HART,
PAtricia
Warburton

Hill chief librarian is working on town history

By Gay Peppin

Time is an elusive thing, especially for those who seek to track it down and record its past.

Patricia Hart, chief librarian of the Richmond Hill Public Library, is one such person who has captured and recorded the past so others might know how things truly were.

Author of Pioneering in north York, published in 1968 while she was head of the Adult Services Division of the North York Public Library, her research springs from a genuine love and curiousity of our heritage.

Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, her family moved to California when she was in her early teens.

California degree

After four years at the University of California, she graduated with a degree in Library Sciences.

On a visit to New Brunswick she met her husband-to-be, and she returned to Canada a year later to be married in Montreal.

They moved to Saint John, N.B., where she helped with the development of school libraries and served the Saint John Public Library as chief librarian from 1948 to 1953.

When she started Sep-tember 1956, at the newly formed North York Public Library, she says there was nothing in the files for those children who approached her needing historical information.

She spent her first year there reading and making up the files form the facts she was able to find.

Collected history

As one of the founding members of the North York Historical Society in 1960, she worked with a committee of about 10 people to collect historical materials.

"We had a lot of bits and pieces with secondary sources not sure if it was the right thing. We had to substantiate it," said Mrs. Hart.

Using government records of lot holders, indexes, deeds, gravestones, the census for 1851, 1861, and 1871 showing populating, industry and agricultural index — and old newspapers such as the Upper Canada Gazette, first paper in the area, and the Colonial Advocate — they verified information received from citizens.

"People come to believe the falacies and its difficult to convince them otherwise," she pointed out.

Richmond Hill Librarian Pat Hart

spotlight on people

She served as president of the historical society.

Centennial awards

Mrs. Hart received the Centennial Medal in 1967 and for outstanding services to the community was given another centennial award from the borough of North York.

After 12 years of research and the compiling of facts, she published her first book, an account of North York's history.

In 1969 she became chief librarian of the Richmond Hill Public Library and its two branches, Richvale and Wildwood.

In October 1973, the town's centennial year, she helped to found the Richmond Hill Historical Society and has been appointed one of its historical advisers.

Preserving heritage

Founded to preserve the cultural heritage of our town through past documents and restoration of old buildings, the historical society is renovating the Burr House, located on Carrville Road, for the safekeeing and teaching of pioneer crafts, she said.

When she is able to find time in her busy schedule, Mrs. Hart is compiling information for her new book on the history of Richmond Hill.

TOWN OF MARKHAM

TENDERS FOR

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Tender forms and specifications may be obtained from the Roads Dept. at Miller Ave., Markham, Ontario, for a fee of $5.00.

Lowest or any tender or any part of any tender not necessarily accepted.

Mr. N. J. Pickard,
Town Clerk,
Town of Markham,
8911 Don Mills Road,
Markham, Ontario.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

In the Estate of Eli Bales

All persons having claims against the Estate of Eli Bales late of the City of Toronto in the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, who died on or about the 4th day of January, 1969 are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 4th day of June, 1975, after which date the Estate will be distributed, with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim he shall not then have notice. DATED at Richmond Hill this 8th day of May, 1975. James Bales, Administrator of the Estate of Eli Bales, by his solicitor, Robert H. Blackburn, c/o Messrs. Lawlor, LeClaire, Stong & Nevins, Barristers and Solicitors, 10265 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, Ontario.

ICHMOND HILL