



West Toronto Junction Historical Society

2023 Annual Report

prepared for the 2024 Annual General Meeting

May 2, 2024

Prepared to record the calendar year 2023

FINAL

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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 2023.

As recorded in this report, much was accomplished during the year, and we are actively working to continue building on those accomplishments. The work of the Society is only possible because of continued support and dedication of its leadership, volunteers, membership and the 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

Elected Executive Members

President – Christopher Sears (Jan-Apr), Christian von Donat (Apr-Oct), vacant (Nov-Dec)

Vice President – Richard Lundeen (Jan-Apr), David Plank (Apr-Nov), Yvonne Mazurak (Nov-Dec)

Treasurer – Angie Cruz Rojas (Jan-Apr), Peggy Mooney (Apr-Dec)

Recording Secretary – Ward Noble (Feb-Dec)

Membership Secretary – Adrian Schincariol

Corresponding Secretary – David Muir

Past President (2023-24) – Christopher Sears (Apr-Dec)

Standing Committee Chairs (also members of the Executive)

Nominating Committee – Hope Humphrey (Jan), Vandra Masemann (Oct-Dec)

The Leader and Recorder Editorial Group – Cass Pollack (Editor)/Vandra Masemann

Engagement Facilitator – Katy Whitfield

Archives – David Bridge, Diana Fancher

Web/Media Coordinator – Vacant (Jan-Apr), James Naudi (Apr-Nov), Nathaniel Dadson (Nov-Dec)

Phone Crew – Richard Lundeen

Display/Events – Vacant

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting (re year 2022)

Annual General Meeting, April 6, 2023 7pm (Via Zoom)

In attendance: Christopher Sears (President); Richard Lundeen (VP); Angie Cruz (Treasurer); Ward Noble (Recording Secretary); Adrian Schincariol (Membership); David Bridge (Archives); Vandra Masemann (L&R); and 16 others.

Minutes recorded by Ward Noble, Recording Secretary

Item	Description	Action
1	Call to Order Welcome - The meeting was called to order by Christopher Sears at 7:00 PM Quorum was verified.	
2	Land Acknowledgment - Vandra Masemann read the land acknowledgement.	
3	Agenda - The agenda was reviewed. Christopher moved acceptance of the agenda. Richard Lundeen seconded. CARRIED.	
4	Minutes of the 2022 AGM - Richard Lundeen summarized the minutes from last year's AGM. Richard moved acceptance of the minutes. Vandra seconded. CARRIED.	
5	2022 Treasurer's Report Angie Cruz and Christopher	
5a	Motion to Approve Financial Reports - Skipped due to financial statements not being ready	
5b	Motion to Appoint Accountant - Christopher moved to extend the appointment of Gallagher and Mannisto as accountants. Angie seconded. CARRIED.	
5c	Treasurer's report - Angie confirmed the bank balance to date is \$22,697.95. Christopher indicated that we are close to signing an agreement with the Toronto Public Library and when it happens about \$3600 will be due. This will occur in the next few months. Also, the printing costs for the Leader and Recorder are due. Christopher moved acceptance of the Treasurer's report. Christian von Donat seconded. CARRIED.	

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6	<p>2022 Membership Report Adrian shared the membership report for 2022 (attached to the Annual Report). Adrian moved acceptance of the membership report. Richard seconded. CARRIED.</p>	
7	<p>Committee Reports</p>	
7a	<p>Vandra gave thanks to all the people who volunteered in 2022. Particular thanks given to Christopher and Richard for taking on extra responsibilities for which there was no volunteer or volunteers were unable to carry out. She outlined key areas of volunteer contribution and thanked those volunteers who were involved. (See Annual Report for a full list of activities and volunteers).</p>	
7b	<p>Leader and Recorder - Vandra, on behalf of Cass Pollack, expressed happiness that there were three editions published in a year that still experienced some restrictiveness due to the ongoing pandemic. They are looking forward to producing the upcoming editions for 2023. She recommended inviting the new Executive to the next L&R editorial meeting to help with looking towards the future.</p> <p>Frank Remiz suggested that more copies of the L&R be printed, above and beyond the 12 extra copies already produced. They could be sent to schools and other local historical societies. Adrian indicated that copies do go to local schools and since December the extra copies has increased to around 30 copies. Vandra agreed and encouraged the incoming Executive to find new uses for the L&R so that it can play a greater role for the Society. David Plank suggested selling copies of the L&R at local bookstores. Christian suggested that there would be value in having the L&R back issues available on the website and this would warrant future discussion.</p>	
*10 a	<p>There was an interruption to the agenda as Bhutla Karpoche, MPP for Parkdale-High Park was recognized. She indicated that she tries to join many local organizations' AGMs. She gave compliments to the "mighty group of people " who keep the history of the west end of Toronto and pledged her support to the Society.</p> <p>Vandra expressed concern over the future of arts grants and funding in the province as well as the lack of</p>	<p>Christian will be reaching out to Bhutla in the near future to discuss programs and funding options.</p>

	<p>inclusion of indigenous history into the history of the province by the Ontario Government.</p> <p>Bhutila shared that the local riding name would be changed to Taiaiko'n-Parkdale-High Park and she would like to invite the Society to help with the messaging regarding the name change due to its historic significance and continuing decolonization efforts.</p>	
7c	<p>Web Report - David Bridge indicated that there was a focus in 2022 on maintaining what we have until new hands can take over to inject new and fresh ideas. Teya was very helpful at making the site more readable and accessible on mobile devices.</p>	
7d	<p>Acting Social Media Coordinator - Richard Lundeen indicated that he had taken over and has been caretaking the position until a new Social Media Coordinator could be found. He outlined the popular topics (See Annual Report for a list of trending topics). He also indicated that future projects will include restarting the Instagram account and refreshing the Website. David Plank noted that he might have a contact for someone who could help with providing content for the website.</p>	
7e	<p>Archives - David Bridge indicated that there was some in-person traffic to the Archive when it reopened in the fall from people looking for research materials and he expressed the importance of maintaining a physical site for the information. There were talks with the TPL about linking to our archives on-line and this will continue to be looked at moving forward. David, along with Diana Fancher and a new volunteer are continuing their work at cataloguing and updating the Archive and preserving what there is already.</p>	
7f	<p>Phone Crew - Richard Lundeen reported that continuing to receive the Leader and Recorder is the main advantage to getting a membership and getting members to renew. This year, members who had not yet renewed were sent the first issue of the L&R as an incentive to renew and continue receiving them.</p>	
	<p>Nominating Committee - Hope Humphrey thanked Richard and Christopher for stepping up and finding a slate of candidates who wish to contribute to their neighbourhood.</p>	

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8	<p>President's Update - Christopher expressed happiness at the full slate of Executive candidates. He also expressed the need for one or two people to continue working on identifying new volunteers as their main task to allow the Society to continue moving forward and be refreshed.</p>	
9	<p>Review and approval of proposed 2023 Budget Angie spoke to the proposed budget. (See attached budget). Richard summarized that, even taking into account monies that are still owed, the finances of the Society are in surplus and therefore healthy. There is also an opportunity to adjust the budget in future based on the advice of the executive. Christopher moved adoption of the 2023 budget. Richard seconded. CARRIED.</p>	
10	<p>Other Updates Christopher announced the first hybrid meeting/discussion (in person and on Zoom) on June 22, 2023 at 7:00pm, moderated by Christopher Moore, at St. John's Anglican, West Toronto, on the topic of "Whether a British monarch should remain Canada's head of state"</p>	
11	<p>Motion to Accept the decisions and actions of the elected Officers and Executive since the last AGM (May 5, 2022). Christopher moved that the membership accept the decisions and actions of the elected Officers and Executive since the last AGM. Katy Whitfield seconded. CARRIED.</p>	
12	<p>Motion to extend current signing authorities until superseded by new signing authorities - Adrian explained that due to the sometimes long time that the bank takes to update new signing authorities to the new signing officers, that outgoing Officers with signing authority continue to have that in the transition period so that the business of the Society may continue. Adrian moved the motion to extend current signing authority until superseded by new signing authority. Lance Gleich seconded. CARRIED.</p>	
13	<p>Election of Officers - Rebecca Holland, past Vice President, oversaw the election. She read out the slate of candidates and asked three times for new nominations from the floor for the offices. Christopher moved to</p>	

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	<p>close the nominations, Lance seconded. CARRIED. Rebecca confirmed the slate of candidates and asked for a show of hands to accept the new Executive. The candidates were welcomed as the new Executive. Elected Officers: Christian von Donat, President David Plank, Vice President Peggy Mooney, Treasurer Adrian Schincariol, Membership Secretary David Muir, Corresponding Secretary Ward Noble, Recording Secretary</p>	
14	<p>Adrian spoke to a motion to thank retiring officers and volunteers for all of their hard work and efforts, especially Christopher Sears, Richard Lundeen, Teya Zuzek, Vandra Masemann, and Hope Humphrey. Adrian moved the official thanks. Christopher seconded. CARRIED. Richard gave special thanks to Christopher for his many years of service on the executive and in other capacities. He presented to Christopher an advanced copy of Vince Pietropaulo's book <i>Toronto as Community: 50 Years of Photos</i>.</p>	<p>Christopher to provide a review of Vincenzo Pietropaulo's book to be included in an upcoming Leader and Recorder.</p>
15	<p>Comments of Incoming President, Christian von Donat Christian thanked Christopher, Richard and the outgoing executive and expressed his excitement to work with an exciting and dynamic new group on finding ways to continue honouring the reasons the Society was started and to move it forward.</p>	
16	<p>Madeline Mcdowell, in the name of Gib Goodfellow, moved to adjourn the meeting. Secunder not required. CARRIED. Meeting ended at 8:43.</p>	

President's Report – Yvonne Mazurak

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt gratitude to each of you in this year's President's Report.

As we search for someone to take the helm of our Society, in some ways, I currently serve as our acting President and therefore have the honour of authoring the Report. The work of the Society, however, is truly a collective effort. I am grateful to work alongside a wonderful Executive Committee, and have a tremendous appreciation for their commitment and passion to preserving and celebrating the rich history of the neighbourhood, our city, and Canada.

I am also heartened by the enthusiasm of our Members and volunteers whose support is a driving force behind the work we do. We are lucky to have such a wonderful community network and look forward to the opportunities we will have in the year ahead to continue engaging with all of you.

2023 was another year of successes and development for the Society. We were thrilled to host many wonderful speakers this year, and to make their presentations accessible to as many community members as possible through a hybrid—in-person and online—format. We were also glad to be able to facilitate other opportunities to see many of you as well, from our stand in the Junction Farmer's Market to the Holiday Sale we hosted in the Annette Street Branch of the Toronto Public Library in December 2023. We had a fantastic turn out at these events, and appreciated the opportunity they gave us to meet new faces. I personally also loved leaving these events having learned new tidbits about the neighbourhood's history from many of you who I had a chance to meet and speak with.

Looking forward, we are very excited to welcome new perspectives from our growing membership and Executive Committee. The Junction is a special place in our city, in large part because of its unique history. As we continue our efforts to help preserve and share this history, we also want to ensure we are delivering programming that resonates with our Members and the wider community. The Executive Committee is working on developing new activities for the year ahead and look forward to sharing those with you.

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee, a very sincere thank you again for being part of this journey with us, and we look forward to all that 2024 has in store for the Society and our community.

Warm regards,

Yvonne Mazurak
Vice President, West Toronto Junction Historical Society

Financial Statements

This section contains financial statements as they appear in the report from Gallagher & Mannisto.

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

(unaudited)

(SEE COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

Gallagher
& Mannisto
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS

459 KING STREET EAST
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5A 1L6
TELEPHONE: 416.360.1010
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WWW.GALLAGHERMANNISTO.CA

COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To Management of West Toronto Junction Historical Society

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the balance sheet of West Toronto Junction Historical Society as at December 31, 2023 and the statement of revenue, expense and members' equity for the year then ended, and Note 2, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information.

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, Compilation Engagements, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Toronto, Ontario
February 28, 2024

Gallagher & Mannisto
Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

*Gallagher
& Mannisto*
CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL
ACCOUNTANTS

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2023
(unaudited)**

(SEE COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

ASSETS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 26,032	\$ 23,134
HST refundable	3,968	3,014
Inventory	<u>6,313</u>	<u>7,951</u>
	<u>\$ 36,313</u>	<u>\$ 34,099</u>

LIABILITIES AND MEMBERS' EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,000
 MEMBERS' EQUITY	 <u>35,263</u>	 <u>33,099</u>
	<u>\$ 36,313</u>	<u>\$ 34,099</u>

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSE, AND MEMBERS' EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
(unaudited)
(SEE COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u> (Note 3)
REVENUE		
Membership fees	\$ 5,554	\$ 6,498
Contributions	2,566	1,988
Book sales	2,449	4,158
Merchandise sales	1,739	1,761
Grants	1,545	1,545
Events	35	-
	<u>13,888</u>	<u>15,950</u>
EXPENSE		
Rent and occupancy	2,949	-
Newsletter	2,826	3,216
Office and general	2,136	1,139
Accounting	1,050	1,000
Cost of books sold	959	1,482
Cost of T-shirts	679	947
Insurance	675	725
Advertising	250	100
Memberships	112	112
Bank charges	88	242
	<u>11,724</u>	<u>8,963</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSE	2,164	6,987
MEMBERS' EQUITY AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>33,099</u>	<u>26,112</u>
MEMBERS' EQUITY AT END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 35,263</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 33,099</u></u>

WEST TORONTO JUNCTION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023

(unaudited)

(SEE COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT)

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. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the financial information is on the historical cost basis, reflecting cash transactions with the addition of accounts payable and accrued liabilities. Inventory is valued at purchase cost. Revenue is recorded when received.

3. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year's presentation. Excess revenue over expense was not affected by the reclassifications.

Vice President's Report – Richard Lundeen

The role of the Vice President is to fill in for the President in the event of absence or resignation, to provide ongoing support to the President in the leadership of the Society, and to take on other duties as assigned by the Executive Committee. During 2023, the position of Vice President was filled by three individuals as follows:

- Richard Lundeen – January 1 – April 6 2023
- David Plank – April 6 – November 20 2023
- Yvonne Mazurak – November 21 – December 31 2023

During the first months of 2023, these responsibilities included developing agendas and other material for Executive Committee meetings, the monthly general meetings and the Annual General Meeting, in consultation with the President and other Executive Committee members.

After the 2023 AGM, the President carried out these responsibilities until his resignation in October 2023. Other Executive members filled in until Yvonne was appointed in late November.

A significant focus for the Vice President during the first four months of 2023 was the search for new leadership of the Society to replace the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary, as well as several other critical volunteer positions that were vacant or filled on a temporary basis.

Hope Humphrey, who was Chair of the Nominating Committee throughout 2022, was faced with a family health emergency in January 2023 and went on extended leave for the rest of 2023. The President, Vice President and Corresponding Secretary took on the functions of the Nominating Committee. After an urgent appeal to the membership, a full slate of Officers was presented for election at the Annual General Meeting on April 6, 2023.

A similar focus was required in the fall after the President and Vice President advised of their resignations. On November 21, 2023, the Executive Committee appointed Yvonne Mazurak as Vice President, with the understanding that she would stand for election at the 2024 AGM. Recruitment of a new President and other key positions continued into 2024.

Richard Lundeen, supported by Vandra Masemann, was responsible for coordinating preparation of the 2022 WTJHS annual report as the primary reference material for the 2023 Annual General Meeting. This involved preparing or arranging for others to prepare several sections, integrating the 2022 financial statements into the final version, then having the 2022 annual report posted to the website at wtjhs.ca.

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 email account and responding to those communications as appropriate or referring to others more able to respond. 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 Archives Committee. The Society also receives routine business correspondence which is forwarded to the appropriate committee or officer for action.

In addition to this core duty, the Corresponding Secretary has become responsible for coordinating the speakers presented at our monthly public meetings. In 2023 we continued to hold our public meetings on Zoom but began hybrid events with the face-to-face meetings being held in St John's West Toronto Anglican Church on a trial basis pending discussions with the Annette Street Public Library.

Our speakers in 2023 were very well received with solid attendance both on Zoom and in person at St. John's. Topics included: Vince Pietropaolo's talk about his new book, *Toronto as Community: 50 Years of Photographs*; Andrew McConnell's presentation on the land we call Toronto as a crossroads in relations between the Indigenous inhabitants and the settler communities; and Chris Ruddy's talk about the history of St. John's West Toronto. A highlight and our first hybrid event in June was a discussion of the role of the Monarchy in Canada led by Christopher Moore, an award-winning historian and long time member of the Society.

Membership Secretary’s Report – Adrian Schincariol

Membership Data

WTJHS Membership Secretary Report: Dec 30 / 2023

2022 Expiry	3	
2023 Expiry	119	
2024 Expiry	17	
Total 2022-2024	139	139
Life Members	26	26
Life Members "2022 Protocol"	5	5
Grand Total		170

20 new members for 2022

16 new members for 2023

2022 Members exclude those noted "not renewing" during phone drive

Payment Method, 2023,24 memberships

Paypal	63
Cheque	40
Cash	4
EFT	28
Square	1

Complimentary Copies: 32

Extra Copies for Sale / Giveaway 27

Total L&R to Distribute 229

Membership Type Breakdown

Single	98
Family	40
Student	0
Total	138

Membership Secretary Highlights 2023

- 16 New members added to our membership in 2023
- Sent welcome emails to new members
- Maintained and updated membership list (Database) throughout year, including providing membership list reports for phone crew
- Collaborated with Phone Crew lead to update database for members not renewing, ensuring the memberships were not added to the “2022 Expiry” count for Membership Report
- Maintained and updated email list through Mailchimp database
- Printed labels for Leader and Recorder distribution

Committee Reports

Volunteer Coordinator's Report – Vandra Masemann

The Volunteers who are the subject of this report are mainly those in the non-Executive positions in the WTJHS. Before the pandemic, they were numerous members who took on many kinds of responsibilities at various events and at our regular meetings. During the pandemic, members of the Executive took over some of these duties when necessary. We owe a particular debt of gratitude to former Vice President Richard Lundeen and Vandra Masemann for volunteering to do any number of diverse tasks after the resignation of our new President, Christian von Donat. A sincere attempt to recruit new Executive members and new volunteers was taken by the appointment of the Nominating Committee in Fall of 2023 (see details in their report in this volume).

The onset of the regulations for the pandemic in mid-March 2020 and all through 2021 to 2023 affected each group of volunteers differently. Although some restrictions concerning masks and social distancing had lessened, we were experimenting with the possibility of holding hybrid meetings (both in person and on Zoom), as some members were either unwilling or unable to attend the meetings in the Annette Library. We had one meeting at the Annette Library where the Internet connection was not reliable.

After that, we met at St. John's Church West Toronto where the tasks for the Setup and Refreshment crews were less well defined than previously and are not yet resolved. Christopher Ruddy played a major role in making this venue available to us. We met the public outside at the Farmers' Market or on holidays such as Canada Day as the open air was less of a problem for the transmission of the viruses. The Archives volunteers were staffing the Archives on Mondays and Saturdays in 2023, and we also responded to questions raised by email to the best of our ability.

The major event that changed the volunteer tasks in October 2023 was the hacking of the Toronto Public Library system. The lack of access to our archival database and other information was a problem, but we met the challenge with our online research. The Annette Library was closed for a period, and then the staff managed to process lending and returning of books manually. But all Internet connection, the reserving of books electronically, and use of the public computers was not possible until around February of 2024.

Other groups of volunteers were able to operate virtually and so carried on. The Phone Crew contacted members by email and phone during the spring to encourage them to renew their 2023 memberships before the planned April 2023 Annual General Meeting.

The Editorial Group and Editor of *The Leader and Recorder* carried on as usual via email to produce two regular issues and one special colour issue. Because of the tight restrictions on people meeting in groups, the Stuffing and Mailing Crew was less activated, and Gib Goodfellow continued to do most of the job. But volunteers (listed below) delivered copies of

the L&R to local addresses and saved the Society over \$200 worth of postage.

The Fundraising Committee deferred the date for the Fundraising Campaign in 2023 and still have not announced one. A number of posts were made throughout 2023 to the WTJHS Facebook page. Posts on research on local landmarks and businesses posted by Teresa O'Neill, Cass Pollack, Hope Humphrey and Richard Lundeen have attracted much interest and many "likes".

A special effort was made in 2021 to get the Red Book, *The Leader and Recorder's History of the Junction*, proofread and ready for re-publishing in 2022. Diana Fancher and other volunteers were active in liaison with the printer and others during this preparation, and the printing and sales of the book have borne the fruits of their efforts. The printing and subsequent sales of the fifth edition of the Green Book, *The West Toronto Junction Revisited*, have been gratifying, also due to the efforts of Diana and other volunteers. Ruth Dobb was responsible for marketing at local bookshops.

The main impetus for volunteers to get involved again was the innovation of holding meetings via Zoom and, starting in June 2023, both in person and on Zoom (hybrid). Our regular monthly meetings were held as usual, as was the Annual General Meeting in April 2023. Experiments were held to see the possibility of holding hybrid meetings, and these became the norm in June 2023.

Our thanks to all volunteers for carrying out their tasks during this fourth very unusual year. We also appreciate the efforts of the Executive members who took on extra volunteer roles. We appreciate everyone's enthusiasm and devotion to keep the WTJHS the thriving institution that it still is.

List of Committees and Volunteers

Archives Volunteers

Diana Blake
David Bridge
Diana Fancher
Hope Humphrey
Richard Lundeen
Teresa O'Neill

Book Production and Sales

Diana Fancher
Ruth Dobb

Events in 2023

Junction Farmers' Markets

Christopher Sears (organizer)
Gib Goodfellow (delivery, setup and takedown)
Hope Humphrey
Ruth Dobb
Anne Ott
Teresa O'Neill
Nancy O'Reilly
Meissie Huynh (student from HCI)

T-Shirt Orders and Sales

Christopher Sears

Facebook Posts Volunteers

Hope Humphrey
Richard Lundeen
Teresa O'Neill
Cass Pollack
Adam Zarboni

Fundraising Committee (Inactive)

The Leader and Recorder Editorial Group

Cass Pollack (Editor)

Hope Humphrey

Vandra Masemann (Chair)

Madeleine McDowell

Christopher Sears (*ex officio*)

.

The Leader and Recorder Stuffing, Mailing and Delivering

Gib Goodfellow (Coordinator)

Mary Collins

Ruth Dobb

Olga Goubar

Hope Humphrey

Richard Lundeen

Alex Rasper

Barbara Titherington

Phone Crew

Mary Collins

Ruth Dobb

Gib Goodfellow

Richard Lundeen (Coordinator)

Madeleine McDowell

Anne Ott

Sophie Rasper

Refreshments Committee (Inactive)

WTJHS Website Updating and MailChimp Emails

David Bridge

Lance Gleich

Stacey Nordlund

James Naudi

Nathaniel Dadson

Zoom Meeting Coordination for Regular Meetings and April 2023 AGM

Ward Noble Richard Lundeen

David Muir

The Leader and Recorder Editorial Group Report

This pandemic year (2023) saw us continuing with the adjustments made in the previous year, in order to continue producing *The Leader and Recorder*. We continued conducting editorial meetings by Zoom. Public access to our Archives was less limited than in 2022, but was hampered in October 2023 when the Toronto Public Library system was hacked and Internet access was severely compromised both in the Archives and in the Annette Branch, as well as all other branches. The computers and Internet facilities were not properly up and running again until the end of February 2024.

Issue 1 featured an essay by David Bridge on “Junction Photographers”. It focused particularly on the life and career of Robert J. Linde who was listed as a photographer at what is now 2905/2907 Dundas Street West from 1906 to 1948. It is illustrated with several photographs taken by him which are in our WTJHS Archives. The article concludes with a brief summary of other Junction photographers. Diana Fancher provided a summary of her thoughts and activities in regard to heritage conservation, and some details of recent research in the Archives. Cass Pollack presented a detailed analysis of an interesting photograph from the Toronto Public Library's online archive of some men and horses in front of lumberyard at the corner of Keele Street and Vine Avenue. With further investigation, she found out more about the relationship between Michael Jackson and Robert Latham McCormack. The last article in this issue was Part 3 of the Contents of *The Leader and Recorder* from 2001 to 2011.

Issue 2 has as its cover story and main feature, “The Heydon Hotels and the Heydon Family”, by Teresa O'Neill. It is based on her post on the WTJHS Facebook page in the series called *Hotels in the Junction*. She has also provided references which the reader can explore for more details about the buildings they see every day in the Junction. The late Gib Goodfellow provided two other items in this issue. The first was a notice for readers to buy CDs of vintage radio comedy shows and surplus Mp3 players left by a speaker on this topic in past years. Gib also wrote a very interesting reminiscence of his childhood in the Junction, called “The Heydon Family and Me”, in which he refers to the significance of some of the Heydon houses in his early life. The last article in this issue is Part 4 of the Contents of *The Leader and Recorder* 2002-2022, our project to mark the 40th anniversary of the WTJHS.

Issue 3, a colour issue, was published in November 2023, and focused on the project devised by Katy Whitfield and Ian Da Silva, entitled “They Walked These Streets: We Will Remember Them”. Now in its fourth year, the project tells the stories of more than 750 residents who lived in west Toronto neighbourhoods and served in the world wars but never returned. The many colour photographs show the involvement of the community in this project where poppies made by school children were placed in the lawns of houses where soldiers lived before they went to war. There was also a message from the new WTJHS Nominating Committee, outlining our strategies for attracting new Executive members after our new President, Christian von Donat, resigned in September.

The next article, by Diana Fancher, was entitled *George Johnston St. Leger 1842-1923, Second Mayor of West Toronto Junction*. It contained several compelling images of his house at 32 Gothic Avenue at various stages in its history. Gib Goodfellow had referred to this house in his

article in issue #2. Cass Pollack also follows another theme in that issue, in *The Heydon Family's Legacy at St. Cecilia's Church*. She received permission from the church to photograph the main altar, the stained glass windows, and the brass plaque from 1925 erected by his wife on the side of the main altar in memory of Alexander James Heydon. This issue concludes with a summary of the three WTJHS meetings held in the fall of 2023 with speakers Vincent Pietropaolo, Andrew McConnell, and Christopher Ruddy. Various photos in this issue show the in-person meetings of the Society, which carry the message that we are meeting in person again, as well as virtually.

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 2024. 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 a sincere thank you to the late Gib Goodfellow for single-handedly managing the stuffing and mailing throughout the pandemic. In addition, we wish to thank him for all of his years of service to *The Leader and Recorder* and to the WTJHS as President.

Archives Committee Report – Diana Fancher

The conservation priority in 2023 was to reorganize the research files and house them in acid-free folders in three categories: Streets/Buildings, General Files, and Oral History Project. This, as well as combining multiple file folders in each hanging file rather than having one hanging file per subject, has helped to free up several file drawers where mounted photos and “problem files” can be stored and also to make room to continue expanding our collection. The previous method of organizing General files by subject, with one hanging file per listing meant that space was not being effectively utilized.

It is worthwhile to note that the WTJHS archive is not a conventional archive in the sense that we have mainly files of material from various sources accumulated over the years vs. fonds of collections from a single source. Although we do have some fonds, notably the Oral History Project and research materials from several Masters degrees, quite a lot of our material consists of collections assembled at various times, partially from other archives, by various people for various events or other purposes -- a sort of cheat sheet or Coles Notes of West Toronto Junction history. A further distinction from a conventional archive is that new information may become available at any time from any source to be added to a file.

There is also the problem that our photo collection is catalogued in two different systems, which overlap in inconsistent ways. In addition, original prints from 100 or more years ago mounted on crumbling card, need to be separated from more recent prints but still housed in easy to find order so that they can be pulled for reproduction or publication when necessary. Using photos for a book as an example, publishers want the original to scan, not a scan from our computer which may not be up to the quality they need or would work well with the software they employ.

Recruiting an archivist volunteer, supported by an archives consultant, to help us map our collection into a system(s) that will fit with archival software that has recently been set up or explaining what other systems we may also need, will be a priority for 2024.

Social Media Report – Faissal Zaaboune

Three successive volunteers filled the Social Media Coordinator role during the course of 2023 as follows:

- Richard Lundeen – January/February and May
- Stacey Nordlund – March/April
- Adam Zarboni – June – December

The WTJHS Facebook page is available for viewing by anyone with access to Facebook. Our page continued to have a wide variety of posts during 2023 and had a strong following. We hope to extend our social media presence to other platforms such as Instagram during 2024.

As of December 2023 the WJTHS Facebook page had 7700 followers, an increase of 300 over the December 2022 total. During 2023, 122 posts were created, a slight increase from 2022.

Most of the posts fell into four categories:

- Posts and photos about historical locations and events including Junction hotels and the impact of the vote for ‘local option’ that ended the sale of alcoholic beverages in West Toronto Junction for a century
- Posts promoting and reporting on WTJHS in-person and Zoom events, including presenters at our monthly general meetings, our booth at the Junction farmers market and the fourth annual ‘They Walked These Streets. We Will Remember Them’ project
- Posts encouraging followers to engage with WTJHS by volunteering for specific roles, and
- Posts shared from other Facebook pages with information and photos about the Junction, including Toronto Old Districts, Transit Timewarp and Avarad Woolaver Photography.

The most popular posts during 2023 were as follows:

- April 16 - TACKLING THE JUNCTION'S ASSESSMENT RECORDS presentation by Jane MacNamara (post reach 7948, 132 likes)
- December 22 – HOLIDAY GREETINGS, with photos of the winter carnival toboggan run in 1913, children sledding in High Park in 1918, and famous Indigenous runner Tom Longboat (a Junction resident on Pacific Avenue at the time) on the High Park toboggan run about 1909 (post reach 7767, 115 likes)
- April 22 - JUNCTION HOTELS - PART 5 - THE AVENUE HOTEL, part of a series on Junction hotels by WTJHS volunteer Teresa (post reach 5612, 130 likes)
- April 22 – ILLUSTRATION of the enormous CCM factory complex on Weston Road (post reach 4569, 177 likes)

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- January 14 - WEST TORONTO JUNCTION WATERWORKS in 1888 (post reach 3370, 177 likes)
- October 6 – HAPPY THANKSGIVING greetings (post reach 2859, 113 likes)
- December 16 – One of many of Avard Woolaver’s Junction photographs from the 1980s, others shared throughout the year (post reach 2484, 129 likes)

Late in 2023, we concluded that it would be most effective to recruit three or four social media volunteers rather than expect one individual to manage all the components. Recruitment was successful and three new social media volunteers were appointed early in 2024.

Web Report – Nathaniel Dadson

Website

In 2023, the WTJHS website (wtjhs.ca) garnered significant attention with a total of 12,974 views and 4,859 visits. Impressively, each visitor engaged with an average of 2.67 pages, reflecting a high level of interest and interaction. Throughout the year, we published a total of 15 posts, contributing to our dynamic online presence and fostering ongoing engagement with our audience. These statistics underscore the effectiveness of our content strategy in attracting and retaining visitors, as well as the continued growth and impact of our platform.

Email Communications

Throughout 2023, our MailChimp email distribution service executed a total of 30 email campaigns targeting subscribed Society members. These campaigns aimed to disseminate important information, promote events, and foster engagement within the Society.

- Total Emails Sent: 30 (including reminder emails)
- Open Rate Success: Achieved a remarkable open rate success across all campaigns.

Phone Crew Report – Richard Lundeen

The Phone Crew's primary role is to contact annual members who have not renewed their memberships for the current year (2023 for this report) 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 subsequent years

As of the early March 2023 when the Phone Crew started our renewal campaign, almost 90 of the Society's 2021 and 2022 annual members had not yet renewed for 2023 – more than half! We contacted several 2021 members who hadn't renewed for 2022 based on our experience that a few are ready to renew a year later.

The majority of non-renewals in March each year are due to oversights rather than conscious decisions not to remain as members. However, our success rate for 2023 was not as high as previous years – only 50 of the 88 non-renewals on the March list had renewed by the end of 2023. For 2022 on its own (without including the 14 non-renewals from 2021), the results were better - of 74 2022 non-renewals in March 2023, 45 had renewed by the end of 2023. Even with 16 new members in 2023, the 2023 Phone Crew results still resulted in a small decline in membership numbers overall at the end of 2023.

Two positive factors in the decision to renew were the appeal of the 2023 issues of *The Leader and Recorder* and the resumption of in-person meetings in June 2023 (with Zoom option retained). The reasons for not renewing were not always stated but, where it could be determined included having moved away, aging and lost of interest, and probably the pressure on household finances during the inflation and high interest rates during 2023.

The stellar members of the Phone Crew in 2023 were: Mary Collins, Ruth Dobb, Karah Efston (student volunteer), Gib Goodfellow, Richard Lundeen (Co-ordinator), Madeleine McDowell, Anne Ott and Sophie Rasper.

Nominating Committee

The WTJHS Executive Committee is required by the Society's by-laws to form a nominating committee at least sixty days in advance of the annual general meeting, with the mandate to present a slate of candidates for election to the Society's six officer positions. In 2022, the Executive Committee concluded that leadership succession was a continuing challenge and the Nominating Committee therefore was designated as a standing committee with an ongoing role throughout the year.

January – April 2023 – Richard Lundeen, Christopher Sears, David Muir

By early 2023, four of the six officers had resigned or announced that they would not stand for election for another term at the April AGM: Christopher Sears (President); Richard Lundeen (Vice President); Angie Cruz (Treasurer); and Teya Zuzek (Recording Secretary).

Hope Humphrey, Nominating Committee chair, had a serious family health emergency in January 2023 and was unable to continue in this role. At that point, Christopher Sears, Dave Muir and Richard Lundeen stepped in to recruit candidates for the upcoming or current vacancies for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary.

By early February, there had been no responses to notices and direct contacts with members. The Executive Committee issued an 'Urgent Notice on the Future of the WTJHS' on February 7, 2023 with respect to the vacant officer positions. This notice stated, "The future of the Society depends on you the Members. Without your support and assistance, the Society may have to close its doors in a matter of months."

In the context of this urgent notice, the interim Nominating Committee members then contacted recently new members and other potential candidates for the officer positions and for key volunteer roles to manage the website and social media. Fortunately, members responded to this urgent notice and the related recruitment activities.

Ward Noble volunteered to fill the vacant Recording Secretary position and was appointed by the Executive in February on the understanding that he would stand for election at the AGM. Christian von Donat offered to stand for election at the AGM as President. The initial candidate for Vice President unfortunately had to withdraw before the AGM, and David Plank agreed to stand for election in that role. For the Treasurer role, two excellent candidates expressed interest but were concerned about the workload. They agreed to divide the traditional Treasurer role into two components. Peggy Mooney stood for election as Treasurer and Charlene Fisher undertook the 'bookkeeping' responsibilities. Adrian Schincariol and David Muir agreed to stand again for election as Membership Secretary and Corresponding Secretary respectively.

A full slate of officer candidates was presented to the membership at the April AGM and all were elected. Other volunteers stepped forward to manage the website and the WTJHS Facebook page.

Fall 2023 – Vandra Masemann (Chair), Richard Lundeen, David Muir, Hope Humphrey

Although we carried a very interesting message in 2023 Issue 2 of The Leader and Recorder from our new President, Christian von Donat, we learned in September 2023 that he was unfortunately not able to carry on in the office. Our Executive therefore had a very immediate need to reactivate the Nominating Committee whose task was to search for new Executive members and new volunteers. Our goals were as follows: having a new slate of officer nominees for the next Annual General Meeting in 2024, finding interim officers to serve until then, filling other vacant Executive positions and refreshing the volunteer base of the Society's activities in the post-pandemic era.

The Nominating Committee's members (see above) met via Zoom every two weeks to devise a strategy for both the short term and the long term, for the immediate needs of communication via the website and the journal, and for the future personnel needs of the Society. We identified the most immediate needs: for a President, a Vice President, a Chair of the L&R Editorial Group, and a Web Coordinator. We added Social Media Coordinator to this list more recently. The secondary goal was to find new volunteers for the many ongoing tasks of running the Society (Archives volunteers, members of the Editorial Group, Volunteer Coordinator, Events/Display Coordinator, Sales, and Driver for book delivery). We carried details of the job description for all of these positions on our website.

We adopted various strategies for us to pursue: the website Volunteer Toronto, personal contacts, new members of the Society, social media, retired teachers in the GTA, and our publication, The Leader and Recorder. We busied ourselves writing the relevant job descriptions and revised notices for posting - on our website (wtjhs.ca), on Volunteer Toronto and on the Volunteer Jobs section of the Retired Teachers of Ontario Newsletter (<https://rtoero.ca>).

The good news is that we were quite successful in finding a candidate for the role of Vice President and other willing volunteers. The Executive Committee appointed Yvonne Mazurak as Vice President effective November 22 until the Annual General Meeting in May 2024. Yvonne is legal counsel for a large non-profit and brings experience in law, board governance and administration. Nathaniel Dadson is our new Web Coordinator as of November 22 responsible for the WTJHS website (wtjhs.ca) and for the emails sent each month to members. Morris Thiong'o started a new role as IT Support Specialist (Archives), responsible for improving the effectiveness of information technology in support of cataloguing, digitization and the ongoing operation of our Archives. Vandra Masemann agreed to continue as Chair of the L&R Editorial Group pending recruitment of her successor.

But we are still looking for a new nominee for President. What are the essential qualifications for our new President? First of all, they would ideally be an existing member of the Society or else willing to join. We also need someone who is familiar with the Society or with the history of the Junction and its surrounding neighbourhoods. They need to have an aptitude for chairing meetings and have an ability to organize the activities of the society. They would also need to recognize that the digital revolution is upon us, and that we will need to adapt to the new modes of communication, historical research, archival development, heritage conservation, and liaison with other historically-minded groups.

If you have the above qualifications and the motivation to offer yourself as our new President, please contact junctionhistorical@gmail.com. We would be glad to discuss the position with you and answer any questions you may have. And we also welcome anyone who is interested in the other volunteer opportunities set out on wtjhs.ca under Volunteer Opportunities.