

## *Yesteryear in York & Etobicoke*

### Lecturer Profiles

#### **Mary Louise Ashbourne**



Mary Louise Ashbourne holds an Honours degree in Modern History from the University of Toronto. She is a founding member (1976) and was President of the Weston Historical Society for over ten years, as well as a founding member (1991) and Vice President of Heritage York. Former Chair and member of the Etobicoke York Community Preservation Panel, and member of Toronto Preservation Board, Mary Louise is an advocate for the Weston Heritage Conservation District. She has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Paul Harris Award by the Weston Rotary Club and the Jean Hibbert Award by the Etobicoke Historical Society for her work in preservation and education in local history.

#### **Arlene Chan**



Arlene Chan, a Chinatown historian and author, has written seven books about the history, culture, and traditions of the Chinese in Canada, some shortlisted for the Ontario Speaker's Book Award, Heritage Toronto Book Award, Silver Birch Award, and Red Cedar Award. Her work has been recognized with the Heritage Toronto Special Achievement Award, Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award, and Woman of Distinction Award. Arlene serves as the president of the Jean Lumb Foundation and advisor for Myseum of Toronto, Ontario Infrastructure's Heritage Interpretation Working Group, and the Toronto Public Library's Chinese Canadian Archive.

#### **Hilary J. Dawson**



Hilary J. Dawson is a historical researcher who has worked in museums in the UK and Canada, including Wilberforce House, Hull, UK. Her research into nineteenth century Etobicoke Township (now part of Toronto, Ontario) uncovered a previously unknown Black presence. In 2002, the Etobicoke Historical Society presented her with the Jean Hibbert Award for her contribution to Etobicoke's history. She is a popular speaker on Ontario African Canadian history.

## Richard Fiennes-Clinton



Richard Fiennes-Clinton is one of Toronto's most active historians who has been giving walking tours of Toronto's history since 1997. As owner of Muddy York Walking Tours, he has entertained and educated many native Torontonians and visitors alike with tales of the people and places that defined Toronto. In 2015, Richard released his first book, *Muddy York: A History of Toronto Until 1834*. Richard is also a historical interpreter for Toronto's History Museums at Gibson House and Colborne Lodge.

## Cherri Hurst



Cherri Hurst is President, Archivist, Researcher of the Weston Heritage Conservation District and the Weston Historical Society. Since 2003, Cherri has been active giving many talks and guiding walking tours featuring the heritage of Weston. As an advocate for preserving local built heritage, Cherri has been a research volunteer for the Etobicoke York Community Preservation Panel for 4 years.

## Richard Jordan



Richard Jordan is an EHS Board Member, having previously served as a Director from 1980 to 1996, including a two-year term as President. He also served two terms as a citizen member of the Etobicoke Historical Board in the 1980s. Richard studied Geography and Environmental Studies at York University and later contributed a local heritage column in the Toronto Star from 1984 to 1991 as well as feature articles in a number of genealogy and history magazines. Richard's family genealogy book, *Beyond the Great Pine Ridge* was published in 2004 and a new book, *Ernest D. Banting and Community Life in Weston 1921-1973* was released in March of 2022. Richard is well known for his speaking engagements with historical societies and seniors groups.

## Karen Travers



Karen Travers is a consultant with more than fifteen years' experience researching colonial policy, law, and European-Indigenous relations in the Great Lakes. She received her Ph.D. in history from York University and has lectured and published articles on pre-Confederation Treaties and diplomacy, water rights, Indigenous settlement, and Métis identity in the Census. Her dissertation "Seeing with Two Eyes': Colonial Policy, the Huron Tract Treaty, and Changes in the Land in Lambton County, 1780-1867," examines relationships between the Anishinaabeg and non-Indigenous peoples during a crucial period of economic and institutional development in southwestern Ontario. Karen currently works with First Nations, industry, and governments to report on such topics as Indigenous land and resource claims, consultation and engagement, recruitment and retention, procurement, entrepreneurial development, and corporate social responsibility. She is an enthusiastic supporter of public history and participates in a number of heritage events as a War of 1812 reenactor.