LATER LIFE LEARNING

TORONTO'S ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY: HISTORIC STREETS
MARTA O'BRIEN'S RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Below is a list of books and web sites dealing with City history and architectural heritage. The list is long because I was asked to recommend favourties as well as those related to this course.

Adam Bunch (adambunch.com)
- Adam is a highly-regarded local historian & author who presents walking tours, talks, and courses; he also publishes an online newsletter *The Toronto Time Traveller*

Archives of Ontario (archives.gov.on.ca)
134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., York University (very near the York U subway stop)
- architecture collection includes original architectural drawings, specifications, and correspondence associated with many of Toronto's architects & buildings
- search "Digitized Records" to see what's online

Armstrong, Frederick H.. A City in the Making: Progress, People & Perils in Victorian Toronto. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1988.
- examines key events & people; very good regarding early urban development & the Great Fires

Arthur, Eric. Toronto: No Mean City. Rev. by Stephen A. Otto. Toronto: U. of Toronto, 1986, 2003.
- architectural history of Toronto to 1900; includes appendix on the origin of street names

Careless, J. M. S. Toronto to 1918. Toronto: James Lorimer & Co., 1984. ***and***
Lemon, James. Toronto Since 1918. Toronto: James Lorimer & Co., 1985.
- illustrated books providing a clear and complete history of the city, with some on built form

City of Toronto Archives (search "Toronto Archives")
255 Spadina Rd. (½ block north of Dupont subway station; free parking)
- website describes many of the materials that you can access at the Archives free of charge
- some – including maps & photographs – are available online

Cruickshank, Tom. Old Toronto Houses. Toronto: Firefly Books, 2003.
- fairly thorough study with beautiful photographs; houses sorted by style and by neighbourhood

Dendy, William. Lost Toronto: Images of the City's Past. 2nd ed. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1993. (has additions to the 1978 edition published by Oxford University Press)
- eminent architectural historian's detailed illustrated review of over 150 Toronto buildings which no longer exist

Dendy, William and William Kilbourn. Toronto Observed. Toronto: Oxford U. Press, 1986.
- review of major historical periods in Toronto along with facts and photographs for over 80 significant existing buildings

Donegan, Rosemary. Spadina Avenue. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 1985.
- thorough illustrated history of the street

Greenberg, Ken. Toronto Reborn: Design Successes and Challenges. Toronto: Dundurn, 2019.
- optimistic and comprehensive examination of past & needed urban development by internationally-known urban planner & city advocate who was involved in many of them

Hayes, Derek. Historical Atlas of Toronto. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 2008.
- outstanding exploration of Toronto through maps

Heritage Preservation Services (search Toronto + "Planning for heritage")
- City staff "plays an important role in preserving Toronto's heritage by advising City Council on matters relating to the Ontario Heritage Act and acting as a professional resource for the community and property owners on the conservation of the City's historic resources."
- explore this site to learn about preservation policies in Toronto

Heritage Toronto (heritagetoronto.org)
- "builds a better city by bringing people together to explore Toronto's shared past and peoples' lived experiences"
- extensive website has information on heritage issues, tours, events, & historical plaques

Kluckner, M. Toronto: The Way It Was. Toronto: Whitecap Books, 1988.
- well-researched illustrated look at Toronto neighbourhoods and remarkable places & people

Loucks, Don & Leslie Valpy. Modest Hopes: Homes and Stories of Toronto's Workers from the 1820s to the 1920s. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2021.
- excellent examination of workers' cottages plus profiles of some working-class Torontonians of the time

Lundell, Liz. The Estates of Old Toronto. Erin, ON: Boston Mills Press, 1997.
- well-written & illustrated study of primarily pre-1900 houses on estates of the affluent

Martyn, Lucy Booth. Toronto 100 Years of Grandeur: The Inside Stories of Toronto's Great Homes and the People who Lived There. Toronto: Pagurian Press, 1978.
Martyn, Lucy Booth. Aristocratic Toronto: 19th Century Grandeur: More Stories of the Fascinating Homes and Elegant People of Early Toronto. Toronto: Gage Publishing, 1980.
- each book profiles many elegant homes with black & white (mainly exterior) photographs

McHugh, Patricia and Alex Bozikovic. Toronto Architecture: A City Guide. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2017.
- updated classic with maps & brief descriptions for buildings

Micallef, Shawn. Stroll: Psychogeographic Walking Tours of Toronto. Toronto: Coach House Books, 2024 (updated edition).
- fresh perspective on familiar – as well as often overlooked – areas of Toronto, including the larger post-amalgamation city

Osbaldeston, Mark. Unbuilt Toronto: A History of the City That Might Have Been Toronto: Dundurn, 2008. (same author: Unbuilt Toronto 2)
- excellent research into projects that were not realized; some mentioned in this course

Royal Ontario Museum (at rom.on.ca search for "ROMWalks")
- great guided walking tours on Wednesdays at 6 pm & Sundays at 2 pm from May until mid-October annually; most walks are free

Sewell, John. The Shape of the City. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993.
- excellent illustrated history and critique of planning in and around Toronto

Spacing Toronto (spacing.ca/toronto/)
- lots of digital content on urban issues & public space; also an excellent hardcopy magazine

Thompson, Austin Seaton. Jarvis Street: A Story of Triumph and Tragedy. Toronto: Personal Library Publishers, 1980.
- thorough illustrated history of the street

TOBuilt (acotoronto.ca/tobuilt_new.php)
- architecture enthusiast Bob Krawczyk developed this data base & compiled 10,000 entries with photographs and basic information about buildings
- it's searchable and has been expanded through the Architectural Conservancy of Toronto

Toronto Historical Association. A Glimpse of Toronto's History: Opportunities for the Commemoration of Lost Historic Sites. Toronto: City Planning Division, Urban Development Services, City of Toronto, 2001.
- detailed information and history for 250 lost heritage sites, including many buildings

Toronto Public Library Digital Archive (digitalarchive.tpl.ca)
- includes primary and secondary source materials, as well as links to other Toronto-based information resources (e.g., maps & old photographs)

Urban Toronto (urbantoronto.ca/)
- very pro-development; covers condos, architecture, urban planning, & real estate
- varying points of view are expressed in the Forums

Wise, Leonard & Allan Gould. Toronto Street Names: An Illustrated Guide To Their Origins. Richmond Hill, Ont.: Firefly Books, 3rd edition 2024.
- alphabetical guide with historical photographs and sketches accompanying text