

His health failing, Simcoe ordered the Rangers to continue where Berczy had left off. He then returned home to England where he died shortly thereafter. By 1800 Yonge Street was officially open, but was "... as yet very bad; pools of water roots of trees and fallen logs, being half frozen render them still more disagreeable when horses plunge into them." Eventually conditions improved and it became the main artery that Simcoe had intended, attracting an average of a tavern a mile. Around these all-important watering holes, hamlets developed. Some of them grew while others stagnated, and a few quickly dropped from sight. Today, they count among Toronto's lost villages. Most, however, have left some vestiges of their days as separate little pioneer gathering spots.

Yorkville

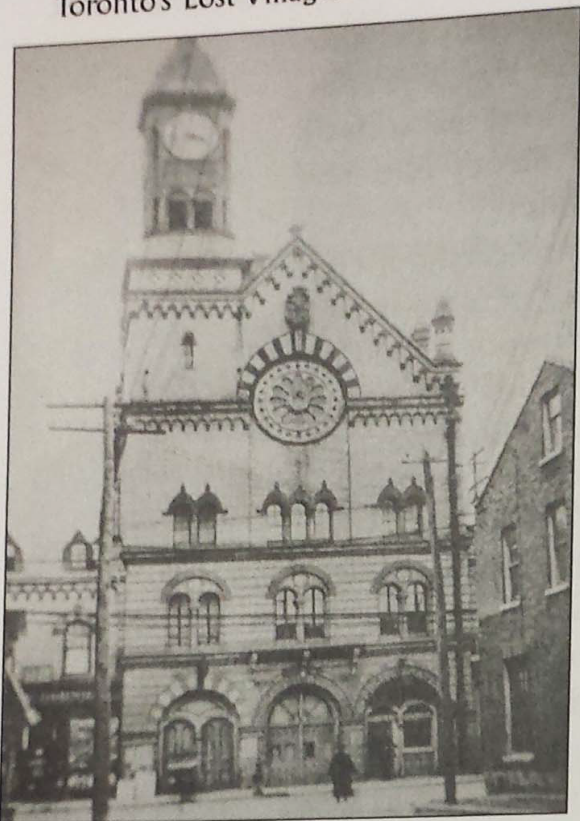
For many years, Yorkville, a country settlement well north of York, began, as did many early villages, around a toll gate. Toll gates more often than not led to taverns, and taverns to towns. Yorkville fit this pattern. The toll gate appeared around 1796 and within a dozen years, Daniel Tiers had opened the Red Lion Inn (on the east side of Yonge, just north of today's Bloor Street). A small stream known as Severn's Creek, a short distance to the northeast, contained enough flow of water to power industry. The first to locate there was a brewery erected by Joseph Bloor in 1830, which stood beside today's Rosedale Valley Road, west of the Sherbourne Street bridge. A few years later, closer to Yonge Street, John Severn added a second brewery. But along with industry came the land speculators, and Sheriff William Jarvis, after whom Jarvis Street is named, was one. On land northwest of the corner of Yonge and the First Concession (Bloor Street), Jarvis laid out Yorkville. Development, however, remained slow. It was too far to travel to the factories in Toronto, which were heavily concentrated along the lake. But in 1849 omnibus service made commuting easier and Yorkville began to grow. In 1852, "1,000" petitioners asked for village status although far fewer than that actually lived there. A nearby cemetery, it is speculated, "contributed"

heavily to the petition. Nevertheless, Yorkville officially became a village, with its shops concentrated largely on Yonge Street, although its village streets stretched as far west as today's Avenue Road, and north to Davenport. Bay Street had not been extended through the townsite at that time.

One of the first acts of the new council was to create a coat of arms, the second to commission the building of a town hall. Completed in [1860] the hall stood on Yonge opposite today's Collier Street, and was constructed of stone from the Credit Valley quarries. Its tower remained a Yonge Street landmark for many decades, with the coat of arms that included a symbol for the occupations of each member of that first council. [The hall was gutted by fire in 1941, and demolished the following year. The coat of arms, however, was rescued and sits to this day on the tower of the Yorkville Fire Hall. Now the most prominent of Yorkville's landmarks, the fire tower, built in 1876, still stands on



Horsedrawn trolleys had just come to Yorkville when this photo looking north on Yonge Street from near Bloor was taken. The large building served as Yorkville's town hall. It burned in 1941.



The tower from the old Yorkville fire station survives on today's fire station and contains the town's old coat of arms.

Yorkville Avenue west of Yonge. The main fire hall, however, was replaced in 1889.

By 1881, Toronto was closing in on Yorkville which by then had boomed to about 5,000 residents, and extended north up Yonge to almost the Summerhill area. East of Yonge, however, a subdivision of the Rosedale estate was slower to develop. Finally, in 1883, Toronto annexed the area, and Yorkville was swallowed by this surge of urban growth. New services, like sidewalks and paved streets, appeared, as did electric street railway service, and Bay Street was extended north from Bloor to meet Davenport. Vacant lots quickly filled, and new subdivisions appeared.

Yorkville remained a quiet residential neighbourhood until the 1960s when the first of the coffee houses began to appear. With names like the Chat Noir and the Riverboat, they attracted a group of budding young folk-singers like Gordon

Lightfoot, Catherine McKinnon, and Arlo Guthrie. Inevitably the area began to attract the curious, and soon became a haven for "pot-smoking hippies." Proposals to turn this street of sin into a canyon of apartments were met with concerted opposition. The old houses were saved, and soon the neighbourhood evolved into one of the Toronto area's more upscale shopping districts, frequented by visiting Hollywood stars, and likened by some to Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive.

Several buildings, however, from Yorkville's earlier village days still stand among the new and renewed. Although nothing of that period remains on Yonge Street (though several stores on the west side of Yonge do date from the early urban days), the old fire tower remains a landmark on Yorkville just west of Yonge. Number 77 Yorkville is another old building built in 1867 for saloon keeper John Daniels. Number 100

Yorkville was built in 1881 but was best known as the Mount Sinai Hospital, a role it served from 1922 - 1952. During the heady hippy days of the sixties, it was a senior's home, where elderly citizens, some bewildered, others bemused, stared from their porch at an endless parade of "flower children."

Hazelton Avenue is Yorkville's historic north-south street, and several structures here also recall the place's more pastoral times. Houses at 49-51, 53-63, and 65-68, all date back to the 1870s. One of the most pleasing of the village's old buildings is that occupied by the Heliconian Club. Built as a Presbyterian Church, it was moved from the adjacent lot to its present site on the east side of Hazelton, a block from Yorkville Avenue. On Scollard Street, buildings at 99 - 101 and 105 were all built in the early 1870s. Most of the other houses, or converted versions, while old and attractive, followed rather than predated the urban boom.

In a way, Yorkville still serves a role much like that of its early days. Then it was an oasis, a country village far from the mad-dening crowd. Well, the crowds have arrived, but its pedestrian scale streetscape and its attempts at heritage preservation have kept Yorkville an oasis within what is often an overpowering urban environment.

Drummondville

From Yorkville, the early teams hauling wagons or stages would leave and struggle up the Yonge Street hill (today's Summerhill area) to a crossroads community once known as Drummondville. Here, three hotels clustered at the intersection of what became today's Yonge and St. Clair, (St. Clair being the second concession north of Lot Street). Sellers Hotel stood on the southwest corner, while that known as the Deer Park Hotel stood on the northeast. The hotel, and eventually the community itself, took its name from the Deer Park Estate that the Heath family established in 1837. The name was appropriate, for deer from the Heath estate would frequently wander over to the hotel, to the considerable amusement of the guests.

The intersection seemed important enough for one Baron Frederic de Hoen to try his hand at land speculation. At the