

# *East York Tidbits*

*Stories About East York Presented by the East York Historical Society*

## **MORE ABOUT EAST YORK STREET NAMES**

The East York Tidbit on the origin of East York street names received such rave reviews that a sequel is in order. Here are some more bits of information about East York streets.



In the early 1900s the portion of **Bayview Avenue** south of Eglinton Avenue near what would become the Town of Leaside was called **East York Avenue**.

The original plan for the Town of Leaside had **Laird Drive** not crossing the CPR tracks, but jogging west to run parallel the tracks to where Moore Avenue is today.

Prior to the establishment of the Town of Leaside in 1914, the 1910 Goad's Atlas of Toronto, identifies a road "**Leaside Lane**" running east from **East York Avenue** (now called Bayview Avenue) to the Leaside Junction Station.

**Bessborough Drive** was originally called **Edith Avenue**.

West of Donlands Avenue, **Mortimer Avenue** was called **Gardener's Road**, perhaps due to the many market gardens that were on the road.

**Donlands Avenue** was called **Leslie Street**.

Until the early 1940s **Gowan Avenue** went straight through to Donlands Avenue, as Floyd Avenue and Westwood Avenue do today. To accommodate the needs of the Donlands Dairy operation and to alleviate traffic congestion on Gowan Avenue caused by the dairy, the Township agreed to adjust the east end of Gowan at a right angle to connect with Cosburn Avenue instead of Donlands. Donlands Dairy purchased the closed part of Gowan from the Township to add to their dairy operation.

In the 1920s the small portion of **Plains Road** from Donlands Avenue to Cadorna Avenue was called **Edison Avenue**. Another portion of Plains Road between what is today Coxwell Avenue and Northridge Avenue was called **Globe Avenue**.

The 1890 Goad's Atlas of Toronto shows the land on either side of what is today Plains Road, between Woodbine Avenue to the east, Donlands Avenue to the west and O'Connor Drive to the north and Cosburn Avenue to the south as a Clergy Reserve. **Glebemount Avenue** may be so named to recognise the Clergy Reserve.

**Rivercourt Boulevard** was originally called **Bungalow Road**.

**Sammon Avenue** was originally called **Salmon Avenue**.

It is widely known that the portion of **Broadview Avenue**, south of Danforth Avenue was always called Broadview, while the portion of the road north of the Danforth in the Village of Chester was called **Don Mills Road**. Interestingly, the 1910 Goad's Atlas shows Don Mills Road crossing south of the Danforth just west of the current Broadview and Danforth intersection. The portion of Don Mills Road south of the Danforth travelled down into the Don River Valley, leading to a small pox hospital which was located by the banks of the Don River at the northeast corner of Riverdale Park. The small pox hospital is shown on the 1910 edition of the Goads Atlas, but its not on the 1923 edition. The Riverdale Hospital located at the southern end of Riverdale Park was known at that time as the "isolation hospital."

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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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