



**West Toronto Junction Historical Society**

**2020 Annual Report**

**Prepared to record the calendar year 2020**

**Issued June 24, 2021**

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## **Introduction**

This is the 2020 Annual Report of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society, documenting the structure, leadership, volunteers and activities of the Society during the calendar year 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the activities of the Society during 2020, as was the case across the nation and the world. In mid-March, widespread restrictions and closures were implemented at the federal, provincial and municipal level, including closure of the Annette Library in which the Society's archives and office are located. In-person meetings and events were not permitted for the remainder of the year and many of our planned events and activities were cancelled.

Yet, as recorded in this report, much was accomplished during 2020. This is to the credit of the Society's leadership and volunteers and to the continuing support of the membership and our broader community. We also acknowledge with thanks the very welcome support of the Government of Ontario through the Heritage Organization Development Grant.

## **List of WTJHS Executive Members and Committee Chairs in 2020**

### **Elected Executive Members**

President – Christopher Sears

Vice President – Rebecca Holland (Jan -Oct 2020), Richard Lundeen (Nov-Dec 2020)

Acting Treasurer – Christopher Sears

Recording Secretary – Vacant (Jan-Aug 2020, Richard Lundeen (Sept-Oct 2020), Diana Fancher (Nov-Dec 2020)

Membership Secretary – David Bridge

Corresponding Secretary – David Muir

### **Non-elected Executive Members**

Archives Coordinator - Vacant

Editor of The Leader and Recorder – Cass Pollack

Past-President - Vacant

### **Committee Chairs**

Display Coordinator – Hope Humphrey

Archives Committee – David Bridge

Volunteer Coordinator – Vandra Masemann

Social Media Coordinator – Trevor Parkins-Sciberras

Phone Crew Coordinator – Richard Lundeen

Fundraising Committee Members – Teresa O’Neill, Richard Lundeen, Christopher Sears

## **Minutes of 2020 Annual General Meeting (re year 2019)**

### **West Toronto Junction Historical Society Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday, October 22, 2020**

**Convened on Zoom Video Conference**

NOTE: These are draft minutes until reviewed and approved at the next Annual General Meeting.

**Attending:** President and Acting Treasurer Christopher Sears, Vice-President Rebecca Holland, Membership Secretary David Bridge, Recording Secretary Richard Lundeen, Corresponding Secretary David Muir, and 23 other members of the Society.

**1. Opening (Call to Order):** Welcome by President Christopher Sears.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Christopher Sears, who welcomed participants and thanked them for attending. He noted that, because of the pandemic, it has been much longer than normal since the last AGM in May 2019.

**2. Meeting Format:** Introduction to, and explanation of, electronic meeting format and electronic voting protocols by Rebecca Holland

Vice-President Rebecca Holland explained to participants how the Zoom video conference is organized and would be managed. Microphones for participants were to be muted except when the President invited specific individuals to speak or ask questions. Participants were able to ask questions in writing by using the chat function and when their microphones were enabled. Some members who were not able to participate by video conference were able to listen to the proceedings by phone.

**3. Confirmation of Quorum:** (10 members in good standing are required for quorum)

The President confirmed that the Annual General Meeting had quorum and was therefore entitled to conduct official business.

**4. By-law No. 2:** Presentation and explanation of proposed By-law No. 2 concerning the authorizing of the Society to employ electronic voting.

Interim Membership Secretary Richard Lundeen explained the proposed By-law No. 2 (appended to these minutes), which would permit use of electronic voting at Annual General Meetings – including this AGM - and special meetings of the members held by telephonic or electronic means. Any member who participates by a communications link to the meeting is deemed to be present. This provision is consistent with the *Ontario Corporations Act*. The proposed By-law would also permit similar arrangements for meetings of the executive committee or a standing committee.

The proposed By-law would provide that the authority as described is at the discretion of the executive committee so that meetings may be held in person without electronic participation or voting.

Richard Lundeen advised that the Society's Constitution requires that a vote of two-thirds of the membership present and voting is required to establish, revise or amend any by-law.

In discussion, it was clarified by President Sears that By-law No. 2 is not intended to result in use of electronic meetings and voting as the Society's permanent approach but rather primarily as a convenience during the current pandemic.

It was moved by Richard Lundeen and seconded by Madeleine McDowell that By-law No. 2 be approved by the membership and enacted as a By-law of the Society. CARRIED by a vote of more than two-thirds of the members present and voting.

#### **5. Confirmation of the AGM Agenda**

President Christopher Sears referred participants to the proposed agenda that had been circulated to members in advance (appended to these minutes).

Moved by Richard Lundeen and seconded by Diana Fancher that the agenda be approved. CARRIED.

**6. Minutes: Minutes of previous AGM, Thursday May 2, 2019.** Presented by Richard Lundeen Recording Secretary Richard Lundeen summarized the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on May 2, 2019 as circulated to members in advance. He noted that the minutes of the 2019 AGM were prepared by then Recording Secretary Diana Blake, with the assistance of Vandra Masemann.

Moved by Rebecca Holland and seconded by Madeleine McDowell that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting on May 2, 2019 be approved. CARRIED.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report:** by Acting Treasurer Christopher Sears

##### **a. 2019 Financial Statements**

Acting Treasurer Christopher Sears highlighted key points in the 2019 financial statements (appended to these minutes) including the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flow and notes to the financial statements, as prepared by Maureen Shortt, Certified Professional Bookkeeper. This document was distributed in advance of the AGM. Christopher Sears noted that revenues in 2019 increased substantially due to donations and book sales, while expenses were about the same as in 2018. Some expenses were outstanding at the end of 2019. Cash on hand dropped at the end of 2019 compared to 2018 because of the cost of reprinting the Green Book.

It was moved by Christopher Sears, seconded by Diana Fancher that the 2019 financial statements, including the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Cash Flow, be approved. CARRIED.

**b. Report on budgeted, actual and anticipated for 2019, 2020 and 2021**

Christopher Sears referred participants to the report (appended to these minutes) on 2019 and 2020 budgeted vs. actual figures (to October for 2020), probable totals to the end of 2020 and possible revenues and expenditures for 2021. He explained that the 2020 budget, developed in March 2020, is presented for approval, the other figures are for information. A proposed budget for 2021 will be prepared and circulated before the 2021 AGM.

In response to questions, he clarified that the Toronto Public Library (TPL) Licence Fee for 2020 includes both what the Society has paid to date for the archives space and the balance that TPL says is owed to the end of 2020, even though the Society has not had access to the archives since mid-March. He undertook to explore with the appropriate TPL officials whether the licence fees can be reduced for the months when the Society did not have access to the archives.

Christopher Sears moved approval of the 2020 Budget as presented, seconded by Vandra Masemann. CARRIED

**c. Appointment of accountant**

Christopher Sears reported that there have been issues with the responsiveness and timeliness of the bookkeeper who has been appointed for the past few years. Since other bookkeepers aren't available in the neighbourhood, he had contacted a small accounting firm that he had dealt with previously. This firm has agreed to provide bookkeeping and financial statement support for the Society for an annual fee of \$750, an increase of \$250 from the current bookkeeper's fee. Past Treasurer Volker Masemann confirmed that he had experienced similar issues with the current bookkeeper, agreed with the desirability of finding a replacement and supported the reasonableness of the proposed fees.

Moved by Christopher Sears, seconded by Volker Masemann, that Ian Dever, Partner, of Gallagher & Mannisto, Chartered Professional Accountants, 459 King Street East, Toronto ON, M5A 1L6, be appointed at an annual fee of \$750 as the accountant for the Society for the 2020 fiscal year. CARRIED.

**8. President's Report:** by President Christopher Sears

President Sears noted that it had been difficult to prepare his President's Report for the period since the previous AGM in May 2019 because so much had occurred both for the Society and more broadly in this period. It was suggested that the President's report be written for inclusion in the next issue of the Leader and Recorder.

Moved by Gib Goodfellow, seconded by Richard Lundeen, that the President's Report be included in the next issue of the Leader and Recorder. CARRIED.

**9. Membership Report:** by Membership Secretary David Bridge

David Bridge reported that there are 117 paid up members as of mid-September 2020, a testament to members' support in spite of the restrictions due to the pandemic. He reminded members that we now need to renew membership for 2021. The report is appended to these minutes.

Moved by David Bridge, seconded by Lucy Dodd, that the Membership Report be accepted.  
CARRIED.

**10. Volunteer Coordinator:** by Vandra Masemann

Volunteer Coordinator Vandra Masemann reported on volunteer participation and activities in 2019 and 2020 and asked that her report (appended to these minutes) be referenced in the President's Report in the next issue of the Leader and Recorder so the President can thank all the volunteers.

**11. Leader and Recorder Editorial Group Report:** by Chair Vandra Masemann.

Vandra Masemann, Chair of the Leader and Recorder Editorial Group, noted that the 2020 issues 1 and 2 were combined in a double issue that had just been distributed. The third issue, in colour, is targeted for publication in December 2020.

**12. Social Media Co-ordinator's Report:** by Trevor Parkins-Sciberras

President Sears reported that Trevor's work commitments result in him not being available to attend the AGM and not having had time to do much more than maintain a regular schedule of Facebook posts. When possible, Trevor will provide a report on 2019 activities.

**13. Archives Committee:** by David Bridge & Christopher Sears

David Bridge noted that there has been no access to the archives since the Annette Library was closed in March 2020. As a result, there was no progress to report on archive modernization. However, he has been contacted by a former archive volunteer who would like to return once the archives are open and operating again. David Wencer offered to help advise researchers who are unable to access our archives, as other research facilities may be available online.

**14. Announcements and Future Events:** by Christopher Sears

President Sears made the following announcements and comments about future events:

- The Society had lined up presenters and session topics for our monthly meetings from April through December 2020 but none of these have been able to go ahead as in person sessions due to the pandemic. Our intention is to try a similar Zoom format for at least some of our regular meetings over the next several months.
- Similarly, the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in June and Junction History Day in September could not be held as planned. We need to assess whether either of these can be arranged for June and September 2021, particularly if we continue to have no access to our archives and office into the spring.

**15. Motion to accept the decisions and actions of the elected Officers and the Executive taken since the previous AGM:** by Christopher Sears

Moved by Lance Gleich, seconded by Madeleine McDowell, that the actions of the elected Officers and the Executive taken since the May 2019 Annual General Meeting be approved.  
CARRIED.

**16. The Election and Related Motions:** by Rebecca Holland

**a) Slate of Officers for 2020:** vote to close nominations

Retiring Vice-President Rebecca Holland chaired this section of the AGM. She referred participants to the slate of candidates for Officer positions that had been distributed in advance. She invited any nominations from the floor. No nominations were made from the floor. She called for a motion to close nominations.

Moved by Gib Goodfellow, seconded by Madeleine McDowell that nominations for Officer positions be closed. CARRIED.

**b) Election of Officers:** Past Vice President Rebecca Holland

Rebecca Holland reiterated the voting procedures and presided over the election of officers.

Moved by Rebecca Holland, seconded by Gib Goodfellow that the slate is elected. CARRIED.

Officers until the next AGM:

President: Christopher Sears

Vice-President: Richard Lundeen

**Acting** Treasurer: Christopher Sears

Membership Secretary: David Bridge

Recording Secretary: Diana Fancher

Corresponding Secretary: David Muir

**17. Motion to thank retiring members for their efforts**

Gib Goodfellow moved, seconded by Lucy Dodd, that retiring members be thanked for their continued participation and support since the May 2019 Annual General meeting. CARRIED.

**18. Motion to adjourn the meeting**

Lucy Dodd moved to adjourn the meeting. Secunder not required. CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm, with thanks all round.

## West Toronto Junction Historical Society

### By-Law No. 2

**Whereas** the Constitution of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society (the “Society”) provides in Section VI By-laws:

By-laws shall be established and set forth as may be required, but conditional by-laws are not permitted, nor shall any by-law be established or amended unless it be in accordance with the Constitution of this Society. By-laws may be introduced, revised, altered, or amended only upon thirty (30) days prior notice to the annual general meeting, or such special meeting as may be called to deal with the matter. A vote of two-thirds of the membership present and voting shall be required to establish, revise, or amend any by-law, providing that the number of members present and voting constitutes a quorum. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing.

And **Whereas** the Corporations Act of Ontario, Section 125.1, Members Meetings, provides:

**125.1** (1) Unless the by-laws of a corporation provide otherwise, a meeting of the members may be held by telephonic or electronic means and a member who, through those means, votes at the meeting or establishes a communications link to the meeting is deemed for the purposes of this Act to be present at the meeting. 2017, c. 20, Sched. 7, s. 31 (1).

**Therefore be it enacted** as a by-law of The West Toronto Junction Historical Society (the “Society”) as follows:

1. **Electronic Voting at Members’ Meetings:** An annual general meeting or a special meeting of the members may be held by telephonic or electronic means and a member who, through these means, votes at the meeting or establishes a communications link to the meeting is deemed to be present at the meeting.
2. **Electronic Voting at Executive Committee and Standing Committee Meetings:** A meeting of the executive committee or any standing committee may be held by telephonic or electronic means and a member of the executive committee or standing committee who establishes a communications link to the meeting is deemed to be present for the meeting.
3. **Electronic Voting is Discretionary:** The authority established by this by-law to hold a meeting of the members or of the executive committee is at the discretion of the executive committee.

The foregoing by-law is hereby enacted as By-law No. 2 of the Society, said by-law having been passed by the Executive Committee on the 17th day of September, 2020, and duly approved by a vote of two-thirds of the membership present and voting in the duly constituted annual general meeting on the 22nd day of October, 2020, pursuant to the Constitution of the Society and in accordance with the Corporations Act of Ontario, s. 125.1.

I, the Recording Secretary of the West Toronto Junction Historical Society, certify this to be a true copy of By-law No. 2, approved at the Society's Annual General Meeting on October 22, 2020 (signature made on page 2 of 2).

Recording Secretary: Richard Lundeen

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Lundeen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail at the end.

## President's Report – Christopher Sears

In this year's President's Report, I am happy to say that while Covid-19 may have nearly done in the world economy, it has not stopped the WTJHS at all. Even though it has only been six months since our last AGM in October 2020, I do have a few things to report about 2020.

We began the year still basking in the glow of the successful launch of the Fifth Edition of "West Toronto Junction Revisited" in Nov 14, 2019. Book sales were brisk through the holiday season and were still going strong in January.

The much anticipated first meeting of the year was Feb 6, 2020 when we hosted Sarah Doucette, former Toronto City Councillor for Ward 13 - High Park (now no longer existing thanks to amalgamation with Ward 14 - Parkdale). Sarah spoke about her time in city politics, her experiences as a woman in politics, and it was a good opportunity for her former constituents to ask her questions and understand the work she is still doing in the community. Needless to say, the meeting was well attended.

Our March meeting featured Kelly Mathews speaking about her new book "The Road to Marylake", about Sir Henry Pellatt and his country estate in King Township and its history as it was transformed into an agricultural school and then a monastery. Kelly is a gifted storyteller, and this was her second visit to the WTJHS.

On Friday March 13th, 2020, the Annette Library was closed until further notice due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Luckily, I had retrieved all of our treasurer's information that very afternoon to work on it over the weekend! I can't imagine how much more difficult the next few months would have been if I hadn't done so. This event put a hold on all our activities. It took a while but we eventually were able to continue to receive mail and of course, all of our online presence were largely unaffected. We smoothly transitioned to telephone conference calls and eventually to experimenting with video conferencing applications.

In 2019 Teresa O'Neill was searching through the archives when she came across the minutes of the June 24th 1980 meeting, the first meeting of the WTJHS! This led to a decision by the Executive to mark the occasion with a 40th Anniversary Birthday Party on June 24, 2020 and to plan a WTJHS Day for the fall of 2020. Unfortunately the arrival of Covid-19 put an end to those plans. However, in the spring of 2019, we received a voucher awarded to us by Heritage Toronto for a one-night stay in a luxury room at the Fairmont Royal York. We had planned on raffling off the voucher as a fundraising activity associated with the 40th Anniversary. Pandemic limitations and stringent regulations to do with running a raffle open to the public put an end to that plan. We had to come up with a Plan B, which was to link paid up (2020) membership with the opportunity to be in a draw for the voucher.

So, on June 24, 2020 a few masked members of the WTJHS' Executive and the Fundraising Committee (Christopher Sears, Rebecca Holland, David Muir, Richard Lundeen, Teresa O'Neill) gathered in Teresa's backyard to hold the draw for the Fairmont's room voucher. I am happy to report, perhaps due to the prospect of winning the hotel room voucher, that we were able to sign up a large number of members for 2020. In a surprisingly apt way, the winning number selected meant the prize went to one of our founding members, Diana Fancher!

After the success of our AGM last October 22 which we held online on Zoom, the Executive decided to attempt to hold a general meeting with a guest speaker. We had originally booked Arlene Chan to speak at our April 2020 meeting. Happily, Arlene was willing to join us for our first Zoom monthly meeting on December 3rd. After some last-minute adjustments to the access link we were able to hold an excellent yet sobering meeting.

Arlene spoke about the contributions of Chinese immigration to Canadian history from the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway to later political struggles faced by the second generation to convince Canada and Canadians to recognize Chinese Canadians as full citizens. All these achievements were realized in the face of significant anti-Chinese sentiment.

Front and centre in these interesting times was Arlene's mother, Jean Lumb. When she took us back to the late 1930's, we learned of the beginning of Arlene's family's relationship with the Junction. In fact, we can all look forward to reading about Arlene's recollections about growing up in the Junction in a future *Leader & Recorder* issue.

This last half year has seen several Executive meetings held on Zoom as we have tried to get things going again. The inability to meet face to face has been a real challenge but everyone has shown great patience.

In late 2020 we awarded the prizes for the High School Art Competition. In late January 2021 we were able to get out our (now annual!) colour issue of the *Leader and Recorder*, showcasing many of the entrants to the competition as well as featuring the winners. I am sure we are all familiar with the winning entry from Volume 3, 2020!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive for their commitment to the West Toronto Junction Historical Society specifically and to local and Canadian history in general. I would also like to thank all of our volunteers because without the sacrifice of their own time to helping the WTJHS we could never be able to do the work we do in promoting local history.

Christopher Sears  
President, West Toronto Junction Historical Society

## Treasurer's Report – Christopher Sears

The following report was tabled at the 2020 Annual General Meeting, October 22, 2020.

<b>2019 &amp; 2020 Budgets vs. Actual</b>							
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual</b>	<b>2020 Budget (March)</b>	<b>2020 Jan to Oct Actual</b>	<b>2020 Prob.</b>	<b>2021 Poss.</b>
Membership		3200	3627	4000	3842	4000	4000
Grants/Rebates	<i>Note 1</i>	1625	1545	4500	1545	4000	2500
Gifts & Contributions		2000	4609	4000	1624	2000	2500
Book Sales		950	4261	2500	1635	2000	2000
Merchandise		0	0	2500	0	0	1500
<b>Total</b>		<b>7775</b>	<b>14042</b>	<b>17500</b>	<b>8645</b>	<b>12000</b>	<b>12500</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>							
Newsletter/Journal	<i>Note 2, Note 6</i>	2300	2381	1900	815	1700	1900
Publications (Books sold, etc.)	<i>Note 4 (2019), Note 5 (2020 &amp; 2021)</i>	200	8409	5000	0	0	5000
TPL Licence Fee		2715	2402	2940	2622	3177	3177
Merchandise		0	0	1500	0	0	500
Insurance		575	649	612	612	612	612
Professional Services	<i>Bookkeeper</i>	500	500	500	500	500	500
Admin/Office Costs	<i>Note 3</i>	1120	2124	2140	732	1000	2000
Memberships/ Meeting Room		750	408	1200	0	300	1200
Special Programs	<i>40th / WTJHS Day / Summer Students</i>	0	304	1500	0	0	500
<b>Total</b>		<b>8160</b>	<b>16443</b>	<b>17292</b>	<b>5281</b>	<b>7289</b>	<b>15389</b>
Variance (Revenues-Expenditures)		-385	-2401	208	3365	4711	
<i>Note 1</i>	<i>Includes HOD Grant &amp;</i>						

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	<i>HST rebates</i>						
<i>Note 2</i>	<i>2 B&amp;W &amp; 1 colour &amp; postage</i>						
<i>Note 3</i>	<i>Includes: Bank fees</i>	100	169	120			
	<i>Note 7 HST</i>	500	1858	1540			
	<i>Office Operations</i>	520	142	500			
<i>Note 4</i>	<i>Printing 1000 copies of the 5th Edition of the Green Book</i>						
<i>Note 5</i>	<i>Printing 1000 copies of Red Book</i>						
<i>Note 6</i>	<i>\$650 for L&amp;R cost in 2019 but paid in 2020 added to 2019 and deducted from 2020</i>						
<i>Note 7</i>	<i>\$84.50 in HST cost in 2019 but paid in 2020 added to 2019 and deducted from 2020</i>						

**WTJHS 2020 Financial Statements and Note Disclosures**

**WEST TORONTO JUNCTION HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2020**

**(unaudited)**

**(SEE NOTICE TO READER)**

2020 Annual Report – West Toronto Junction Historical Society

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FAX: 416.360.6802  
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**NOTICE TO READER**

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the balance sheet of West Toronto Junction Historical Society as at December 31, 2020 and the statement of revenue, expense and members' equity for the year then ended.

We have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, we express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Toronto, Ontario  
March 4, 2021

*Gallagher & Mannisto*  
Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020**  
**(unaudited)**

**(SEE NOTICE TO READER)**

**ASSETS**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u> (Note 2)
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 13,078	\$ 9,929
HST refundable	1,421	828
Inventory	<u>5,355</u>	<u>6,804</u>
	<u>\$ 19,854</u>	<u>\$ 17,561</u>

**LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY**

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 75	\$ 818
	0	
 <b>MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>	 <u>19,104</u>	 <u>16,743</u>
	<u>\$ 19,854</u>	<u>\$ 17,561</u>

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSE, AND MEMBERS' EQUITY**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**  
**(unaudited)**

**(SEE NOTICE TO READER)**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u> (Note 2)
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Membership fees	\$ 4,125	\$ 3,414
Book sales	2,175	4,261
Grants	1,545	1,545
Events	1,065	922
Contributions	<u>834</u>	<u>3,687</u>
	<u>9,744</u>	<u>13,829</u>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Occupancy cost	2,812	2,402
Cost of books sold	1,449	1,606
Newsletter	1,275	1,730
Accounting	750	500
Insurance	612	649
Memberships	354	347
Bank charges	84	-
Events	47	301
Office and general	<u>-</u>	<u>1,523</u>
	<u>7,383</u>	<u>9,058</u>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSE</b>	2,361	4,771
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>16,743</u>	<u>11,972</u>
<b>MEMBERS' EQUITY AT END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 19,104</u>	<u>\$ 16,743</u>

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**  
**(unaudited)**

**(SEE NOTICE TO READER)**

**1. NATURE OF ORGANIZATION**

The Society was incorporated as a not-for-profit without share capital organization during 1981 and is registered as a Canadian Charitable Organization. The Society seeks to preserve and tell the history of Toronto's West Junction neighbourhood through its archives, tours, public lectures and publications. It is a not-for-profit organization and therefore is exempt from income taxes.

**2. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

The comparative figures were compiled by other accountants. Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation. Excess of revenue over expense previously reported was not affected by the reclassifications.

## WTJHS Membership Report: December 15, 2020

2020 Expiry	105	
2021 Expiry	14	
<b>Total 2020-2021</b>	<b>119</b>	119
Life Members	40	40
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>159</b>

8 new members this year so far

### Payment Method, Rec'd in 2020:

Paypal	54
Cheque	37
Cash	19

Complimentary Copies: 34

## Corresponding Secretary's Report – David Muir

The Corresponding Secretary is responsible for all correspondence of the Society unless otherwise assigned. The specific duties include monitoring the [junctionhistorical@gmail.com](mailto:junctionhistorical@gmail.com) email account and responding to those communications. The Society typically receives two or three inquiries per week for historical information about the Junction to which I respond if I can or refer to the Archive Committee. The Society also receives routine business correspondence which is forwarded to the appropriate committee or officer for action.

In addition to these core duties the pandemic brought new duties to the role, hosting successful Zoom meetings. With the pandemic shutdown, the Society was required to cancel two speakers scheduled to speak at monthly meetings in the Spring of 2020. Beginning in September 2020 the Society began planning its “virtual” re-opening. As Corresponding Secretary, I hosted several executive meetings on Zoom as well as the 2020 Annual General Meeting on October 22, 2020. Our first Zoom event on December 3 2020 featured a presentation and question and answer period. These meetings were well received and attracted 30 to 40 participants on each occasion. I continued to host similar Zoom meetings and presentations continued in 2021

## **Committee Reports:**

### **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

#### **Vandra Masemann**

Because of the pandemic, the list of committees and volunteers has not changed substantially since the 2019 report. However, the onset of the regulations for the pandemic in mid-March 2020 affected each group of volunteers differently. The closure of the Annette Library also meant that we could not meet there for General or Executive meetings. Thus the Refreshment and Setup volunteers were not needed. The Archives volunteers ceased staffing our Archives Public Hours as soon as the Annette Library closed in March 2020. But we did respond to questions raised by email to the best of our ability. The lack of access to our archival database and other information was a problem.

The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary planning group's activities to organize a public even in September 2020 was put on hold in March when it became apparent that such events would not be possible.

Other groups of volunteers were able to operate virtually and so carried on. The Phone Crew contacted members by email and phone during the late spring of 2020 to encourage them to renew their 2020 memberships. They continued their efforts in the early fall to get additional membership renewals before the October 2020 Annual General Meeting.

The Editorial Group and Editor of The Leader and Recorder carried on as usual via email to produce one regular issue and one special colour issue devoted to the posters produced for the Art Competition by students at Western Technical School. Because of the tight restrictions on people meeting in groups, the Stuffing and Mailing Crew were not activated, and Gib Goodfellow volunteered to do the entire job by himself.

The Fundraising Committee continued to meet monthly by phone. A number of posts were made throughout the year to the WTJHS Facebook page.

The main impetus for volunteers to get involved again was the innovation of holding meetings via Zoom in the fall of 2020 and the planning for the belated Annual General Meeting, held in October 2020 and our first regular general meeting with a presentation by Arlene Chan was held in early December.

Our thanks to all volunteers for carrying out their duties as well as possible during this unusual year.

**LIST OF COMMITTEES AND VOLUNTEERS 2020**

**Archives Volunteers**

David Bridge  
Mary Collins  
Vandra Masemann  
Teresa O'Neill  
David Wencer

**Fundraising Committee**

Teresa O'Neill  
Richard Lundeen  
Christopher Sears

**Junction History Day (40th Anniversary) Planning Committee**

Mary Collins  
Rebecca Holland  
Hope Humphrey  
Richard Lundeen  
Vandra Masemann  
Kathleen McGinnis  
Teresa O'Neill (chair)  
Christopher Sears

**Art Competition Selection panels**

Coordinator - Richard Lundeen  
Christopher Sears  
Oil Paintings Evaluation Panel: Madeleine McDowell, Marilyn Scott and Maria Wall  
Graphic Design Evaluation Panel: Cassandra Pollock, Annette Gaffney and Brendan Fitzpatrick

***The Leader and Recorder* Editorial Group**

Cassandra Pollock (Editor)  
Hope Humphrey  
Vandra Masemann (Chair)  
Madeleine McDowell  
Teresa O'Neill  
Trevor Parkins-Sciberras  
Christopher Sears (ex officio)  
Christina Sokulsky

**Book Sales**

Diana Fancher

***Leader and Recorder* Stuffing, Mailing and Delivering**

Gib Goodfellow (Coordinator)  
Christopher Clapp  
Mary Collins  
Barbara Titherington

Pat Trusty  
Kirsten Ward

**Phone Crew**

Mary Collins  
Gib Goodfellow  
Rebecca Holland  
Hope Humphrey  
Richard Lundeen (Coordinator)

**Refreshments and Setup**

Mary Collins  
Vandra Masemann  
Teresa O'Neill  
Barbara Titherington

**Setup**

Toni Ricci

***THE LEADER AND RECORDER* EDITORIAL GROUP REPORT**

**Vandra Masemann, Chair**

The pandemic which started in March 2020 led to a delay in assembling and producing the first issue of *The Leader and Recorder*. On the other hand, it gave us the impetus to solicit stories and photographs that would provide us for material on how the pandemic affected people's lives in the Junction. It seemed to be important to reflect what was happening in real time. The members of the Editorial Group (see previous page for members) communicated mainly by email during this period.

The first issue was entitled Pandemic: Double Issue. It contained articles by Gib Goodfellow, Madeleine McDowell, Vandra Masemann, Richard Lundeen, and Cass Pollack on their reflections of life during this unusual period. Teresa O'Neill also provided images of scenes and signs not usually seen in the Junction. The major memoirs article was by David Bond, who wrote the history of his family stretching back to Mayor James Bond of the Junction in 1894-95. It was well illustrated with family photographs. Other articles were in memory of longtime WTJHS member, June Knudsen, a retrospective on Vesuvio's Restaurant which was closing after 50 years, childhood memories of the former St. John's Hall on Dundas Street by Madeleine McDowell, and a pictorial essay by Cass Pollack and Trevor Sciberras-Parkins on Ravinia Gardens. There was also an announcement about the Junction Student Art Competition and a photo collage to mark the demolition of the Peacock Hotel.

The issue #3 was devoted almost entirely to the reproduction of posters representing Junction history by Graphic Design students at Western Technical-Commercial School. Richard Lundeen wrote about the award ceremony for winners of the Art Competition. The award winner was Tris Aus, followed by Grace McGibbon and Clarissa Griffin as honourable mentions. Then there were pages of interesting poster

designs from the students. There were two messages from the WTJHS President, Christopher Sears. The first one was his President's Report about the meetings which had been held in 2019. The second message, however, was an account summarizing the historic occasion of his having conducted the first ever electronic meeting of the Society via Zoom and presenting his President's Report in this issue of *The Leader and Recorder*.

In conclusion, in spite of the difficulties of gaining access to our Archives, we managed to produce the usual number of issues this year and look forward to easier conditions in 2021. We thank all those who participated in various ways – writing, proof-reading, graphic design and layout, producing address labels, and managing the stuffing, hand delivery, and mailing. Special thanks to Cass Pollack as Editor and Gib Goodfellow as the single-handed stuffer and mailer.

### **Web Report for Calendar Year 2020 – David Bridge**

Although website activities were limited in 2020 due to the cancellation of most of our public activities, six posts were added to update the public, including one announcing the resumption of meetings over Zoom in November 2020. The wtjhs.ca website saw 4,002 visitors in 2020 with 11,865 views.

### **Social Media Coordinator's Report - Trevor Parkins-Sciberras**

In 2020, the WTJHS Facebook page had over 6500 followers. In spite of the pandemic, many Facebook posts were created, each with a large number of likes and comments:

- 13 posts from January 2020 to early March, when the pandemic restrictions went into effect;
- 17 posts between mid-March and summer 2020 during the initial wave of the pandemic; and
- 5 posts in December 2020, including the announcement of the December 3 presentation by Arlene Chan.

The WTJHS leadership has agreed to undertake a more active role during 2021 in identifying interesting historical photos and providing explanations and commentaries for future posts. The Social Media Coordinator will continue to advise on how to create effective posts and to manage postings to Facebook. Our Instagram and Twitter social media accounts have been dormant during the pandemic.

### **Archives Committee Report for Calendar Year 2020 - David Bridge**

Progress on the principal focus of work on the WTJHS archives, that is to properly catalogue all its holdings, was severely limited by the lack of access to the physical space due to Covid closures of the Annette Library. Although work had begun on a major part of this project, which is to produce archival descriptions of the photo/image collection and move them to the AtoM system, WTJHS volunteers

working on this were distracted by other duties during 2020. Failure of one of the archives PCs and subsequent time involved in trying to revive it also cut into our time resources.

The archive's public interaction was not completely cut off, since we have at least one copy of the photo database available in our offsite backup. A small number of email inquiries were answered using this offsite copy.

## **Fundraising Committee – Teresa O'Neill**

The members of the Committee are: Christopher Sears, Richard Lundeen and Teresa O'Neill. The committee was formed in 2019 to raise additional funds to support the ongoing activities of the Society and to raise funds for special project that the Society has planned to undertake.

In September 2019, the committee outlined the fundraising goals for the next three years. We also announced the start of our Annual Fundraising campaign. The goals for the next three years were:

- Publish up to three new local history books to add to our two current books
- Modernize our archives to be more accessible and searchable
- Produce an annual expanded and colour issue of *The Leader & Recorder*.

Our first fundraising campaign in 2019 was very successful, raising over \$3000.

We were planning the 2020 Fundraising Campaign as part of the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, however, these events were delayed due to the COVID pandemic. As of late 2020, we are now planning the 2021 Fundraising Campaign and the "40<sup>th</sup>ish" Anniversary Celebrations to begin in 2021.

## **Phone Crew – Richard Lundeen**

The Phone Crew's role is to contact members who have not renewed their membership for the current year in order to update them on the Society's activities and encourage them to renew. Set up in 2017 at a time when membership had been shrinking, the Phone Crew achieved an additional 50 renewals that year, helping to stabilize our membership numbers. Similar (though smaller) results were achieved in 2018 and 2019. During 2018 and 2019, the Phone Crew also updated our records for Life Members and on organizations receiving complimentary copies of the Leader and Recorder.

As of the end of March 2020, approximately 65 of the Society's 2019 annual paid members had not yet renewed for 2020 – almost half! The pandemic created both challenges and opportunities for the Phone Crew's 2020 renewal campaign. A key challenge was to convince former members to renew when the Society's in-person meetings and other events could not take place. Our archives and office had to close

as of March 13, 2020 for the rest of the year. We had no access to our mail for several weeks, which meant that many renewals by mail weren't received until late spring. On the plus side, since most people were at home the Phone Crew was able to reach a relatively high proportion of our list (by phone or email) compared to other years. Also, a Royal York room voucher that the Society had hoped to use in fundraising was reassigned as a renewal incentive that only paid-up members were eligible for.

Our initial renewal campaign in April and May 2020 resulted in 31 renewals. The remaining 34 non-renewals either could not be reached at that time, did not respond or, in a few cases, declined to renew. Additional follow up throughout the year, particularly before the 2020 AGM in October 2020, reduced the number of non-renewals to 25 by the end of 2020, for a total of 40 additional renewals compared to March 2020. While this may be a positive achievement during the pandemic, it highlights the loss of 20 per cent of our annual paid membership between 2019 and 2020. The Society's resumption of active programming should lead to stronger renewal results in 2021.

The stellar members of the Phone Crew in 2020 were: Mary Collins, Gib Goodfellow, Rebecca Holland, Hope Humphrey and Richard Lundeen.

### **Junction History Art Competition – Richard Lundeen**

The Society sponsored an art competition in 2020 for high school students at Western Technical-Commercial School and Humberside Collegiate Institute. This initiative was conceived as a community outreach activity that would engage the creativity of art students in illustrating the history of the Junction neighbourhood. The competition was organized into two divisions: graphic design (Western) and oil paintings (Humberside). For each division, a first prize and two honourable mention prizes were to be awarded, with cash awards funded by donations from generous WTJHS members. Evaluation panels were established for each division to select the winning entries. With permission from the student artists, the Society later would adapt selected art for posters, postcards, t-shirts, tote bags and other Society merchandise.

These plans were severely impacted in 2020 by the closure of the two schools during the pandemic. Fortunately, the Western graphic design students were able to complete their digital posters remotely. Evaluation and awarding of prizes for the Western posters took place over the summer of 2020. Tris Aus was awarded first prize, while Grace McKibbon and Clarisa Griffin were awarded honourable mention prizes. The evaluation panel members for the graphic design division were Brendan Fitzpatrick, Annette Gaffney and Cassandra Pollack. The prize-winning posters and several other entries were illustrated in colour in the 2020 Issue 3 of *The Leader and Recorder*.

Humberside art students began their Junction history oil paintings late in 2020 and prize winners were to be selected in spring 2021.