



CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING

NATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING SITE

HISTORY TELEVISION

As the number one source for compelling historical programming, **History Television** captivates Canadian audiences with gripping documentaries and dramas about the people and events that have shaped our world. This year the network will premiere more than 250 hours of original programming from Canada and around the world.

With series such as *Crime Stories*, *Tactical to Practical*, *JAG*, *For King and Country*, and *Turning Points of History*, **History Television** offers viewers a unique perspective on the civilizations and innovations that have brought us to where we are today.

History Television is an Alliance Atlantis network.



Commemoration Ceremony and Plaque Unveiling of the Toronto Yonge Street Subway as a National Historic Civil Engineering Site

Wednesday, June 1, 2005
Union Subway Station

Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, National Office
4920 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Suite 201, Montreal, Quebec H3Z 1N1
tel: (514) 933-2634 fax: (514) 933-3504
e-mail: info@csce.ca website: <http://www.csce.ca>



CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING

NATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING SITES COMMEMORATION PROGRAM

In 2002, the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering received the **Pierre Berton** History Award for its efforts in helping to popularize Canadian history. A key element in this success was the National Historic Civil Engineering Sites Commemoration Program.

The Canadian Society for Civil Engineering believes that a tangible record of significant and historic civil engineering achievements should be preserved as part of the heritage of the people of Canada, and in esteem of the civil engineers and others responsible and of all of those who worked alongside them. One of the principal objectives of the CSCE History program is to identify civil engineering works, which are of historic significance and to promote greater public and professional recognition of these works by such means as commemorative plaques. This is done through the National Historic Civil Engineering Sites Commemoration Program. Historic Sites commemorated by

the Society are classified as National, Regional or International Historic Sites.

To date there are:

- 39 National Historic Civil Engineering Sites
- 3 Regional Historic Civil Engineering Sites
- 3 International Historic Civil Engineering Sites

The Toronto Yonge Street Subway, Canada's first subway, today becomes our 40th National Historic Civil Engineering Site.

Later this week we will add the "Bridges of Niagara" to our list of International Historic Civil Engineering Sites at a joint ceremony with the History and Heritage Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers in Niagara Falls, NY on Saturday, June 4.

We thank the **Toronto Transit Commission** and **History Television** for their support of today's commemoration ceremony.



Yonge Street looking south to Front Street from Melinda Street
March 16, 1950
Photographer: Canada Pictures Limited
City of Toronto Archives

TORONTO SUBWAY

A tribute to the Engineers and Constructors who created this important addition to the Transportation infrastructure of Toronto and Canada. This, the nation's first subway, ran along Yonge Street from Front Street to Eglinton Avenue, a distance of 7.4 kilometres. 1.3 million cu m of material were excavated and over 250,000 cu m of concrete were used in the construction.

PROGRAM

- Introduction and Welcome of Guests:
Elsie Mae Clements, CSCE Ontario Region Vice-President
- CSCE National Historic Civil Engineering Sites Commemoration Program:
Reg Wallace, Chair, CSCE National History Committee
- The History of the Toronto Subway:
Howard Moscoe, Chair, Toronto Transit Commission
- Plaque Unveiling:
Cathy Lynn Borbely, President, Canadian Society for Civil Engineering
Howard Moscoe, Chair, Toronto Transit Commission
- Receipt of Plaque by Toronto Transit Commission:
Peter Langan, CSCE Toronto Section Chair
Rick Ducharme, Chief General Manager, Toronto Transit Commission
- Closing Remarks and Recognition of Sponsors:
Elsie Mae Clements, CSCE Ontario Region Vice-President.
- Photographs and Press Interviews

CANADA'S FIRST SUBWAY

On March 30, 1954, the face of Toronto changed forever. With the pull of a switch, Ontario Premier **Leslie Frost** and Toronto Mayor **Allan Lamport** sent Canada's First Subway Train on its way. The shiny red subway cars, fondly dubbed the Red Rockets, breezed down the 7.4 km stretch of new track, from Eglinton to Union Station, stopping along the way at each new subway station, each with turnstiles, transfer machines and TTC Collectors. More than 250,000 people rode the subway that day.

Over the past 50 years, Toronto's subway system has carried 5.7 billion passengers, and has grown from 12 to 69 stations and 61.9 km of track.

Plans for constructing a subway in Toronto first appeared in 1910, but it wasn't until 1946 that the citizens of Toronto voted overwhelmingly in favour of building a

subway line from Eglinton to Union. Under the watchful eye of TTC Chairman **William C. McBrien**, construction began in 1949.



Since 1954, the subway has expanded. In 1963, the University line opened between Union and St. George. In 1966, the first leg of the Bloor-Danforth line opened

from Keele to Woodbine. In 1968, the Bloor-Danforth line was extended to Islington and Warden. In 1973, the Yonge line was extended from Eglinton to York Mills, and one year later to Finch. The Spadina subway opened in 1978 and was extended to Downsview in 1996. In 2002, the Sheppard subway officially opened for business.

March 30, 2004, celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the opening of Canada's first subway and today we commemorate Canada's first subway as a National Historic Civil Engineering Site.