HISTORY MATTERS

The Newsletter of the Department of History, York University

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



It gives me great pleasure to present the first issue of the Department of History Newsletter. The idea of publishing a short, concise newsletter has been a long time coming. It is

my hope that it will provide students, alumni, and all those interested in history at York University a means to follow our activities and accomplishments and to generally stay in touch. Our main news item in this issue is an interview with our new colleague, Professor Kendra Boyd (PhD 2017, Rutgers University). In the future, we would like to include features on our students, alumni, and retired faculty. Our plan is to publish two issues per academic year.

The History Department at York currently has thirty-seven full-time professors covering a variety of fields including Canadian, US, East Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Islamic World, and Europe. We have around 100 graduate students and 500 undergraduate majors and minors. Members of our department are heavily involved in a number of interdisciplinary study programmes and research centres including the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on the Global Migrations of African Peoples, the York Centre for Asian Research, the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies, the Classical Studies Programme, the History of Indigenous Peoples Network, the Centre for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean,

and others. Five of our colleagues are Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada with others holding a variety of prestigious national and international awards. Many have also won awards for their teaching. In terms of our faculty's research production, breadth and quality of teaching, as well as the accomplishments of our students, we are proud that our department is globally recognized as one of the preeminent history departments in North America.

If history is a never-ending dialogue between the past and the present, it is incumbent upon history departments to keep up with new interests and concerns. In this regard, we are planning a broad overview of our curriculum this year with the goal of enhancing what we do best and bringing our course offerings up to date. We are also hopeful of adding one or two more positions to address new student interests.

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In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Ben Kelly and Jeannine Flint for the work they put into the production of this newsletter. I hope it will prove to be a vehicle for greater communication with the department.

Thabit A.J. Abdullah (Professor and Chair)

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME NEWS

Camila Acosta (BA 2018, History and International Development Studies) has won a Dean's Award for Research Excellence for the research project 'Archival Text Transcription', which she completed under the supervision of Prof. Naomi Adelson (Anthropology). She has also been accepted into the Global History MA programme at the Free University in Berlin, beginning in the autumn of 2018.

Bradley Dale (BA 2019, History) has won a Dean's Award for Research Excellence for the research project "The Prime Ministers and the Jews', supervised by Prof.

David Koffman (History).

Valaruthy Indran (BA 2018, History) has won a Dean's Award for Research Excellence for the research project *Quantifying Reproduction: Colonialism, Birth and Women's Health in the South Western Pacific Islands (1906-1980)*, supervised by Prof. Sandra Widmer (Anthropology).

Michael Reynolds (BA, History) has won a Dean's Award for Research Excellence for the research project *Militarisation and Popular Culture in Canada*, supervised by Prof. David Mutimer (Political Science).

In Summer 2018, **Prof. Sakis Gekas** (Associate Professor) taught HIST 3357: Greece: A Modern History. This summer abroad course focused on the history of Modern Greece (1800 onwards), relating it to major developments in European and World history during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. Combining in-class (at York and in Athens) and on-site teaching (in Athens), the course provided in-depth understanding of major developments in the social, cultural, economic, and political history of Greece since 1800. Teaching involved experiential learning though visits to museums, research centres, historical archives, and sites in Athens, Syros, and Nafplio that provided a unique insight into the modern and contemporary history and present-day Greece. In the last week of the course, we visited the island of Syros in the city of Ermoupoli for a three-day summer school in Greek and Mediterranean history, organized by the Greek Institute of Historical Research. Students especially enjoyed learning about Greece while staying in the country for a month. They visited various sites both as part of the course and also on their own, exploring the country's past and present, and improving their international experience and their academic perspective.



The class of HIST 3357 with a statue of Ioannis Kapodistrias, first Governor of Greece, in Nafplio, June 2018.

GRADUATE PROGRAMME NEWS

PHD DEFENCES

Many congratulations to the thirteen students who successfully defended their PhDs in 2017 and 2018!

Madeleine Chartrand. Gendered Justice: Women Workers, Gender, and Master and Servant Law in England, 1700-1850 (Sept. 2017). Supervisor: D. Hay.

Kevin Chrisman. Meet Me at Sanborns: Labor, Leisure, Gender, and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century Mexico (Oct. 2018). Supervisor: A. Rubenstein.

Mario Gravelle. For the Good of Franco-Ontarians: Le Droit's Editorials, 1913-1933 (June 2018). Supervisor: Y. Frenette.

Travis Hay. The Science of Settler Colonialism: A Canadian

History of the Thrifty Gene Hypothesis (May 2018). Supervisor: B. Lawrence.

Mary Janigan. The Art of Sharing: The Richer Provinces versus the Poorer Provinces since Confederation (Nov. 2017). Supervisor: J. Stephen

Tomaso Leoni. Urbem Hierusolymam delevit: *The Arch of Titus in the Circus Maximus in Antiquity and the Middle Ages* (May 2018). Supervisor: J. Edmondson. **Abril Liberatori**. *Family is Really All Over the Place: Ethnic Identity Formation within a Transnational Network*

(Dec. 2017). Supervisor: R. Perin.

Brian MacDowall. 'A Flag that Knows no Colour Line': Aboriginal Veteranship in Canada, 1914 – 1939 (June 2017). Supervisor: W. Wicken.

Emilie Pigeon. Au nom du Bon Dieu et du Buffalo: Metis Lived Catholicism on the Northern Plains (April 2017). Supervisor: C. Podruchny.

Daniel Ross. Remaking Downtown Toronto: Politics, Development, and Public Space on Yonge Street, 1950-1980 (March 2017). Supervisor: M. Martel.

OTHER GRADUATE NEWS

Sara Farhan (PhD 6) has won a Michael E. DeBakey Fellowship in the History of Medicine. The award will support her research at the American National Library of Medicine in connection with her project 'Baghdad and Beirut in Baylor: Surgical Pedagogies and the Internationalization of Medical Education, 1945-1970'.

Natasha Henry (PhD 3) won the prestigious Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship to support her dissertation research on slaves of African descent in Upper Canada, 1750-1834.

Christine Sismondo. Toronto the Gay: The Formation of a Queer Counterpublic in Public Drinking Spaces, 1947-1981 (Sept. 2017). Supervisor: C. Heron.

Lydia Wytenbroek. American Mission Nursing in Iran, 1907-1947: Faith, Gender, and Profession (Sept. 2018). Co-supervisors: K. McPherson and M. Ladd-Taylor.

Noa Yaari. Multiform Arguments in the Historiography of Individualism in Pre-Modern Europe (Nov. 2018). Supervisor: T. Cohen.

Morgan Ross (MA 2) was nominated for a Heritage Toronto award – for the second year running. The nomination was for a short film 'The Assassination of MLK Jr. and its Connection to Ossington Avenue'.

Angela Zhang (PhD 3) was accepted in the Digital Humanities Summer Institute at the University of Victoria and presented a paper this year at the Renaissance Society of America conference in New Orleans, her field's premier conference.

ALUMNI NEWS

DISSERTATION PRIZES

Funke Aladejebi (PhD 2016) was awarded the 2018 Cathy James Memorial Dissertation Prize by the Canadian History of Education Association. The prize is for her PhD dissertation 'Girl You Better Apply to Teacher's College': The History of Black Women Educators in Ontario, 1940s-1980s.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Angela Hug (PhD 2014) took up a two-year SSHRC postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Classics, McMaster University (2017-19).

ALUMNI CAREER MILESTONES

Dagomar Degroot (PhD 2014) published *The Frigid Golden Age: Climate Change, the Little Ice Age, and the Dutch Republic, 1560-1720.* Cambridge: Cambridge

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT
THE YORK HISTORY DEPARTMENT,
VISIT http://history.laps.yorku.ca/

Catherine Timms (MA 2017) was short-listed for the 2018 Viv Nelles Essay Prize from the Wilson Institute for Canadian History for her Major Research Project, T.B. Macaulay: One Man's Devotion to Agricultural Improvement, 1920-1939.

Lydia Wytenbroek (PhD 2018) took up a postdoctoral fellowship at The Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Nursing Historical Inquiry, School of Nursing, University of Virginia.

University Press, 2018. 384 pp. Prof. Degroot is presently Assistant Professor of Environmental History in the Department of History at Georgetown.

Laila Haidarali (PhD 2007), joined the History Department at Queen's University in Fall 2018 as Queen's National Scholar in African American Gender History at the rank of Associate Professor. She was previously a Lecturer at the University of Essex. She has also recently published *Brown Beauty: Race, Sex, and Color from the Harlem Renaissance to World War Two.* New York: NYU Press, 2018. 368 pp.

Joseph Tohill (PhD 2012) co-edited (with Louis Hyman) Shopping for Change: Consumer Activism and the Possibilities of Purchasing Power. Ithaca, NY: Between the Lines Books/Cornell University Press, 2017. 380 pp.

Katrina Keefer (PhD 2015) published *Children*, *Education and Empire in Early Sierra Leone: Left in our Hands.* London: Routledge, 2018. 250 pp. She was also awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant as co-investigator for the project 'Creating a Visual Language of Marks: Approaching African Identities through Data Visualization' (2018-21). In 2017, she also won a

Hakluyt Society Research Grant for the project "You are no traders": The Early Educators of the Church Missionary Society of Sierra Leone in their own Words.'

Ohan Stamboulian (BA 2016) has recently been appointed Cultural and Events Administrator for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. He was previously Educational Programme Instructor at the Markham Museum and Historical Interpreter at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre.

FACULTY NEWS

HONOURS AND PROMOTIONS FOR FACULTY AND EMERITI

PROFESSORS JUDGE, MARTEL, AND HOFFMANN ELECTED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

Joan Judge (Professor) was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in Fall 2018. The citation accompanying Prof. Judge's election noted that 'Joan Judge has reshaped understanding of modern Chinese history through methodologically innovative studies in Chinese print culture, periodical studies, and women's history.'

Richard Hoffmann (Professor Emeritus) was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in Fall 2017. His citation observes that he 'established a new subfield in his discipline. Through his internationally-renowned, prize-winning and pioneering scholarship, his mentoring of emerging scholars, and his networking and organizational activities, he has built the environmental history of premodern Europe.'

Marcel Martel (Professor) was also elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in Fall 2017. His citation stated that 'ses ouvrages sur l'imaginaire national, la formation des identités et le Canada français ont profondément redéfini ces domaines. Ses études sur les politiques gouvernementales témoignent de son haut niveau intellectuel et de son influence.'

Elizabeth Cohen (Professor) was Visiting Professor in Winter 2018 at Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Studies in the Italian Renaissance.

Edward Jones-Imhotep (Associate Professor) was awarded the 2018 Sidney Edelstein Prize by the Society for the History of Technology. The prize recognizes outstanding scholarly books on the history of technology, and was awarded to Prof. Jones-Imhotep for his book *The Unreliable Nation: Hostile Nature and Technological Failure in the Cold War* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2017). Prof. Jones-Imhotep also recently won the 2017 Abbot Payson Usher Prize from the Society for the History of Technology. The prize was awarded for his article 'Malleability and Machines: Glenn Gould and the Technological Self,'

Technology and Culture 57 (2016), 287-321.

David Koffman (Associate Professor) was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, and installed as the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry. He was also appointed Associate Director of York's Israel and Golda Koschitsky Centre for Jewish Studies.

Rachel Koopmans (Associate Professor) has received a highly competitive award from the British Academy for six months of research as a Visiting Fellow in England in Fall 2018. Her research is focused on the eight 'miracle windows' of Canterbury Cathedral

Nick Rogers (Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus) was Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professor at the University of Bristol in the summer of 2017.

FACULTY INTERVIEW: PROF. KENDRA BOYD



What was the main focus of your PhD research (and of the monograph you are preparing)?

I am currently working on a book manuscript based on my dissertation, *The Great Migration and Black Entrepreneurship in Detroit.* This project investigates the role

of business in the black freedom struggle in twentieth-century urban America. I trace the rise and fall of the black business community in Great Migration Detroit (1915-1970) while analyzing black entrepreneurs' economic thought and the structural challenges they faced in pursuing their entrepreneurial aspirations. This research scrutinizes the possibilities for African Americans' attainment of economic empowerment and self-determination through business and the trajectory of black economic development throughout the twentieth century.

What sources and archives have you been using to illuminate this episode in US business history?

I have used the State Archives of Michigan, The Bentley Historical Collection (University of Michigan), the Walter P. Reuther Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, the Burton Historical Collection (Detroit Public Library), and the archives at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History to do my research. I use a variety of sources to trace Detroit's black business development from the 1910s through the 1960s. Southern city directories, vital records, military draft records, and census data allow me to trace entrepreneurs from the South to Detroit during the migration years. Letters from Southerners to Northern institutions like the Urban League show that greater prospects for economic advancement through business in the North were motivating factors in black Southerners' decisions to participate in the Great Migration. Once in Detroit, migrants established businesses, which I identify through city directories, newspaper advertisements, and the publications of black organizations and churches. Manuscript collections of black entrepreneurs, business groups, and city officials allow me to piece together the growth of black business in the city and the obstacles that developed along the way.

Your research concerns some of the large-scale social and economic patterns of twentieth-century US history. But have there been any individuals whose lives and business careers you have been able to trace in detail?

I use both business history and social history methods to reconstruct the black business community that existed prior to the urban renewal era and examine racial capitalism from the bottom up. So a lot of what I do is trace individual business owners and their relationships with other black entrepreneurs in the city. There are several 'main characters' in my story and I have been able to trace more of their lives and business trajectories. These people usually became very successful in business, or else were prominent in the community for other reasons (such as being religious or political leaders) - this resulted in their papers being preserved in archives. Other important sources for tracing individual businesses are memoirs and interviews from various oral history collections such as the Detroit African American History Project and the Detroit WestSiders Oral History Project. These sources enable me to reconstruct Detroit's black business community through black people's memories. These sources are crucial because Detroit's black commercial district was bulldozed for urban

PROF. KENDRA BOYD

(ASSISTANT PROFESSOR) JOINED YORK'S HISTORY DEPARTMENT AS A FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBER IN JULY 2018.

She holds a B.S. in business administration from Wayne State University and a PhD in History from Rutgers University. Before coming to York, she was Postdoctoral Research Associate for the Scarlet and Black Project at Rutgers University.

redevelopment projects and there are limited archival sources for what businesses existed there or how long enterprises were in operation.

How do you think that your research interests will inform your undergraduate teaching over the next few years?

Next year I am hoping to teach HIST 3670: U.S. Business History Since 1880.

What attracted you to join York's History department and what makes you excited to work here?

I was attracted to York because of the department's reputation and the possibility for interdisciplinary collaboration through centers such as the Harriet Tubman Institute and the City Institute, which opens up opportunities for me to grow as a scholar. I like the collegial culture of the History Department. It is great

to work with colleagues who are not only preeminent scholars in their fields, but are also supportive and invested in your success. I find the new programming for undergraduate students, such as the Certificate in Public History and the Black Studies programme, impressive. I think these new developments will serve York's diverse student body well, and I am glad to come to York at such an exciting time.

The Manitoulin Island Summer Historical Institute (MISHI), which ran from 10 to 17 June 2018, focused on exploring Anishinaabe worldviews through the lens of clans (doodemag) and generations, from a multidisciplinary perspective. Co-sponsored by the History of Indigenous Peoples (HIP) Network, a research cluster embedded within the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies at York University, and the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF), an organization devoted to Anishinaabe history and culture, the summer institute brought together thirty-two established and emerging historians, graduate and undergraduate students, administrators, elders, and knowledge-keepers to explore the history through site visits, lectures, stories, and activities. The MISHI programme, made up of two instructors and nineteen guest speakers, was



organized around land-based Anishinaabe history on Manitoulin Island and its environs. Knowledge-keeper and York History doctoral student Alan Corbiere and Elder Lewis Debassige (both from M'Chigeeng) were the main instructors of the Institute. Other presenters included scholars, artists, and local knowledge-keepers with distinct views of land-based pedagogies, including story-telling, hiking, cooking, and creating art. Participants are also working on their transcriptions and booklets for the OCF, and the HIP Network will hold a transcribe-a-thon in the winter to complete outstanding transcriptions. Participants are also working on co-written and sole-authored blogs posts about their experiences during the Institute, which will be published on the OCF website, the Robarts Centre Website, and ActiveHistory.ca.

RESEARCH BY FACULTY AND EMERITI IN PROGRESS

Jennifer Bonnell (Assistant Professor), Sean Kheraj (Associate Professor), and Owen Temby (University of Texas, Rio Grande) launched a new journal with the title *Papers in Canadian History and Environment*. This is a scholar-led, open access peer-review journal published in partnership with the Network in Canadian History and Environment and York University Libraries. Papers are published in both HTML and PDF formats and made available online using a Creative Commons licence.

Boyd Cothran (Associate Professor) and Adrian Shubert (University Professor) have started a research project which constitutes a major departure for both of them. In 'Vessel of Globalization: The Many Worlds of the Edwin Fox, 1853-1905', they plan to write a microhistory of late nineteenth-century globalization through the prism of one British merchant vessel.

Jonathan Edmondson (Distinguished Research Professor) is working on the project 'Names and

Identity in Roman Spain: The ADOPIA Project.' The aim of the project is to create a digital atlas of all personal names attested in the three Roman provinces (Lusitania, Baetica, and Hispania Tarraconensis) in the Iberian Peninsula in Antiquity. Preliminary results are available at http://adopia.huma-num.fr. The project is funded in part by a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant.

Edward Jones-Imhotep (Associate Professor) is working on a project with the title 'Reliable Humans, Trustworthy Machines.' Funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant, this project explores how people from the late-18th to the mid-20th centuries saw machine failures as a problem of the self — a problem of the kinds of people failing machines created, threatened, or presupposed.

Mark Jurdjevic (Associate Professor, Glendon History and Graduate History) is writing a book on Machiavelli's friendship with Francesco Guicciardini and the way in which it informed some of the more unexpected and surprising changes in their later historical and political writings.

Rachel Koopmans (Associate Professor) has discovered two medieval stained glass panels dating to the late twelfth century, one of them showing pilgrims on the road to Canterbury. The discovery was featured on BBC television and radio programmes.

Paul Lovejoy (Distinguished Research Professor) is directing a project entitled 'Boko Haram: Islamic Protest and National Security'. The project is funded by a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant. It aims to generate and disseminate new knowledge on Boko Haram and its historical and political context, its religious and ideological basis, and its impact on the economies and societies of Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and Cameroon. At the same time, the project seeks to make suggestions at a policy level about how to eliminate the conditions that created the Boko Haram movement in the first place.

Marcel Martel (Professor) is working on a comparative analysis of national holidays (Victoria

Day, Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day, Canada Day and Acadian Day) from 1867 to 1982.

Carolyn Podrychny (Associate Professor) is working on a project entitled 'Aandse: Anishinaabe ways of knowing and the transformation of university-based knowledge creation and transfer.' The project is funded by a SSHRC Partnership Development Grant.

Nick Rogers (Distinguished Research Professor Emeritus) is currently working on a micro history of a slave trade trial, that of the notorious Captain Kimber, who was accused of flogging a slave to death on the Middle Passage in September 1791. The case became a cause célèbre between proslavery and abolitionist supporters in 1792-3.

Kalman Weiser (Associate Professor) is part of a project funded by a SSHRC Insight Development Grant on contemporary antisemitism. As part of the project, an international summer institute was held at York University in July 2018 for fourteen advanced graduate students and junior faculty. The project will culminate in volume of essays edited by K. Goldberg, S. Ury, and K. Weiser, to be published by Palgrave.

NEW BOOKS BY FACULTY AND EMERITI



Thabit A.J. Abdullah (guest ed.) *International Journal of Contemporary Iraqi Studies*. Special issue in honour of the Iraqi journalist and author Azizi Sbahi. 12.2 (2018).



Alan Durston and Bruce Mannheim (eds.). 2018. Indigenous Languages, Politics, and Authority in Latin America: Historical and Ethnographic Perspectives. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press. 276 pp.



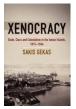
Claire Judde de Larivière. 2018. The Revolt of Snowballs: Murano Confronts Venice, 1511. Abingdon, Oxon and New York. Trans. Thomas V. Cohen.



Joshua Fogel and Fumiko Joo. 2017. Japanese for Sinologists: A Reading Primer with Glossaries and Translations. Berkeley, Calif: University of California Press. 432 pp.



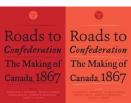
Arthur Haberman. 2018. 1930: Europe in the Shadow of the Beast. Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press. 266 pp.



Sakis Gekas. 2017. *Xenocracy: State, Class, and Colonialism in the Ionian Islands, 1815-1864*. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books. 380 pp.



Craig Heron. 2018. Working Lives: Essays in Canadian Working-Class History. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 640 pp.



Jacqueline Krikerian, David Cameron, Marcel Martel, Andrew McDougall, and Robert C. Vipond (eds.) 2017. Roads to Confederation: The Making of Confederation, 1867. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 2 Vols. 400 + 512 pp.



Edward Jones-Imhotep. 2017. The Unreliable Nation: Hostile Nature and Technological Failure in the Cold War. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press. 312 pp.



Translated into French as

Vers la Confédération: la construction du Canada, 1867. Québec: Les Presses de l'Université Laval. 2 tomes. 396 + 482 pp.



Edward Jones-Imhotep and Tina Adcock (eds.). 2018. *Made Modern: Science and Technology in Canadian History*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. 388 pp.



Roberto Perin. 2018. *The Many Rooms of This House.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 440 pp.



Michel Hockx, **Joan Judge** and Barbara Mittler (eds.). 2018. *Women and the Periodical Press in China's Long 20th Century: A Space of Their Own.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 432 pp.



Steve Poole and **Nicholas Rogers**. 2017. *Bristol from Below. Law, Authority and Protest in a Georgian City*. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press. 387 pp.



Sean Kheraj and Tom Peace. 2018. *Open History Seminar: Canadian History*. Pressbooks. (http://openhistoryseminar.com/canadianhistory/)



Adrian Shubert. 2018. Espartero, el Pacificador. Galaxia Gutenberg: Barcelona. 760 pp.



Molly Ladd-Taylor. 2017. Fixing the Poor: Eugenic Sterilization and Child Welfare in the 20th Century. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press. 304 pp.



Adrian Shubert and José Álvarez Junco (eds.). 2018. *Nueva historia de la España contemporánea (1808-2018)*. Galaxia Gutenberg: Barcelona. 824 pp.



Jacqueline Krikerian, **Marcel Martel**, and **Adrian Shubert** (eds.). 2017. *Globalizing Confederation: Canada and the World in 1867*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 271 pp.



Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi (ed.) 2017. *The Nanking Atrocity 1937-38: Complicating the Picture.* 2nd ed. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books. 496 pp.

ARE YOU A STUDENT, ALUMNUS, FACULTY MEMBER, OR EMERITUS WITH NEWS TO REPORT? WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS IN HARD OR ELECTRONIC FORM? PLEASE EMAIL histnews@yorku.ca .

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