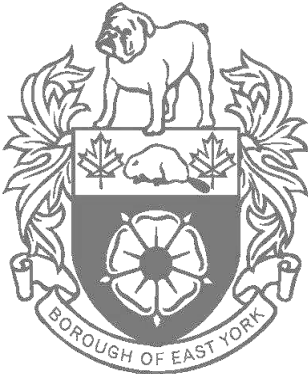


East York Tidbits

Stories About East York Presented by the East York Historical Society

HOLLINGER BUS LINES MOVED EAST YORKERS



Hollinger Bus Lines served the East York community and the surrounding area from 1921 to 1954. John Hollinger founded the company and served as president until 1951 when his son replaced him.

Born in Ireland, John immigrated to Canada in 1906 and settled in East York in 1921. Aside from operating the bus line, John sat on East York Council and published the local newspaper the East York News.

Hollinger's first route was the Woodbine route, operating along Woodbine Avenue from Danforth Avenue to Plains Road. John was always on the move. When passengers were scarce, John would deliver eggs and butter to local housewives. He ate his meals on the bus, delivered to him from home at the intersection of O'Connor and Woodbine by his daughter or son. The Woodbine route was later extended across the Woodbine Bridge to service the new Parkview Hill and Woodbine Gardens neighbourhoods.

Hollinger added a number of bus routes in the 1930s despite the depression era economy. Routes were added along Coxwell Avenue, Broadview Avenue, O'Connor Drive and along Donlands Avenue. A special High School route started on Woodbine Avenue and ran along O'Connor, Broadview, Mortimer, Pape, Sammon, Donlands, and Cosburn, before stopping at Coxwell.

During the Second World War Hollinger operated the GECO (General Engineering Co.) route. GECO was a major war time industrial plant along Birchmount Road in Scarborough. The route operated along Danforth Avenue, north on Dawes Road to Eglinton Avenue, before stopping at Birchmount Avenue. Hollinger also took workers to and from the GECO plant from terminals at Young Street and Eglinton Avenue and Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue.

After the war, to serve the booming urban expansion of the areas surrounding the City, Hollinger operated an industrial loop along Curity Avenue, Hollinger Road, Bermondsey Avenue and O'Connor Drive. A service to the new IBM plant on Don Mills Road from the Danforth and Coxwell terminal was added in 1952.

The TTC took over Hollinger in 1954. At the time of the take over Hollinger operated 8 routes, owned 56 buses, and had about 100 employees. It was the largest independent bus line taken over by the TTC. Its bus garage at Woodbine and O'Connor is now the Trillium apartment building. The company's property at Danforth and Coxwell included The Terminal Grill restaurant.

**Prepared by John Michailidis
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The East York Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and sharing information about East York's rich past. The Society meets 5 times a year usually on the last Tuesday in January, March, May, September and November.

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