

YORK

PIONEER AND PRESENT

BY E. A. JAMES

Article No. 3.

THORNHILL

Thornhill is one of the oldest settlements on Yonge Street, for Lot 34, Con. 1, Markham was settled by Nicholas Miller in 1795 and Lot 28, Con. 1, Vaughan, in 1798 and the intervening lots were nearly all crown granted before 1800.

One of the pioneers was Jeremiah Atkinson, who settled on Lot 32, Con. 1, Vaughan and built for John Lyons a dam, saw mill, and later a grist mill all just west of Yonge Street.

It was but natural that the community should first be known as Atkinson's Mills. About 1821 Alen N. MacNab, later Sir Alen N. MacNab, subdivided the easterly part of Lot 30, Con. 1, Vaughan and named the community Dundurn.

The efforts to maintain the village name Dundurn were not successful, for in 1822 Benjamin Thorne, a miller from Dorsetshire, England, bought from Wm. Purdy the mills built by Atkinson and latterly owned by John Lyons and in conjunction with his brother-in-law, William Parsons, also of Dorsetshire, and under the trade name of Thorne and Parsons enlarged the Flour mill and built a large tannery, general store, hotel and stables.

These additions to the industries of the village quickly developed a hamlet mostly to the north of the Don river and facing Yonge Street. For forty miles and more farmers brought their wheat to Thorne's Mills, purchased their supplies at Thorne's stores and commenced their homeward journey up Thorne's hills. For many years in fact until the building of the Northern Railway in 1854 the industries located on the Don River at Yonge Street made Thornhill a centre of great activity and commercial importance.

Thorne's Hills became as famous as Thorne's Mills for in 1822 Yonge Street did not follow the present line of travel but coming from the south the traveller turned west at the corner of Lot 31 and descended the south hill by the narrow road west of Yonge Street, crossed the river at water level and ascended the north hill by way of a depression that reached Yonge Street just north of the Thornhill Golf Club Gate. This north hill was cut in 1870 again in 1913 and finally to its present grade in 1922.

In 1829 Benjamin Thorne petitioned the postal authorities to open a post office at Thorn Hill. The petition was granted and Wm. Parsons appointed the first postmaster on establishment in 1829.

I have been repeatedly told that the one story frame building just south of the dwelling occupied by Mr. Stewart Wilcox on Lot 33, Con. 1, Markham is the original Thornhill post office and is now on the location that the post office was first opened on.

In this connection it is interesting to study the development of the name.

Thorne's Mills
Thorne's Hill
Thorne Hill
Thorn Hill
Thornhill
Thornhill

This latter spelling was well established by 1842, although Thorn Hill is frequently found in documents as late as 1890.

The post masters and their dates of office since the opening of the office in 1829 are:—

Wm. Parsons	1829
Josiah Purkiss	1861
T. A. Hewitt	Oct. 1st 1881
W. Bradley	Oct. 1st 1882
John T. B. Lindsay	April 1st, 1885
John H. Francis	Jan 1st, 1890
Robert Clark, the present postmaster,	Aug. 1st, 1905

Next Week, Richmond Hill

N.B.—The writer welcomes comments, criticisms or corrections and he also hopes readers will forward descriptions of incidents connected with the County of York, of which they have particular knowledge.



JOSIAH PURKISS
Postmaster at Thornhill in 1861

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH YORK LOCAL IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

Bathurst Street and Carmichael Ave.

Watermain

TAKE NOTICE THAT:—

1. The council of the Corporation of the Township of North York intends to construct as a local improvement a 6 inch watermain on:—

(a) Bathurst Street from Dunblaine Ave. to Carmichael Ave.

(b) Carmichael Ave. from Bathurst St. to the east side of Lot 78, Plan 1831, and intends to specially assess a part of the cost upon the land abutting directly on the work.

2. The estimated cost of the work is \$3,539.00 of which \$305.51 is to be paid for the Water Area \$1. The estimated special rate per foot frontage is \$1.16. The special assessment is to be paid in thirty annual instalments.

3. A petition to the said council will not avail to prevent its construction, but a petition against the work or the manner in which it has been undertaken, may be made pursuant to Section 9 of the Local Improvement Act, to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, by a majority of the owners representing at least one-half of the value of the lots which are to be specially assessed therefor.

Dated at Willowdale July 20th 1926.
H. D. GOODE, Clerk.

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH YORK Local Improvement Notice

Don Boulevard Bridge

Take Notice That:

1. The council of the corporation of the Township of North York intend to construct as a local improvement a reinforced concrete bridge, over the west branch of the Don River on Don Boulevard and intends to especially assess a part of the cost of the land abutting directly on the work and upon the following land which is to be immediately benefited by the work:—both sides of Don Boulevard from 30th., Avenue, West, to the north limit of Don Boulevard.

2. The estimated cost of the work is \$3,000.00, of which \$1,500.00 is to be paid by the Corporation. The estimated special rate per foot frontage is \$0.75. The special assessment is to be paid in fifteen annual instalments of 10 cents per foot per year.

3. A petition to the said Council will not avail to prevent its construction, but a petition against the work or the manner in which it has been undertaken, may be made pursuant to Section 9 of the Local Improvement Act, to The Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, by a majority of the owners representing at least one-half of the value of the lots which are to be specially assessed therefor.

Dated at Willowdale, July 14th, 1926.
H. D. GOODE, Clerk.

North York Township

Sale of Lands for Arrears of Taxes.

Township of North York, County of York to wit:

Notice is hereby given that the list of lands now liable to be sold for arrears of taxes in the Township of North York has been prepared, and is being published in an advertisement in the Ontario Gazette, on June 19, June 26, July 3, and July 10, 1926.

Copies of such list or advertisement may be had upon receipt of postage and application to me.

In default of the payment of taxes as shown on the said list, before Thursday, September 16th, 1926, at ten o'clock in the forenoon (Daylight Saving Time) I shall at the said time and at the Council Chambers, Willowdale, Ont., proceed to sell by Public Auction the said lands, to discharge the said arrears, together with the charges thereon.

J. A. BATHGATE,
Township Treasurer.
Treasurer's Office, Willowdale, Ont.,
this 8th day of June, 1926.

York Market

Saturday was again a busy day at the York Market. The City Limits appeared to be the point for a market. The number of producers selling increased by ten and the number of buyers were many more than a week ago.

Prices were high but every thing was fresh. One market lady told the Liberal that she got up at 3 o'clock in the morning to get the milking done, the cream separated and chilled so that the cream and milk Saturday morning would be absolutely fresh. All the products, both garden and dairy, in the market indicated freshness. Great quantities of vegetables are now on sale as well as fruits.

The prices were:—

Vegetables

Potatoes new	6 quarts for 50 cents
Tomatoes per pound	22 cents
Peas per basket	40 and 70 cents
Asparagus	2 bunches for 25 cents
Lettuce	3 bunches for 10 cents
Cabbage per head	10 and 15 cents
Cauliflower per head	10, 20 and 30c
Beets per bunch	3 for 10 cents
Carrots per bunch	5 cents
Radish 3 bunches for	10 cents
Onions per bunch 10 cents or 3 for 25c	
Beans new	6 quarts 75 cents
Gooseberries	per quart 25 cents

Fruits:—

Cherries 6 quarts	50 cents 11 quarts,
	75 cents
Strawberries	2 boxes for 45 cents

Homemade jams and jellies are appearing on the market as well as home rendered lard.

Poultry:—

Broiling chickens per pound	50 cents
One year old chickens per lb.	35 cents

Dairy Produce:—

Butter per pound	37 to 40 cents
Cream per pint	35 to 40 cents
Eggs per dozen	43 cents

Flowers:—

Flowers cut and plants in pots of every kind and size were for sale.

Hollywood must be quite a live animal. Fannie Hurst claims that it has a heart, and we have already been convinced that it is well supplied with plenty of bare arms, knees and backs.

1926

Garden Party and Fete

SATURDAY, JULY 24th

Thornhill Park Grounds

(Just south of Golf Grounds)

Under the auspices of Trinity Church Thornhill.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Grounds open at 2.00 p.m.
Band Concerts—2.30, 4.00, 5.30 and 7.30 p.m.
Palmistry—3.00 5.30 and 7.30 p.m.
Punch and Judy—3.30, 4.30 and 6.00 p.m.
Minstrel Show—4.00 p.m.
Magician, etc.—6.30 p.m.
Fishpond—5.00 p.m.
Amusement and Refreshment Booths—from 2.00 p.m.

SPORTS AND GAMES

2.30 p.m.—50 yards race, Boys under 6, prize to each.
50 yards race, Girls under 6, prize to each.
75 yards race, Boys under 9, three prizes.
75 yards race, Girls under 9, three prizes.
100 yards race, Boys under 16, three prizes.
100 yards race, Girls under 16, three prizes.
75 yards race, Boys under 13, three prizes.
75 yards race Girls under 13, three prizes.
Pie Plate race Ladies and Men, Four prizes.
Leap Frog race, Teams of 3 boys under 16, three prizes.
4.00—Baseball Match, Richmond Hill vs Queen's Rangers
Skipping rope contest, Ladies, Two prizes.
100 yards race, Married men under 30, Two Prizes.
Three legged race, Girls under 16, Four prizes.
Sack race, Boys under 16, Three prizes.
75 yards race, Married men over 30, Two prizes.
Poke race, Ladies and Men, Four prizes.
100 yards race, Ladies, Three prizes.
100 yards race Men, open, Three prizes.
Potatoe race, Ladies, Two prizes.
Leap Frog race, Teams of 3 men, Three prizes.
Tug-of-War.
5.00—Ladies Softball Contest—Teams from Langstaff, Lansing
Richmond Hill and Thornhill
Admission to grounds Adults 25 cents, Children under 12, 10 cents
Meals served in the Rink—From 5.00 to 8.00 p.m. 35 cents
Children under 12, 25 cents.
DANCING IN THE RINK—9.00 p.m.

Printing that Satisfies!

THE FIRST THING TO CONSIDER IN PRINTING—
IS QUALITY OF WORK

THE silent salesman of to-day is printing! If you wish to make a favorable impression, if you want it to be read and remembered, it must be done by a quality shop and in a quality manner.

We're proud of our work—the kind of work that has brought to us many an unsolicited testimonial. It the sort of printing that has produced results.

While quality is the important issue with us, our unusually low prices also are an inducement for you to have your Printing done here.

We have "got out something" for hundreds of people, but not before we have been all over the preliminaries. Our "somethings" have been—letter heads, envelopes, bill-heads, statements, reports, pamphlets, posters magazines, labels, catalogues—all kinds of things made from printed paper.

If it can be printed anwhere we can do it.

"The Liberal"

TELEPHONE 9
RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO

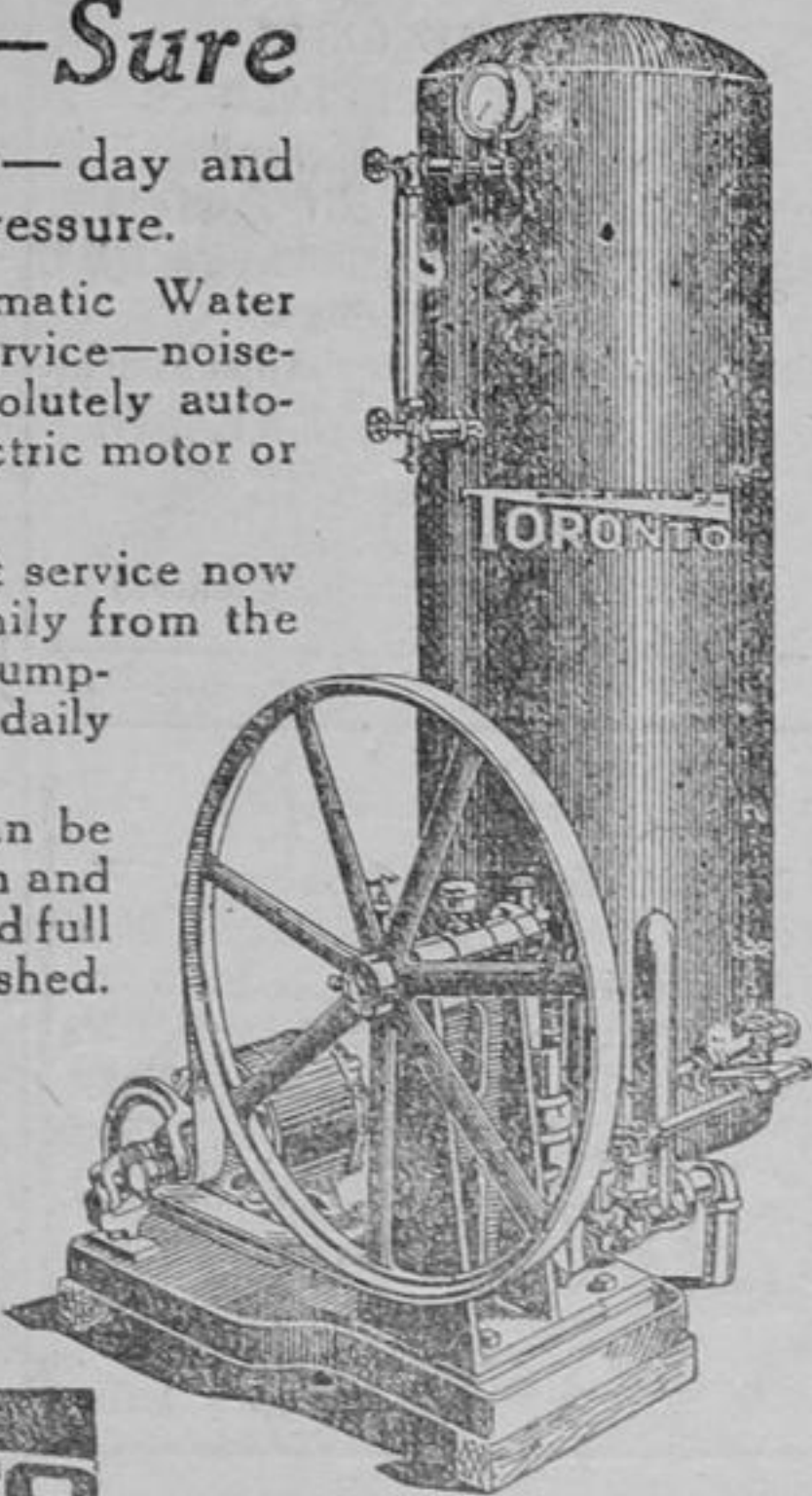
Your Water Supply Automatic—Sure

Continuous service—day and night—always under pressure.

A TORONTO Pneumatic Water System will give you this service—noiseless and best of all, absolutely automatic. Operated by Electric motor or TORONTO Windmill.

Enjoy this convenient service now and save yourself and family from the continuous drudgery of pumping and carrying your daily water supply.

TORONTO Outfits can be quickly installed. Drop in and let's talk it over. Prices and full information gladly furnished. See me to-day.



J. LUNAU
Richmond Hill

TORONTO