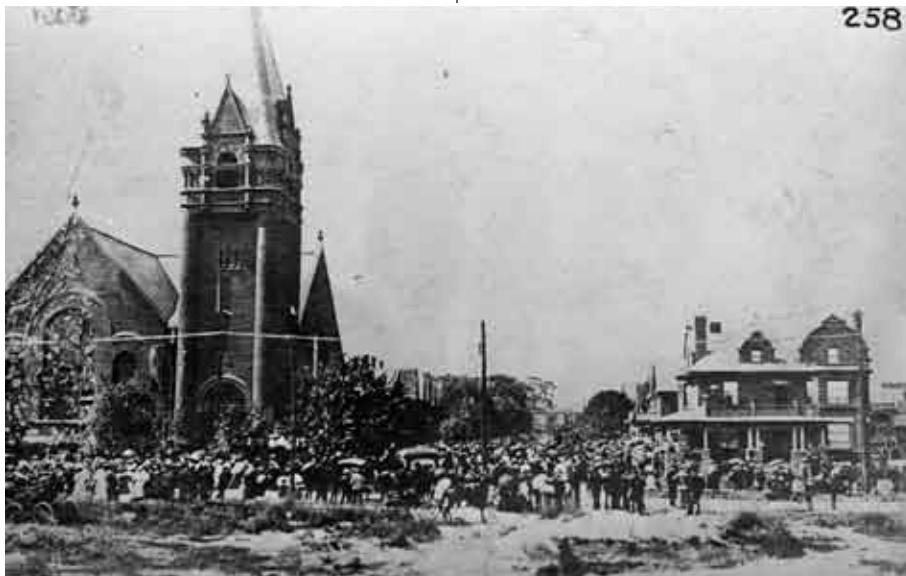
Another Carnegie condition that West Toronto had to meet was the purchase of a site for the new library. In January 1908, Rice suggested that the library could be located where "the old stables stood on North Keele street"⁴⁶ and in mid-March 1908 he indicated that two or three suitable locations were available. By the end of April, the site was still a source of



W. A. (William Alexander) Baird (1867-1940), 1903

Although Baird voted against Toronto Junction accepting the Carnegie grant on 16 March 1908, he was a member of the West Toronto Public Library Board in 1908-9 in his capacity as the mayor of the City of West Toronto, the first and only person to hold that position.

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Funeral of nine drowned in the capsizing of the launch 'Dalvine,' at Victoria Presbyterian Church, northwest corner of Annette and Medland streets, 29 July 1907

The site of the future public library is visible in the foreground of this picture, which shows mourners of a great local tragedy that occurred three days previously. Two and one-half lots at the southwest corner of the intersection were acquired for the new Carnegie-funded library in June 1908. That October, parts of another two lots to the west were purchased so that the library's entrance would look directly north up Medland to Dundas Street, and not face the lawn of Mr. Thomas Smyth's house on the northeast corner.

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speculation, but the *Telegram* noted, "There are sites available on Annette street west, and it is altogether likely that that handsome street will be chosen for the new building."⁴⁷ Apparently Council Hain considered the matter had been decided already, sarcastically remarking on 22 April, "It is wonderful how cautious council can be. The question of site was settled in a few minutes."⁴⁸

Both Hain and Mayor Baird favoured locating the library beside the property recently acquired by the Masons on a section of the old Keele Estate, which had been subdivided in 1906. (Before that, the vacant property sometimes was used for a skating rink. In December 1905, Toronto Junction Council gave permission to the Orient Rink to erect a dressing room on the south side of Annette, opposite Medland Street.⁴⁹) In the end, Toronto real estate dealers James Armstrong and John J. Cook (and their wives) were paid \$2,000 for two and one-half lots (4, 5, half 3 of Plan 1363); and the deed was registered on 26 June 1908. Rice enthusiastically described the property in his 22 July 1908 letter to Carnegie:

The site is centrally located on Annette Street which parallels Dundas Street, our chief Business thoroughfare. Most of the Churches are on Annette Street and one of the finest of these, Victoria Presbyterian Church is on the opposite corner. Immediately west of our site land has been bought for a Masonic Temple which will be a fine building. Our site has a frontage of 90 feet on Annette Street by 85 feet on Medland Street. The Citizens are unanimous in the opinion that we have secured the best location for the purpose in the City.⁵⁰

Rice must have been personally delighted with the prospect of having the library beside the proposed Masonic Temple and across the street from his church, Victoria Presbyterian. Having his regular haunts within a few blocks of his home on Clendenan Avenue was an added benefit to local motorists since Rice was 'the world's worst driver,' according to his granddaughter Isobel.⁵¹

Although not a formal condition, Bertram also demanded to view and approve building plans, a practice he started that year. Rice sent blueprint copies on 22 July 1908 with a request for his approval, which apparently was given by mid-August. Normally, once Bertram was satisfied that a grant application

and then building plans were in order, he would authorize Robert A. Franks, Carnegie's financial agent, to release money for the construction. Not infrequently, when Carnegie or Bertram were in Scotland, where they resided for six months of the year, Franks assumed Bertram's approval duties.

Such was the case for West Toronto's application, where the paperwork apparently was not all in order. On 17 August 1908, Franks asked for a copy of the deed of its library site, and also sent a form for Council to complete. Rice was away when Franks' letter arrived, and scrawled an undated, handwritten response on Customs Canada letterhead upon his return: "Your form of resolution arrived here on the 24th but I was out of town and the Aldermen did not have it before their special meeting that evening. Some of my colleagues were present at the Council meeting and secured the passing of this resolution"⁵² that Aldermen Sheppard and Whetter (the library's 'go-to' persons on Council) had proposed:

That in consideration of Mr. Andrew Carnegie making a donation of \$20,000.00 to pay for a Free Public Library Building, to be erected on the site purchased for the purpose, at the corner of Annette and Medland Streets, this Council hereby undertakes to make to the Public Library Board an annual grant of not less than Two Thousand Dollars for Maintenance.⁵³

In his letter to 'R. A. Franks, Esq. President Home Trust Co. Hoboken, N. J.', Rice enclosed copies of the resolution (signed by the town clerk on 25 August) and of the deed (which A. J. Anderson, the town's solicitor and a notary public, had certified was 'a true copy' on 27 August). He trusted that these would suffice, and that completion of the standard Carnegie form of resolution would not be necessary. Rice could not resist mentioning that this was the second resolution that Council had passed, and slyly blaming himself for the added trouble, when he probably meant the exact opposite.

I am herewith enclosing a copy of deed of our library site as requested in your letter of the 17th inst.

I am also sending to you herewith a copy of a second resolution of the Council passed on the 24th inst. in which the Council pledges itself to make an "annual grant of not less than

Two Thousand Dollars for maintenance." in the hope that you will accept it as they are anxious to get on with building operations before winter.

I trust you will be able to [illegible] the resolutions now submitted as the Council will not meet again for a couple of weeks. If you advise me that the prescribed form is still necessary I shall of course ask the Council to use it at the next meeting.

I am sorry to put you to so much trouble. It is due to our desire to get the building started in suitable weather.⁵⁴

On 3 September 1908, Carnegie officials processed Rice's letter, which is the last document in its correspondence file for 'Toronto Junction (West Toronto)'. A handwritten note on the summary sheet states, 'Site Resolution – Payments 9/3/08 Plans left,' indicating that all of the conditions had been met and Franks had started to release Carnegie funds on 3 September 1908, so that library construction could proceed. Evidently further letters were exchanged. On 5 September, the *Toronto Telegram* reported:

Mr. A. B. Rice, chairman of the Public Library Board, has received a communication from the secretary of Andrew Carnegie, who is providing the town with a \$20,000 library, informing him that the plans and specifications having been approved by Mr. Carnegie, a letter signed by the chairman and secretary



James A. Ellis (1856-1935), 1891

Ellis & Connery, the architecture firm of Junction resident James A. Ellis and his partner William Connery, planned West Toronto's Carnegie library in 1908-9.

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of the board will bring the money in \$5,000 instalments. The work will now be rushed forward.⁵⁵

Planning and Designing the Carnegie Library

As indicated above, less than a week after giving Carnegie's promise to provide \$20,000 for a public library at Toronto Junction, James Bertram instructed Rice on 11 April 1908 to "send plans of which we can approve."⁵⁶ This was a new procedure that Bertram had established only recently, for, as the authors of the *Best Gift* documented: "By 1907 he has seen so many poor and inadequate plans that from that date on he insisted on plan approval prior to awarding the grant."⁵⁷ Ontario library officials had started to assist local libraries before that. Illustrations, floor plans and brief descriptions of the province's new libraries were published in the Education Department's annual report of 1906, and many of these materials were available for loan from the department and the Ontario Library Association.

The Toronto architectural firm of James A. Ellis and William Connery was commis-

sioned to design the new library, and it had plans ready for the West Toronto Public Library Board to view on 23 June 1908. The *Toronto Telegram* reported the following day: "Preparations for the Carnegie Library are being made with all possible speed. The Board met last night and approved the plans of Architects Ellis and Connery. Chairman A. B. Rice will forward them to the Laird of Skibo for his ratification."⁵⁸

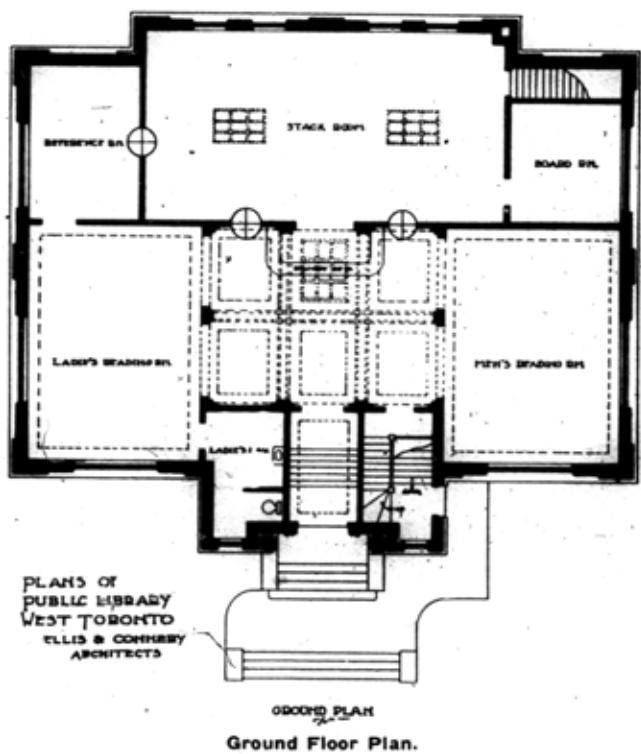
No records have been found indicating that the library board invited other architects to compete for the project, particularly local architects or ones experienced in planning libraries. Was John Constantine, for example, given an opportunity to submit a proposal? A former chairman of the Toronto Junction Public Library, Constantine was then the only architect with an office in the Junction, in his house at Keele Street and Humberside (next door to Mayor Baird). However, Constantine was 67 years old and had been semi-retired for several years in 1908, and he did not have Ellis's reputation.⁵⁹

A month after the library board endorsed Ellis and Connery's plans, Rice sent blueprint copies on 22 July 1908 to Bertram for approval. This was given, and the Library Board and

the architects were working to complete the final details, the *Toronto Telegram* reported on 22 August: "The \$20,000 Carnegie Library is beginning to assume definite shape. Last night the Board met, and, with Architect Connery (Ellis Connery), discussed at length the plans approved by Mr. Carnegie. Specifications will now be prepared and the work proceeded with."⁶⁰

Some information about the layout and design of the new library was published as early as 23 July 1908,⁶¹ but the most detailed report appeared in *Construction* in September 1909, with this description of the main floor plan:

Inside the entrance is the vestibule which in turn opens into a large rotunda...To the left and right of the rotunda are the ladies' and men's reading rooms, the former having direct lavatory accommodation, and a doorway leading to the reference room situated at its rear. ...Immediately back of the desk is a stock room of spacious dimensions, having the board room to the right, together with a staircase leading to the workroom in the basement. The delivery desk, being placed the entrance, enables the librarian or the clerks



Plans of West Toronto Public Library, Ellis & Connery Architects, 1909
TPL TRL Construction, September 1909.



Basement plan

The architects followed the popular trefoil plan with separate stack and working rooms at the back, and the delivery area and the reading rooms at the front, and the librarian between.

to have a commanding view of both reading rooms and to exercise complete supervision over the entire floor.⁶²

The main floor was typical of early Carnegie libraries, which usually featured a large desk for charging and discharging books, reading rooms (sometimes divided by age or gender), and separate stack room(s) closed to the public who was not allowed to browse the shelves directly. In planning the layout, Ellis and Connery doubtlessly were influenced by an article on 'Library design' that William A. Langton, a Toronto architect and city planner, contributed in April 1902 to *The Canadian Architect and Builder*, a professional journal to which Ellis made regular submissions about his work.

For smaller libraries, particularly ones in small towns that had received Carnegie grants, Langton recognized that "a librarian with one or two assistants must attend to everything and oversee everything. Hence the public functions must all be one floor and as far as possible all in sight of the administrative centre." He advocated the trefoil plan with separate stack and working rooms at the back, and the delivery area and the reading rooms at the front, and the librarian between, recommending:

1. For the public; a reading room for grown up people, a reading room for children, and ample space apart from these for the coming and going of borrowers. 2. For the librarian;

a delivery desk and a private room in connection with it; for talking is not the thing in a library, and if the librarian wants to talk at length he should have a place for seclusion, for the sake of the public as well as for the sake of privacy. There should be also working room for unpacking, marking and cataloguing the books ... best in the basement. 3. For the storage of books: plenty of room now and an opportunity to grow.⁶³

Ellis and Connery following this basic plan, although they placed a reference room and a board room (provided instead of a private staff room) at the back, and had separate reading rooms for women and men but nothing for children. They generally adhered to Langton's preference for subdividing the floor area by open screens of columns and a divided ceiling rather than by permanent partitions or walls. The architects used classical detailing – pilasters, capitals and a five-course cornice – to define the large rotunda and to separate it from the adjacent reading rooms. The ceiling of the rotunda was enriched with six cross-panelled beams, and a skylight was placed in the central panel over the delivery desk.

Construction also described the basement level in its September 1909 article about 'West Toronto's new public library':

Access to the basement is obtained either from the outside or the rotunda, the stairway being conveniently situated in the space

between the vestibule and men's reading room. This floor contains a large lecture room occupying one half of the floor space, a smoking room, men's lavatory, boiler and fuel compartments and work room. The lecture room is separated from the other rooms by a corridor, and the lavatory is placed underneath the main entrance.⁶⁴

The lecture room was a carry-over from the educational features of the old mechanics' institutes, and was strongly advocated by *Construction* in 1909: "In addition to the library proper, the plan should provide for a lecture room, as the lyceum feature is coming to be more fully recognized as an important adjunct to the library system."⁶⁵

Carnegie approved of lecture rooms, and they were included in the basement of all six plans of *Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings* [sic], the planning guide Bertram prepared in 1911. An auditorium had been a selling point for West Toronto's new library, although its size may have been reduced during planning: 1908 reports give its seating capacity as 500 in July and 400 in September. Rice explained in April 1908 that it could be used for "Anything educational. Political or municipal meetings or the Festival Chorus could be held there at the bare cost of running expenses."⁶⁶

An architectural drawing of the front



"View of rotunda, new Public Library, West Toronto, looking towards the entrance and showing detail of ceiling and walls," 1909
Construction magazine gave this description of the rotunda in September 1909: "The walls are finished in a brown toned stucco; the pilasters, capitals and cornice in white keen cement; and the ceiling crossed with enriched white plastered beams forming deep recessed panels, the centre of which providing a skylight over the delivery desk."⁶⁷

TPL Annual Report, 1909



Ceiling detail, 2005

Some of the original interior architectural details are intact a century later. The ceiling was covered in 1962 and restored in 1979-80.

façade of the new library was released on 26 September 1908, the day excavation started. *Construction* supplied more illustrations and details a year later:

It is a square, practically planned building, one story and basement in height, and designed with a modern classic feeling. The walls are of red pressed brick laid up with black mortar points, the floor system of concrete and the entrance cornice and window trimmings are executed in Ohio sand stone. A low parapet and simply designed belt course helps materially in giving the building a pleasing breadth of character; while the entrance, having easy ascending steps and embellished with columns of the Corinthian order on either side, assists in imparting to the whole the feeling of dignity which such a building should possess.⁶⁷

Ellis and Connery followed the ubiquitous Beaux Arts inspired design of early Carnegie libraries in Ontario: a single storey building with an exposed basement, a centrally located main entrance at the top of a flight of stairs and a symmetrical arrangement of windows. The architects incorporated other characteristic features of the Beaux Arts style (for example, a flat roof and a variety of colours), which developed in the last decades of the 19th century, and took its name from the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. Promoters of the Beaux Arts style sought to express the Classical principles on a grand and imposing scale.

Not surprisingly, as well as libraries, many of the Beaux Arts buildings were banks, post offices, and railway stations.

In keeping with the eclectic nature of Beaux Arts, Ellis and Connery mixed Classical elements with architectural details from other periods. The Corinthian columns flanking the doorway, the stone cornice with decorative dentil blocks banding all four walls near the top of the building, and the brick pilasters with stone capitals at the ends of the front wings and on the east and south facades were significant Classical details. The broken pediment and keystone above the double doors at the main entrance and the parapet over the main entrance block were Renaissance and Baroque elements. Keystones (and voussoirs) also were used on the main floor windows, which, along with the windows in the raised basement, also were decorated with stone sills and quoins.

Instead of placing a pedimented portico (a porch with a triangular roof) in front of the main entrance as did the architects of many Ontario Carnegie libraries (for example, City Architect Robert McCallum at Yorkville Branch), Ellis and Connery created a projecting entrance block, flanked by one-bay wings, to welcome patrons to enter through the prominent central doorway. Corinthian columns divided the entrance block into three bays with a pair of window openings above the main entrance, and single window openings set midway in the walls on either side. Flat-headed windows were used throughout,

rather than the more typical arched windows of the Beaux Arts style. ‘Public Library’ was carved in a frame set in the centre of the stone parapet to announce the purpose of the building.⁶⁸

“Independent of the architect, almost all the Ontario Carnegie libraries share one common feature: large windows responding to the need for natural light,” observed the authors of the *Best Gift*.⁶⁹ At West Toronto, each of the reading rooms had two large tripartite windows with transoms to ensure plenty of natural light, supplemented by adjustable electric pendants over the tables. Two identical windows at the rear of the east and west façades and two pairs on the south façade brought light to the back rooms. A smaller version of many of the same openings was placed in the basement level.



Corinthian capital and column detail, 2005
TPL



Entrance Block detail, 2005

Many of the original architectural details are intact: the Corinthian columns, the broken pediment with a keystone, and ‘Public Library’ carved in the parapet. Unfortunately, the stone cornice with decorative dentil blocks that banded all four walls was removed and replaced with cement in 1955. TPL



Western Branch exterior, 1909

Ellis & Connery designed the building in a Beaux Arts style, typical of many Carnegie-funded libraries. The exterior was defined by strong symmetry, a broad flight of stairs leading to a raised single storey, and entrance doors flanked by a pair of Corinthian columns.

TPL Annual Report, 1909

J. A. Ellis & W. Connery Architects

James Augustus Ellis (1856-1935), the senior partner of Ellis and Connery, has been called “the Junction’s most versatile and prolific architect,” with “enough buildings to his credit to merit a book on his own.”⁷⁰ Whether working alone or in partnership with other architects, Ellis planned more than 50 buildings in the Junction: commercial and industrial structures, churches, schools, and other public buildings, and about two-dozen houses. He did not follow any particular architectural style, but designed his buildings to their purpose, the wishes of his clients and forms popular at the time. Sadly, about a third of Ellis’s work in the Junction has been demolished, including his own red brick house at 358 Clendenan Avenue where he lived with his family for about 15 years, but many remain to enrich today’s streetscapes. About a dozen of his Junction buildings have been listed on the *City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties* and several have been designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Born on a farm in St. Vincent Township, Grey County, Canada West on 2 August 1856, Ellis was the middle of five children of James Ellis and Phoebe Watts, originally from Kent,



James A. Ellis in Masonic regalia, about 1880

Ellis was an ardent Mason, and, in 1880, he was an officer in the Pythagoras Lodge, Meaford. Ellis was born in 1856 on a farm in St. Vincent Township a few miles from the town.

Meaford Museum

England, who immigrated to Canada shortly before their son’s birth. As a teenager, Ellis apprenticed as a carpenter to his father, but he soon branched into building construction and architectural design with the Meaford Building and Manufacturing Co. During the 1880s, the company received many local commissions, notably the magnificent Meaford Fire Hall (1887), but it also expanded its business ‘to all parts of the country,’⁷¹ particularly Port Arthur and Sault Ste Marie in northern Ontario and Brandon, Manitoba. In 1887, the company (‘Jas. A. Ellis, Manager’) advertised: “Plans, Specifications and Estimates prepared by our own architect, Mr. J. Augustus Ellis, promptly and at reasonable rates, either in connection with or apart from contracts.”⁷² Ellis was an early and active member of the Ontario Association of Architects, started in March 1889, joining the association while still a Meaford resident.

In March 1890, the *Canadian Architect and Builder* reported, “Mr. J. E. [sic] Ellis, architect, has opened an office at West

**The Meaford Building and Manufacturing Co.,
LIMITED**
CONTRACTORS AND BUILDERS.
Wholesale Manufacturers and Dealers in all kinds of
BUILDING MATERIAL, NAVY BARROWS AND DUMP CARTS.
Special Rates to all Upper Lake Ports.
Plans, Specifications and Estimates prepared by our own architect, Mr. J. Augustus Ellis, promptly and at reasonable rates, either in connection with or apart from contracts.
ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. WRITES FOR PRICES.
JAS. A. ELLIS, Manager. J. CLELAND, President.

Meaford Building and Manufacturing Co. advertisement, 1887

Ellis and James Cleland, originally a carpenter and a hardware merchant respectively, became business partners in the mid-1870s, and formed this company in 1880. They worked mostly in their hometown of Meaford, but also expanded their operations to Port Arthur and Sault Ste Marie in northern Ontario; Brandon, Manitoba and, perhaps, West Toronto Junction. TPL TRL 917.1313 R58



Heydon House, St. Clair Avenue West and (Old) Weston Road, northeast corner, 1901

Ellis planned two hotels in this vicinity in the early 1890s: Heydon House for Alexander Heydon and the more modest Carleton Hotel (demolished) for William O. Brown, on Weston Road, north of St. Clair

WTJHS. Tribune

Toronto Junction.”⁷³ He already had a few local buildings to his credit, planned in about 1889. These included Peake’s Block designed for Thomas J. L. Peake & Co., Hardware and House Furnishings at the northeast corner of Dundas and Keele; additions to Annette Street School; and a school on Dufferin Street (north of St. Clair). Ellis became known as a designer of schools with buildings to his credit across North America. Shortly after moving to the Junction, he designed St. Clair School and Swansea School, the latter, like the school on Dufferin Street, was outside the town boundaries, but then was managed by the Toronto Junction School Board.

Ellis may have been encouraged to move to the town by founder Daniel Webster Clendenan, who in 1890 not only had Ellis design him a house on High Park Avenue but also was instrumental in his being hired to prepare plans for a new Disciples of Christ Church, and factories for the Strachan Shoe and Vermilyea Corset companies. In this early period, Ellis designed at least eight other houses, another factory (soon used for Campbell’s Flour Mill), and two hotels on Weston Road at St. Clair, one for Alexander Heydon and another for William O. Brown. He is also credited with planning two hotels on Dundas Street, a rebuilt Peacock Hotel and the new Avenue Hotel. He also planned a second business block on Dundas Street, and had an office in both, first in Peake’s Block and then in the Kilburn Block at the northwest corner of Van Horne Street (now Heintzman Street), where space also was leased by the Mechanics’ Institute, A. B. Rice and Stanley Masonic Lodge, of which Ellis was the grand master in 1892.

The economic depression of the 1890s forced Ellis to go beyond the Junction to find work. In June 1894, it was reported:

Mr. J. A. Ellis, architect, of Toronto Junction, in conjunction with Mr. Wm. Fingland, late of Toronto, has opened an office in Baltimore,

**JAMES A. ELLIS,
ARCHITECT
BUILDING SUPERINTENDENT AND APPRAISER,
Room 7, Dundas Chambers,
TORONTO JUNCTION.**

James A. Ellis advertisement, 1893

Ellis opened an office at West Toronto Junction in early 1890. Initially, he may have been located in the Thompson Block at the southeast corner of Keele and Dundas, but he quickly relocated to offices in buildings of his own design, first across the street in Peake’s Block and then a block east in the Kilburn Building.

Canadian Architect and Builder, January 1893

and is about to temporarily remove to that city. On the eve of his departure from Toronto Junction he was tendered a complimentary banquet by a number of prominent citizens. Mr. Ellis' popularity is well deserved, and his departure is the subject of much regret.⁷⁴

Despite the relocation, Ellis continued to work on local projects, notably Toronto Junction High School (later Humberside Collegiate) planned with William Fingland. He maintained a Junction office for a few years but by January 1896, he had moved his practice to 4½ Adelaide Street East in downtown Toronto. From mid-1897 until fall 1898, Ellis was in partnership with Henry Simpson (1864-1926) at 9½ Adelaide Street East; when the joint venture dissolved, the two remained at the same address in separate offices.

Ellis's decision to go on his own again coincided with the Junction's (and the country's) economic recovery. In the late 1890s and early 1900s, he designed or remodelled half a dozen local buildings including a major addition to H. A. Lozier & Co. (taken over by the Canada Cycle and Motor Co./CCM in 1899); a factory for William Harris whose

abattoir was near the Union Stock Yards; an almost rebuilt Davenport Methodist Church

(now Davenport Perth Community Church); Western Avenue School (renamed Indian



Toronto Junction High School (later Humberside Collegiate), Quebec Avenue at Humberside Avenue, about 1894

Opened on the present site in 1894, the Romanesque Revival-style high school was planned by James A. Ellis in 1893, in association with William Fingland, with whom he opened a temporary office in Baltimore, Maryland in 1894.
WTJHS



Lindsay Public Library, about 1905

Before joining Ellis's firm in 1906, William Connery was employed by Toronto architect George Martell Miller, whose designs included the Lindsay Public Library (1903-4). Connery may have worked on this project, giving him invaluable experience for planning the Carnegie library at West Toronto in 1908-9.

AO S-2037

Road Crescent School in 1937) and several houses, including a new home on Clendenan Avenue for his own family comprised of his wife Annie McIntosh and sons Howard and Leon.

In January 1903, it was announced that "Mr. J. A. Ellis, architect, has recently removed his offices to the Manning Chambers, City Hall square, Queen Street west, Toronto."⁷⁵ His increasing workload led him to take on a junior partner, and William Connery (1872-1937) joined the practice in 1906. Born in Toronto on 10 June 1872, Connery was the eldest of at least ten children of Ann Jane Littlefield and Joseph Connery, a carpenter from Belfast, Ireland who had immigrated to Canada in 1869; by the 1890s, Joseph was a contractor in Toronto with several sons in the building trades.

Young William began his architectural career in his late teens as a draughtsman for George Martell Miller (1854/5-1933). During his first stint with the firm, it designed a number of important Toronto buildings including the Robson House (1888, now the Gladstone Hotel) and Massey Hall (1893). For a few

years in the mid-1890s, Connery worked for Toronto architect Robert James Edwards (1854-1927), partly while Hiram J. Webster was his partner. He moved to Kingston to work for William Newlands, then returned to Toronto in 1899 to again assist Miller, working first as a draughtsman and finally as an architect.

During Connery's second period with Miller, the firm's commissions included a second Massey Hall and Library at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph (1901) and Lindsay Public Library (1903-4), constructed with a Carnegie grant of \$13,500 given to the town in 1902.⁷⁶ Connery may have worked on these projects, giving him invaluable experience for planning the Carnegie library at West Toronto in 1908-9.

In a decade or so of partnership, Ellis and Connery designed at least 20 buildings in the Junction for a variety of clients and purposes. These included an addition to No. 1 Fire Hall on Keele Street, Strathcona School on Louisa Street (now St. John's Road, closed 1943 and quickly incorporated into Runnymede Hospital), several industrial buildings, at least

six houses, two religious buildings (Indian Road Baptist Church and Knesseth Israel Synagogue on Maria Street), a branch of the Bank of British North America on Dundas Street (since 1918, a Bank of Montreal), a



Campbell Flour Mills Co. Ltd, near Junction Road and Cawthra Avenue, about 1916

Ellis designed several industrial buildings in the Junction in the early 1890s, including a brick factory that soon became Archibald Campbell's Queen City Flour Mills, opened in 1892. During their partnership, Ellis & Connery planned additional buildings for Campbell's milling operations here.

William James/CTA Fonds 1244, Item 2550



Strathcona School, St. John's Road, northeast corner of Runnymede Road, about 1910

Ellis and Connery planned Strathcona School in 1908, concurrently with the Carnegie library, and both opened in 1909. The school closed in 1943 and quickly was incorporated into Runnymede Hospital; the Toronto Public Library extended service to this hospital in 1945.

TDSB Strathcona School #3

curling rink in Ravina Park, and the West Toronto Masonic Temple adjacent to the Carnegie library.

Ellis was a long-time Mason, along with at least two members of the West Toronto Public Library Board with whom he shared a special connection. He and Chairman A. B. Rice had been neighbours on Clendenan Avenue since the early 1890s when Rice purchased a row of newly built houses on the street (directly behind Annette Street School), moving his own family into the end house in 1892 and renting another to the Ellis family. In 1902, when the architect erected a large red brick house of his own design at 358 Clendenan Avenue, he used part of a lot purchased from Rice, who lived next door at no. 354.

The men shared other common bonds. They were close in age (Rice was three years younger), and had come to the Junction during the boom period from small Ontario places. They arrived with hometown wives, whom they had married in the early 1880s, and young families. Their sons were born less than four months apart: Allan Gordon Rice in Welland on 15 September 1884 and Chauncey Howard Ellis in Meaford on 9 January 1885. Both went on to professional careers, in medicine and architecture respectively, and



James A. Ellis in Masonic regalia, about 1892

Ellis was the master of Stanley Lodge, No. 426, in 1892. Formed in 1890, Stanley was the first Masonic lodge in West Toronto Junction. Ellis was a member of West Toronto Masonic Temple, Limited, incorporated in 1908 to build a Masonic temple. Ellis and Connery were the architects of the building (next door to the library, also of their design), and William Connery later designed its new front facade.
WTMT

died in their mid-30s within two years of one another.⁷⁷ (Howard Ellis was in partnership with his father from about 1915 until his death in January 1922.) They also shared the sorrow of losing a young child: Clarence Rice at the age of two and Hugh Audrey Ellis at four years, six months, both before their families moved to the Junction. Ellis had a third son, Leon McIntosh Ellis, born in Meaford on 17 July 1887, who had a distinguished career in forestry in New Zealand.⁷⁸

Ellis also had a close relationship with Dr. G. W. Clendenan, a long-time member on both the mechanics' institute and the public library boards. Also an ardent Mason, Clendenan belonged to the Disciples of Christ Church, the denomination in which Ellis had been raised. They shared other community interests – both served on the town council (Ellis in 1905) and the school board. (Ellis was chairman of the Collegiate Board in 1908 and 1909, and after annexation served on the Toronto Board of Education.) They also had some business dealings together – both were nominated in November 1896 as directors of the British-Canadian Gold Fields, an exploration, development and investment company.⁷⁹ In the early 1900s, the Ellis and Clendenan families established summer homes on adjacent lots, A9 and A10 respectively, on Island 96 at Pointe au Baril on Georgian Bay. “The large island 96, which forms the eastern

part of the Main Channel, proved to be very popular with some of the early cottagers,” local historian Ruth H. McCuaig noted.⁸⁰ (Curiously, Dr. Clendenan hired other architects to design his family homes/offices: C. F. (Charles Frederick) Wagner for the one on Dundas Street West at Pacific Avenue, and Ewart G. Wilson for a later place at 268 High Park Avenue and Annette Street (1924).⁸¹)

It was at his Point Au Baril cottage that James A. Ellis suffered a fatal stroke, dying a week later at Parry Sound General Hospital on 28 June 1935 at the age of 79.⁸² He is buried with his family in Lakeview Cemetery, Meaford, Ontario.

Construction and Costs

Construction of the new library started on Saturday, 26 September 1908 with completion set for March 1909. “The acorn of Mr. A. B. Rice’s mind will soon be the oak of reality,” the *Toronto Telegram* lyrically chimed, as the foundation began to be excavated.⁸³ During the week of 20 September, contracts for the trades amounting to \$17,033 were awarded to Teagle & Son (masonry, \$7,515); Smith & McElroy (carpentry, \$4,020); R. Paterson (heating and plumbing, \$1,620); Collyer & Lewis (lathing and plastering, \$1,525); Jas. Casey (painting and glazing, \$456); A. Mathews (roofing and sheet



Allan B. Rice in Masonic regalia, 1920?

Rice was a high-ranking Mason, and a large oil portrait and several photographs of him decorate the West Toronto Masonic Temple, of which he was an incorporating member in 1908, the same year as he was chairman of the library board that planned the building next door.
WTMT



George W. Clendenan in Masonic regalia, 1893

Clendenan succeeded Ellis in 1893 as the master of Stanley Lodge. The men were close friends and had neighbouring cottages on Georgian Bay.
WTMT

metal work, \$794); Gas and Electric Power Company (electric wiring, \$280); McDonald & Willson (electric fixtures, \$315); McGregor & McIntyre (steel, \$1,248); and L. Vokes & Son (hardware, \$160). In addition, Library Bureau of Canada was contracted to supply furniture and shelving for \$892, and Ellis and Connery's fees were \$1,000, 5 percent of the total contracted cost of \$19,825.⁸⁴

The project was barely underway when it was realized that, according to the original plans, the pillared entrance block on the Annette Street façade would face Mr. Thomas Smyth's lawn at the northeast corner of Medland Street. "If the building were moved farther west from the line of the new Medland Street extension, the entrance to the library would view Dundas Street up the old part of Medland Street," the *Telegram* reported.⁸⁵ Rice quickly arranged to appear before West Toronto Council to persuade it of the advantages that would result from making this change, and at its meeting on 5 October 1908, a motion by Aldermen Sheppard and Whetter was approved:

That Messrs Armstrong & Cook be offered the sum of \$675.00 for the section of land immediately west of land now owned by the Public Library Board and to the easterly limit of property now owned by the Masonic Board in Annette St. South side to a depth of 85 feet, South from Annette St.⁸⁶

The decision to purchase the extra 32- x 85-foot property (part of lots 2 and 3) and to move the building slightly west not only allowed an imposing view of the library down the old section of Medland Street from Dundas Street, the Junction's main thoroughfare, but it also provided a site for an addition to the building 71 years later.

At that same meeting, West Toronto Council passed a draft agreement for annexation to the City of Toronto, "subject to amendments or additions, re registry office, water pressure and public library."⁸⁷ With talk of annexation to Toronto consuming the thoughts of local residents, there was an urgency to get the library completed. On 11 November 1908, when it was reported that

a corner-laying ceremony would not be held because "of the fickleness of the weather at this time of the year," the *Telegram* noted: "The work is progressing rapidly and will be finished early in the new year." Echoing the sentiments of two decades before, the newspaper proclaimed, "The library will then be the handsomest structure in town."⁸⁸

Evidently no delay in construction was caused by 'a suffocating incident' that had occurred on the building site around noon the day before. While the workers were inside a hut preparing their dinner, with the cooker turned on 'full blast,' an aging prankster strolled to the back and put an old tin pail over the end of the stove pipe that protruded through the side of the shack.

Holy Smoke! You should have seen the result. In an instant a score of wiggley-woggley, writhing, turning, twisting streams of black smoke were squirting through as many cracks, crevices and knot-holes, to be followed instantly by enraged yells from within. Pandemonium followed; the door was burst

J. A. ELLIS & W. CONNERY
ARCHITECTS
208 & 209 MANNING CHAMBERS

Progress Certificate No. /		for \$ 800.00
Feb. 26. 1909		
To Secretary, West Toronto Public Library Board		
We hereby Certify that R. Patterson		
entitled to a payment of Eight Hundred Dollars		
for work done and materials supplied in the erection of		
Plumbing & Steam Fitting in Library		
Ellis & Connery Architect.		
Received Eight hundred Dollars in payment of the above Certificate, this day of 3 March 1909		
\$ 800 "		
R. Patterson		

Ellis & Connery progress certificate no. 1, 26 February 1909

Throughout the construction of the Carnegie library in 1908-9, architects Ellis & Connery issued progress certificates to the library board's secretary (probably R. C. Jennings who also was the treasurer), so the trades could be paid. R. Paterson (his name is misspelled on the certificate) was a Junction plumber.

open and the half-smoked occupants rushed out, coughing, stamping, sneezing, puffing, snorting, cussing, bellowing, jumping, blowing, dancing at the outrage. Meanwhile the frisky young fellow of 55 sat quietly on a nosebag eating his lunch and doing a quiet smile.⁸⁹

Carnegie's financial agent released the money in \$5,000 instalments, matching the construction schedule of the library. Ellis and Connery issued the first certificate on 25 November giving \$2,400 to Teagle & Son for their masonry work. By year's end, additional certificates totally \$3,848 had been given for steel work, carpentry and further masonry.

By the time the West Toronto Public

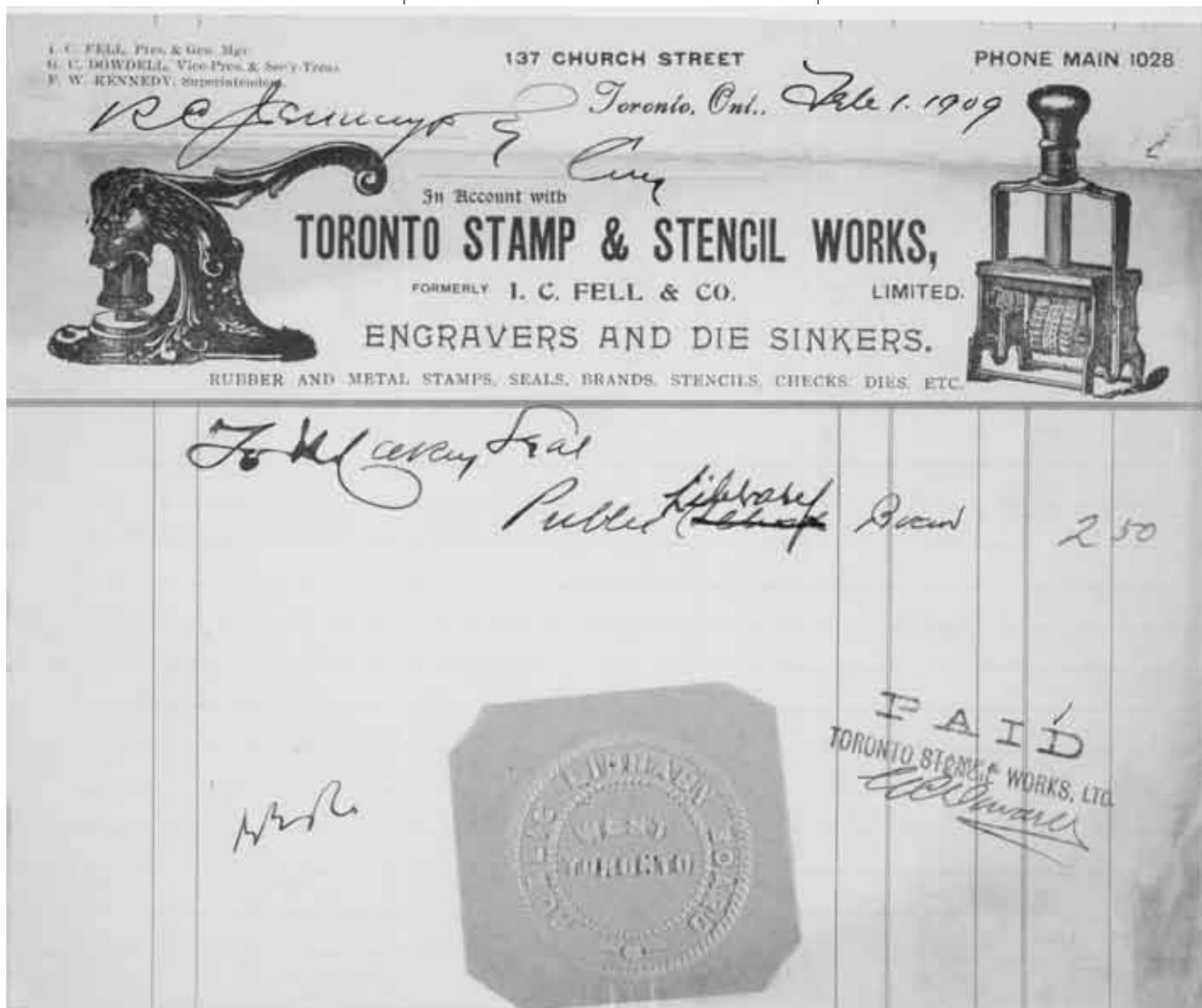
Library Board held its last meeting on 29 April 1909, about three-quarters (\$14,748) of the \$20,000 Carnegie grant had been spent. The contractors for masonry, steelwork, and hardware had been paid in full, and, in the case of Teagle & Son, additional amounts were given: \$50 on 29 April 1909 (above their masonry contract of \$7,525) for 'extra excavating' to move the building west as well as \$24.60 for constructing an additional sidewalk of 20.5 x 8 feet.⁹⁰

The West Toronto Public Library Board had constructed a good part of the library in just over a year of being promised Carnegie funds, a remarkable achievement. By contrast, Toronto Public Library took more than four years after receiving its grant in January 1903

to open its first Carnegie library, Yorkville Branch, on 13 June 1907.

Final Months of West Toronto Public Library Board, January to April 1909

At the beginning of January 1909, West Toronto citizens voted overwhelmingly, by a six to one margin, to join the City of Toronto. Despite the imminent annexation, effective on 1 May 1909, the West Toronto Public Library Board continued to operate for the first four months of 1909. On 18 January, West Toronto Council appointed its representatives to the library board, and the school board made its appointments at about the same time. Most of



Toronto Stamp and Stencil Works receipt for seal, 1 February 1909

This seal shows the third name for the library at the Junction. Established in 1888 as the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute, it became the Toronto Junction Library in 1895, and then the West Toronto Public Library in 1908. After the Toronto Public Library took over in 1909, it became Western Branch. The name of Annette Street Branch was adopted in April 1962.

TPL TRL L2 Box 12A

the trustees from the 1908 board continued to serve in 1909, although W. P. Hartney replaced Dr. Macnamara, whose 36-year-old wife, Francis, died of appendicitis on 29 January 1909, leaving him to raise their two young sons.

W. A. Baird as mayor remained on the board, and optimistically stated the library was ‘nearing completion’ in his opening address to West Toronto Council on 11 January 1909. In a review of 1908, “one of the most eventful in the history of this municipality,” Mayor Baird mentioned the “splendid new Public School on Louisa Street and the ornate Carnegie Library on Annette street,” boasting: “The erection of these buildings shows that we are keeping pace with the times in the matter of Education as well as in other directions.”⁹¹

At the library board’s inaugural meeting on 23 February, A. B. Rice was re-elected to be the chairman and R. C. Jennings was re-appointed as the treasurer, and voted an honorarium of \$50 for his extra work in disbursing the Carnegie grant. As well as constructing the new library, the free public library board now was also responsible for the management of the old (not free) Toronto Junction Public Library. Two staff members were appointed for the new building at the February meeting: Elizabeth McCallum as the librarian and John Doner as the caretaker.⁹² The 52-year-old carpenter lived at 86 Fairview Avenue with his wife and daughter, Amy Augusta Doner (who was married on 1 June 1911 to Dr. Allan Gordon Rice, the board chairman’s son). Rice recalled that Miss McCallum was worried about having a job in the new library, and the confirmation of her position probably was intended to quell her fears by providing a basis for her continued employment with the Toronto Public Library:

Nobody was more delighted than Miss McCallum with the news of the new library, but she could hardly keep back tears when she added that her job was finished. She thought she would be supplanted by a man librarian. I told her that public sentiment would not permit such a change and that anyway amalgamation of the cities was just around the corner and she would be taken care of by the Toronto Library board but she refused to believe it.⁹³

The library board also paid for current operating costs such as building maintenance and rent, salaries and library collections.

Noden & Hallitt, Hardware, 32 East Dundas Street, West Toronto, charged \$1.20 for supplying and installing four mantles and 22 globes at the library on 6 January, and the Consumers Gas Company was paid bills of \$2.55 and \$3.30 on 12 March (it must have charged separately to illuminate the library’s two rooms). C. F. Wright, the long-time owner of the Junction’s news agency, received a cheque for \$16.50 in February for supplying daily newspapers. Toronto Stamp and Stencil Works was paid \$2.50 on 1 February for supplying an engraved seal showing the soon-to-be-defunct ‘West Toronto Public Library Board’.

Several accounts were settled in the Board’s last days, drawing on \$666.67 received from West Toronto Council on 28 April, which had appropriated the funds as its last motion at its final meeting. These were approximately one-quarter of the \$2,000 annual maintenance fee that the municipality had pledged as a condition of the Carnegie grant. (The province sent a legislative grant of \$119.13 in mid May.) The Bank of Hamilton was paid \$30 for room rentals to 1 June in the Bank of Hamilton Chambers in the Kilburn building. The Toronto News Company received \$48.73 for 29 magazine subscriptions for eight months, from May to December 1909. J. G. Musson, a Junction bookseller and stationer at 17 Dundas Street West, got \$8.39 for 15 books and T. Eaton Co. received \$2 for 12 books. The board also ordered a 20- by 22-inch bronze tablet on 27 April from Patterson & Heward, a Toronto sign manufacturer, to acknowledge Andrew Carnegie’s gift of a library to West Toronto.⁹⁴

The library’s two employees signed receipts for their salaries: John Doner for “sixty four 08/100 Dollars as payment in full of salary from 29th March to 30th April current” and Elizabeth McCallum \$20 for the same period, “making in all the sum of Eighty Dollars received by me for Salary during the current year.”⁹⁵ Although the (female) librarian earned 60 percent more than her annual rate of \$150 (\$12.50 a month) in 1901, it was \$44.08 a month less than the (male) caretaker!

The final meeting of the West Toronto Public Library Board was held on 29 April with all of the members present. No formal resolutions were passed but Chairman Rice and Treasurer Jennings received words of commendation and Mayor Baird praised the achievements of the Library Board:

I do not think that there is another board of this kind in Canada, which has accomplished so much within such a short time. We have formed and dissolved in one year, and have to our credit one of the finest institutions of its kind within the Province of Ontario.⁹⁶



Western Branch, showing TTC trolley coach 9002 eastbound on Annette Street at Medland Street, summer 1954
Ray Corley/Canadian General Electric 200,154/WTJHSE

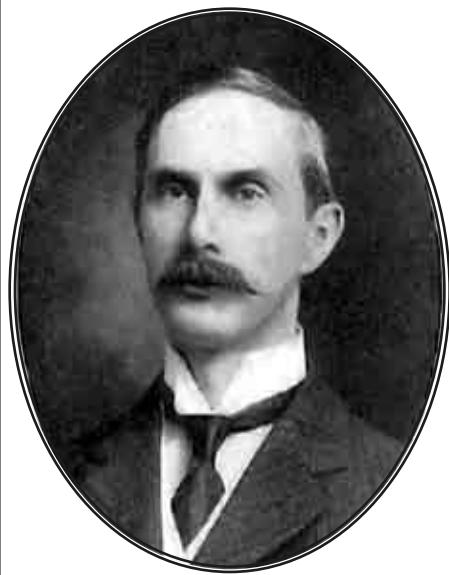
3. Western Branch, Toronto Public Library, 1909-1961

Toronto Takes Over, 1 May 1909

On 1 May 1909, the City of West Toronto's 11,686 citizens and 1,603.6 acres were annexed to the City of Toronto. Residents of the new Ward Seven (as West Toronto became) could look forward to improved amenities such as pavement and sewers – the determining factors that convinced ratepayers to vote for the union. Toronto's westerly expansion substantially increased the city's debt, but also augmented its shipping facilities, manufacturing base, stock of public buildings and residential dwellings, and space for future development.

With this annexation, the Toronto Public Library Board (TPL) took over the assets, control and management of the West Toronto Public Library Board. George H. Locke (1870-1937), the chief librarian, had been in the job for only six months, since November 1908. The Beamsville, Ontario native was then 39 years old and at the beginning of a brilliant career at Toronto Public Library in which he "transformed a small institution into one of the most respected library systems on the continent."¹ During his 29 years at Toronto, Locke assembled a remarkable team of librarians, and, with them, established children's services; introduced books in many languages; and opened a new central library and 16 branches.

One of Locke's first tasks in his new position was to complete and open four Carnegie



George H. Locke (1870-1937), 1908

Locke supervised the completion of West Toronto's Carnegie library in 1909. He was then at the beginning of a brilliant career as Toronto Public Library's chief librarian, serving from November 1908 until his death on 28 January 1937.

TPL Annual Report, 1908

libraries that had been planned by other administrations – three under James Bain, Toronto Public Library's first chief librarian who died in office on 22 May 1908, and one by the former West Toronto Public Library Board. Locke broke away from Beaux Arts classicism of these libraries for Toronto Public Library's second Carnegie grant. He shifted to simplicity and an open concept in the design of three almost identical branches, Wychwood, High Park and Beaches, which opened in 1916.²

The West Toronto Public Library Board had kept good financial records about the costs and expenditures for its new library, which it handed over to the Toronto Public Library (along with a cheque for \$505.08 that Locke received on 3 June 1909). Some sorting out of the accounts would be needed. On 29 April 1909, Library Bureau of Canada shipped eight tables, four chairs and one newspaper rack (all oak in a regular finish) on the Grand Trunk Railway system to the West Toronto Public Library. The shipping slip stated the order was prepaid, but a financial summary prepared after annexation showed the entire balance of \$892 contracted for furniture was yet to be paid.



Newspaper rack shipped from Library Bureau of Canada to West Toronto Public Library, 29 April 1909

Oak furniture and equipment for the new library were ordered before annexation, but apparently were paid for after annexation by the Toronto Public Library Board. This double-faced newspaper rack, priced at \$15, was illustrated in the Library Bureau's *Library catalog*, published around this time. A newspaper rack is visible in the photograph of the rotunda on page 35.

TPL TRL 022.9 L37.2

All in all, Toronto Public Library was responsible for paying \$5,227 of the building's contracted costs of \$19,825. By the end of 1909, it had expended \$5,867 on the branch, an extra \$640.29 over the contracted amount.³ The total cost for the library and its furniture, along with the architect's fees, but excluding the site, was \$20,615.29. The building and its permanent fittings were insured for \$15,000 in September 1909.

Locke's immediate concern was to continue the provision of library service in the annexed city. He reported to the Library Board on 26 April 1909 "he had inspected the new Carnegie Library now under construction at West Toronto and that it would not be ready for occupation for some time."⁴ The chief librarian took quick action, which he conveyed to the Library Committee on 8 June:

I made arrangements with the Bank of Hamilton, in whose building the old library was, that they extend the lease for one month; this they consented to do for the sum of \$16.60.... I have arranged to have the library opened on Wednesday and Saturday for reading purposes but not for the circulation of books. This will be in effect until the 1st of July, when I expect the new library will be ready for occupancy.⁵

As it proceeded to integrate West Toronto into its library system, Toronto Public Library



Hugh T. Kelly (1859-1945), 1908

A member of the Toronto Public Board for a record 50 continuous years, 1894-1944, Kelly was the chairman in 1909 when the West Toronto Public Library became part of the system. Kelly was a justice on the Supreme Court bench of Ontario from 1911 until his retirement in 1937.

TPL Annual Report, 1908

showed considerable sensitivity to local feelings. Hugh T. Kelly, who served on the library board for a record 50 continuous years, contacted the chairman of the old West Toronto Public Library Board for guidance. Rice later recalled his initiatives to ensure that Elizabeth McCallum would secure a position in TPL and at a higher rate of pay than her current salary of \$20 per month (\$240 a year):

Mr. Justice Kelly, at that time chairman of the Toronto Library Board, telephoned a request for me to call at his office. He there told me that in taking over our library he desired to be guided by the wishes of Junction people. I said that the first wish was the retention of Miss McCallum in charge. "Oh surely," he replied, "but at what salary?" I thought of the \$150 she had been paid through the years and asked him how \$500 would do. He said that would be all right and jotted down the figures. That was what I telephoned her that evening. But the next day I was visited by the chief librarian who told me that my suggestion to the chairman would be embarrassing to him later when he would be appointing an assistant for Miss McCallum. He would be allowing the assistant at least \$500 and her chief should have \$100 more. So that evening I had the pleasure of informing our old librarian that she already had an increase in salary.⁶

At its 16 July 1909 meeting, the TPL Board resolved to honour:

...the agreement entered into between the old Board of the West Toronto Library and Miss McCallum, who at that time was the librarian, that Miss McCallum be taken into the service of this Board, at a salary of \$35.00 a month which she had been promised as soon as the new library building was equipped.⁷

Toronto Public Library gave Elizabeth McCallum a substantial raise of \$15 a month, increasing her annual wages by 75 percent to \$420, although that was not as high as the amount Rice remembered. Canada's 1911 census confirmed her earnings, stating that in the previous year McCallum had earned wages of \$400 for 52 weeks work, 45 hours per week as a librarian with the Public Library. (The census also stated that she been born in the United States in November 1860 and was 50 years old; in fact, McCallum probably was at least a decade older!⁸)

Miss McCallum was given special orientation to TPL. On 8 June 1909, Locke reported to the TPL Board's Library Committee that she "is now in attendance each afternoon, except Wednesday and Saturday, at the College Street Branch, being instructed in our method of work."⁹ Six weeks later, she was considered to be sufficiently familiar with TPL's 'method' to "assume control of the West Toronto Library on the 1st of August."¹⁰

The library was finally completed on 31 August 1909, and the following day the reading rooms were opened to the public. By year's end, readers were provided with more

than 80 Canadian, English and American newspapers and magazines, a large increase from the 30 titles available in the old Toronto Junction library. The circulating department would not be ready for a few more weeks, for, as Locke related to the Toronto Public Library Board's Finance Committee at its 7 September meeting, "the books had to be accessioned, classified and labelled."¹¹ Over the summer, 3,136 books selected from West Toronto's library collection of 3,800 books were transferred and added to the stock of Toronto Public Library for the new branch, which, by the end of 1909, had 4,467 books in its collection.

The formal opening of the new library took place on Monday evening, 27 September 1909. A large gathering, "composed principally of residents of what had been the City of West Toronto," filled the auditorium. Norman B. Gash, chairman of the Board's Library Committee, supervised the proceedings. Seated with him on the platform were Board Chair Kelly and Chief Librarian Locke; a handful of city councillors (Controllers Hocken and Geary and Aldermen Baird, McGhie and Graham); architect James A. Ellis, and two local clergy (Rev. Father Eugene Gallagher, pastor of St. Cecilia's Church, 1901-12 and Reverend James C. Speer, minister at High Park Avenue Methodist Church, 1909-1913). There were several representatives of the Junction's 21 years of library service: Dr. J. T. Gilmour from the first Mechanics' Institute Board; A. B. Rice, Professor W. J. Alexander and W. P. Hartney from the last free Public Library Board; and R. C. Jennings, a long-time member of the (not free) Toronto Junction Public Library Board.

Many of the platform guests spoke, and most of them acknowledged Carnegie's generosity and congratulated the West Toronto Public Library Board "for the erection of such a splendid building." Rice presented a brief history of the Junction's library service, comparing it to the modern airship in its point of 'infancy' and 'hard to raise.' He noted, "we have about 4,000 volumes in the library, all good books." Alderman Baird also indulged in a little history and modestly claimed, "as ex-Mayor of the city of West Toronto, he had nothing to do with the new building except the purchasing of the site."¹²

In his speech, Kelly pointed out that "by annexation the citizens of Ward Seven had access to one of the largest libraries in Canada," referring to Toronto Public Library's



Western Branch, 1915

This picture was featured in Toronto Public Library's annual report for 1915 "showing what is being done to provide our buildings with an attractive setting flowers and shrubbery."

TPL TRL T 12128

Carnegie-funded central reference library that had opened at College and St. George Streets 19 days before, on 8 September 1909. (Queen and Lisgar Branch, also financed by Carnegie, had opened on 30 April 1909.) He stated his belief “that the aim of a public library should be to elevate the moral standing of the community,” repeating the WCTU’s sentiments two decades earlier. Locke summarized his philosophy that “a public library board was an educational institution fully as important as any others in the land. The ‘old-time’ idea of a public library was to ‘present’ the books. The ‘modern idea is to ‘use’ the books.”¹³

The new library was called Western Branch,* a name that closely resembled that of the former municipality. As Locke explained in 1913, “It has been our custom in naming our Branch Libraries to preserve the names of the districts in which they have been placed.”¹⁴ Another reminder of the old days was a bronze plaque that the old West Toronto

Public Library Board had commissioned in late April 1909. It was installed at the new



West Toronto Public Library Board plaque, 2008

The West Toronto Public Library Board commemorated itself by commissioning this bronze plaque in late April 1909, a few days before the board was dissolved. The plaque is now installed at the Annette Street Branch on the library's original west wall. It lists the names of the seven board members of 1908 that planned the Carnegie library, and also acknowledges the work of architects Ellis and Connery, and R. C. Jennings, the treasurer.

TPL

branch and listed the names of the seven board members of 1908 that had planned the Carnegie library, and also acknowledged the work of architects Ellis and Connery, and R. C. Jennings, the treasurer. Toronto Public Library recognized the work of the old board in the chairman's 1909 annual report, “Much of the credit for the erection of this building is due to Mr. A. B. Rice and the gentlemen who with him composed the Public Library Board of the City of West Toronto.”¹⁵

Growth of Collections, Circulation, and Programs, 1909-29

The library now settled into becoming an important neighbourhood service and a major enhancement to the Annette streetscape. It soon was flanked by two complimentary buildings: a house for Dr. L. G. Smith on the southeast corner of Medland Street, where he also had his dental office, and the West



Western Branch
Yorkville Branch

Reference Library
TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS
Erected through the generosity of Andrew Carnegie, Esq.

Riverdale Branch
Queen and Lisgar Branch

Toronto Public Library's Carnegie-financed buildings, 1911

With its first Carnegie grant of \$350,000 given in 1903, the Toronto Public Library opened a new reference library (1909-1977) and three branches: Yorkville (1907), Queen & Lisgar (1909-1964) and Riverdale (1910). Western Branch was built with a \$20,000 grant to Toronto Junction, and became part of the TPL in 1909 through annexation. (A larger view of its image is facing page 1.) Toronto Public Library had ‘a decided revolt’ from the Beaux Arts classicism of these five libraries in spending its second Carnegie grant of \$50,000, opening three almost identical branches, Wychwood, High Park and Beaches (1916), planned by George Locke and Eden Smith & Sons, Architects. TPL TRL T 12128

* This was TPL's second Western Branch. The first was located in St. Andrew's Market at Richmond and Brant streets. It opened in February 1884 and closed at the end of May 1909.

Toronto Masonic Temple at the southeast corner of Aziel Street.¹⁶ Both were designed by Ellis and Connery, and received building permits in the summer of 1909.

Local citizens quickly endorsed the new library, which was open every afternoon and evening (except Sunday) from 1:30 to 9 p.m. (once a permanent janitor was appointed), although the circulating department was closed for the hour between 6 to 7 p.m.¹⁷ From 13 September 1909, the first day that books could be borrowed, until year's end, 627 library cards were issued and 5,731 books were circulated for home reading. This was a huge increase from the old Toronto Junction Public Library, which in all of 1908 had 200 members and circulated 6,184 volumes. Western Branch had a lower circulation, though, than Toronto Public Library's other five branches. In November 1909, Western issued 2,068 books for home reading, compared with 11,763 at Church Street, 10,171 at College Street, 4,260 at Yorkville, 3,648 at Queen and Lisgar and 1,597 at Riverdale (then a small, storefront branch).

Fiction continued to be the most popular category with Junction library users, accounting for 45.9 percent of the circulation at Western Branch in 1909 and half of the 4,367 books in the collection. Locke was a strong supporter of reading. When faced with criticism that had plagued past librarians and boards, that too many books in the library were fiction, he simply asked what was wrong with fiction.

Western's large basement lecture room, a feature not provided in other Toronto Public Library branches of the day, caused the Board concern almost immediately. In October 1909, the West Toronto Festival Chorus requested use of this space, and, in response, the Board drafted what it called a 'distinctly experimental' policy. Persons or organizations were to be charged four dollars for each evening and had to agree to pay any damages. Nothing, however, was to be "held in the auditorium that would interfere with the main purpose of the Library, namely, that of the Reading Rooms."¹⁸

Another community group that used the auditorium in the early days was the West Toronto Property Owners and Ratepayers Association. In late December 1910, it held a special open meeting to hear Ward Seven candidates in the upcoming municipal election. Controller Spence cleverly brought along magic lantern slides and "was given a

generous share of time" for an illustrated talk. The ratepayers group sponsored another 'very enthusiastic meeting' in the auditorium on 10 June 1911 in which Home Smith explained details about his 'Humber boulevard scheme,' the Old Mill or Kingsway subdivision he developed in 1912.¹⁹ (Besides developing and conserving land, Home Smith also built the Old Mill Tea Rooms and constructed an electric train service along Annette Street.)

Space in the branch was reconfigured as soon as it opened as George Locke began to implement new procedures and establish innovative services. With a background in education, not librarianship or bookselling, "Traditions were shattered when he was appointed," the *Globe* observed in 1913, "and customary uses have gone by the board ever since."²⁰ The closed stack room behind the circulation desk would have been modified in 1909, the year that Toronto Public Library adopted the 'open shelf' system, which gave people full access to the collections at branch libraries. Readers were allowed to browse the books themselves and not have to request them from staff. New book shelves were installed in the public rooms in 1915. Part of the basement was given for a free library for the blind in 1911, and a separate children's room was created on the main floor in 1912; it moved to a larger space in the basement in 1917, taking over part of the auditorium, shortly after the service for the blind relocated elsewhere.

In 1915, a High School Room opened on the main floor, which the *Toronto Evening Telegram* reported was for "pupils of High, Public, and Separate Schools. Special books of instruction are kept to aid the school students."²¹ Lillian H. Smith, whom Locke hired in 1912 to be head of Toronto Public Library's children's department, acknowledged "the hearty co-operation of the teachers of the Humberside Collegiate Institute and of the Public Schools in the district. The result was an immediate jump in circulation and a greatly increased reading room attendance."²² Classes from Humberside and Western Technical and Commercial High School began to visit the library in the 1920s, "for instruction in the use of the catalogue, arrangement of books, and use of reference material."²³ In 1927, the branch broadened the scope of its teenage service "so that the student who was to leave school might still be guided along educational lines."²⁴ Links were established with social organizations such as the Big Brother and Sister movements and the Neighbourhood

Workers' Association and in 1928, Annie C. B. Millar, branch head since 1917/18, could report, "we have been able to guide a number of older boys and girls in their reading."²⁵

In the 1920s, the branch became an "enthusiastic participant in the adult education movement," and instituted several ambitious and well-attended book based programs. These became more important following the American Library Association's landmark study, *Libraries and Adult Education*, which was published in 1926 and included 'Canadian Considerations' by W. O. Carson, inspector of libraries for Ontario.²⁶ In 1925, George H. Locke presented a talk on Canadian literature inaugurating a lecture series, which Miss Millar hoped would "fill the definite need in our community of a centre where matters of a purely literary character may be discussed."²⁷ A young women's reading study group was also formed. The following year, the library offered more public lectures on "various subjects of literary or practical interest,"²⁸ and started a drama league. Miss Millar noted: "We have attempted to maintain a high stan-

Toronto Public Library

OPEN ACCESS SHELVES

CIRCULATING LIBRARIES:
Church, College, Yorkville, Queen and Lisgar, Riverdale,
Western, and Deer Park



HE difficulties of administration are multiplied under this system, and on behalf of the assistant librarians I ask the public to cooperate in helping to keep the shelves in an orderly condition.

This is asked in the interests of the Borrowers who are daily complaining of the condition of our shelves.

When a Borrower is careless in handling books and neglects to put them on the shelves in an upright condition, he is handicapping his neighbour who is equally interested with him in looking for suitable literature.

There was an impression among unthinking individuals that the books in a Public Library belong to some body that has only a "corporate existence," and hence carelessness in handling the property was not accounted disgraceful.

It is interesting to notice that a better public spirit is being aroused, and, indeed, is going so far that reports from Borrowers are being sent to the Chief Librarian informing him as to certain more or less flagrant offenders. This means that your "neighbour" is interested in the manner in which you handle the property in which he has a share.

This is the Library of the People of Toronto, and the position of the Public Library Board is to see that the administration in the interests of all the people is not endangered by the selfishness or carelessness of a few individuals.

The Chief Librarian is always ready to receive any written and signed suggestions by the adoption of which any citizen may think the Libraries will be made more efficient.

GEORGE H. LOCKE, Chief Librarian

'Open Access Shelves' notice by George H. Locke, Chief Librarian, 1911?

The open shelf system, adopted by the Toronto Public Library in 1909, allowed borrowers at its libraries with circulating collections to retrieve books themselves instead of asking library staff. The new method had some disadvantages, and here Locke enlists the support of library users to help staff "keep the shelves in an orderly condition."

TPL TRL Toronto Public Library (TRL) 19-. Open Shelves.

dard in our choice of plays.”²⁹ In 1926, the group read works by Ibsen, Shaw, and Barrie; presented the miracle play *Secunda Pastorum* in Humberside Collegiate’s auditorium; heard an address by Fred Jacob on ‘Modern Dramatic Tendencies in America’ and read his play *Autumn Blooming*.

Yet another book-oriented program commenced in 1928. It was called “Open Forum... at which some of the important books of the year were reviewed and discussed.”³⁰ Apparently, Miss Millar was pleased to have citizen involvement in the library: “People taking part in the discussion were members of the community who are interested in literature...and their opinions of the new books are becoming more or less an index to us of the taste of the community. This is a welcome idea because it shifts the onus of censorship from the librarian to the leaders of the community, and makes the role of a librarian less like that of a deaconess.”³¹

January 1928 saw a milestone pass in the Junction library story. Elizabeth McCallum, whom Rice later called “the most faithful public servant I have ever known,”³² retired after 19 years of service with Toronto Public Library and over 35 years in the west Toronto district. She had stepped down as branch head in 1917/18, and, because of her ‘advancing years,’ had been working part-time for most of 1927 (at \$35 a month). She is an example of the unhappy fate that often befell

single women in the days before adequate salaries and pensions or pay equity. During McCallum’s working years, her wages were too small to accumulate many savings for her old age. She lived in rented lodgings, often from her relatives the Rosevears, near the Junction’s less pleasant, industrial areas (for example, on Hook Avenue and Union Street). As previously noted, in 1909, when Miss McCallum was single-handedly running the Junction’s library, she earned three times less than the male caretaker.

Because she was not initially covered by TPL’s pension scheme, she had to work long past her 65th birthday, and her final pension was only \$35 a month. “The pension issue was a problem across the province,” according to Ontario library history expert, Lorne Bruce. “Even though the Old Age Pensions Act had come into effect in 1927, few public libraries (like TPL) were part of this plan and the plan required an unpopular ‘means test.’ The Ontario Library Association set up a pension committee starting in 1930 to study this issue and it reported at the annual conferences in the late 1930s and early 1940s without much success.”³³ Anne Wright, who was hired temporarily in 1927 to replace Miss McCallum, recalled in 1989 that the old librarian was 82 years old at the time of her retirement!³⁴ Sadly, in April 1936, Elizabeth McCallum was “declared incompetent to manage her own affairs, having had her estate

put under charge of the public trustee.”³⁵ She died in 1936, and is buried in Prospect Cemetery (Section 12, Grave 1276) with her older sister Jane and the Rosevear family.

The 1920s witnessed a steadily increasing level of staff education at Western. Jean Taylor was hired along with Anne Wright in 1927, and both possessed Bachelor of Arts degrees. Jean McLaurin, “a graduate of the Ontario Library School”, came to the branch in 1928. Around this time, Chief Librarian Locke “gathered together our customs and made them into rules of conduct for staff.” The guide was called, *What a Librarian Ought to Know*, and it stated three conditions for a person to “enter upon the service of the Toronto Public Library”: be between 18 and 30 years, a university graduate (“from the University of Toronto or at a University recognized by it”), and a city resident. “Further, one must have graduated from the Ontario Library Training School, or equivalent.” Higher marks at library school were rewarded with a higher annual starting salary: \$900 for a C grade, \$1,000 for a B, and \$1,100 for an A. (This tradition continued at least until the late 1960s.) A cataloguer or a reference librarian had to be a graduate in arts or science, and their maximum yearly salary of \$1,450 was slightly higher than the amount that staff in the Boys and Girls and Circulating divisions earned. All staff could achieve a new maximum of \$100 to \$200 by taking ‘a written professional examination’ held each year in mid-January. The amount of the increase was contingent upon the candidate’s standing, which also took into account “efficiency and interest in the work of the Library.”³⁶

Toronto Public Library’s first two decades at Western Branch saw the book stock increase 400 percent from 5,638 volumes in 1910 to 18,887 in 1928; and, over the same period, the circulation of books rise proportionately from 29,248 to 122,460 items. (By comparison, the branch had a stock of 33,551 items in 2008 that circulated 168,132 times.) Only in 1918, when the influenza epidemic forced all TPL branches to close for most of October, did Western’s steadily rising circulation dip slightly. In 1920, the *Toronto Star* reported that the branch’s collection was being increased to meet demand: “Business is rushing at the West Toronto branch of the Public Library on Annette street. The demand made upon the circulation department had rendered it necessary to place a large number of additional volumes upon the shelves of the



Construction of the second Weston Road Bridge, looking northwest from Junction Road, 13 April 1911

The row of houses on the left is on Hook Avenue, where librarian Elizabeth McCallum lived for more than 30 years. It bordered the Junction’s industrial section (from left to right): Heintzman Piano Company, Nordheimer Piano Company, Comfort Soap Works, CPR station, and Queen City Flour Mills.
CTA Fonds 1231, Item 1879



Western Branch, north and east façades, showing St. Cecilia's Church, northeast corner of Annette Street and Pacific Avenue, 1916

The 'attractive setting of flowers and shrubbery' are visible in this view of Western Branch, as is the large illuminated sign, 'Public Library' installed in 1916 above the parapet on the Annette Street frontage. St. Cecilia's Church replaced its earlier church (see page 10, bottom right) with this \$50,000 building opened on 10 September 1911.

Imperial Studio/TPL TRL TPL Collection



Western Branch, east façade, showing Victoria Presbyterian Church, northwest corner of Annette and Medland streets, 1916

The library and this 'commodious and handsome church' were neighbours for almost a century. Designed in 1890 by the Toronto architectural firm Knox and Elliott, the church's first service here was held on 11 September 1892. The building replaced the simpler Presbyterian church of 1885 pictured on page 10, right. Renamed Victoria Presbyterian in 1897 and Victoria Royce in 1969, the church conducted its last service on 25 June 2006. The building was designated under the Ontario Heritage Act on 25 February 2009.

Imperial Studio/TPL TRL TPL Collection

already stocked library."³⁷

There were improvements to the building and its site as well. In 1915, the branch's grounds were provided with "an attractive setting of flowers and shrubbery."³⁸ The following year, the *Evening Telegram* reported, "The interior has been redecorated, new book shelves and electric fixtures have been installed in all the rooms.... An illuminated sign is being erected outside the library."³⁹ In 1927, the library was redecorated and the roof was repaired.

Library for the Blind, 1911-17

In 1911, the TPL Board granted the free use of a basement room at Western to the Canadian Free Library for the Blind. "The books for the blind are at present at Markham, but it was thought that Toronto would be a more suitable place, being more accessible," the *Globe* reported in late September.⁴⁰ The library relocated from Markham and began operating at the branch on 1 October 1911. In addition to providing the space, the TPL Board "decided to hand over the [50-60] books for the blind which had formerly been included in our Library on Church Street."⁴¹ By 1916, TPL was also providing "a contribution towards the purchase of the special books."⁴²



Marion Maynard Robinson at the Canadian Free Library for the Blind, 1910

Marion Maynard Robinson operated the Canadian Free Library for the Blind, first from 1908 to 1911 at her Markham, Ontario home (shown here), then from 1911 to 1913 at Western Branch of the Toronto Public Library. Her husband, Edgar Bertram Freels Robinson, had started the library in 1906 and managed it until his death two years later. Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Mrs. E. B. F. Robinson, whose husband had started the library, ran it until September 1913 when Sherman C. Swift (1879-1947) took over. Blind from age 10, Swift eventually became "the key person in library work for the blind in Canada and one of the foremost figures in this field on the continent."⁴³ For many years the reference library at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, an organization he was instrumental in establishing in 1918, was named in his honour.

The time from its inception in 1906 to its departure from Western Branch in 1917 saw rapid growth of this special library. Membership rose from 26 to 477, and the number of volumes increased from 81 to nearly 6,000. In addition, there were 1,323 pieces of music by 1917.⁴⁴ While TPL initially thought the library would serve only Ontario, the *Toronto Daily News* of 18 February 1914 reported that Braille books "are sent to many blind patrons in all parts of the Dominion."⁴⁵

During the First World War, the library's emphasis changed somewhat, as large numbers of soldiers returned home blind. The *Toronto Daily Star* of 23 March 1916 noted that the 'West End Library is Making Preparations to Teach the Afflicted' by:

...fitting these men to secure suitable and remunerative positions. Although the present inadequacy of facilities limit their ambition, classes of young ladies interested in the work have been formed to teach the soldiers to read and write.... The local library is already open to place responsible men in a position to earn a modest but certain independence by taking agencies for tea, coffee and cocoa.⁴⁶

The library's ability to serve the blind was hampered by a lack of space. By the end of 1916, however, alternate quarters had been found, as TPL Board chairman Norman Gash noted in his annual report:

We are extremely pleased...to know that the Provincial Department of Education, in co-operation with Toronto University, has provided more central and commodious premises for this deserving undertaking, on College Street, in close proximity both to the University and our own Reference Library.⁴⁷

In March 1917, the Library for the Blind was relocated to 142 College Street, and two years later it amalgamated with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

Peak and Decline, 1930-61

The Depression decade put tremendous stresses on the staff and resources at Western Branch, as it did on most public libraries in Canada. With so many unemployed using the library to look for work or to occupy their enforced leisure time, the circulation of materials at Western increased dramatically



"Proposed Runnymede Branch Library," about 1929

Some pressure was relieved from Western Branch when the Toronto Public Library Board opened neighbouring Runnymede Branch at the northeast corner of Bloor Street West and Glendonwynne Road on 12 November 1930. Designed with Canadian motifs by architect John M. Lyle, it was one of several branch libraries, housed in imaginative, appealing, functional buildings, that opened under Locke's command on busy streets in the city's west end.

John M. Lyle/TPL TRL

during the 1930s, reaching almost 158,000 volumes in 1934.

Fortunately, some pressure was removed when the Toronto Public Library opened Runnymede Branch in November 1930 at Bloor Street West and Glendonwynne Road. (An earlier Runnymede Library started in neighbouring York Township in 1909. Initially located on a street known as Welland Avenue, the small frame building was moved (literally) to the south-west corner of Willard and Montye Avenues in 1918.) Under Locke's command, several branch libraries, housed in imaginative, appealing, functional buildings, also were opened on busy streets in the city's west end: Dovercourt (now Bloor/Gladstone) in 1913, High Park on Roncesvalles in 1916, and Earlscourt (now Dufferin/St. Clair) in 1921. As well, on 13 December 1945, TPL started library service at Runnymede Hospital, "open and wards visited on Thursday."⁴⁸

During the Second World War, circulation at the branch began to decline. Libraries across the province also reported "decreased circulation due to blackouts, war employment, travel restrictions, and reduced budgets due to wartime inflation (fewer new books)."⁴⁹ In the war years, many adults were involved in military service in Canada and abroad. Those at home did not have as much spare time for reading. People who moved into communities were often 'outsiders,' that is they were staying only a short time, and did not know about or use local services.

The trend of declining circulation continued well into the post-war period. At Western Branch, use of books had dropped to 92,000 in 1949, about 42 percent less than in 1934. Ten years later, circulation had fallen even further, to a record low of 63,792 items in 1959. There are several possible explanations for this sharp decline. By the late 1940s, West Toronto's middle-class, traditionally strong library users, were leaving the area for



Runnymede Public Library, York Township, about 1912
An earlier Runnymede Library opened in neighbouring York Township in about 1911. Initially located on a street known as Welland Avenue, the small frame building was moved (literally) to the southwest corner of Willard and Montye avenues in 1918. In later years, the library was converted to a private dwelling and finally demolished in 1947.

more desirable housing in the new suburbs being created in Etobicoke and York, where new libraries were opened, such as the York Public Library Board's Jane Street Branch, just south of Dundas, on 13 November 1951.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the Canadian Pacific Railway, whose operations had caused the Junction community to be established originally, closed most of its shops there and relocated to new facilities in Agincourt. The effect on the Junction was profound. Between 1955 and 1960, some 1,500 men were laid off or transferred. Ray Kennedy, a long-time CPR employee, recalled that, during this period, the number of workers at the Lambton roundhouse was reduced from 222 to 49. The CPR's move also started the decline of the thriving commercial strip along Dundas Street, which had catered to railway workers and their families. (By this time, all the railway workers were unionized and relatively well paid.) Many stores and all of the movie theatres closed, and by the 1970s, the once prosperous street had become a collection of discount and second-hand shops.

But there were also problems with the library's collections and services, which were slow to reflect changing community needs and demands. Even before its 1909 annexation to Toronto, the ethnic composition of the Junction had started to change, and by the Second World War, there were significant groups of Jews, Macedonians, Poles, Ukrainians, and Maltese. The area was attractive to immigrants because it provided employment in companies such as the CPR and Heintzman Piano Factory, and industries such as meat packing and iron and steel. It also offered inexpensive, yet pleasant housing close to work. Before long, these ethnic groups had established businesses and religious organizations in the neighbourhood.

Although TPL had foreign language books at its Central Library from 1885, books in languages other than English were not a part of Western's (or any other branch's) collections until the late 1950s. In 1956, when post-war immigration to Toronto was in full swing, Western still had only 558 'foreign' books. The following year, the situation began to change when TPL's new chief librarian Henry C. Campbell set up a Foreign Literature Centre to order, house and distribute multilingual books to the branches. By 1963 the collection included 60-odd languages, and there were 11,000 books in the centre and 22,000 books in the branches.

The Toronto Public Library Board was reluctant to extend other new services for newcomers, even though it had done pioneering programs in the 1910s, especially for immigrant and ethnic children, including establishing libraries in settlement houses in 1918. Innovative work was done elsewhere in the province, for example by Mary Black at Fort William, starting in the 1920s.⁵⁰ On 10 February 1942, the Board considered a request from Mr. G. Agar of the Community Welfare Council to use the boys and girls room at Western Branch each week for teaching English to new Canadians. The Board decided to turn Mr. Agar down. While believing "his project was admirable in every way," the Board's policy was "not to hand over the use of rooms in Branch Libraries to outside organizations" and, besides it felt "formal instruction was part of the function of the educational authorities of the city, whereas the function of the Library Board was the provision of printed materials for the use of the community."⁵¹

At this time, Western's English-language book collection also did not always reflect community tastes. Librarians were sometimes elitist in their selections and declined to buy a lot of popular materials. Moreover, from 1926 until the late 1950s, there were only

Cheesman's Lending Library

The Latest in
Fiction, Romance and Mystery



Cigars, Cigarettes, Tobaccos
Magazines and Stationery

PROMPT AND CAREFUL
PRESCRIPTION SERVICE

**CHEESMAN'S
DRUG STORE**
242 ANNETTE STREET

At Quebec Ave.

Phone JUNE. 5329

Lending library at Cheesman's Drug Store, 1935

In the 1930s, Junction drugstores such as Cheesman's and Owl competed with TPL's Western Branch for readers. The lending libraries at the drugstores offered, for a fee, up-to-date popular books.

WTJHS Hermes

about 2,000 annual additions to Western's book stock, which remained more or less at about 18,000 volumes. The branch may not have had enough current material to satisfy public demand. In the 1930s, Junction drug-stores such as Owl and Cheesman's set up lending libraries where, for a fee, customers could borrow "the Latest in Fiction, Romance and Mystery."⁵² There were, however, some innovations. Western Branch introduced a circulating collection of music records in 1961. Rental fees (and taxes) were charged, but it was the only branch in Toronto outside the Central Music Library to have such materials.

Another example of the Toronto Public Library Board's detachment from the community was its rejection of locally significant artifacts. Western Branch housed portraits of Toronto Junction mayors – the Junction's ten mayors did not receive compensation for their work, but were honoured instead with a chair of office; the first five mayors also had their portraits painted. The five portraits were removed from the branch during a redecoration in 1941. Allan B. Rice, still an avid



Mayoral portrait of George Johnston St. Leger, 1891

This was one of five portraits of West Toronto Junction mayors that the Toronto Public Library Board removed from Western Branch in 1941, and gave to the City of Toronto. St. Leger was the town's mayor in 1890, and West Toronto Junction Council paid \$150 to Toronto artist John Wycliffe Lowes Forster (1850-1938) for this work, completed in spring 1891. Acclaimed for his portraits of notable people, J. W. L. Forster also painted the mayoral portrait of D. W. Clendenan shown on page 17.

J. W. L. Forster/CT



Allan Berlin Rice at his Clendenan Avenue home, about 1922

In October 1941, Rice asked the Toronto Library Board to have the mayors portraits re-hung at Western Branch. Almost six decades later, his request was fulfilled! His suggestion that Dr. George W. Clendenan's mayoral chair be placed in the library also happened – the chair is part of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society's Archives housed at the branch.



Western Branch, February 1953

The appearance of the exterior of the branch is almost unchanged from 1916 when the illuminated sign proclaiming 'Public Library' was added above the parapet to increase the visibility of the library from Dundas Street down Medland Street. The exterior cornice is still in place in this photograph, but it was removed in 1955.

J. V. Salmon/TRL TPL S 1-1135

local booster, was concerned that these and other mementos of West Toronto's years as a separate municipality be preserved. On 14 October 1941, Rice asked the Library Board to have the mayors portraits re-hung. He also reported "an offer – of the mayoral chair used by and presented to Dr. George W. Clendenan, former mayor of Toronto Junction, suggesting that the chair be placed in the Western Branch Library."⁵³ Rice's requests met with a cautious response at the Board's next meeting, and the matter was "referred to the chief librarian [Charles R. Sanderson] for further investigation and action."⁵⁴ Evidently TPL decided to turn down the gift of the chair and give the portraits away. Clendenan's mayoral chair was donated to the Masonic Temple next door to the library – George Clendenan had been a Mason – where it languished for about 45 years before being thoroughly restored in the mid-1980s. The five mayoral portraits of Daniel W. Clendenan, George J. St. Leger, William Pears, James Bond, and George W. Clendenan were given to the City of Toronto, and eventually were housed in its Market Gallery.

During these decades, the only other events at Western to command the attention of the TPL Board were infrequent complaints from the community, and requests from staff for building improvements and repairs. Funds were provided for the branch to purchase new electric light fixtures for the rear part of the ground floor in 1930; to replace the boiler in 1937; to redecorate the library and install new book shelves in 1943; and to remove the exterior cornice and cement over the area in 1955.

Children's Services, 1909-61

When Western Branch opened in September 1909, it had 660 juvenile books and these circulated extremely well during the last four months of the year (4,122 times). With Lillian H. Smith's appointment in 1912 as head of Toronto Public Library's children's department, branch collections and programs for boys and girls greatly improved. Leslie McGrath explained in her doctoral thesis, *Service to Children in the Toronto Public Library*, that the timing was perfect for her pioneering work to begin:

Smith had excellent book knowledge and was a gifted and charismatic leader. Arriving at Toronto Public Library in 1912 fresh from

her training and first children's services experience in the United States, Smith brought boundless energy and enthusiasm to her task of creating the first Children's Services Division – the organization of staff, collections and services for children within TPL. In this, she had the fortunate circumstance of working under a Chief Librarian whose zeal for children's welfare matched her own, a dedicated staff waiting for the opportunity to prove themselves as children's librarians, and a large, ever-expanding audience of children in great need of amusement and instruction in a supportive, free environment.⁵⁵

In November 1912, a separate children's room opened on the main floor of Western Branch with Miss Bessie Staton in charge. Miss Smith noted "there has been a steady increase in the use of the children's room for reading and reference purposes, and it has been possible to give much individual help in the selection of books."⁵⁶ Elizabeth Mary Grace (Bessie) Staton was born in Toronto on 13 August 1883. Her father was a bookbinder and she was the eldest of seven daughters – a younger sister, Frances Staton, became head of the Toronto Public Library's Reference Department and compiled several major bibliographies. Bessie was a children's librarian at the Toronto Public Library prior to the formal organization of a children's services department. Together with Patricia



Lillian H. Smith (1887-1983), about 1920

Children's services at Western Branch essentially began once Lillian H. Smith was hired by the Toronto Public Library in 1912 to head its Children's Department. Smith's pioneering and innovative programs over the next 40 years brought her and the TPL wide renown.
TPL TRL TPL Collection

Spererman, she taught at the Ontario Library Association's Institute of 1911, lecturing on children's library service.⁵⁷ (The 1911 census documented that Bessie Staton earned \$600 at Toronto Public Library, \$200 more than Elizabeth McCallum who soon would be her branch head.⁵⁸) Staton probably resigned from the library around the time of her marriage to John Kleinstuber on 10 November 1915.

Gladys Stauffer took Staton's place at Western Branch in 1915. Born in December 1892, Stauffer was the daughter of a Congregational minister, and started to work at Riverdale Branch in autumn 1912 after completing high school. She inaugurated children's services at the Carnegie-funded branch, which had opened in October 1910, and was near the Stauffer family home at 498 Pape Avenue. Stauffer attended a summer training session in children's literature at Simmons College, Boston, in 1914.

By 1916, the stock of children's books at Western had almost tripled to 1,643 volumes, and circulation nearly quadrupled to 22,665. There was also some community outreach to parents. In 1916, the *Toronto Evening Telegram* reported, "The Mothers' Club of Ward Seven are supplied with books from this library [i.e. Western] for use in their work. About 50 percent who attend are Jewish."⁵⁹

The following year, Miss Smith reported that overcrowding in the branch's children's area had "become so acute to necessitate opening a new children's room downstairs,"⁶⁰ taking over part of the basement auditorium. Dovercourt (now Bloor/Gladstone Branch) also relocated to the lower level, and the moves "allowed the addition of fireplaces and more attractive decoration, but more importantly, reduced noise and disruption in the adult areas."⁶¹ On 22 February 1917, both the *Toronto Globe* and the *Toronto Daily News* fully reported the opening of the new children's room at Western: "Tea was served to the four or five hundred ladies who came in response to the general invitation."⁶² Apparently, "the demand was more for talk than tea, and Miss Smith declared: 'I can't get people away from the books to give them tea.'"⁶³ The room itself also drew notice:

Here is a white, well-proportioned room with a colonial fireplace in which a real fire burns and about which Miss Stauffer, the librarian in charge, will gather the children to tell them stories of real lands and fairy lands, of wonderful people of fact and fiction, and of those

things that have made their country great. Low white book-cases with open shelves run all around the room, and above them the windows are hung with straight curtains of peacock blue. Long, low tables provide elbow room for little people and space for spreading out the vehicles of romance and history.⁶⁴

Storytelling was an important facet of children's services, and an extra educational element was added to the program in 1912 with the institution of Canadian History Story Hours. Telling stories about Canadian heroes and their exploits was a pet project of George

Locke, an ardent nationalist and the author of an inspirational history book for young people, *When Canada was New France*. He delivered a number of Canadian story hours as a guest lecturer, and explained the program in 1914:

The Historical Story Hour, when our Children's Librarians tell to groups of thirty children, one or twice a week, stories of the early explorers of our country, and of the men and women who helped in its development, – these hours are eagerly looked for, and as a result we expect to develop Canadian nation-

ality by giving a background of Canadian history to thousands of children, who when they grow up will be intelligent citizens and well-informed Canadians.⁶⁵

In 1916, 15,000 children attended these sessions. The children's librarians at Western Branch added this component to their story-telling repertoire, and in March 1917, for example, the program including one story about Jack Miner and his wild geese and another on Pontiac.

Gladys Stauffer resigned from the Toronto Public Library in 1917 and was married in 1919. She was followed at Western Branch by a succession of other dedicated and well-remembered children's librarians such as Susy Robinson (1922-27),⁶⁶ Katie Burkhardt (1936-52),⁶⁷ Helen King (1954-58) and Mariam Hagerman (1958-62).⁶⁸

Children's collections and circulations increased steadily at Western in the late 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s. By 1938, there were 6,598 juvenile books and 61,295 circulations, both about two-thirds higher than 1917's statistics. During these years, the circulation fell only twice, both times due to disease. In 1918, Toronto Public Library was closed for two weeks because of the influenza epidemic; parents prevented their children from using library books, which they feared would spread the contagion. The following year, there was another system-wide two-week closure related to smallpox. Adding to this, coal rationing in 1918 kept the branches at an unpleasantly cool temperature. Miss Burkhardt explained the 1937 circulation decrease in her September day book entry, "Owing to a particularly bad epidemic of infantile paralysis school has been closed all month and we are not allowed to have any story hours."⁶⁹ Every parent who could manage it took children away from groups in the summers of 1936-7, and out of the city if at all possible.⁷⁰

By the 1930s, children's work at the branch had settled into a well-established routine. Librarians spent most mornings visiting or receiving school classes, some local (such as Annette Street, St. Cecilia, Keele Street, Western Avenue, renamed Indian Road Crescent in 1937) and others a distance away (including St. Rita, Carlton, Lambton Park, Strathcona, Roselands, Perth, and St. Mathew [sic], 'miles away on Lavender Road'). The stories and book talks they presented were, by today's standards, at a high level, for example,

35

Story Hour Record. March 1917

Mar. 3/17. (1) Jack Miner and his wild geese ⁸⁶
(Biographical)
(2) Hafiz, the stonemason.
attend. 115.

Mar. 10/17. (3) The Elephant's Child. Tripiling ⁸⁶
(4) The old snow pet.
attend. 13.

March 15/17. (5) The discontented daffodils ^{7.W.}
attend. 14

March 24/17. (6) The Somersault Wall in the world ⁸⁶
49 by Jessie Farwell Brown

March 31/17. (7) Pontiac (can not story)
(8) The Caliph Stork.
attend. 41

Story hour attend. 355
total attend no. stories told 8
average attend. 71

"Story Hour Record. March 1917"

Story-telling programs were hugely popular at Western Branch. In March 1917, the children's librarians included a biographical story – 'Jack Miner and his wild geese' – and a Canadian History Story Hour about 'Pontiac.'

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Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe* to Senior IIIs (the modern equivalent is Grade 6) at Carlton and Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist* to Junior IVs (now Grade 7) at Keele Street.

Generally, the children's librarians spent afternoons at the branch, where the room was open daily (except on Wednesdays and Sundays) from 1 p.m. (beginning in 1918, at 2 p.m.) to 6 p.m. On Saturdays, when the children's library was also open mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, story hours were a regular feature. Puppet shows were a treat and, in the pre-television age, exceptionally well attended. In 1935, Western's presentation of 'Little Black Mingo' attracted audiences of

160 to 200 children, and was so successful it was taken to several local schools and other Toronto Public Library branches.

The Second World War affected life in Western's children's department. In 1940, when Toronto Public Library placed a collection of children's books at Hart House for British boys and girls evacuated to Canada, Western (along with Runnymede and Wychwood branches) provided '650 books clean & in good condition.'⁷¹ The following year, the IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) used a room at Western (and at the Central Library) to store and sort magazines for the soldiers, and the librarians

and children helped out. In September 1940, Western had its first evacuee join the library 'a lad from Bristol,' and in October a 'father in khaki' brought his children to the library, remarking, "This is the best fun I've had in my three days leave."⁷²

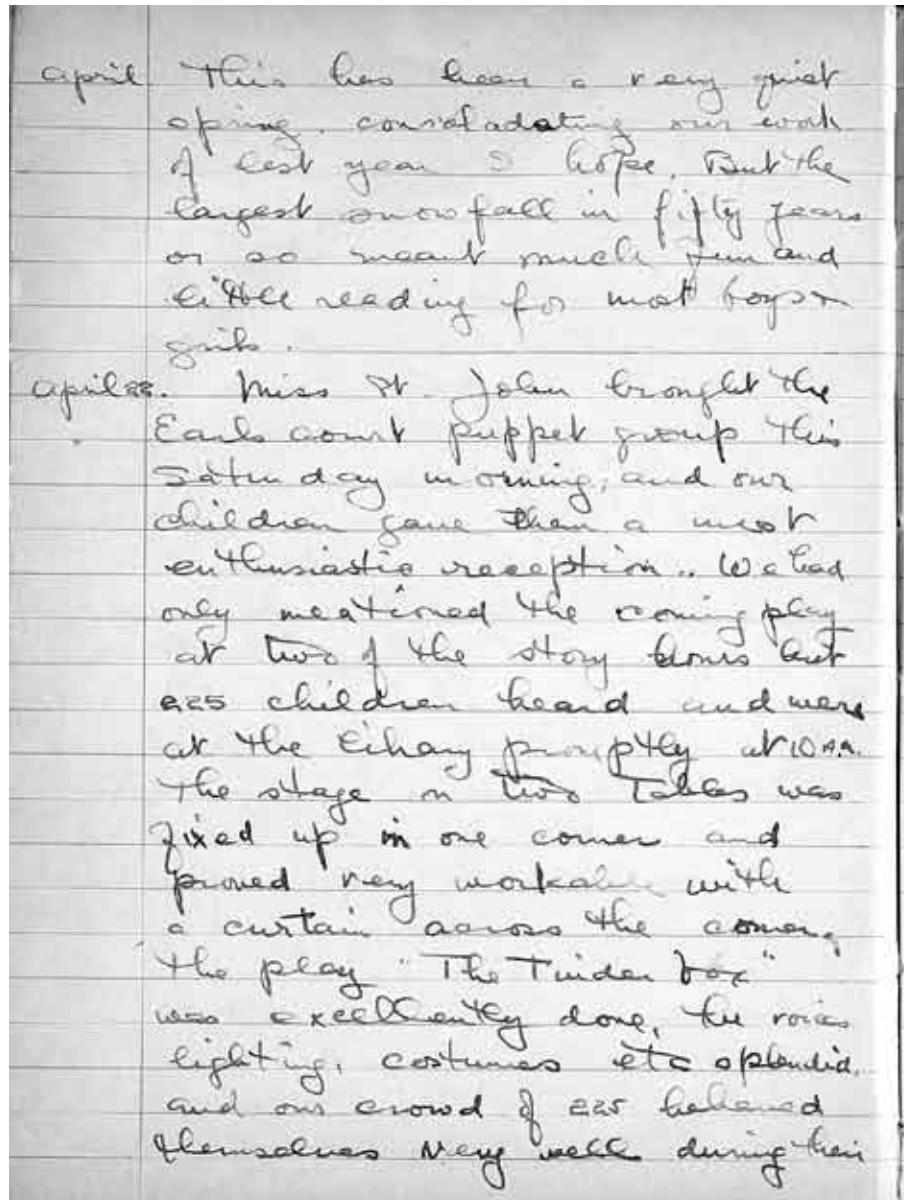
The war years also saw several improvements and innovations in the branch's facilities and services for children. In 1940, a 'hazardous floor' was replaced and the children's room was redecorated – red floor, white shelves, and pale green walls. More significantly, during this decade, Western children's librarians began managing libraries in three schools: Perth Avenue in 1942, Carlton (later called Davenport) in 1944/5, and St. Clair Avenue in 1947. (Toronto Public Library opened its first library in a school in 1926, and by 1960, it was operating libraries in 29 elementary schools, mostly for the Toronto Board of Education who provided an annual grant.) All these schools were located some distance from the branch. In the case of Carlton School, there were additional hazards, as Lillian H. Smith reported in November 1943: "the children must cross open railway tracks and Weston Road and Keele St. intersections."⁷³ Toronto Public Library did not address the need for both children's and adult library service in the communities east of the railway tracks for another 35 years.

Coinciding with the establishment of school libraries, circulation of children's materials at Western Branch began to decline sharply in the 1940s. By 1945, it had fallen to 39,900 items, down 35 percent from 1938. Miss Burkhardt reported on the situation in her 1945 annual report:

In the past seven years West has lost circulation from Perth [,] Davenport & St. Clair schools, & Strathcona sch. has been closed. Keele feels it is independent of the public library because of its own library, so it doesn't look hopeful for the future.⁷⁴

Limited book budgets also affected circulation. The lack of funds reduced the number of books that could be purchased and be available for borrowing by children. This had an adverse effect, especially from 1940 when much of the book budget was used for nonfiction books for school support.

Despite the post-war baby boom, the trend of declining circulation at Western's children's department continued in the late 1940s and into the 1950s. At various times,



Excerpt from Western Branch's day book, April 1939

Children's librarians at the Toronto Public Library were required to keep 'day' books, in which they regularly (but not daily) recorded and evaluated library services. These books provide invaluable historical insights into library work and attitudes, and the life of working women. Fortunately Western's day book from 1935 to 1952 survives.

TPL TRL TPL Collection

the librarians blamed this on the weather (too hot/cold, too much snow/rain, etc.); on isolated incidents (repaving of Annette Street in 1946, a rash of local murders in 1947, power blackouts in 1948) or on competition from schools and other institutions. In February 1948, for example, Miss Burkhardt learned "High Park united church has a 'movie' for the children Sat. afternoons."⁷⁵

By 1951, the number of children's books was at an all-time high (7,940), but their circulation had reached a record low (32,348). In the mid-1950s, circulation began to climb again and in 1960 it was at 46,956 items. Ron Clark, who grew up in the area in the early 1950s, recalled the programs of that era at the branch's 90th anniversary in 1999. "They would often show a movie or present a puppet show or just discuss books." He credited the library's staff with giving him a life-long interest in books and love for reading.⁷⁶ Gib Goodfellow, who used the children's department at Western Branch at around the same time, remembered that his Saturday ritual was the library's story hour in the morning, followed by a movie matinee at one of the five movie theatres then in the Junction.⁷⁷



St. Clair Avenue School, St. Clair Avenue West and Britannia Avenue, about 1915?

St. Clair Avenue School was one of the last school libraries that the Toronto Public Library served in its joint operation with the Toronto Board of Education. Western Branch's children's librarians ran the school library here from 1947 to 1967. The school was designed by architect James A. Ellis for the West Toronto Junction School Board, and opened in 1890 with four rooms; several additions were built over the years until the school was closed on 26 June 1970. TDSB St. Clair Avenue School #14



Perth Avenue School, Perth Avenue and Antler Street, about 1910?

Western Branch's children's department managed the library at Perth Avenue School from 1942 until a new school building was opened in 1966. The original school started in December 1889 with four rooms, and was enlarged several times by the Toronto Board of Education.

W. H. Jackson/TDSB Perth Avenue School #5



Annette Street Branch Library, north elevation, Sillaste and Nakashima renovation and addition, 1979-80

Review of Architecture/Landscape Architecture, 1980

4. ANNETTE STREET BRANCH, 1962-2009

The 1960s: Remodelling and Renaming

Nineteen sixty-two was a significant year for Western Branch for not only was there a major building renovation but also the library's most recent name change to date took place. By that time, Western was one of the oldest branch libraries in Toronto and badly in need of an overhaul. What had been state-of-the-art in 1909 could not meet library demands and needs a half century later.

Albert W. Bowron, then head of Toronto Public Libraries' *Technical Services Division*, was given the job of planning the branch's renovation. The librarian had spent several months the previous year in Europe studying library architecture under a Canada Council grant. A press release issued by TPL in April 1962 provided details on the remodelling project at Western, which cost about \$15,000 and was done with the aid of a federal government Winter Works program:

The interior of the Library has been re-decorated and re-lighted throughout. The Boys and Girls library has been moved to the main floor with the Adult and Young People's sections, and a joint photocharging system introduced for checking out both adult and juvenile books. On the lower floor, a new general meeting room and story-hour room has been established. This room will be

available to groups and organizations in the area who wish to participate in the Library's programme of activities.

Special features of the Boys and Girls room include a mobile designed by John McCombe Reynolds, coordinating supervisor of TV news at the CBC, and a mural painted by seven boys (10 to 13 years old) from the Saturday Morning Class at the University Settlement, under the direction of Miss Libby Altwerger.¹

Unfortunately, the renovation was inadequately financed and not successful aestheti-

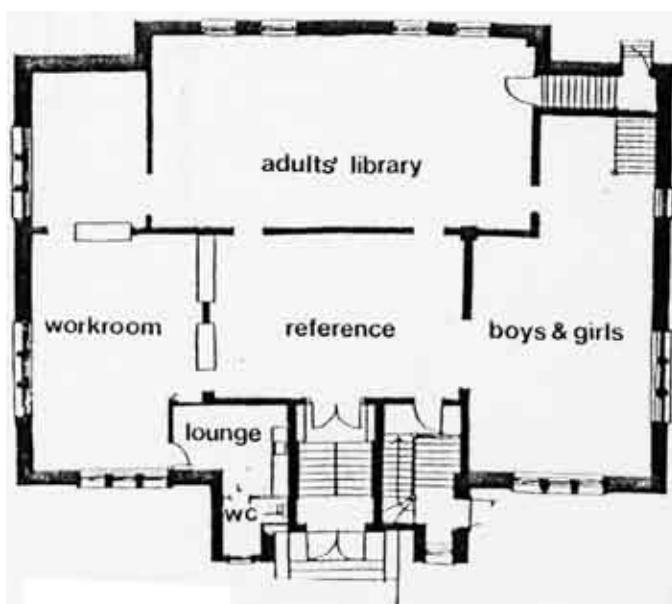
cally, and was redone within 20 years. The elaborate sky-lighted ceiling in the rotunda was covered and the space was converted to a windowless reference room; meanwhile the northeast corner of the library, beautifully lit with two large tripartite windows, was made into a staff workroom.

The grand opening of the remodelled library took place on Saturday afternoon 14 April 1962. (Helen MacMillan, who was branch head at the time, recalled in 1989 that the branch "was open and operating all the time of the facelifting."²) TPL Board chairman Dr. Edmund T. Guest officiated, and

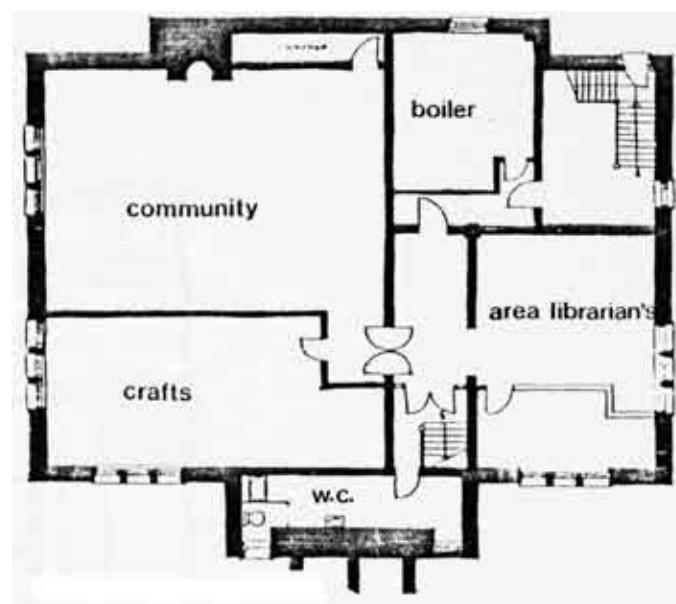


Children's room in the remodelled Annette Street Branch, 1962

After being housed in the basement since 1917, the children's room was moved back to the main level in 1962. The new space was decorated with a mural painted by children from an art class at University Settlement.
TPL AN



Plans of 1962 renovation, Albert Bowron, designer, 1979
TPL AN 727.824 ANN



Main level plan
The Boys and Girls section returned to the main floor with the Adult and Young People's section, and, once again, all books were circulated from one desk. The elaborate ceiling in the reference area was covered.

Basement level plan
The plan reverted to the library's original concept, and re-established 'a new general meeting room' for library and community use.

other dignitaries attended including Aldermen William C. Davidson and Mary Temple, and Chief Librarian Henry C. Campbell.

The ceremony also marked the official change of the library's name from Western to Annette Street. The new designation was in keeping with the board's revised policy of naming branches after their street locations, rather than their historical neighbourhoods. It also acknowledged that since there were so many more branch libraries in west Toronto,

there was a need for a more precise name.

The renovation, along with the introduction of foreign language books, caused a rise in Annette's circulation. By 1963, use of books had reached 146,746 circulations, a level that was not exceeded until the first decade of the 21st century.

By the middle of the 1960s, TPL had withdrawn from most of the school libraries, and had turned their management and collections over to the school boards. At its 18 November

1964 meeting, the TPL Board decided to cease the joint operation at Davenport School in June 1965, but to continue at Perth and St. Clair schools for a while longer. When a new Perth School opened in 1966, TPL discontinued managing the library there, and by the following year, it had finished running school libraries altogether.

Freed from this responsibility, branch librarians developed new children's services. At Annette, a preschool program began in September 1967 and a year later there were two groups, each with 15 to 20 children. Staff noted that some mothers were using this time to drink coffee or shop.

In the adult department, the circulating record collection was well used, with borrowers coming from North York, Etobicoke, and the east end. Programs in 1968 included visits from groups of new Canadians.

The 1970s: Redirection of the Toronto Public Library Board

The entire Toronto Public Library system experienced a Board-directed transformation during the 1970s. The keystone of this was an effort to equalize library resources among the four geographic areas of Toronto (north, east, west, and central). Until the mid-1970s, north Toronto received 50 percent more money per capita, for staff and materials than all the other areas combined. This inequality was addressed over the next few years, and by 1982, the west area was to have an additional 180,000 volumes at a cost of \$1,650,000.

In an effort to attract non-users and to be more sensitive to community needs, the Board also sought citizen participation in planning services and developing collections. This led to dramatic increases in purchases of popular materials and of books in languages other than English. In an eight-year period (1970-78), Annette Street Branch's book stock increased 30 percent (from 25,666 to 33,219 items). As well, for the first time since 1922, beginning in 1974 the branch was open for August. Library programs were also an important part of service at Annette in the 1970s. In 1977, 8,427 people attended 325 programs at the branch. Despite these efforts, throughout the 1970s the annual circulation remained stable at around 110,000 items.

Another result of increased community involvement was the establishment of libraries in underserved areas of the city. Since TPL's mid-1960s withdrawal from the library



Opening ceremonies of the remodelled and renamed Annette Street Branch, 14 April 1962

Alderman Mary Temple presented, on behalf of the library, paint boxes to each of the young artists from University Settlement who had painted a mural to decorate the Boys and Girls Room. Looking on, from left to right, TPL Board Chairman Dr. Edmund T. Guest, Branch Head Helen MacMillan, and Chief Librarian Henry C. Campbell.

TPL TRL TPL Collection



Young people's theatre group in the community room, 1972

Annette Street Branch offered many programs in the community room. The colonial fireplace and the painted bookcases date from 1917, when the original auditorium was refitted for a children's library.

TPL TRL TPL Collection

in Perth Avenue School, the Junction Triangle had no public library service. This neighbourhood, bounded by railway tracks on its east, west, and north sides, and Bloor Street on the south, was virtually cut off from Annette Street Library, its closest branch. The Board had attempted to provide some library service to this area by having its bookmobile (known as the Library on Wheels) make regular stops at Pelham Park.

This, however, did not satisfy community demand. A committee composed of Junction Triangle residents and library staff (notably West Area Librarian Malva Kannins and Annette Street Branch Head Marlene Archambeau) successfully lobbied the Board to establish a branch library in the Junction Triangle. With funding of \$50,000 from Toronto city council, Perth/Dupont Branch opened in a storefront at 1531 Dupont Street on 18 November 1977. For its first three years, it was a 'satellite' of Annette Street Branch, that is Perth/Dupont's operations were supervised directly by the Annette Street branch head.

After 1965, when TPL pulled out of Davenport School, the old villages of Carlton and Davenport also had no public library service. Facing similar community pressure, the TPL Board opened another storefront library on St. Clair Avenue West near Silverthorn Avenue on 13 June 1981. Although Western, later Annette Street Branch, had operated the

school library, St. Clair/Silverthorn Branch was initially a satellite of Dufferin/St. Clair Branch.

Sillaste and Nakashima Renovation, 1979-80, and After

On 30 July 1979, Annette Street Branch closed for almost a year for a \$375,000 renovation that included a 1,500 square foot addition to the west side of the 70-year-old library. Staff and about one-third of the book stock were relocated to a storefront on the south side of Dundas Street West between Mavety and Keele streets. Before the temporary library could be opened, however, legal complications forced a second move to another store on the north side of Dundas just west of Pacific Avenue. The library opened at the second location on 30 August 1979, and for the first time in its history, it was open mornings. In choosing a site for the interim branch, the TPL Board recognized that the library's declining fortunes may have been due, in part, to its somewhat out-of-the-way location on Annette Street. Despite the lower cost, the Board was determined not to move into "one of the several churches in the vicinity" where "the Annette Branch would become even more hidden." Instead, it reasoned, a Dundas Street "temporary location will attract new users...as well as reducing the risk of losing current patrons throughout the construction

period."³ The Dundas Street location was used until 24 May 1980, and the renovated library reopened on 9 June 1980.

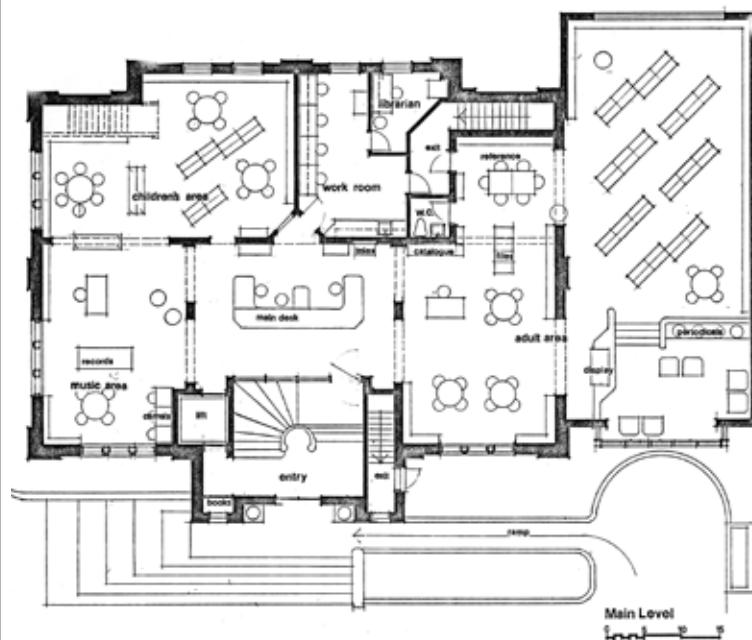
Architects Henno Sillaste and Hiro Nakashima designed the renovation and the addition working with a building committee composed of local citizens, and TPL Board and staff members. With the extra space on the main floor, the library provided a casual reading area furnished with easy chairs, and a new place for the adult book collection, which had room to expand from the present 35,000 books to 50,000 books. During the renovation, workers made a happy discovery when they removed the 1962 suspended ceiling in the reception area to reveal the original architectural details, still in good shape. "I felt



Installation of book shelves in the new addition, 1980

The addition placed on the west side of the Annette Street frontage used part of the extra lots that were purchased in October 1908. The additional space was intended to provide room for the branch's collection to expand from 35,000 to 50,000 books.

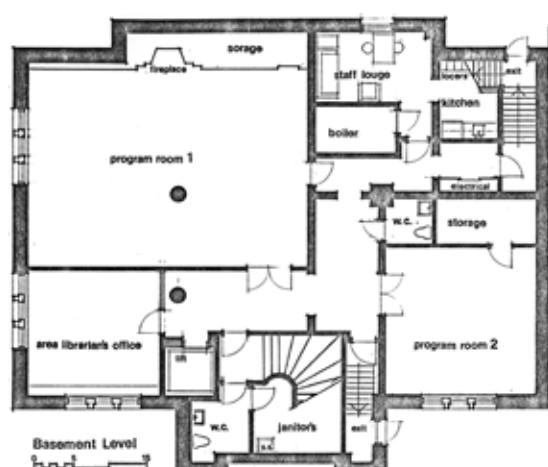
TPL AN



**Plans of Annette Street Branch renovation and addition,
Sillaste & Nakashima Architects, April 1979**
TPL AN 727.824 ANN

Main level plan

A 1,500-square-foot addition was placed on the west side. A new main staircase and an all-glass entrance were installed, and the vestibule level was lowered to provide a ramp for the handicapped.



Basement level plan

Space for library and community programs was retained, and the staff room was relocated from the main level.

like Howard Carter gazing into the tomb of Tutankhamen for the first time," Nakashima exclaimed.⁴ The plaster ceiling, the column capitals and the skylight were restored, and a new circulation desk was installed with the same horseshoe shape of the original. A new main staircase and all-glass entrance brought modern elements to the design. The vestibule level was lowered to provide a ramp for the handicapped. Two program rooms were created in the basement, a large room (60 chairs, maximum occupancy 80) and a small room (20 chairs, maximum occupancy, 25). The basement also included a staff room with a kitchen at the back, and the area librarian's



Restored rotunda, 2005

"I felt like Howard Carter gazing into the tomb of Tutankhamen for the first time," exclaimed architect Hiro Nakashima when the original plaster ceiling in the rotunda was uncovered during the 1979-80 renovation. The ceiling, the skylight and the Corinthian capitals (but not the pilasters) were restored. TPL



'The Elephant Show' on location at Annette Street Branch, 30-1 July 1986

The branch's classic exterior architecture and beautiful interior attracted the attention of the producers of this widely viewed television show. 'Library' originally aired in Season 3, Episode 35, 1986. "Sharon, Lois & Bram and Elephant take the children to the library where they all find their own special books. Fantasy takes over when Elephant finds a book that inspires its imagination!"⁶

TPL AN

office at the northeast corner.

In April 1981, Annette Street Branch was opened on Wednesdays for the first time since 1918. The branch's book stock continued to climb after the renovation until there were 45,595 items in 1985. The improved facilities, expanded hours of service, and larger collections led to a 20 percent increase in library circulation for 1981-85 over the same five-year period in the 1970s.

The classic exterior architecture and the beautiful interior also attracted the attention of film production companies. In 1986, *The Elephant Show*, a television program featuring the popular Canadian singers Sharon, Lois and Bram, used the branch for a location. The following summer an ABC television network, *Movie of the Week*, was partially shot here – *Bluffing It* dealt with adult illiteracy and starred Dennis Weaver, an Emmy Award-winning American actor, best known for his work in television.

Not everyone was captivated with the changes. In 1984, the English/French sign outside the branch generated some local newspaper coverage after a complaint was made to the TPL Board. It refused to change its policy for "each library to have, in addition to its name in English, another sign in the language which is in predominant use in that particular community or, if there is no predominant language, in French."⁵

The 1990s: Computerization, Economization and Amalgamation

The 1990s brought huge changes to Toronto's libraries. In January 1991, the Toronto Public Library signed a contract with Dynix Corporation, 'the beginning of a new era,'



Lois Lillenstein, Bram Morrison, and Sharon Hampson of Sharon, Lois & Bram filming 'The Elephant Show' at Annette Street Branch, 30-1 July 1986

Due to the popularity of their television show and their albums, the trio was one of the most successful children's acts in North America during the 1980s.

TPL AN

commented Board Chair Anne Foster. That November, the automated circulation system reached Annette Street Branch, one of the last to be brought on-line. "For the first time, every branch was able to have full access to our resources," cheered Chief Executive Officer Les Fowlie, who eagerly anticipated the next phase of automation, "the arrival in each branch of the online public access catalogue. Patrons will rejoice the demise of the dauntingly inconvenient ... microfiche catalogue."⁶

But Foster also sounded an alarm in her 1991 report: "By year end the downward trend in the economy affected the library, and along with other service organizations funded by the city, it faced tighter budgets and new financial guidelines."⁷ This was the start of an economic downturn, which affected all civic agencies for a number of years to come. Toronto Public Library implemented many cost-saving measures as its budgets were slashed, and Annette Street Branch, like others, had its opening hours, staffing levels and some services reduced.

The library's community also was hampered by the recession, which, along with globalization and free trade, led to a further decline of its industrial base during the 1980s and 1990s. Many large factories closed. The Ontario Stock Yards (so named in 1944 and at one time the country's largest stockyard) shut down on 31 December 1993, and buildings on the 35-acre (14-hectare) site were demolished to make way for redevelopment.

Economic downturns historically have a silver lining for libraries, Foster observed in 1991, noting, "that use of its services increases during poor economic times."⁸ This was true for the Annette Street Branch. In the high rolling days of the late 1980s, the branch's circulation gradually declined, bottoming at 99,600 in 1990, but in the recession, it bounced back to 132,275, a level not seen since the 1930s. Other factors contributed to the increased use. English as a Second Language (ESL) and literacy materials were improved. New formats were introduced into the collection, such as audiocassettes and compact discs (CDs), which replaced vinyl discs, and videocassettes.

Budget cuts in 1994 saw "the film library and Annette and Yorkville branches as the principal targets," the *Toronto Star* reported that August.⁹ Opening hours at Annette were reduced from 60.5 to 48 hours per week beginning on 24 May 1994. Soon, the staff

complement declined from seven to six full-time equivalents (FTEs) and page hours were halved. These measures had an impact on use and services. Circulation dipped to 103,761 in 1994, the year the hours were reduced. Programs and class visits at Annette declined from 465 in 1991 to 234 in 1998.

As the decade progressed, reference service was enriched with electronic products that brought previously unimaginable information resources to small libraries like Annette Street, where enquiries increased from 17,160 in 1991 to 23,518 in 1998.¹⁰ Through grants from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Internet workstations were installed at all Toronto Public Library branches. "One of the big changes in the last ten years has been the move to the electronic media," Marlene Archambeau observed at the branch's 90th anniversary in 1999. "We still have books and other print media but we also have free Internet access for the public."¹¹

Automation also helped to push up circulation as patrons could place holds (reserves) on books from any branch in the system and have them delivered to any other branch. In 1991, before many of the changes took effect, Annette had a book stock of 42,134 and a circulation of 118,076. In 1998, the first year of amalgamation, there were 44,582 items in the collection, and the branch circulation was 147,226 times. Even though the collection was only marginally larger, circulation was higher because the community had access to books from across the city.

There were some changes to the building, and the branch was closed on three occasions: five days in 1988 (6-10 September) to remove asbestos; a month in 1990 (13 August-9 September) for painting and to replace the exterior front staircase and ramps; and two months in 1994 (2 July-12 September) for an HVAC retrofit, in which window air conditioners and the old gas-fired boiler/hot water heating system were replaced with a forced air system. As well, a new elevator was installed to improve barrier-free access.



Painting the children's room, summer 1990

The walls of the library were painted pink during a minor retrofit in 1990. The window air conditioners and the radiators disappeared with an HVAC retrofit in 2004.

TPL AN

The reference desk was removed, and both librarians and clerical staff began to work from one L-shaped desk that replaced the old horseshoe-style circulation desk.

Amalgamation and a New Millennium, 1998-2009

In 1997, the *City of Toronto Act* (Bill 103) was passed by the Ontario Legislature, amalgamating the seven existing municipal governments of Metropolitan Toronto. On 1 January 1998, the seven library boards were united into one library called the Toronto Public Library. Annette Street Branch was now one of 98 locations in what had become the largest public library system in North America serving a population of 2.3 million.

The new library system quickly met some of the challenges of amalgamation, which had an impact on every branch. In 1999, an integrated online catalogue of the Library's collections was completed, giving unified access to nine million books, magazines, CDs, CD-ROMs and other materials in a hundred different languages. A Virtual Reference Library also was launched that year, providing Internet access to information on key subject areas through a series of gateways, digitized collections and research databases.

A branch survey of the amalgamated library system was conducted in June 1999. The report on Annette Street Branch, prepared by Marlene Archambeau, gave a snapshot of the library and the community it served, bounded by Jane/Dundas (west), Bloor (south) and the CN/CP railway tracks (east and north). Local residents and families with young children were identified as the predominant



Celebrating 90 years of the library on Annette Street, 4 February 1999

Josephine Bryant (left), the first City Librarian of the amalgamated Toronto Public Library, and Marlene Archambeau, Branch Head, Annette Street Branch cut into the birthday cake.

Andrew Palamarchuk/Bloor West Villager, March 1999



Replacement of the exterior staircase and ramps, summer 1990

Two ramps were provided instead of one, and the central staircase was restored.
TPL AN

users. There also were three ‘unique’ groups: students at Great Lakes College and new immigrant families, who both used the English as a second language/literacy collections (as well as the general collection), and local history researchers. Over the past few years, Archambeau noted, the branch had experienced a heavy demand for the Internet and Internet instruction, preschool and toddler programs, and from the high school age population.

Annette was the only library branch in the neighbourhood that had adequate space for community organizations, and several local groups used its facilities including the West Toronto Junction Historical Society, McCauley Centre, Reading Together Program, Keele Correctional Centre, Great Lakes College, La Leche League and West End Soccer. The branch also did extensive community outreach, to seven local schools,

several daycares, two recreation centres, as well as to the Junction Business Improvement Association (established in 1973) and the Junction Farmers Market, which operated from June to October each year.

The branch head reported that revitalization was planned for the Junction business district and the West Toronto Junction Historical Society was compiling an inventory of heritage buildings “with a view to establishing an area with a special heritage identity.” Many of the stores were located in heritage buildings on Dundas Street West “one block away from the Annette Branch ... The increased number of shoppers should also increase usage at the library,” she predicted, envisioning cafes, street festivals and other cultural events, which could all “have a major impact on usage at the branch.”¹²

In the subsequent decade, the Junction has been revitalized and even gentrified. Big box stores appeared on the former stockyards. The removal of the prohibition law encouraged restaurants and permitted bars to open. Affordable rents for vacated industrial spaces and warehouses appealed to artists and gallery owners, and led to an annual Junction Arts Festival held each September since 1992. Annette staff often has set up an information table at the festival, and provided programs such as storytelling; sometimes the Toronto Public Library’s mascot called ‘Dewey’ was brought along to attract children and their parents.

Annette Street Branch also has seen a renaissance. In 1999, it was identified by a Junction Neighbourhood Identity Working Group as the most used community facility, by 50 percent of respondents to a neighbourhood mapping project, well ahead of High Park (27 percent), Keele Community Centre (17 percent), Lithuania/Oakmount Park (17 percent), Runnymede Library (17 percent), Humberstone Collegiate (14 percent), and Annette Community Centre (11 percent).¹³

The branch was refurbished in 2002, when the pink walls were painted over with a more subdued colour. Opening hours per week increased in January 2007, from 48 to 50.5 hours, and there also was a reinstatement of morning hours on three days each week, as well as one staff FTE. Annette did its bit towards making Toronto Public Library one of the busiest libraries in the world, with the branch circulation increasing 15 percent from 1998 to 2008.

Use peaked in 2004 and the first half of

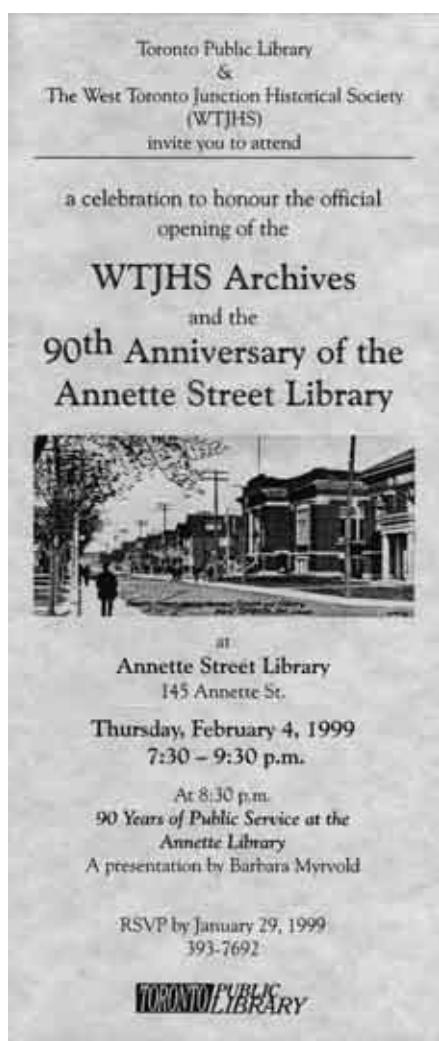
2005 when neighbouring Runnymede Branch was closed for renovations for 18 months, from 2 February 2004 to 8 June 2005. During this time, Annette’s hours were extended by ten hours a week. Almost 112,000 customers visited the branch in 2004 and 11,624 registered borrowers checked out 200,000 items, all-time record numbers.

All of this was accomplished with a smaller collection, which decreased from 43,711 items in 2000 to 33,551 in 2008, a 23 percent decline. Annette Street Branch embarked on a rigorous weeding program, as Toronto Public Library’s Collection Development Department encouraged all branch staff to remove materials that were outdated and incorrect, no longer being used, worn or damaged, or in an obsolete technology.¹⁴ Annette staff weeded outmoded technologies such as audio and videocassettes and increased the number of CDs and DVDs. Print collections were weeded as more resources became available electronically, and the demand for audiovisual formats increased. ESL collections also were increased to meet demand.

With large system collections to draw on and an excellent holds system, a neighbourhood branch like Annette Street stocked popular, recreational and general informational materials, with an emphasis on children’s materials, and its collections reflected local neighbourhood needs. Smaller, more focused collections freed space for reading, studying and using computers.

In the nine years since 2000, Annette annually attracted an average of 9,151 registered borrowers and 4,136 active users. Programming increased significantly during the same period, with, on average, almost 400 programs each year attended by more than 9,200 people. In an effort “to get back to the kinds of literary programs we used to do,” Branch Head Pam Mountain introduced a monthly book discussion group called ‘Tea and Books’ in 2003.¹⁵

As Toronto Public Library provided more resources electronically and remotely, there was a steady decline of in-library use, branch visits, and users at electronic workstations at Annette from 2005 to 2008. However, demand for library services such as placing holds more than doubled in the decade after amalgamation. Information requests saw considerable fluctuations in the same ten-year period, with an average of 29,573 queries per year, 72 percent more than the 17,160 queries in 1991.



Invitation to the opening of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society Archives in Annette Street Branch during its 90th anniversary year, 4 February 1999

As a neighbourhood branch, Annette served a catchment area within a 1.6 kilometre radius. The 2006 census showed that this area was home to 9,500 residents, a 6 percent decline since 2001 (and a greater population decrease than Toronto as a whole). The vast majority (80 percent) spoke English at home and was of British Isles or European origin. Three-quarters were between 15 and 65 years; about 15 percent were younger and 10 percent were older. About one-third was immigrants, half in ‘visible minority’ groups; only about 22 percent of the immigrants had come to Toronto between 2001 and 2006.

Local History Services, 1980-2009

Keeping alive the rich history of its community has been an important aspect of the work at Annette Street Branch over the past three decades. In response to community interest, a local history collection was started at the branch in the early 1980s, around the same time that the West Toronto Junction Historical Society was formed and given branch space for its regular meetings and its archival collections.

Since then, cooperation between the two organizations has grown steadily. The 1987 centennial of the Junction’s incorporation as a village saw both groups planning, coordinating, and even acting in ‘The Junction Centennial Follies.’ The Society helped celebrate Annette Street Library’s 80th anniversary in 1989 with co-sponsorship of the first edition of this book, and the presentation of awards of merit to Annette Street Branch

for architectural conservancy, and to the TPL Board for its policy of supporting local history groups.

In 1997, the Toronto Public Library leased the old area librarian’s office in the basement of Annette Street Branch to the historical society for an office and an archives. As part of the agreement, the society was to open the archives to the public at set hours each week. The official opening was held on 4 February 1999, the 90th anniversary of the branch, with more than 100 in attendance for the joint celebration.

Both groups were instrumental in the inclusion of Annette Street Branch on Toronto’s *Inventory of Heritage Properties*, adopted by City Council on 1 and 2 October 1998. The research summary commented that the property was “identified for architectural and historical reasons... A good example of Edwardian Classicism, it is [an] integral component of a streetscape of prominent churches, residences and public buildings in the West Toronto neighbourhood.”¹⁶ The single storey addition from 1979-80 on the west side was not included as a significant heritage feature.

Reciprocal efforts have increased holdings of important Junction historical documents available at the branch. In a project initiated by George Clendenan, a grandson of Mayor George Washington Clendenan, the five mayors’ portraits that were removed from the library in the 1940s, were restored with a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The portraits were given on semi-permanent loan from the City of Toronto’s Cultural Division,

Fine Art Collection to the Toronto Public Library. The paintings were unveiled at the West Toronto Junction Historical Society’s meeting on 3 April 2003, and installed on the main floor of the library the next morning.

100th Anniversary, 2009

The Junction and its library have been closely intertwined for well over a century. Both were born in the late 1880s during the economic boom, and both suffered badly in the financial crisis of the mid-1890s. Both also benefited from the return to prosperity at the beginning of the 20th century. In 1908, with Carnegie’s grant and West Toronto’s increased commitment to library service, the Junction got its own library building. A year later, when the City of West Toronto was annexed to Toronto, the Toronto Public Library gained not only a collection of books, but also a handsome new structure.

In 2009, the Toronto Public Library celebrated the 100th anniversary of the opening of this landmark branch and of its service to the Junction community. Several programs were held to mark the event, with special festivities held on Saturday, 12 September. Jugglers, magicians and musicians entertained; the library launched the second edition of this book; children created birthday cards for the branch; and everyone enjoyed birthday cake. In keeping with the heritage focus, the West Toronto Junction Historical Society led a walking tour of the neighbourhood and also conjured up two ‘legends of the Junction’ who had a deep connection to the century-old building: Elizabeth McCallum (Madeleine McDowell), librarian from 1893 to 1928 and A. B. Rice (Neil Ross), chair of the West Toronto Public Library Board in 1908-9 when the Carnegie library was constructed. The highlight of the celebrations was a heritage plaque commemorating ‘Western Branch, 1909’ presented by Heritage Toronto in partnership with the Toronto Public Library.



Return of portraits of five Junction mayors, 3 April 2003

Library staff and historical society members celebrated the return to the branch of the five portraits of the Junction’s mayors, 1889-1898. (From the left) Bill Kardo, Michael Moir, Joan Miles, George Clendenan, Elizabeth Charters, Diana Fancher, Gib Goodfellow, Anne Bailey, Andrzej Ornoch and John Thompson with the portrait of town founder and first mayor, D. W. Clendenan. The portrait itself is reproduced on page 17.

WTJHS



Madeleine McDowell as Elizabeth McCallum, the first librarian of the Western Branch, and Pam Mountain, Branch Head of Annette Street Branch at its 100th anniversary, 2009

Elizabeth McCallum, as portrayed by Madeleine McDowell, is one of the ‘legends of the Junction.’

at tpl, April 30, 2009, p. 7.



WESTERN BRANCH, TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY 1909

Library service was introduced to this area by the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute in 1888. Twenty years later, Toronto Junction received a Carnegie grant to construct this library, which opened in September 1909. By this time, the City of Toronto had annexed the municipality and the building became the Western Branch of the Toronto Public Library. Ellis & Connery, the architecture firm of Junction resident

James A. Ellis, designed the building in a Beaux Arts style, typical of many Carnegie-funded libraries. The exterior is defined by strong symmetry, a broad flight of stairs leading to a raised single storey, and entrance doors flanked by a pair of Corinthian columns. 'Public Library' is inscribed in the parapet above.

The branch was renamed the Annette Street Branch in 1962; an addition to the west was completed in a 1979-80 renovation. After Yorkville Branch, Annette Street Branch is the Toronto Public Library's second oldest building.

City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties

HERITAGE TORONTO 2009

Heritage Toronto plaque presented at Annette Street Branch's 100th anniversary celebrations, 12 September 2009
Heritage Toronto

Appendices

Appendix A: Mechanics' Institute Presidents/Library Board Chairs, 1888-1909

Robert L. McCormack	1888
Dr. George W. Clendenan	1889
Rev. James. A. Grant	1890-91
Thomas Beresford Phepoe	1892-93
Charles C. Going	1894
Robert C. Jennings	1895-98
Capt. John Ross	1899-1900
Franklin C. Colbeck	1901
John C. Constantine	1902-03
Allan B. Rice	1908-09

Appendix B: Library/Branch Heads

Library Heads

Walter A. Thring	1889-93
Elizabeth W. McCallum	1893-1909

Branch Heads

Elizabeth W. McCallum	1909-17/18
Annie C. B. Millar	1917/18-29
Helen Dean	1929-3?
Elizabeth Gordon	1932-41
Ethelwyn Wickson	1941-?
Marjorie Cooper (later Cuthbertson)	?-1947
Margaret Baird Murray	1947-49
Catherine Fish (later Cruse)	1949-55
Loretto McGarry	Nov. 1955-Dec. 1956
Helen G. MacMillan	Dec. 1956-May 1965
Katrin Soots	June 1965-Dec. 1969
Sandra McCallum	Jan. 1970-Mar. 1972
Bruce Geddes	Mar. 1972-73
Madeline Aalto	1973-74
Ingrid Mednis (later Khasnabish)	1974-Jan. 1976
Marlene Archambeau	Jan. 1976-7 Oct. 2000
Caroline Ingvaldsen	Dec. 2001-Apr. 2003
Pam Mountain	June 2003-Present

Acting/Temporary Branch Heads

Pat Lachine (later Bull)	Nov. 1977-Nov. 1978
Linda Robbins	Nov. 1978-79
Charlene Girt	1979
Adele Kostiak	1980-81
RoseMarie Spearpoint	Nov./Dec. 1990-Oct. 1991
Pam Mountain	Mar. 2000-Dec. 2001
Caroline Ingvaldsen	July 2007-Sept. 2008

The Toronto Junction Public Library

was founded in the year 1888, under the name of the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute, this name being changed by Act of Parliament in 1895 to the Toronto Junction Public Library.

The following is a list of the Presidents of the Library Board from the date of opening in 1888:

H. L. McCOHACK	1888
I.H. G. W. CLENDENAN	1889
REV. J. A. GRANT	1890-1
T. B. PHEPOE	1892-3
C. C. GOING	1894
R. C. JENNINGS	1895-6-7-8
CAPT. JNO. ROSS	1899-1900
F. C. COLBECK	1901
J. CONSTANTINE	1902-3

The library consists of 8,451 volumes of selected and well chosen literature of different classes, the classification being the one adopted by the Department of Education. The membership fee is only one dollar a year.

Heads of the Junction's Mechanics' Institute/Public Library Boards, 1888-1903

TPL TRL 017.1T582

Notes

INTRODUCTION

- ¹ West Toronto Junction Comet, 8 March 1889, 1.
- ² Kevin Plummer, *Culture*, 25 October, 2008 on Historicist: “Andrew Carnegie’s Toronto Legacy,” http://torontoist.com/2008/10/historicist_andrew_carnegies_toronto_legacy.php.
- ³ Toronto Public Library, “Our Vision, Mission and Values,” http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/abo_mission.jsp.

1: INDEPENDENT LIBRARY, 1888-1909

- ¹ J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York, Ontario: Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens and Many of the Early Settled Families*, (Toronto: J. H. Beers, 1907), 341, <http://www.ourroots.ca>.
- ² Susan Lewthwaite, Ph.D., Research Coordinator, Corporate Records & Archives, The Law Society of Upper Canada, Osgoode Hall, Toronto, email message to author, 14 April 2009 re Daniel Webster Clendenan.
- ³ Ontario birth registrations show Daniel Webster Clendenan and Clara McMillan had seven children, four sons and three daughters. Born at Toronto were: Charles George Robinson Clendenan (5 April 1879), Clara May Clendenan (21 July 1881) and Daniel Wallace Douglas Clendenan (15 March 1883). Born at West Toronto Junction were George Oswald Albrechte Clendenan (4 December 1884), Annie Lillian Catherine Clendenan (8 November 1886), Claude Ernest Frank Clendenan (12 April 1890) and Mary Marguerite Clendenan (12 January 1892).
- ⁴ A. B. Rice, “Stray Thoughts about Matters of Public Concern,” *West Toronto Weekly*, 14 April 1949, in *History of Toronto Junction, Ontario* (s.n., 1950?).
- ⁵ *Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory, 1890-1891* (West Toronto Junction: R. M. Charlton, 1889), 81.
- ⁶ Rice, “Stray Thoughts,” 9 June 1949.
- ⁷ West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute, Department of Education Select Subject Files (Toronto: Archives of Ontario, 1888), microfilm, ref. code RG 2-42-0-2365.
- ⁸ “Appendix K - Report on Mechanics’ Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions,” *Ontario, 54 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 6)* (Toronto, 1891), 253.
- ⁹ “Appendix K - Report on Mechanics’ Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions,” *Ontario, 53 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 6)* (Toronto, 1890), 219.
- ¹⁰ “Appendix K - Report on Mechanics’ Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions,” *Ontario, 52 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 6)* (Toronto, 1889), 146.
- ¹¹ West Toronto Junction Mechanics’ Institute, Department of Education Select Subject Files (Toronto: Archives of Ontario, 1888), microfilm, ref. code RG 2-42-0-2365.
- ¹² Margaret Penman, *A Century of Service: Toronto Public Library 1883-1983* (Toronto: Toronto Public Library Board, 1983), 4.
- ¹³ “Teachers Association,” *Canada School Journal* 11 (15 May 1886), 119. <http://www.canadiana.org>.
- ¹⁴ Arthur J. Reading, *The High School Drawing Course*, 5 vols. in 1 (Toronto: Grip Print and Pub. Co., 1888).
- ¹⁵ Arthur J. Reading, *The Progressive Drawing Course*, 8 vols. (Toronto: Selby, 1894).

¹⁶ Ontario 51 *Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 76)* (Toronto, 1888), 6. The information was presented by the Provincial Secretary’s Office in its “Return to an Order of the Legislative Assembly, dated 15th March, 1888.”

¹⁷ “Appendix K - Report on Mechanics’ Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions,” Ontario Minister of Education, *Report for the Year 1888 with the Statistics of 1887* (Toronto, 1889), 146 *passim*.

¹⁸ Margaret Beckman, Stephen Langmead, and John Black, *The Best Gift: A Record of the Carnegie Libraries in Ontario* (Toronto and London: Dundurn Press, 1984), 21.

¹⁹ Rice, “Stray Thoughts,” 24 March 1949.

²⁰ The Toronto Drop Forge Company was another of McCormack’s business interests. He was one of the applicants and first directors, who in 1891 planned to make application “to the Ontario Legislature for the incorporation of the company to manufacture iron, steel and copper forgings, architectural and other iron work. Head office, West Toronto Junction. Capital Stock, \$40,000, in 400 shares of \$100 each.” *Canadian Mining & Mechanical Review* 10 (2, February 1891), 45, <http://www.canadiana.org>.

²¹ Florence Etoile McCormack was born to Robert L. McCormack, lumber merchant and Amelia Sharpe at York County on 4 July 1886. [Ontario Birth Registration 42222]. Subsequent birth and census records show that the couple had eight more children: Carson (b. 17 October 1889), Gladys (b. 19 June 1891), Grace (b. 5 August 1893), Ruth (b. 18 October 1896), Robert (b. 26 August 1898), Hope (b. 29 September 1900), Mary Alexandria (b. 6 November 1902) and Samuel (b. Apr 1907).

²² “Met Death Motoring,” *Toronto Globe*, 24 September 1917, 1.

²³ Rice, “Stray Thoughts,” 24 March 1949.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid., 17 March 1949.

²⁷ Charlie Clendenan, “My Father the Mayor,” in *The Leader and Recorder’s History of the Junction*, ed. Diana Fancher (Toronto: West Toronto Junction Historical Society, 2004), 26.

²⁸ Rice, “Stray Thoughts,” 24 March 1949.

²⁹ Thomas J. L. Peake, born England, age 30, son of Edwin Peake and Annie Peake, was married at West Toronto Junction on 12 June 1889 to Georgia V. Kennedy, age 24, born Toronto, daughter of David Kennedy and Mary Kennedy.

³⁰ Rice, “Stray Thoughts,” 24 March 1949.

³¹ [Advertisement], *Junction Comet and West York Gazette*, 25 October 1889, 6.

³² “Churches,” *York Tribune*, Exhibition number, [September] 1889, 3.

³³ *St. John’s Church, West Toronto: The First Century, 1881-1981* (West Toronto: St. John’s Church, 1981?), 12.

³⁴ “Churches,” *York Tribune*, Exhibition number, [September] 1889, 3. The second church of St. John’s, West Toronto was demolished in 1923 when the Anglican congregation moved to a new building at Humberside and Annette. Cornerstones for both churches were installed in the 1923 building, subsequently leading to great confusion.

³⁵ “Our Own Church,” *Presbyterian Record for the Dominion of Canada* 12 (February 1887), 38, <http://www.canadiana.org>.

³⁶ “Churches,” *York Tribune*, Exhibition number, [September] 1889, 3.

- ³⁷ Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory, 83.
- ³⁸ This property was taken over by the newly-established Parish of St.Cecilia on 28 April 1895 and promptly renovated for Catholic worship, http://www.saintcecilia.ca/history_parish.htm.
- ³⁹ "Ministers and Churches," *Canada Presbyterian*, 21 (7 September 1892), 572.
- ⁴⁰ "Appendix K - Report on Mechanics' Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions," Ontario Minister of Education, *Report for the Year 1889 with the Statistics of 1888* (Toronto, 1890), 146 *passim*.
- ⁴¹ "Mechanics' Institute," *York Tribune*, Exhibition number, [September] 1889, 6.
- ⁴² Lorne Bruce, *Free Books for All: The Public Library Movement in Ontario, 1850-1930* (Toronto & Oxford: Dundurn Press, 1994), 95.
- ⁴³ Ibid.
- ⁴⁴ "Mechanics' Institute," *York Tribune*, Exhibition number, [September] 1889, 6.
- ⁴⁵ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 31 March 1949.
- ⁴⁶ "Mechanics' Institute," *York Tribune*, Exhibition number, [September] 1889, 6.
- ⁴⁷ "Appendix K - Report on Mechanics' Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions," Ontario, *53 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 6)* (Toronto, 1890), 222.
- ⁴⁸ "Our Societies," *Toronto Junction Daily Tribune*, 22 November 1890, 2.
- ⁴⁹ Bruce, *Free Books for All*, 84.
- ⁵⁰ "Appendix K - Report on Mechanics' Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions," Ontario, *54 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 6)* (Toronto, 1891), 253.
- ⁵¹ "Appendix K - Report on Mechanics' Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions," Ontario, *53 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 6)* (Toronto, 1890), 223.
- ⁵² "Appendix K - Report on Mechanics' Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions," Ontario, *51 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 7)* (Toronto, 1888), 181-2.
- ⁵³ "Locals," *York Tribune*, 21 December 1888, 1.
- ⁵⁴ *West Toronto Junction Comet and West York Gazette* (25 October 1889), 7.
- ⁵⁵ "Mechanics' Institute," *York Tribune*, Exhibition number, [September] 1889, 6.
- ⁵⁶ Bruce, *Free Books for All*, 118.
- ⁵⁷ "Ministers and Churches," *Canada Presbyterian* v. 15 (no. 51, 15 December 1886), 822, <http://www.canadiana.org>.
- ⁵⁸ Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory, 81, 83.
- ⁵⁹ Bruce, *Free Books for All*, 95.
- ⁶⁰ Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory, 86.
- ⁶¹ Ibid., 128.
- ⁶² Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 21 April 1949.
- ⁶³ "Mechanics' Institute," *York Tribune*, Exhibition number [August] 1889, 6.
- ⁶⁴ "Churches," *York Tribune*, Exhibition number [August] 1889, 3.
- ⁶⁵ "Congregational Meetings," *Canada Presbyterian*, 18 (no. 11, 13 March 1889), 173.
- ⁶⁶ Molson's Bank, founded in 1825 and chartered in 1855, operated until 1925 when it was acquired by and merged with the Bank of Montreal.
- ⁶⁷ A. J. Mercer, "Early Days and Ways," 12 November 1939, in *The Yesteryears of our Community*, Runnymede School (Toronto: s.n., 1939?).
- ⁶⁸ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 31 March 1949.
- ⁶⁹ "Toronto Junction," *Toronto Globe*, 25 July 1891, 4.
- ⁷⁰ West Toronto Junction Council, "Minutes," 28 March 1892, nos. 303 and 304, fonds 205, City of West Toronto fonds, City of Toronto Archives.
- ⁷¹ "Appendix K – Report on Mechanics' Institutes, Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions," Ontario, *54 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 4)* (Toronto, 1891), 261.
- ⁷² Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 9 June 1949.
- ⁷³ Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory, 52.
- ⁷⁴ A. B. Rice, *West Toronto Junction Revisited*, ed. Joan Miles (Erin, Ontario: Boston Mills Press for the West Toronto Junction Historical Society, 1986), 37.
- ⁷⁵ Canada Census Information re Elizabeth McCallum
- | Year | Age | Birthdate Reported | Est. Birthdate | Place |
|------|-----|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1871 | 23 | | 1848 | Durham East Hope Township |
| 1881 | 32 | | 1849 | Durham East Hope Township |
| 1891 | 46 | | 1845 | York West West Toronto Junction |
| 1901 | 40 | 24 November 1860 | | York West Toronto Junction |
| 1911 | 50 | November 1860 | | York South Toronto, 11 Hook Ave. |
- ⁷⁶ Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory, 153.
- ⁷⁷ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 18 August 1949.
- ⁷⁸ Krista Taylor, Archivist. Port Hope Archives, email message to author, 12 May 2009.
- ⁷⁹ Bruce, *Free Books for All*, 45.
- ⁸⁰ *Toronto Junction Daily Tribune*, "Our Societies," 11 April 1893, 3.
- ⁸¹ "Town Topics," *Toronto Junction Leader*, 17 February 1894, [3].
- ⁸² Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 18 August 1949.
- ⁸³ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York*, Ontario, 621.
- ⁸⁴ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 8 September 1949.
- ⁸⁵ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 2 June 1949.
- ⁸⁶ *Catholic Register*, 4 April 1895, http://www.saintcecilia.ca/history_parish.htm.
- ⁸⁷ "Music and the Drama," *Toronto Globe*, 24 February 1897, 12.
- ⁸⁸ "Toronto Junction," *Toronto Daily Mail and Empire*, 25 March 1899, 14,
- ⁸⁹ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 2 June 1949.
- ⁹⁰ Ibid.
- ⁹¹ "Miss Shepperd's Strange Career," *Toronto Star*, 28 April 1894, 1.
- ⁹² "Rebby Marron's Suit," *Toronto Star*, 26 April 1894, 5.
- ⁹³ Letter to Augusta Clendenan Marshall, 30 August 1913. West Toronto Junction Historical Society Archives.
- ⁹⁴ West Toronto Junction Town Council, "Minutes," 9 May 1894, no. 560.
- ⁹⁵ Toronto Junction Council, "Minutes," 21 January 1895, no. 770.
- ⁹⁶ Rice, *West Toronto Junction Revisited*, 47.
- ⁹⁷ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 18 August 1949.
- ⁹⁸ "Appendix L – Technical Education, Public and Free Libraries, Art Schools and Scientific Institutions," Ontario, *60 Victoria Sessional Papers (No. 1)* (Toronto, 1897), 294.
- ⁹⁹ *Toronto Junction Daily Tribune*, 7 October 1893.
- ¹⁰⁰ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 23 June 1949.
- ¹⁰¹ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 22 December 1949.
- ¹⁰² Ibid., 51.

- ¹⁰³ Toronto Junction Council, "Minutes," 10 January 1898.
- ¹⁰⁴ *The Tribune Souvenir, 1901: Telling the Wonderful Story of Toronto Junction* (Toronto Junction: Tribune, 1901), 14 *passim*.
- ¹⁰⁵ "To Close the Agreements," *Toronto Daily Mail and Empire*, 5 October 1889, 6.
- ¹⁰⁶ "Toronto Junction News," *Toronto Daily Mail and Empire*, 16 November 1889, 6.
- ¹⁰⁷ "News of the Junction," *Toronto Daily Mail and Empire*, 13 April 1889, 12.
- ¹⁰⁸ Humberside Collegiate claims that Colbeck's academic background is the reason why it is one of the few public high schools in Toronto to still offer Latin as a course.
- ¹⁰⁹ *The Tribune Souvenir, 1901*, 3.
- ¹¹⁰ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York*, 552; also "West Toronto News W. P. Hartney is Dead," *Toronto Star*, 3 June 1910, 12.
- ¹¹¹ *The Tribune Souvenir 1901*, 12; see also Canadian Press Association, *Journal of Proceedings at Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting Held at Toronto, February 4th and 5th, 1897: List of Officers and Members* (Toronto: Methodist Book and Publishing House, 1897), 32-3.
- ¹¹² *The Flesherton Advance*, 3 June 1931, http://davies.halinet.on.ca/Newspaper/FA/1929-1931/flesherton1929_0721.pdf.
- ¹¹³ *Leader and Recorder*, 17 December 1903.
- ¹¹⁴ "Editor Fawcett Dead," *Huntsville Forester*, 7 August 1919, 1.
- ¹¹⁵ *The Tribune Souvenir 1901*, 5.
- ¹¹⁶ Toronto Junction Public Library, *Catalogue of Books in the Toronto Junction Public Library* (Toronto Junction, 1904), [3].
- ¹¹⁷ Bruce, *Free Books for All*, xvii.
- ¹¹⁸ Ontario, Minister of Education, *Report*, (1900), 196.
- ¹¹⁹ *Census of Canada, 1901*. District: On York (West/Ouest) (no. 131), Subdistrict: Toronto Junction (Town) H-8, 8, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1901/index-e.html>.
- ¹²⁰ "John Constantine is Dead at West Toronto," *Toronto Star*, 8 September 1913, 2.
- ¹²¹ *Ibid.*
- ¹²² *The Tribune Souvenir 1901*, 6.
- ¹²³ "Passing of Justice Raney Shocks Province and Bar," *Toronto Star*, 25 September 1933, 1.
- ¹²⁴ *Catalogue of Books*, [3].
- ¹²⁵ Bruce, *Free Books for All*, 116.
- ¹²⁶ "Local Optionists at the Junction," *Toronto Star*, 7 November 1903, 13.
- ¹²⁷ Toronto Junction Council, "Minutes," 2 March 1903, no. 76.
- ¹²⁸ "It was 'Fierce' at the Junction: Ten Thousand People Celebrated Local Option," *Toronto Daily News*, 2 May 1904; also in *The Leader & Recorder's History of the Junction*, ed. Fancher, 33.
- ¹²⁹ Matthew Rosevear was a salesman and continued to live at 11 Hook Avenue where he died on 2 May 1913.
- ¹³⁰ "Happy Toronto Junction," *Toronto Globe*, 9 January 1906, 12.

2: THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY, 1902-9

¹ Beckman, *Best Gift*, 28.

² Bruce, *Free Books for All*, 166-7.

³ Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carnegie Library Correspondence, Brussels, Ontario, 6 February 1907, quoted in Beckman, *Best Gift*, 104.

- ⁴ CLC, Toronto Junction (West Toronto), Elizabeth W. McCallum to James Bertram, 25 February 1902.
- ⁵ "Cheap Coat at Junction," *Toronto Globe*, 30 January 1903, 9.
- ⁶ "The Town Council," *Toronto Star*, 11 November 1904, 7.
- ⁷ West Toronto Junction Town Council, "Minutes," 10 November 1904, no. 600.
- ⁸ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 18 August 1949, 21.
- ⁹ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the County of York*, 406-7.
- ¹⁰ *The Tribune Souvenir 1901*, 15.
- ¹¹ Diana Fancher, "A. B. Rice: A Biography," in Rice, *West Toronto Junction Revisited*, 1-5.
- ¹² CLC, Toronto Junction, A. B. Rice to Andrew Carnegie, 27 January 1908.
- ¹³ CLC, Toronto Junction, James Bertram to A. B. Rice, 30 January 1908.
- ¹⁴ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 18 August 1949.
- ¹⁵ "At the Junction; CNR is Discouraged," *Toronto Telegram*, 4 February 1908, 8.
- ¹⁶ "At the Junction; Site for Carnegie Library," *Toronto Telegram*, 8 February 1908, 28.
- ¹⁷ "Toronto Junction; Decide upon a Carnegie Library that Will Cost \$20,000," *Toronto Daily News*, 17 March 1908, 13.
- ¹⁸ "Appendix H – Public Libraries, Literary and Scientific Institutions, etc. Report . . . for the year 1908, with the Statistics of 1907," *Sessional Papers (No. 12)* Ontario, Education Department (Toronto, 1908), 131.
- ¹⁹ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 18 August 1949.
- ²⁰ "At the Junction," *Toronto Telegram*, 27 February 1908, 8.
- ²¹ "At the Junction; Get Carnegie Library," *Toronto Telegram*, 17 March 1908, 8.
- ²² *Toronto Mail and Empire*, 28 January 1903.
- ²³ Toronto Public Library, "Scrapbooks Containing Newspaper Clippings, Photographs, etc. Relating to the Toronto Public Library, December 1872 - January 1945."
- ²⁴ *Toronto News*, 28 January 1903.
- ²⁵ CLC, Toronto, James Bain to James Bertram, 7 February 1903.
- ²⁶ Toronto Junction Council "Minutes," 16 March 1908, no. 2100.
- ²⁷ A Hain family legend maintains that Councillor Alexander Hain sent a letter to Carnegie requesting funds for the local library, believing that the two had a natural connection, both being from Fifeshire, Scotland: Hain hailed from Auchtermuchty and Carnegie was Dumferline's most famous son. Doug Hain, telephone interview with author, 23 February 2009.
- ²⁸ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 18 August 1949.
- ²⁹ CLC, Toronto Junction, Rice to Carnegie, 19 March 1908.
- ³⁰ CLC, Toronto Junction, Bertram to Rice, 21 March 1908.
- ³¹ CLC, Toronto Junction, Rice to Carnegie, 23 March 1908.
- ³² CLC, Toronto Junction, Bertram to Rice, 6 April 1908.
- ³³ "Junction will be West Toronto now. 'Junction leaves the inference that we're a jumping off-place,' declared Town Solicitor [A. J.] Anderson, in supporting the town's bill for incorporation as the City of West Toronto before the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature this morning." *Toronto Star*, 25 March 1908, 1.
- ³⁴ CLC, Toronto Junction, Rice to Carnegie, 9 April 1908.
- ³⁵ CLC, Toronto Junction, Bertram to Rice, 11 April 1908.
- ³⁶ "New Library Board," *Toronto Telegram*, 22 April 1908, 13.
- ³⁷ *The Public Libraries Act*, 1895, 58 Vict., ch. 45., part I, 3.1.

- ³⁸ "New Library Board," *Toronto Telegram*, 22 April 1908, 13.
- ³⁹ "In West Toronto City; Site for Library," *Toronto Telegram*, 30 April 1908, 2.
- ⁴⁰ West Toronto City Council "Minutes," 4 May 1908, no. 2130.
- ⁴¹ West Toronto City Council "Minutes," 18 May 1908, no. 2144.
- ⁴² This probably was William Wilson, who was the superintendent of the Sunday school at Victoria Presbyterian Church and listed as a 'gentleman' on the original list of subscribers to the West Toronto Junction Mechanics' Institute in February 1888. Like R. C. Jennings, William Wilson, the long-time principal of Annette Street School, would not be eligible to serve in the Free Public Library Board.
- ⁴³ "In West Toronto City," *Toronto Telegram*, 27 May 1908, 8.
- ⁴⁴ *University of Toronto Quarterly* 14 [1945]: 1, http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/display_rpo/edition/wja.html.
- ⁴⁵ William Perkins Bull, *Spadunk: Or, from Paganism to Davenport United, a Study of Community Development and of the Pioneer Personalities which Gave Shape to Both* (Toronto : Wm. Perkins Bull Foundation, 1935), 377.
- ⁴⁶ "At the Junction; CNR is Discouraged," *Toronto Telegram*, 4 February 1908, 8.
- ⁴⁷ "In West Toronto City; Site for Library," *Toronto Telegram*, 30 April 1908, 2.
- ⁴⁸ "New Library Board," *Toronto Telegram*, 22 April 1908, 13.
- ⁴⁹ Toronto Junction Town Council "Minutes," 4 December 1905, no. 897.
- ⁵⁰ CLC, Toronto Junction, Rice to Carnegie, 22 July 1908.
- ⁵¹ Diana Fancher, "A. B. Rice: A Biography," quoted in *West Toronto Junction Revisited*, 3rd ed., 3.
- ⁵² CLC, Toronto Junction, A. B. Rice to Robert A. Franks, n.d. [29?August 1908].
- ⁵³ City of West Toronto Council "Minutes," 24 August 1908, no. 2236.
- ⁵⁴ CLC, Toronto Junction, Rice to Franks, n.d. [29?August 1908].
- ⁵⁵ "In West Toronto City; Money for Library Board," *Toronto Telegram*, 5 September 1908.
- ⁵⁶ CLC, Toronto Junction, Bertram to Rice, 11 April 1908.
- ⁵⁷ Beckman, *Best Gift*, 104.
- ⁵⁸ "In West Toronto City," *Toronto Telegram*, 24 June 1908.
- ⁵⁹ Constantine was listed as a draughtsman in the 1896 Toronto City Directory for West Toronto Junction, but as an architect in succeeding directories. He is not included in specialized indexes and files compiled by Toronto Public Library staff such as Index to the Canadian Artist Vertical Files, Canadian Artist Index, Ontario Architects & Builders File, Canadian Artist Files up to 1980 (includes Canadian Artist Files from the Library of the National Gallery of Canada).
- ⁶⁰ "Readers like Quiet," *Toronto Telegram*, 22 August 2008, 13.
- ⁶¹ "In West Toronto City; The New Carnegie Library," *Toronto Telegram*, 23 July 1908, 5.
- ⁶² "West Toronto's New Public Library," *Construction*, September 1909, 63-4.
- ⁶³ W. A. Langton, "Library Design," *Canadian Architect and Builder*, 15 (April 1902), 54.
- ⁶⁴ "West Toronto's New Public Library," *Construction*, September 1909, 63-4.
- ⁶⁵ Ibid., 63.
- ⁶⁶ *Toronto Telegram*, 22 April 1908, 13.
- ⁶⁷ "West Toronto's New Public Library," *Construction*, September 1909, 63.
- ⁶⁸ Inclusion on the City of Toronto Inventory of Heritage Properties ---145 Annette Street (Annette Library), City of Toronto Council and Committees, 25 August 1998.
- ⁶⁹ Beckman, *Best Gift*, 134.
- ⁷⁰ "James A. Ellis," *Leader and Recorder West Toronto Junction* (Winter 2001): 5.
- ⁷¹ *Illustrated Toronto, the Queen City of Canada; its Past, Present and Future, its Growth, its Resources, its Commerce, its Manufactures, its Financial Interests, its Public Institutions and its Prospects* (Toronto: Acme Publishing & Engraving Co., 1890), 193.
- ⁷² Walpole Roland, *Algoma West: Its Mines, Scenery and Industrial Resources* (Toronto: Warwick & Sons, 1887), 211, <http://www.our-roots.ca>
- ⁷³ "Personals," *Canadian Architect and Builder*, 3 (March 1890): 30.
- ⁷⁴ "Personal," *Canadian Architect and Builder*, 7 (June 1894): 79.
- ⁷⁵ "Notes," *Canadian Architect and Builder*, 16 (January 1903), xi.
- ⁷⁶ Miller (G. M. & W. J.) Collection, 3, <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/fisher/collections/findaids/miller.pdf>.
- ⁷⁷ Allan Gordon Rice died at Toronto on 20 May 1920 at age 35 of melanotic sarcoma and cerebral metastasis, and Howard Chauncey Ellis in January 1922 of unknown causes.
- ⁷⁸ Leon Ellis trained in forestry at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1911. He was a forester for the CPR and an officer in the Forestry Corps during the First World War, before becoming the director of the newly-established New Zealand Forestry Department in 1919 and spearheading a massive planting scheme in the 1920s. He died in Sydney, Australia on 25 November 1941, <http://www.teara.govt.nz/NewZealanders/NewZealandPeoples/NorthAmericans/2/ENZ-Resources/Biography/1/en>.
- ⁷⁹ "Shares Go Up," *Toronto Globe*, 7 November 1896, 24.
- ⁸⁰ Ruth H. McCuaig, *Our Pointe au Baril* (Hamilton : R.H. McCuaig, 1984), 154.
- ⁸¹ Clendenan, "My Father the Doctor," in *The Leader and Recorder's History of the Junction*, ed. Diana Fancher (Toronto: West Toronto Junction Historical Society, 2004), 30.
- ⁸² "Deaths," *Toronto Star*, 28 June 1935, 31.
- ⁸³ "In West Toronto City, Work on Library Begins," *Toronto Telegram*, 26 September 1908, 21.
- ⁸⁴ TRL, Special Collections, Toronto Public Library fonds, L2, Box 12A.
- ⁸⁵ "More Land for Library," *Toronto Telegram*, 6 October 1908, 13.
- ⁸⁶ City of West Toronto Council "Minutes," 5 October 1908, no. 2282.
- ⁸⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸⁸ "No Cornerstone Laying," *Toronto Telegram*, 11 November 1908, 11.
- ⁸⁹ Ibid.
- ⁹⁰ TRL, Special Collections, Toronto Public Library fonds, L2, Box 12A.
- ⁹¹ City of West Toronto Council "Minutes," 11 January 1909, no. 2359.
- ⁹² "Eighth [sic] Smallpox Case Discovered," *Toronto Star*, 24 February 1909, 3.
- ⁹³ Rice, "Stray Thoughts," 18 August 1949, 21.
- ⁹⁴ TRL, Special Collections, Toronto Public Library fonds, L2, Box 12A.
- ⁹⁵ Ibid.
- ⁹⁶ "Final Meeting at West Toronto," *Toronto Star*, 30 April 1909, 2.

3: WESTERN BRANCH, TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1909-1961

- ¹ “Plaque no. 60: George Herbert Locke,” Historical Plaques of Niagara Region, <http://www.waynecook.com/aniagara.html>.
- ² Barbara Myrvold, “Building Beaches Branch, Toronto Public Library, 1910-1916,” revised 26 September 2006, http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pdfs/abo_his_car_beaches_early_library_service.pdf.
- ³ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1909, 41.
- ⁴ “West Toronto Library,” *Toronto Star*, 27 April 1909, TPL, “Scrapbooks,” reel 1, 98.
- ⁵ TPL Board, Library Committee, “Minutes,” 8 June 1909, 72.
- ⁶ Rice, “Stray Thoughts,” 18 August 1949, 21.
- ⁷ TPL Board, Minutes, 16 July 1909.
- ⁸ Census of Canada, 1911, Ontario, York South, District Number 138, Sub-district Toronto, Sub-district Number 32, 6, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1911/index-e.html>.
- ⁹ TPL Board, Library Committee, “Minutes,” 8 June 1909, 72.
- ¹⁰ TPL Board, “Minutes,” 16 July 1909.
- ¹¹ TPL Board, “Minutes,” 7 September 1909, 74.
- ¹² “Opened New Library for West Toronto,” *Toronto Star*, 28 September 1909, 5.
- ¹³ Ibid.
- ¹⁴ [George Locke], “Earlscourt, December 18th 1913,” TPL, “Scrapbooks,” vol. 4, 249.
- ¹⁵ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1909, 6.
- ¹⁶ A. B. Rice and James Ellis were both members of the West Toronto Masonic Temple, Inc., an incorporated body that received a provincial charter patent on 25 March 1908.
- ¹⁷ TPL Board, Library Committee, “Minutes,” 5 October 1909, 77.
- ¹⁸ TPL Board, “Minutes,” 8 October 1909, 348.
- ¹⁹ “Support Humber Scheme,” *The News*, 11 June 1911. TPL, “Scrapbooks,” reel 1, 279.
- ²⁰ W. A. Craick, “Little Sketches of Busy Men; V – Dr. George H. Locke,” *Toronto Globe*, 12 April 1913, quoted in Lorne Bruce, *Free Books for All*, 223.
- ²¹ “Branch Library Improved,” *Toronto Evening Telegram*, 16 February 1916, 6.
- ²² TPL, *Annual Report*, 1915, 16.
- ²³ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1927, 32.
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1928, 23.
- ²⁶ Lorne Bruce, email to the author, 5 June 2009. See American Library Association, *Libraries and Adult Education; Report of a Study Made by the American Library Association* (Chicago: American Library Association, 1926), 92-102.
- ²⁷ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1925, 29.
- ²⁸ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1926, 34.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1928, 24.
- ³¹ Ibid.
- ³² Rice, “Stray Thoughts,” 18 August 1949, 21.
- ³³ Lorne Bruce, email to the author, 5 June 2009.
- ³⁴ Anne Wright, interview with the author, 27 May 1989.
- ³⁵ TPL Board, Libraries and Finance Committee, “Minutes,” 19 April 1936, 801.
- ³⁶ George Locke, *What a Librarian Ought to Know*, [Toronto: To-

- ronto Public Library, 1928?], n. p.
- ³⁷ “West Toronto,” *Toronto Star*, 9 October 1920, 24.
- ³⁸ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1915, [opp. 16].
- ³⁹ “Branch Library Improved,” *Toronto Evening Telegram*, 16 February 1916, 6.
- ⁴⁰ “Books for the Blind,” *Toronto Globe*, 26 September 1911, 8.
- ⁴¹ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1911, 9.
- ⁴² TPL, *Annual Report*, 1916, 7.
- ⁴³ “In Memoriam Sherman C. Swift, M.A., LL.D.,” Canadian National Institute for the Blind, *Annual Report*, 1947.
- ⁴⁴ “A Short Historical Sketch of the Canadian National Library for the Blind,” in Canadian National Library for the Blind, *Annual Report*, 1917, 8-9.
- ⁴⁵ “Library for the Sightless, West Toronto and the Most Wonderful Blind Man in Canada Who is in Charge of It,” *Toronto Daily News*, 18 February 1914; also TPL, “Scrapbooks,” vol. 1, 521.
- ⁴⁶ “Blind are Taught to Become Useful,” *Toronto Daily Star*, 23 March 1916; also TPL, “Scrapbooks,” vol. 1, 607.
- ⁴⁷ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1916, 7.
- ⁴⁸ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1945, 6.
- ⁴⁹ Lorne Bruce, email to the author, 5 June 2009.
- ⁵⁰ Ibid., “The first important study on New Canadians appeared in 1929, *Our Canadian Mosaic* by Kate A. Foster (Toronto: YWCA, 1926). Foster included a short piece on Mary Black’s work at Fort William. Almost immediately, the Ontario Library Association established a committee to select a ‘list of suitable books’ that could be used in libraries to introduce foreign-born library users to established national languages, laws, institutions, and ideas. It reported in 1931.”
- ⁵¹ TPL Board, “Minutes,” 10 February 1942, 662.
- ⁵² *Hermes: [Yearbook of Humberside Collegiate Institute]* (Toronto : Humberside Collegiate Institute, 1935), 150.
- ⁵³ TPL Board, “Minutes,” 14 October 1941, 620.
- ⁵⁴ TPL Board, “Minutes,” 12 November 1941, 623.
- ⁵⁵ Leslie McGrath, “Service to Children in the Toronto Public Library: A Case Study, 1912-1949” (Ph. D. thesis, University of Toronto, 2005), condensed from chap. 5, “Lillian Helena Smith,” 253-5.
- ⁵⁶ TPL, *Annual Report*, 1912, 14.
- ⁵⁷ McGrath, “Service to Children,” 466.
- ⁵⁸ Census of Canada, 1911, Ontario, Toronto West, District Number 128, Sub-district Toronto, Sub-district Number 64, 1, <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1911/index-e.html>.
- ⁵⁹ “Branch Library Improved,” *Toronto Evening Telegram*, 16 February 1916, 6; also TPL, “Scrapbooks,” vol. 1, 607.
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- ⁶⁸ "Hagerman, Miriam, fl. 1942. Children's librarian and storyteller at Toronto Public Library, 1942-67," McGrath, "Service to Children," 464.
- ⁶⁹ TPLA Western Branch Subject Correspondence, "Daybook," September 1937.
- ⁷⁰ Leslie McGrath, email to the author, 27 May 2009.
- ⁷¹ "Daybook," 12 July 1940.
- ⁷² "Daybook," 29 October 1940.
- ⁷³ TPL Board, "Minutes," 9 November 1943, 776.
- ⁷⁴ "Daybook," 1945.
- ⁷⁵ "Daybook," 19 February 1948.
- ⁷⁶ Andrew Palamarchuck, "Closing in on a Century," *Bloor West Villager*, March 1999, 19.
- ⁷⁷ Gib Goodfellow, interview with the author, May 2009.

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- ¹ "Remodelling of Annette Street Branch Library," Press Release from Harriet Parsons, Information Office, Toronto Public Libraries, 9 April 1962.
- ² Helen MacMillan, letter to Katrin Soots, 24 May 1989.
- ³ TPL Board, Capital Projects Committee, "Minutes," 18 April 1979.
- ⁴ Barbara Forsyth, interview with the author, 24 May 2009.
- ⁵ TPL Board, "Minutes," 6 March 1984, 4.
- ⁶ TPL, *Reading in Toronto, Annual Report*, 1991, 5-6.
- ⁷ Ibid., 3.
- ⁸ TPL, *Reading in Toronto, Annual Report*, 1991, 3.
- ⁹ "Renowned Film Library Back under Budget Axe," *Toronto Star*, 10 August 1994, A18.
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- ¹¹ Andrew Palamarchuck, "Closing in on a Century," *Bloor West Villager*, March 1999, 19.
- ¹² "TPL Branch Planning Study, Branch Survey," June 1999.
- ¹³ "Neighbourhood Mapping," *Junction Signal*, Summer 2000, issue 3, 5.
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- ² *Illustrated Toronto*, 194.
- ³ *Charlton's West Toronto Junction Directory*, 105.
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