



Fort York Barracks and Harbour, 1804

Carver: Arnold Koch

Story: Fort York was established in 1793 to defend the settlement of York, the new capital of Upper Canada.

During the War of 1812, a large American force attacked Fort York. They defeated the small contingent of British, Canadian and Indigenous forces guarding the fort, but suffered a greater loss of men. Fort York was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1923.



York (later renamed Toronto), 1803

Carvers: Barrie Casement and Deborah Matias

Story: This carving looks east along Palace Street, which later became part of Front Street.

York was incorporated as a city and renamed Toronto on March 6, 1834. Likely derived from the Iroquois word *Tkaranto* meaning “*where there are trees in water*”, the name originally referred to Lake Simcoe. A copying error, on hand drawn maps, may have moved the name south.



Alexander Muir

Carver: Neil Cox

Story: Alexander Muir (5 April 1830 - 26 June 1906) was a Canadian songwriter, poet, soldier and school headmaster.

Inspired by a fallen leaf from the silver maple tree that supplied the wood for these carvings, he composed the song *The Maple Leaf Forever* in October 1867 to celebrate the Confederation of Canada.



The First City Hall

Carver: Andrew Halmagyi

Story: Toronto's population swelled from 9000 to 24,000 during its first decade of existence after 1834. This propelled the building of the first permanent City Hall in 1845.

You can still see the remains of council chambers and offices if you walk through the archways and rooms of the St. Lawrence Market on Front Street shown in this carving.



Old City Hall

Carver: Mark Sheridan

Story: As Toronto grew in size and wealth, a grander City Hall - now referred to as the “Old City Hall” - was envisioned to make the world stop and take notice. When it opened in September 1899, it was the largest city hall in North America. Architect Edward J. Lennox took a decade to build it.



June Callwood

Carver: Neil Cox

Story: June Callwood (1924-2007) was a writer and journalist who moved from Brantford to Toronto in 1943. A strong activist for social justice, particularly issues affecting children and women, she helped found more than 50 social action organizations including youth and women’s hostels.

She was a Companion of the Order of Canada, and in 2008, the Premier of Ontario declared June 2nd “June Callwood Children’s Day”.



Lumberjacks

Carver: Bob Gill

Story: Lumber was an important industry in early Ontario. White pine, walnut, oak and maple were all valuable timbers that flourished in the area between the Humber, the Don and the Rouge rivers where the city of Toronto now stands.



The Toronto Harbour Commission Building

Carver: Coral Walker

Story: Erected in 1917, the Toronto Harbour Commission Building housed the offices of those in charge of overseeing marine activities in Toronto harbour.

The building used to jut out into Lake Ontario but infill of the harbour over the last century has moved the shoreline several hundred metres away from the structure.



William Lyon Mackenzie

Carver: Neil Cox

Story: Scottish-born William Lyon Mackenzie (1795-1861) came to Canada in 1820. He founded a newspaper, became a Member of the Legislative Assembly and served as Toronto's first mayor.

Passionate about social justice, he led a failed armed rebellion in 1837 then fled to the United States. Pardoned after 11 years, he returned to Canada and continued to press for reforms. His grandson, William Lyon Mackenzie King, became Canada's longest serving Prime Minister.



Williams' Yorkville Buss Line, 1849

Carvers: Bill Myette, Tom Gallagher and Marjorie Paterson

Story: Local cabinetmaker Burt Williams established one of the first public transportation systems in Toronto. He used horse-drawn stagecoaches to carry passengers between the St. Lawrence Market and the Red Lion Hotel in Yorkville.



Bishop Strachan School for girls

Carvers: Tom Gallagher, Neil Cox and Kevin Reid

Story: Bishop Strachan School opened in 1867 with a mission to teach girls to be leaders, a radical concept at the time.

BSS has grown over the years from its first group of 31 girls to more than 900 currently attending Junior Kindergarten through Grade 12 at its Lonsdale Road location. Its range of studies has expanded with the times but its mission remains: “Inspire girls to be fearless, educate girls to be leaders”.



Thornton Blackburn’s first City Taxi

Carvers: Tom Gallagher and Alex Clement

Story: Wading through mud and occasionally raw sewage on his way to work in Toronto, Thornton Blackburn saw the need for a taxi service. In 1837 he created a red and yellow horse-drawn cab in which he could drive four passengers, naming it “The City”. Thornton and his wife, Lucie, had fled slavery in Kentucky and escaped recapture in Detroit before settling in Upper Canada where they were protected against repeated extradition attempts.



Toronto Coat of Arms

Carver: Tom Gallagher and Marjorie Paterson

Story: The Coat of Arms was created for Toronto in 1998 just after the amalgamation of the regional municipality of Metropolitan Toronto with East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and the City of Toronto.

The shield features “T” for Toronto, formed by the two towers of City Hall against the sky. The motto “Diversity our Strength” refers to cultural diversity and the seven former municipalities.



Canadian National Exhibition Princes' Gates

Carvers: Rod Deon, Mark Sheridan and Bob Gill

Story: The “Princes’ Gates” got its name when this new entrance to the Canadian National Exhibition was officially opened in 1927 by Edward, Prince of Wales, and his brother Prince George. Built to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Canada’s confederation, the design by architect Alfred Chapman features a central arch and a 91-metre-long structure surmounted by a statue of Winged Victory.



City Hall

Carver: Bob Gill

Story: Rescued from the reject pile, the futuristic design for Toronto City Hall by Finnish architect Viljo Revell was selected out of 500 submissions from 42 countries.

Built in the Modernist style and completed in 1965, the new City Hall with its curved buildings became one of Toronto's most distinctive landmarks. Its elegant and democratic design features glass-walled offices and a public gallery to watch politicians in action.



Honest Ed's

Carver: Alyssa Diamond

Story: Opened in 1948, Ed Mirvish's bargain store proved popular, gaining fame for its marketing stunts such as free turkey giveaways before Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Until it finally closed on December 31, 2016, Honest Ed's had a cultural impact and was featured in several films and TV shows. The store's iconic sign used 23,000 light bulbs!