

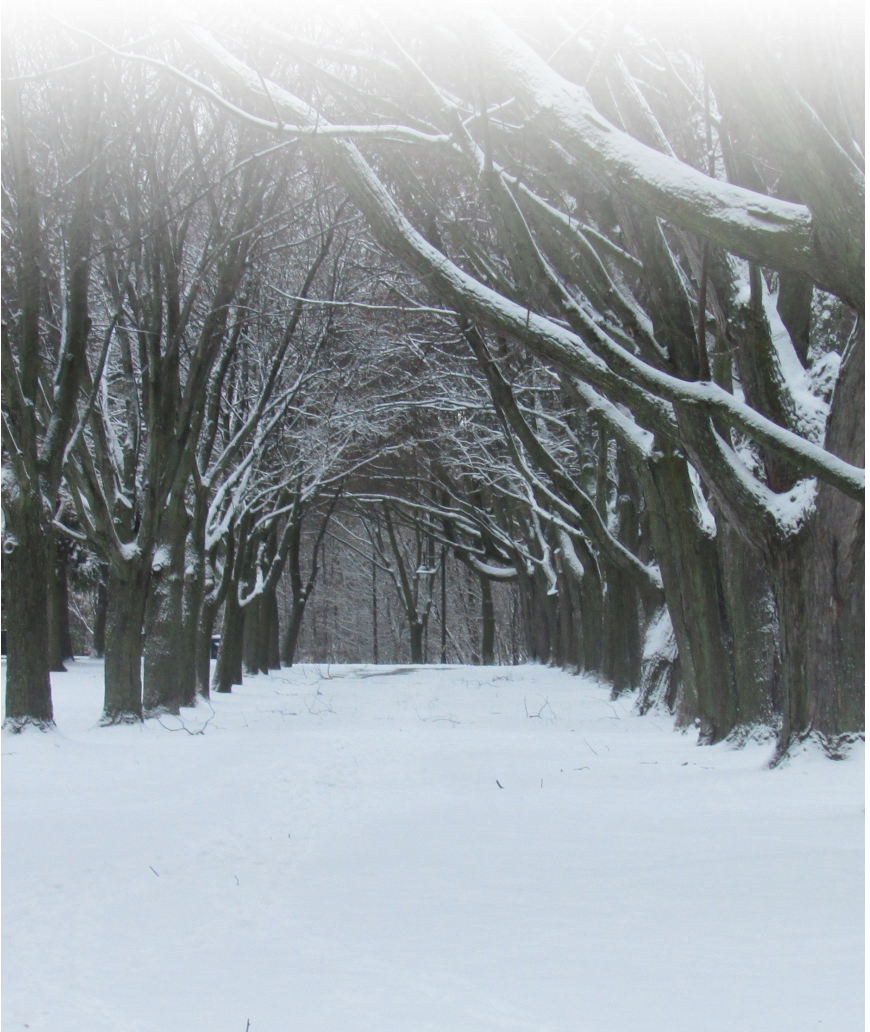
NO. 2



FREE ISSUE

Shore Stories

Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre



A Peep from the Editor

Hello Reader,

Welcome to a new year and a new decade. For many of us, the 20's have brought a fresh sense of hope and a long list of goals. A new year is traditionally the time when we look forward to things to come, but instead we want to suggest taking a few moments to look back and reflect on the past.

In this issue of *Shore Stories*, we wanted to highlight the importance of memories and experiences. How do memories shape our understanding and interpretations of a moment in time? How might our experiences shape the directions we will follow in the future?



The Powerhouse
Jim Tate, 2019



The Gazebo
Jim Tate, 2019

To open the new decade, we have invited our writers to share a memory - whether it be from their own experience, or as it is reflected in the physical spaces of the Lakeshore Grounds. Together their musings paint a picture of times now past, but also connect the possibilities to come in the years ahead.

If you have questions, suggestions, or would be interested in contributing to a future issue, please send an email to

info@lakeshoregrounds.ca

or, even better, drop by and chat in person.

Sincerely,

Nadine Finlay
Editor, *Shore Stories*



Cover image: Tree Arch
Jim Tate, 2019

Table of Contents

1.

Page 3.....	Memories Maureen Luke
Page 5.....	Lest We Forget Jim Tate
Page 8.....	That Looks Familiar Jonny Devaney
Page 11.....	A Year In Re(view) The Interpretive Centre Team
Page 13.....	A Woman War Worker Nadine Finlay
Page 16.....	What To Do With This Space Phillip Goodchild
Page 20.....	A Winter Birding Checklist Jennifer Bazar
Page 21.....	Reflecting on the Lakeshore Sheila Karpis
Page 23.....	Knitting our History Jennifer Bazar
Page 25.....	Between the Lines The People Behind the Words



Winter Tree
Jim Tate, 2019

Keep in Touch

2.

Follow, like, message, or otherwise engage with us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter:

@lakeshoregrnds



We also have a website you can visit. Sign up for our monthly newsletter to stay hip:

lakeshoregrounds.ca

Since we're friendly, drop by to see us! Tell your GPS, homing pigeon, or feet to go to:

Room WEL104
2 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Dr.
Toronto, ON M8V 4B6

If you want to be old-school - like us - we still have a landline. Give us a shout:

416.675.6622 ext. 3801

Memories

3.

My earliest memory is from when I was about three years old. This was around the time when the Humber Lakeshore Campus was the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital. My mother was a Registered Nursing Assistant at the hospital from the late 1940's until 1966.

I remember it being a beautiful summer day when I accompanied my mother to the hospital on payday to collect her cheque. I remember going down the long driveway that was lined with big leafy green trees and the big circle filled with the most beautiful flowers outside what is now known as the "G" building.



I remember the arched front entrance to the building and the switchboard area where we picked up her cheque. I remember the doctors and nurses stopping to say hello to me. I was extremely shy and hid behind my mother the whole time. Much to my mother's chagrin, I wrapped myself up in the skirt of her A-line dress and her efforts to detach me were futile. It was only when I was confident that we were leaving that I released my vice-like grip from her dress (Sorry about that Mom! I guess I thought if I can't see them, they can't see me).

This memory is from another lifetime and my mother passed away many years ago. When I find myself missing her, I walk to the G building and close my eyes and remember that day from so long ago. Even though I wasn't too happy about strangers talking to me; it didn't matter, it was my "me" time with my mother whom I adored. I feel her presence with me when I am there and that brings me comfort.

Miss you Mom. Thank you for the all the special memories you have given me.

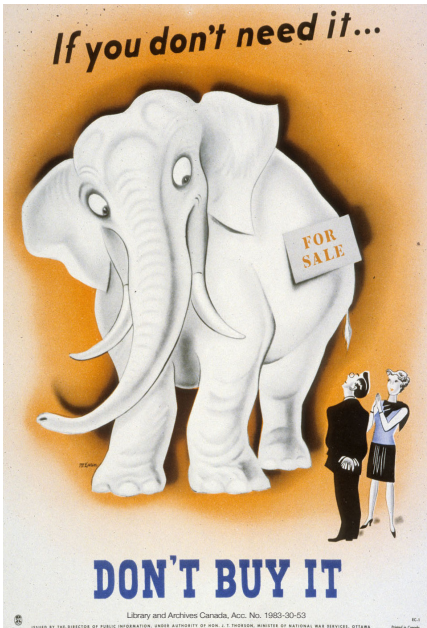
Maureen Luke

Lest We Forget

5.

As I reflect on the success of our exhibit, “Women’s Work,” and of 2019’s Remembrance Day Ceremonies, I would like to share some thoughts with you.

On the opening night of the exhibit at the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre, a visitor observed that efforts on the home front - from rationing, to recycling, to knitting circles - were points of comparison to contemporary efforts needed to fight climate change. Some of them may not be relevant today, but others like recycling and reducing consumption continue to be very much at the forefront of our thoughts.



Library and Archives Canada



Toronto Public Library



*Jim Tate with visitors at launch of Women's Work exhibit
Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre, 2019*

Back in the mid 1980's when I was posted to Canadian Forces Base (CFB) London there was a memorial for the members of the Royal Canadian Regiment who died in service to Canada. I recall seeing the usual dates on the memorial: World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), and the Korean War (1950-1953). What surprised me were the later dates, some from the 1960's and, most memorable for me, 1975.

Of all the dates, 1975 was one that I can still remember - though I was only 8 years old at the time. The year was something more than a number in a textbook, but a part of my own early memories.

continues next page...

In the years since seeing the memorial, I have tried to learn more about Canada's military history after World War II. I began to realize that our collective memory seems to end in 1945. There are many accounts, some almost down to the minute, of battles and events during the major wars. However, I could only find paragraph summaries of the aftermath of the wars and of the lesser known conflicts. So, it is not surprising that very few people know the significance of places like Kapyong (1951), Nicosia (1974), Medak Pocket (1993), or Tarnak Farm (2002).

Remembering history does not always prevent us from repeating mistakes. Remembering history provides us with insights and examples of how problems were dealt with in the past. This is what leads us to make informed decisions in how we will solve the problems of today, and of tomorrow.

Jim Tate



Norway
Jim Tate, 1986

That Looks Familiar

8.

Movies are a great way to escape from life to a different world for a couple hours. But, what if real life and movies collided? If you have ever walked around Etobicoke, you might have seen a couple places that look sneakily familiar - almost like you've been there before...

Well, that sneaky feeling is probably because Etobicoke is a hotspot for film and production crews. You may have even seen your neighbourhood in a movie or TV show!

Here are my top five favourite movies and shows that have been filmed right here in Etobicoke.

1. The Handmaid's Tale

This Hulu show was filmed all over Toronto, but, most notably, there are scenes from seasons one and three that take place right here on the Lakeshore Grounds.

The distinctive backdrops include the Assembly Hall and Humber's G Building!



IMDb, 2020

continues next page...



IMDb, 2020

2. Titans

Even though a lot of the show takes place in the dark, keep your eyes peeled and you might recognize a certain roller-skating rink!

(Ok...technically this one might be inside the borders of Mississauga...)

3. The Boys

This superhero show from Amazon Prime had a scene shot only a stone's throw from the Lakeshore Grounds:

The main characters were filmed hiding in a run-down shop, right on the Queensway!



IMDb, 2020

4. *What We Do in the Shadows*

A mockumentary about Vampires, this show is a little “out there.” It filmed on the Lakeshore Grounds, as well as in Etobicoke. Keep an eye out for both the Assembly Hall and G Building in the first season!



IMDb, 2020

5. *Shazam!*

Wow, Toronto really likes their superheroes.

As Shazam learns the extent of his new powers, he goes to the mall to charge peoples' cellphones with electricity from his fingertips - at Woodbine Mall in Etobicoke!



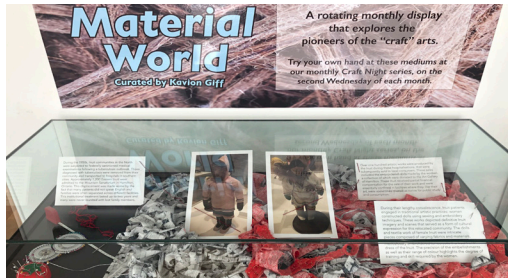
IMDb, 2020

Jonny Devaney

A Year in Re(view)

11.

The twelve months of 2019 saw many adventures on the Lakeshore Grounds...



Please, enjoy these reminders of how fun exploring history can be!



A Woman War Worker

13.

Olga was born Olga Doberstein in New Toronto on December 13, 1914. Her first job was at the Donnell & Mudge Leather Tannery, a block away from her Seventh Street home where Olga helped support the family of twelve. In October 1939, Olga married Ken Cutmore. Soon after, and despite an increased demand for leather and similar commodities, Olga was laid off from her position as a leather tanner in favour of the cheaper labour from local Prisoners of War.



*Olga, ready for work, at her home on Seventh Street,
New Toronto with her brother Gus Doberstein
The Cutmore Family, 1943*

THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

LAKE SHORE BRANCH

NEW TORONTO - ONTARIO

THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

*Olga's Red Cross Knitting Patterns
The Cutmore Family, 1943*

As industry began to flourish in support of the War effort, more non-traditional positions became available for women, particularly in New Toronto. To reduce the stigmatization that may have hindered her candidacy, Olga claimed to be unmarried and reverted to the Polish translation of her maiden name when she applied to the Small Arms Plant as "Olga Kominski." She was hired to work the night-shift for forty cents an hour - a rate that was double her previous salary as a leather tanner.

continues next page...

A Woman War Worker...

15.

Olga earned many accolades for her work: she was recognized as a member of the American Rosie the Riveter Association and was a 50-year member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Ladies Auxiliary Sir Winston Churchill Branch. In 2010 she was presented with an award in “Recognition of the Women War Workers of the Long Branch Small Arms and their Contribution to the War Effort” and also earned the Betty Kirk Award for “Inspirational Contributions to the Lakeshore Community.”

Olga Cutmore passed away in 2013, but is remembered affectionately by all who knew her. Her children shared her story with our Editor in response to the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre’s 2019 exhibit “Women’s Work,” to be included in this zine as a way to honour a local woman war worker who was deeply connected to the Lakeshore.

Nadine Finlay



*Olga and her Rosie the Riveter Association plaque
The Cutmore Family, 2009*

What to do with This Space 16.



*Film History Tour
Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre, 2019*

It was on one of our Film History Tours, led by Alex Sein, that I started properly looking at the buildings on the Lakeshore Grounds - formerly the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital. The tour explained how various locations around campus have been used for different film and television productions, such as the “Police Academy” movies of the 1980’s or the recent comic book movie “Suicide Squad,” to name but a few.

In each case, the buildings have played a small part in the production, whether that was to create the impression of a picturesque academy in which to train future police officers, or a darker impression of the cells within a penitentiary for metahuman criminals; each time the buildings have been repurposed.

continues next page...

As the tour continued, I noticed there were also some curious details present in the buildings themselves, curious things that had their own story. When you stand on the east side of the grounds and take a second look at F and H buildings, both feature a slightly mismatched section in the middle. Upon closer examination, one notices the varying window styles and mixed patterning of the brick work as well.

I learned later that these middle sections are extensions, added after the original building had already been in operation for a few decades. And those extensions provide yet another story: a story about how the the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital was originally intended to be a set of small cottages, and not some monolithic institution like other hospitals of the time.



*H Building
Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre, 2019*



*Close-up of the middle section of H Building
Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre, 2019*

Kivas Tully, the original architect of the nineteenth century structures, spent time researching the most innovative institutional designs of his day, arriving at the design for the cottage system. With his focus on smaller buildings, one might wonder what Tully would have thought of the extension work that connected four separate buildings into two. Was the purpose of his original design thwarted? Or was this a necessary addition to aid the work being done at the hospital?

As I continued thinking about this, I considered the sheer number of ways the same buildings have been used: a hospital, a movie set, a college. What does it mean when a building has been repurposed? How has the life of the building been altered?

continues next page...

All of these questions prompted me to start researching so that I can write my own tour. Within a few months, we will unveil a brand new tour that explores the architecture of the Lakeshore Grounds, including stories of how the buildings came to be, their changing use over time, and questions about their conservation and rehabilitation. Keep your eyes peeled for further announcements as this project develops. I couldn't be more excited to share this aspect of the Lakeshore Grounds' history with you!

Phillip Goodchild



*Cumberland House
Jim Tate, 2019*

A Winter Birding Checklist 20.

I'm a big fan of winter birding... and not just because I do the bulk of it from inside my warm apartment. Putting out a feeder allows me some binocular-free observation time with our feathered friends, time that I greatly cherish in the colder months.

Here is a checklist of the most frequent visitors to my feeders. How many more can you add?

- Black-capped Chickadee
- Blue Jay
- Cardinal
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Downy Woodpecker
- European Starling
- Hairy Woodpecker
- House Sparrow
- Red-bellied Woodpecker
- White-breasted Nuthatch

Oh...and the occasional Cooper's Hawk also likes to drop by for a snack...

Jennifer Bazar



*Nadine feeding the Chickadees
Jim Tate, 2019*

Reflecting on the Lakeshore 21.

Around 1972 or 1973, my family and I moved into a small house in Long Branch on Thirty-Fifth Street. It was really old, probably a cottage at one time, wooden and drafty. The kitchen was an addition, and the floor sloped.

I seem to recall moving into the house in the summer because the explorations started immediately. It was like we had moved into this secret shire, with a massive lakeside perfect for adventure and giant boulders all along the shore to climb on. I remember there were countless parks and trees - amazingly old trees that towered over houses and cottages.

We kids would build tents and forts in the bushes at Marie Curtis Park. There was always a Pirate ship threatening the shores that we had to fend off with our canon. I remember my favourite time was just before the beginning of a storm: the lake would churn and rise up and we'd try to get as close as we could to the crashing waves.



*Canon at Marie Curtis Park
Nadine Finlay, 2020*



Etobicoke Creek
Nadine Finlay, 2020

Other days we'd pack a lunch or picnic and walk as far up Etobicoke Creek as we could go. We'd always see all kinds of cool wildlife: fox, muskrats, and birds galore. We'd find a spot and just play and explore all day. Most of the picnic food went to the ducks, chipmunks, and seagulls, except for dessert of course. We'd also go on bike journeys, working our way East from Long Branch Ave. We'd stop at Thomas' Variety for pops along the way, but our destination was usually the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital (they had an apple orchard there...if you could get to it).

Long Branch fed our need for adventure and also kept us grounded with the nature we were surrounded by. Our community offered us security and was always welcoming. Although perpetual motion was our default, those quiet days spent exploring stick out in my memory the most. I enjoyed where I grew up and I knew to be thankful for it.

Sheila Karpis

Knitting our History

23.

As part of our recent “Women’s Work” exhibit, we hosted a weekly Knitting Circle. To prepare for the event, I was tasked with locating the patterns originally produced during the Second World War and translating them for contemporary use.

I learned to knit about 20 years ago. Learning remains one of my most cherished memories: my Baba was in her 80s and partially blind, but I remember sitting close beside her as she patiently felt each stitch along my needles to try and identify where I needed help.

Working on the exhibit made me wish I had asked her more about her experiences during the War. I know she made the trek down to the city from Espanola some time in the 1940’s and I do remember how she talked about riding the streetcar between her rooming house and her job at Christie’s Biscuits. Later, she would move to the mailroom for the aircraft division of Massey Harris where she and a girlfriend were known as the “Sweethearts of Massey Harris.” But did she know how to knit at that time? Did she follow the same patterns I was looking at? I never thought to ask.

Everything we read in preparation for the exhibit hints that it is a strong possibility. Knitting was common, and popular. Women, men, and children alike made socks, toques,

WHAT THE ARMY NEEDS

SOCKS—

Colour—Khaki, Brown, Heather Mixture, Grey, or any suitable colour.

Wool—4-ply fingering, 5-6 ounces or equal weight.

Needles—Average Knitter—4 No. 11.

Tight Knitter —4 No. 10.

Loose Knitter —4 No. 12.

Red Cross Knitting Patterns

and more to send overseas. Canadians could mail handmade items directly to their relatives, but all other donations were distributed through the Red Cross.

For quality control, a handful of experienced knitters inspected all donations and fixed them before they were sent. Toronto newspapers cite that the Red Cross' "Mrs. Fix-It" could repair over 200 pairs of socks a week!

But my biggest challenge with prepping for the Knitting Circle wasn't in the quality control: it was in the basics of the pattern itself. While the needle sizes were easy to translate (a No. 11 needle is the same as a 3mm today), the wool was somewhat vague. Several patterns called for "Red Cross Service Yarn" but gave no specifics as to the weight. I spent hours searching for details but have so far come up short - instead, I went with a "best guess." The patterns themselves turned out to be easy to follow, reminding me very much of my first pair of basic socks - no fancy patterning, no extra details, just straight knitting.

Jennifer Bazar

Nadine Finlay

Nadine is the Assistant Curator of the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre. In her free time, she has been completing a dual Masters' in the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information. A resident of New Toronto, Nadine is an early morning riser who can often be seen zooming along the shoreline with members of the MiBody Runners' team, pointing out nearby dogs.



Jennifer Bazar

Jennifer is the Curator of the Lakeshore Grounds Interpretive Centre and a proud Long Branch resident. Incapable of separating her personal interests from her work world, Jennifer is an amateur birder who is slowly working on building her Life List, an avid collector of asylum postcards, and recently wrote her first play for the Etobicoke Historical Society's inaugural History Live event.



Phillip Goodchild

Phillip is a former theatre educator and a current student at Humber in the Arts Administration and Cultural Management

post-graduate certificate program. Canada is the third country he has come to call home during the course of his life, and currently lives in Etobicoke with his much smarter wife and three children.



Jonny Devaney

My name is Jonny Devaney! I am 23 years old and from Ottawa. I have been living in Etobicoke for almost 4 years now going to school at Humber for Film and Media

Production. I have a love for photography, movies, and dogs. Specifically, my dog, not because I am biased, but because he is the best.

continues next page...

Jim Tate

Jim continues to enjoy his retirement. He has spent the past year volunteering with the Interpretive Centre, during which time he has made significant contributions to our knowledge about the grounds. Jim has a particular knack for piecing together details about the landscape and is so far ahead in the “Great Location Debate” with Jennifer that he hesitates to report the actual score for fear of embarrassing her...



Maureen Luke

Maureen has been a resident of the New Toronto neighbourhood for the past five years. She is a volunteer with LAMP Community Health Centre, an animal lover, book collector, and also loves spending time in Colonel Samuel Smith Park.



P.S. Maureen is also the founder of the New Toronto Holiday Market. The event raised over \$1,000 for LAMP CHC in 2019!

Sheila Karpis

Sheila is a local, raised in Mimico, and loves the area through and through. She is best known for her positivity and love for the Lakeshore. Sheila is also a self-taught artist who features the beloved landmarks of the communities of South Etobicoke in her artwork.



A Note to our Team:

Thanks for the help!

Shore Stories is a collaborative zine and we deeply appreciate the time and creativity shared by our staff and volunteers.

Designed & Edited by Nadine Finlay



Experience History

Please keep, pass on, or recycle this zine to help reduce paper waste.

*To read past issues, please visit:
lakeshoregrounds.ca/shore-stories*