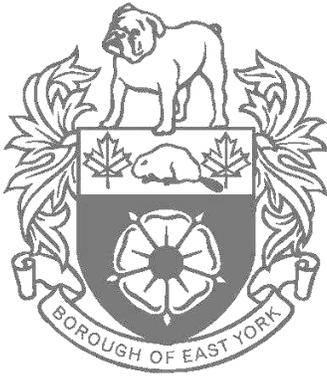


East York Tidbits

Stories About East York Presented by the East York Historical Society

THE LEASIDE STORY – A TIME CAPSULE WORTH READING



Few people would argue against the point that Leaside has a reputation as an outstanding residential community to raise a family. Beautiful spacious houses on slow meandering tree lined streets adorn Leaside, along with vibrant shopping streets, schools, churches and service clubs. Not a bad reputation for a community that started life as a railroad town in 1913 with a population of 43 people spread over 1,025 acres. Interestingly, only months before the incorporation of the Town of Leaside in April 1913, both the City of Toronto and the Town of North Toronto rejected offers to annex the lands that would become known as the Town of Leaside.

In celebration of its 45th anniversary in 1958 the Town of Leaside published "*The Leaside Story*" a 60 page brochure wonderfully written by Charles Clay. About 30 pages of the brochure are devoted to advertisers, most of which had manufacturing plants in Leaside. The brochure traces the modest agricultural and railroad roots of Leaside to its progress as a modern-day prosperous community, with a balance of fine homes and productivity necessary to keep our standard of living.

Aside from portraying Leaside as an outstanding place to raise a family, what is most striking in *The Leaside Story* is the manufacturing might of Leaside. Charles Clay talks about the jewels of Leaside's manufacturing might; the Canada Wire and Cable Company plant, Canada's largest manufacture of wire and cable, stretching over 25 acres; Sangamo's 9 acre plant employing close to 1,000 people producing electric meters and motors for shipment to 36 countries; Corning Glass Works, makers of Canada's first heat resistant glass ware.

In a few beautifully written paragraphs, Charles captures the far-reaching influence of products manufactured by companies located in Leaside in 1958. Paraphrasing Charles; Thousands of Canadian feet have walked and Canadian tires have rolled on the asphalt that comes from Canadian Bitumuls Company. Yuletide greetings are sent worldwide printed on cellulose tape produced by E.S. and A. Robinson (Canada) Limited. Heat is turned on, cold air exchanged and moisture controlled in urban and rural homes across the nation by devices produced by Honeywell Controls Limited. Sheridan Equipment Company and Crothers Caterpillar did play an important role in the St. Lawrence Seaway construction, a current-

day engineering miracle. Homes from coast to coast gleam with made-in-Leaside varnish manufactured by Canada Varnish Ltd. Mother sends her children to school in clothes disinfected and bleached by products manufactured by Javex Company Limited. Father sits in his office on a metal chair welded by Leaside Iron & Ornamental Company. Finally, after a hard day, the family settles down to the warmth of their furnace manufactured by Pease Foundry Company and watches television, with its maze of electronic tubes manufactured, you guessed it, in Leaside.

Today, over 45 years after its publication *The Leaside Story* remains a valuable time capsule presenting a peek into the manufacturing might of Leaside. Charles Clay's 1958 depiction of Leaside's productivity is a tribute to the dedicated and skilled men and women of Leaside and vicinity who gave their labour and ingenuity to made-in-Leaside products. If for no other reason, *The Leaside Story* is a must read to capture the colourful language of Charles Clay in your mind's eye.

**Prepared by John Michailidis
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The East York Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing information about East York's rich past. The Society meets 5 times a year usually on the last Tuesday in January, March, May, September and November.

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