

## **Building Beaches Branch, Toronto Public Library, 1910-1916**

Barbara Myrvold, Local History Services Specialist, Toronto Public Library

Revised September 26, 2006

### **The Beach neighbourhood**

Today's Beach neighbourhood extends roughly from Coxwell to Victoria Park avenues between Lake Ontario and Kingston Road. From 1888 until the end of 1909, this area was in three different political jurisdictions: the city of Toronto, the village (later town) of East Toronto and York Township. The section south of Queen Street and east to the far side of lot 3 (today's MacLean Avenue) was part of Toronto, initially as a liberty for future expansion, from the time the city was incorporated in 1834. In 1887, Toronto slightly extended its boundary in this area, when it annexed a strip of land 200 feet to the north side of Queen Street East. The village of East Toronto, incorporated in 1888, lay mostly north of Kingston Road but it included part of lots 2 and 3 south of that, and virtually all of lot 2 to the water's edge. This included Balsam and Beech avenues, and parts of Queen Street. The rest of the present Beach neighbourhood was in York Township.

### **Early libraries in surrounding communities**

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, both Toronto and East Toronto established libraries in this general vicinity. Toronto Public Library (TPL), formed in 1883 as one of the first free public libraries in Ontario, opened a branch in the recently-annexed suburb of Riverside in 1888. Eastern Branch was housed in a rented room in Poulton's Block, on the west side of Boulton Avenue just north of Queen Street East. (The heritage building still stands.) It was replaced in 1910 with Riverdale Branch, which TPL built at the northwest corner of Broadview and Gerrard using a small portion of a 1903 Carnegie grant.



Eastern Branch, ca. 1900

A public library was established in East Toronto in 1903. Located in a room over Fire Hall No. 3 on Dawes Road just north of Danforth Avenue, it was variously called Danforth Avenue Mechanics' Institute and East Toronto Public Library. The library was "not free": members paid an annual fee to join and use the collection. In 1905, the library at East Toronto had 102 members, a collection of 454 volumes and a circulation of 1,409. It was financed with grants of \$100 each from the provincial legislature and the town, and \$33.75 in members' fees.<sup>1</sup>

After East Toronto was annexed to Toronto in 1908, Toronto Public Library did not take over the old town library, and by the end of 1912, it had been closed for more than four months.

## **Citizen activism for library service at the Beach**

Library service at the Beach began through the initiatives of private citizens. In March 1910, Mrs. Charles J. Campbell told the Toronto Public Library Board that "for some time past she had kept about 500 volumes in her own house which were used freely by the neighbours and that at her own expense she had a large number of these books rebound."<sup>2</sup> The 1910 *Toronto City Directory* listed Charles J. Campbell at 62 Balsam Avenue, then the second house north of Queen on the west side. He was a department manager of W. J. Gage, a wholesale book dealer, stationer and publisher at 82-94 Spadina Avenue, and a likely source for some of Mrs. Campbell's library. More details about this local effort to supply reading materials were recorded in the *Toronto Star* several years later:

... the wants of the district were supplied by some public spirited ladies, including Mrs. C. J. Campbell, Mrs. Watt, Mrs. Byfield, Mrs. Noble and Mrs. May. Mrs. Campbell went from house to house and collected such books as could be spared from private libraries, nine hundred in all. About 500 required rebinding and this was done by Mrs. Campbell, at whose house the books were kept for a time. Afterwards they were removed to a store and loaned out for a small fee, enough to cover the rent. The ladies connected with the movement gave their services in handing out and receiving the books three times a week. When a branch of the Free Library was established, the books were handed over to the Gerrard street settlement.<sup>3</sup>

By the end of 1909, all of the Beach communities, including Kew Beach, Balmy Beach and Woodbine Beach, were part of the city of Toronto. The section of Balmy Beach in East Toronto joined the city on 15 December 1908. "Balmy Beach" (the part between East Toronto and Scarborough Township) and Midway (the area between East Toronto and the city) both joined Toronto from York Township a year later, on 15 December 1909. (As noted above, Woodbine Beach and Kew Beach from Queen south to the lake had been in the city all along.) By this time, the area was changing from a summer resort to yearround residential neighbourhoods.

Beach residents soon began to press the TPL Board for local library service. On 11 March 1910, two deputations appeared before the library board. The first consisted of the five women who had operated the private library at the Beach. They asked for a reading room and a substation at the Beach. The library board was of the "unanimous opinion that such an aggressive spirit as these ladies had shewn should receive their earnest consideration."<sup>4</sup> The second deputation consisted of three local aldermen - Thomas N. Phelan, Daniel Chisholm and Zephaniah Hilton of Ward One - who wanted a library at the Beach, as well as libraries at the YMCA hall on Gerrard at Main and at the Danforth Avenue Mechanics' Institute. However, in his 1910 annual report, TPL Board Chairman A. E. Huestis told all deputations, "the same answer had to be given - lack of funds."<sup>5</sup>

In 1911 representatives from Kew Beach, Balmy Beach and East Toronto, including a delegation from the Beaches Association, appeared before the TPL Board asking for an extension of library privileges, and, once again, the Board "in answer have expressed our sympathy and promised that when funds are available the needs of these districts will be considered."<sup>6</sup> A library at the Beach appeared to be closer to a reality when Roland Harris, the City Property Commissioner and a Beach resident, suggested to the TPL

Board that the old East Toronto Fire Hall No. 1 on Spruce Hill Road could be used for a library. Norman B. Gash, chairman of the TPL Board, reported on this development on 31 January 1912:

The long felt and oft expressed desire of the people of the Kew Beach and Balmy Beach sections for a Branch is in a fair way of being gratified. The premises formerly used in connection with a volunteer fire service, and situated on Spruce Hill Road, have been handed over to the Library Board on the understanding that they will be used for Library purposes. It is hoped that the Council will aid this neighbourhood by an appropriation for the necessary alteration and extension of the building for library service. The people of this district owe much to Mr. Roland Harris, the City Property Commissioner, through whose suggestion this property was brought to the notice of the Board.<sup>7</sup>



East Toronto Fire Hall No. 1, Spruce Hill

Evidently there was little enthusiasm for this proposal either with city officials or local residents, and a library was not placed in the old fire hall. On 6 December 1912, J. H. Curran of Queen Street East wrote to Ward One aldermen giving his opinion about a library location:

"We were to have a dilapidated shack on Spruce Hill road renovated at small expense for use as a library. This would be the biggest insult to our section of the city that could be offered and we ask you not to listen to such a proposition. You should see that we get a fair share of any appropriations. We should have a lot on East Queen street near Scarboro Beach<sup>8</sup> for library purposes, which would have easy access from all quarters, and a proper building should be erected and equipped."<sup>9</sup>

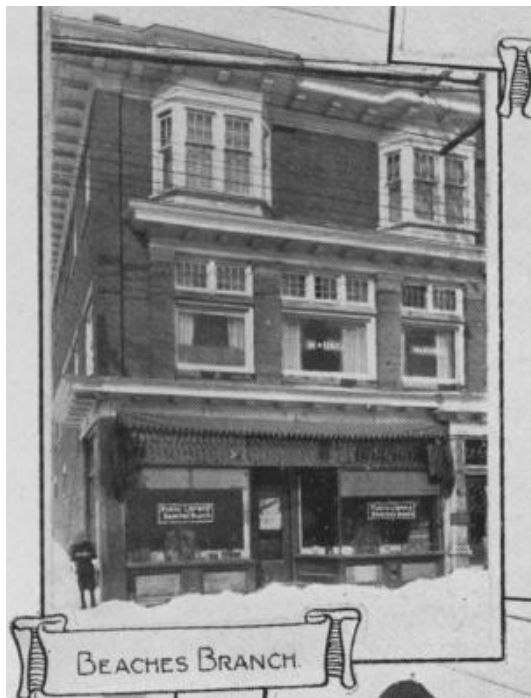
Meanwhile, in September 1912, Toronto Board of Control questioned the TPL Board about the establishment of branches at Kew and Balmy Beaches, and Chief Librarian George Locke was directed to "prepare a comprehensive report for presentation at the October meeting dealing ... with the extension of library service into the outlying parts of the city."<sup>10</sup> By December, one local alderman advocated "that the city .... proceed to erect [a library] on the city property at Kew Beach Park." Confidently and naively he predicted, "there should be no opposition to that. The city already has the land. I know the residents would be satisfied."<sup>11</sup>

### **Storefront library, Queen and Hambly, 1914-1916**

In mid-June 1913, the TPL Board announced that two new branches would be provided for the east end of the city, including one at "the Beaches."<sup>12</sup> Later that year, a large store on the northeast corner of Queen Street East and Hambly Avenue was leased for a temporary library. The Toronto *Telegram* reported on 17 December 1913: "It will then be up to the city to provide the money if the people in the Beaches patronize the library to such an extent they think it is worthwhile to have a building provide for

library purposes only."<sup>13</sup> It was thought that when a permanent library was needed, the city would provide a site in Kew Gardens.

Beaches Library opened at its storefront location on a winter Monday afternoon in 1914 either, depending on the source, on 23 February (TPL Annual Report) or 2 March (Toronto newspapers). Toronto Public Library's 14th branch was open afternoon and evenings five days a week (not Wednesdays and Sundays) from 2 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 9:00 p.m. This amounted to 30 hours a week, half of the branch's present opening hours. The first librarian in charge was Miss Jessie Nelson, who was transferred from the Central Library at the corner of Church and Adelaide streets. The library's book stock was small: 1,200 to 1,500 books at the time of its opening. By end of 1914, the branch had 3,763 books including 1,140 fiction, 689 juvenile fiction and 585 history, all in English.<sup>14</sup> (By comparison, in 2005, Beaches Branch Library had 46,168 items in its collection, and both English- and French-language materials.)



Toronto Public Library's first Beaches Branch, Queen Street, northeast corner of Hambly Avenue, 1914.

Beach residents became avid user of the new library, with hundreds registering before the branch opened. In April 1914, the Toronto World reported: "Better evidence of the need for the branch library recently established at the corner of Hambly avenue and Queen street would not be had than the fact that last Saturday evening there were only six books of fiction left on the selves for selection."<sup>15</sup> By the end of 1914, the branch had a circulation of 39,943 items: on average, each book in the collection had circulated more than ten times. Beaches had the highest circulation, by far, of TPL's six branches in storefronts and other small, rented quarters.<sup>16</sup> (By comparison, in 2005, Beaches Branch had a circulation of 244,304, or each item had circulated an average of 5.3 times, placing it in the top quartile of TPL's 79 neighbourhood branches.) Almost as soon as the library opened, though, a Kew Beach ratepayer complained to the Toronto World: "the new library was quite inadequate to serve the eastern half of Ward One."

## Carnegie grant

On 23 July 1907, James Bain, TPL's chief librarian, sent a letter to Andrew Carnegie, explaining that the library board was finding it difficult to keep pace with Toronto's rapid growth over the previous three years. On behalf of the board, he asked Carnegie to "kindly grant them a further sum of \$150,000 for Branch Libraries for the City of Toronto, subject to the usual stipulations."<sup>17</sup>

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) was a Scottish immigrant who amassed a fortune manufacturing steel in the United States and then turned to philanthropy. Building libraries was his special interest and he

made his first grant for Ontario library buildings in 1901. In 1903, through Bain's initiative, Carnegie granted \$350,000 to Toronto to build a new central library and three branch libraries (at \$25,000 each) – it was the largest amount given anywhere in Canada. The gift was conditional that the city would give the sites and support the library's operations by giving at least 10 percent of the grant amount each year, i.e., \$35,000 a year. (These were the conditions of all Carnegie's library grants.) Labour groups objected because of Carnegie's reputation as an employer, but the gift was accepted by city council.

Between August and December 1907, Bain and Bertram exchanged eight letters about Toronto Public Library's request for a second Carnegie grant. Bain provided details about Toronto's assessment and the estimated cost and proposed location of the branches. After a lull of five months, Bertram sent a letter to Bain on 8 May 1908, offering an additional grant to the Toronto Public Library:

Mr. Carnegie desires to say he will be glad to provide Fifty Thousand Dollars for the erection of two additional Branch Library Buildings, provided Councils guarantee a correspondingly increased maintenance fund, and provide sites as stipulated before. Mr. Carnegie thinks that the prices are now such that you will be able to erect the Library Buildings within the amount named.<sup>18</sup>

However, by this time, the 65-year-old Bain was gravely ill with liver cancer. TPL's annual report for 1908 recorded: "On March 30th, Dr. James Bain (who has been our esteemed and efficient Chief Librarian since June, 1883), left his office ill and never returned. His lamented death took place on the 22nd of May, 1908."<sup>19</sup> C. (Charles) Egerton Ryerson, assistant librarian and secretary-treasurer of the board, took over temporarily, but, owing to his own ill health, was unable to continue from April 1909 and died of heart disease on 4 June 1909 at the age of 62. The removal of Toronto Public Library's two top administrators caused a lapse in the corporate memory that a second Carnegie grant had been awarded.

It was not until 1911 that board member A. E. Huestis, following up on conversation he had with Bertram during a visit to Toronto (in 1908!), asked for confirmation of the \$50,000 grant. Bertram quickly instructed Carnegie's financial agent, R. A. Franks, to "send Mr. Huestis copy of Mr. Carnegie's promise of May 8, 1908, for two additional branch Library Buildings for Toronto, costing \$50,000. The papers are with you."<sup>20</sup>

Perhaps Franks never sent the information to Toronto or possibly Huestis did not pass on the details to library staff, for it would be another three years before Toronto officials again approached Carnegie about the 1908 grant. This time it was George Locke, appointed in November 1908 as James Bain's successor as chief librarian, who made the inquiry. In his 22 June 1914 letter to the Carnegie Corporation of New York (the foundation that administered the Carnegie grants from 1911), Locke explained that he had only just become aware of the \$50,000 "standing to the credit" of the TPL Board during a recent conversation with Walter R. Nursey, Ontario Inspector of Public Libraries. Locke justified his ignorance of the 1908 grant: "The untimely death of both Dr. Bain and Mr. Ryerson had caused this

to be overlooked." He went on to present his "tentative plan for a group of three Branch Libraries in three faroutlying portions of our city where the need is particularly pressing."<sup>21</sup>

This was the first letter in what was to be an eight-year correspondence between Locke and James A. Bertram, Carnegie's private secretary from 1872 to 1914 and as well secretary of Carnegie Corporation of New York from 1911 to 1934. The correspondence is fascinating for it not only documents library history, but it also reveals the personalities of these two very different men. Sometimes the letters were stormy, especially during the war years, but ultimately the two developed a mutual respect and admiration, with Locke suggesting Bertram join him for a round of golf, and the no-nonsense Bertram paying Locke his form of effusive praise "I have your note of October 20th [1922] and recognize what a leader you are."<sup>22</sup>

James A. Bertram (1872-1934) was, like Carnegie, a Scot. It was he who, in the final analysis, decided if a library grant was to be awarded, and applicants soon found it necessary to understand and cope with his idiosyncrasies. They discovered he was a stickler for precedent, and methodical and systematic in all things. He never used a paragraph when a sentence would do. A word often served to take the place of a sentence. Moreover, like Carnegie, he used a simplified spelling such as "wel" for well and "hav" for have.



Chief Librarian George H. Locke

The charismatic and eloquent George H. Locke (1870-1937) was born at Beamsville, Ontario and attended Victoria College, University of Toronto. He taught at Toronto, Chicago and Harvard universities and was dean at the School for Teachers, Macdonald College, Montreal, before becoming Toronto Public Library's second chief librarian at the age of 38. He immediately found that Bertram did not take kindly to the suggestion that Carnegie funds had been waiting for Toronto to use them. On 24 June 1914 Bertram replied, "It is not exactly correct to say that there is an amount of \$50,000 standing the credit of the Public Library Board of Toronto. . . . a promis neglected for six years must assume to hav lapsd."<sup>23</sup> Bertram suggested that Toronto's mayor or city clerk reapply for the grant.

On 20 November 1914 Locke forwarded the necessary documentation to Bertram, noting that the \$50,000 was to be used "for the erection of three Branch libraries in out-lying districts of the City where there are settlements of persons born in other Countries and who are isolated from the social privileges of those nearer the centre of the city."<sup>24</sup> On 25 November 1914, Bertram sent a letter to Locke, using his unusual form of spelling, in which he approved the grant, provided certain conditions were met:

When we see plans which can be approved for each of the three Branch Library Buildings referred to, and hear that the sites have been purchased and paid for so that titles to same are vested in the community for account of the libraries, arrangements will be made for paying the \$50,000 by this Corporation which was heretofore promised by Mr. Carnegie for the three Branch Library Buildings required for Toronto.<sup>25</sup>

Locke did not respond, and the ever-efficient Bertram sent a follow-up letter on 8 January 1915: "I send you herewith copy of our letter of November 25th 1914. It has not heretofore been acknowledged by you and I am afraid that it has gone astray."<sup>26</sup> Locke quickly responded with a handwritten note sent the same day, apologizing for his oversight and explaining, "Mrs Locke<sup>27</sup> has been dangerously ill and I fear that yours being a specially important letter it was laid aside for personal attention."<sup>28</sup> He proceeded to acknowledge Bertram's approval. Toronto Public Library could now begin to plan and build branches for the Wychwood, High Park and Beach neighbourhoods.

### **Site problems**

Further complications arose because Locke and the TPL Board insisted that sites for the proposed branches be deeded to them and not held by Toronto City Council. Bertram favoured city ownership, explaining his views quite directly in a letter to Locke on 17 May 1915. "Our usual rule is to have title to the library site vested in the community, i.e., the city, for account of the library. If the deed specifies that the site is for library purposes there is no danger of anything going wrong. We are averse to Mayors and City Councils being kept out of library matters as if they were not to be trusted."<sup>29</sup>

Locke's desire to have the library board hold the deeds may have stemmed from the controversy that arose in February 1915 over the Kew Gardens site for Beaches Library. (Beach pioneer Joseph Williams opened Kew Gardens in May 1879 as a "pretty pleasure ground." The City of Toronto paid him \$43,200 for the property in 1907, where it created a public park.) As previously noted, one city alderman had advocated having a public library branch in Kew Gardens as early as 1912.

On 13 January 1915, Toronto Board of Control agreed to the library board's request for a site on the south side of Queen Street East near Lee Avenue, and recommended this to City Council.<sup>30</sup>

Thus it must have been a shock for Locke and the library board to learn on 2 February 1915 that Parks Commissioner Chambers was "strongly opposed to the placing any building of that nature in park lands" and that the City's Parks Committee was going to request to the Board of Control that another site be found for the proposed Beaches Library. Alderman Maguire told the Daily News of 3 February 1915: "They can get as good a site for the money anywhere down there."<sup>31</sup>

Despite the opposition, on 10 February 1915, Toronto City Council voted (17 for and four against) to approve the Board of Control's Report No. 4 recommending the branch library be located in Kew Gardens fronting Queen Street. A proposed amendment that would have this location subject to the approval of the parks commissioner didn't get through.

However, a week later, on 17 February 1915, a petition "fully a yard long" was presented to the Parks Committee. One hundred and sixty people signed the petition protesting the establishment of the

library in Kew Gardens. William E. Nugent, an agent for the Sun Life Association and a resident at 975 Queen Street East (at the corner of Waverley Road less than a block from the proposed library location), represented the petitioners. He stated that of the 170 people approached, only 12 had refused to sign. As a result, the Parks Committee forwarded another motion to Council requesting it find a different site for the library. Other groups in the community were also in opposition. On 22 February 1915, Toronto City Council received a communication from the president of Beach Association opposing the location of the proposed branch library building in Kew Gardens. Alderman Yeomans presented the petition "from W. E. Nugent and others praying proposed branch library building be not located in Kew Gardens."<sup>32</sup> Once again, there was an attempt to make the location of the library subject to the approval of the parks commission (Alderman Ryding seconded by Alderman Yeomans) but this motion was narrowly lost by a majority of one - 12 yeas and 13 nays.

A few days later, the Evening Telegram ran a picture of the proposed site in Kew Gardens, noting the controversy was over and the location had the "double advantage of being picturesque and central."<sup>33</sup> Ultimately, the matter was resolved when Bertram accepted the TPL Board's position on deeds, which were turned over by the City to the TPL Board in September 1915. Funds for Wychwood, High Park and Beaches libraries were approved in the same month.

### **Library design: the ideas of James Bertram and George Locke**

Initially the design of Carnegie libraries was a matter of local choice. However James Bertram became frustrated with inefficient layouts, wasted space and unnecessary embellishments such as domes and balconies. In 1911, he issued a memorandum, "Notes on the Erection of Library Buildings," with four recommended plans; later two more plans were included. Bertram's primary concern was to have "effective accommodation . . . consistent with good taste."<sup>34</sup> To him a Greek temple design, or a modification of it, was a cause of waste. Specific details Bertram recommended included:

A rectangular building;

- One storey and basement with an outside staircase;
- One large room subdivided by bookcases;
- A basement four feet below grade;
- Ceiling heights of nine feet for the basement and 12 to 15 feet for the main floor;
- Rear and side windows seven feet from the floor to allow continuous wall shelving;
- A lecture room as a subordinate feature in the basement.<sup>35</sup>

Many of these specifications would soon be adopted in the plan for the three branch libraries at Toronto. Other notable differences between Bertram's designs and the earlier Carnegie libraries were open wall shelving instead of a stack room to separate books from the public, and no separate reading rooms (which required more staff to supervise). The only separate rooms were to house building functions such as heating. Bertram also discouraged Beaux Arts classical styling and monumentalism of many early Carnegie libraries.



George Locke also had definite ideas about library buildings. Once he became chief librarian at Toronto Public Library in 1909, he introduced library procedures and services that would influence library design. The “open shelf” system, adopted by the TPL Board in 1909, gave library users full access to the collections at branch libraries. Readers were allowed to browse the books and not have to request them from staff. This eliminated the need for separate stack rooms. Conversely, one result of Locke’s hiring of Lillian H. Smith in 1912 to organize children’s services in Toronto, was the creation of separate rooms in branches for boys and girls. Like Bertram, Locke favoured simple one-room libraries that would allow the main function, “the intermingling of books and people, to occur unimpeded.” He explained his ideas in the May-June 1926 issue of *The Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada*:

Take away all unnecessary decorations, over-mantels, over-counters, partitions, mock marble pillars and large hall-ways, and plan a well-proportioned room with books on the wall, small and few tables, a simple charging desk (not a great counter), simple lighting as near the books and the people as possible and a combination of colours in the walls that makes for harmony. Take away all the 'Silence' signs and let the people come and talk about books in an atmosphere of social happiness.<sup>36</sup>

### **Wychwood, High Park and Beaches branches: “a departure from the traditional library”**

Wychwood, High Park and Beaches branches, which opened in 1916 with identical layouts, represented “a decided revolt in style from the traditional library architecture,” according to George Locke. They consisted of two large rooms. The ground floor was for the children’s library and community meetings, and the main floor was for the adult collection and reading room. Bookshelves lined the walls and there was no separate stack room. Construction provided this description of the “Toronto Branch Library” at High Park in November 1917:

The other two, the Wychwood branch, and the library at Kew Beach Gardens, are identical to this building in plan, and vary in elevation only in the material used. While similar in architectural character, they are distinct as a type and represent a departure from the traditional library, both in style and arrangement, being designed after the fashion of the Collegiate Grammar School of the seventeenth century in England.<sup>37</sup>

In his initial letter to Bertram on 22 June 1914, Locke enclosed a sketch of his proposed plan for the three new branches that had “been made to bring to the minds of the people of the outlying districts some recollection of their Scottish and English village type of architecture. These Suburbs are largely working classes from the countries mentioned.”<sup>38</sup>

On 29 September 1914, Bertram turned his attention to Locke's plan, noting that, while Toronto had talked about three branch libraries in outlying parts of the city, it had sent “only one plan as a colored drawing showing one large room on the ground floor and a hall, etc. in the basement.” Bertram followed by saying “This plan appears to be very satisfactory.”<sup>39</sup> Locke responded the following day with a letter o

Bertram saying "the coloured drawing sent you was a tentative general plan made by me and submitted as the kind of building suitable for the new portions of our fast growing city. As it was out of the ordinary I wanted to submit it first to you before I go on with the working drawings."<sup>40</sup>

The floor plan of Wychwood branch (copied for High Park and Beaches) illustrates the simplicity of the design. A staircase at one end of the room (leading to the lecture hall/children's room below) and a fireplace at the other were the only elements that intruded on a symmetrical layout of wall shelving, with large and small reading tables arranged as needs dictated. Locke also wanted to make the libraries suited to the community, another innovative idea. Locke described his concept of library architecture in some detail in his 13 March 1915 letter to Bertram, outlining his plans for Wychwood, the prototype branch:

I am enclosing with this letter a description of the building which I propose to erect. May I point out to you that it is an almost entire departure from the traditional library building, but, as I mentioned in a former letter to you, I am doing this as a result of my experience in having regard to the kinds of people who are living in this locality. These are people from the Old Country, accustomed to see in their country village's architecture of the 17th Century, and I am proposing to reproduce some of that Collegiate Grammar School architecture of the time of Edward 6th, and adapted to modern requirements.<sup>41</sup>

Locke went on to note, "I am fortunate in having for this purpose an architect whose work is distinguished on this Continent for its adaptation of English architecture to American requirements." The architectural firm Locke had engaged was Eden Smith and Sons, described in his letter of 28 July 1915 as "one of the best firm of architects in the whole of Canada."<sup>42</sup> (Locke also knew Eden Smith socially, for both were members of the Arts and Letters Club of Toronto, formed in 1908.)

### **Eden Smith and Toronto Public Library**

Eden Smith (1859-1949) is considered to be "one of Toronto's most influential architects of the late-19th and early 20th-centuries."<sup>43</sup> Born at Birmingham England and receiving some architectural training there, Eden Smith's architecture was strongly influenced by the design principles of William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement. After immigrating to Canada in 1885 or 1886 and an unsuccessful stint at homesteading in Manitoba, Eden Smith moved to Toronto in late 1887. He soon joined the architectural firm of Strickland and Symons starting as a draftsman and, upon completion of his apprenticeship in 1890, promoted to be an architect. He embarked on a solo career in 1891 before forming a brief partnership with architect Eustace C. Bird (1895-1899). Beginning in 1906, he practiced with one or both of his two sons, Harry and Ralph, with the firm variously known as Eden Smith and Son/Sons.

Eden Smith introduced Arts and Crafts principles to Toronto in his plans for the Church of St. Thomas on Huron Street in 1892. His design aesthetic was applied in his early residential commissions, many for fellow artists, in the High Park neighbourhood and Wychwood Park. In those settings, he presented the distinctive roofs, mixtures of materials, tall chimneys and bands of small-paned, often leaded, casement

windows - features associated with his practice that later would appear in the three branches he designed for Toronto Public Library.

In all, Eden Smith's office produced approximately 270 buildings between 1891 and 1925, of which about 60 currently are recognized on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties. Many are local landmarks, including the Studio Building (1913) associated with the Group of Seven, and Toronto Housing Corporation's Spruce Court (1913) and Riverdale Courts (1914) - the first public housing projects in Canada. However, the majority of Eden Smith's buildings on the Toronto heritage list are his residential projects. In his definitive study, *Eden Smith: Toronto's Arts and Crafts Architect*, W. Douglas Brown credits him, with developing "an original Arts and Crafts house appropriate for Toronto and southern Ontario – a process that influenced domestic architecture in Ontario over the next quarter century and helped provide the groundwork for twentieth century housing design"<sup>44</sup>

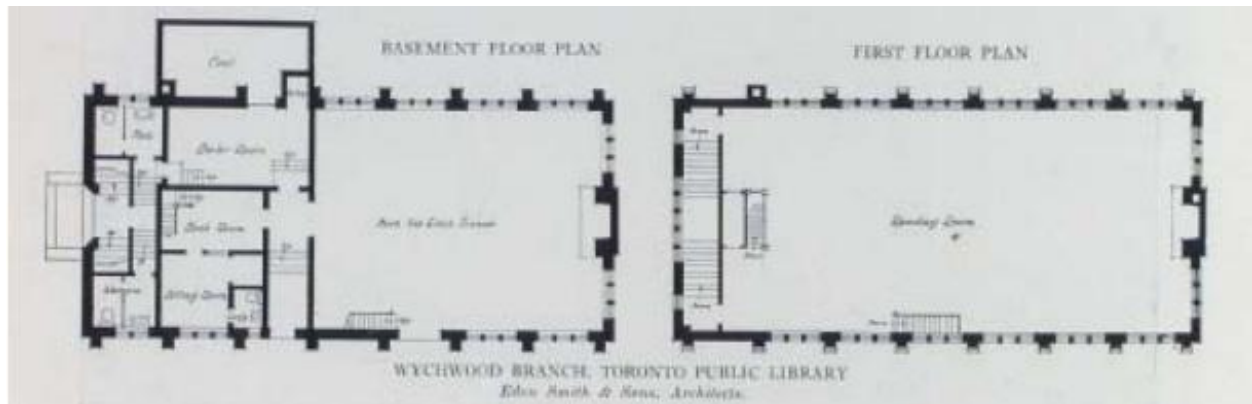
Eden Smith's "Description of a Branch Library Building" was included in George Locke's March 1915 letter to the Carnegie Corporation of New York:

Beaches Branch, Reading Room, ca. 1923

The Reading room and Library, 70 feet long by 30 feet wide, raised about 7 feet above the ground level, is really a large hall with an open timbered roof, the walls above 19 feet high to the springing of the roof. The ceiling 29 feet at its apex. The stairs from the [street] entrance lead into this hall from under a gallery screen. At the other end of the room is a large stone fireplace. Bookshelves line the walls on each side to a height of about eight feet. Above the shelving all round the room transomed and mullioned windows provide plenty of light. The wall between window will be finished with a brick facing. Below this hall is the basement floor 10 feet in height, 4 feet of which height is below ground containing as well as lavatories, boiler and other necessary rooms, and Assembly room 30 x 30 with independent entrances.<sup>45</sup>



Beaches Branch, Reading Room, ca. 1923



**Eden Smith's floor plan for Wychwood Branch, copied at Beaches and High Park branches of Toronto Public Library**

Eden Smith also outlined the materials he planned to use:

The basement is to be faced outside with grey stone to the height of the main floor. The external walls above this will be tapestry brick. The detail work, doors and windows, transoms, and mullions of gray stone like the basement. The roof is to be covered with gray green slate. The casements are to be glass with clear glass in lead bars.<sup>46</sup>

He explained the rationale for his plan:

An adaptation of English 17 Century collegiate style of Architecture was chosen for this building because the plan of its requirements and the material, brick and stone, found most convenient to use in erecting it are not at all appropriate for a monumental type of building of Greek or Roman origin.<sup>47</sup>

In 1926, Locke recalled he encountered some scepticism from local citizens about the style of the new libraries:

When I was planning the Wychwood Branch I was reproached by a gentleman in this city who said, "It doesn't look like a library." I asked him what a Library looked like. He said he didn't know but he thought it ought to have columns in front. I found out that he had seen the so-called Library of the Early-Carnegie days with columns in front, rooms on either hand and a stack room in the back centre. Indeed it was an architect who told me a Branch Library, indeed any library, should be classical in style. I couldn't find out from him whether if was Greek or Neo-Greek he favoured.<sup>48</sup>

### **Budgeting for Wychwood, High Park and Beaches branches, 1915**

George Locke soon realized the difficulties of building three libraries for \$50,000. In his letter of 13 March 1915 he told Bertram that Wychwood Branch was ten feet longer than originally proposed, lengthened at the Board's direction for "general proportion." This would increase the cost to \$20,000 - Thus ends my dream of putting up three buildings such as this for \$50,000" - since he refused to compromise the design. Locke also said he would go ahead because building costs in Toronto were about 20 percent lower than they had been for the previous six years.

This set the stage for another round of wrangles with Bertram. On 19 March Bertram instructed R. 9 A. Franks, Treasurer of the Carnegie Corporation, to pay to "Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Sums as needed to pay for the erection of two Branch Free Public Library Buildings, as work progresses to the extent of Thirty-thousand Dollars (\$30,000). Voted – February 6, 1915."<sup>49</sup> Bertram informed Locke on 22 March 1915 that the Carnegie Corporation would approve the plans for the first branch (Wychwood) at \$20,000 provided they had title to the site and the other two could be completely built and ready to occupy for a total of \$30,000. On 25 March, Locke reiterated his difficulty in planning the library he wanted and staying within the budget. "I should like very much if I could duplicate this building in the other two sections of the City, but I cannot see how I can save another One Hundred Dollars, even, on the price that I have got."<sup>50</sup> Locke was well aware of neighbourhood rivalries and protectiveness and went on to explain: "As you can understand it, the other two sections of the City will not be satisfied now with a building less imposing and commodious than the one I put up for Wychwood, especially as the land on which I am to put these other buildings, is worth a great deal more than the Wychwood land."<sup>51</sup>

Locke hoped Bertram would consent to the TPL Board supplementing the grant amount so that the other two buildings could be constructed as duplicates of Wychwood. He also noted that it was impossible that a building that would have cost \$27,000 a year ago could be put up for \$16,500. Bertram's 27 March letter clearly stated there was no change in the conditions stated in his 22 March letter. Locke then spent the next several months trying to find ways to reduce costs so that all three branches could be built for \$50,000. In his May 15 letter, Locke reported he had "managed to trim down a few things which enable us to squeeze in the three, I hope."<sup>52</sup> His 28 July 1915 letter was even more optimistic, with plans for Beaches and High Park the same as Wychwood but "scaled down a little":

At last we are in a position to commence our building. As I figure it out now, we shall be able to erect our buildings within the amount promised by the Carnegie Corporation, namely \$50,000. ... We have been able to make certain substitutions in material, fittings and heating, so that we shall be able to erect a building for what looks now like \$17,500. This includes the architect's fees.<sup>53</sup>

A call for tenders for the Beaches and High Park branches appeared in the Globe on 31 July 1915: tenders would be received up to noon on 10 August 1915. On 7 September 1915, Locke informed Bertram that the tenders were within the \$50,000 limit owing primarily to "the price of building has been lowered about 25 per cent, on account of the War" and also "in a small measure to our desire to economize."<sup>54</sup> Bertram was satisfied that the three branches could be constructed with the grant, and directed Locke to apply to the treasurer of the Carnegie Corporation for the funds. Norman Gash, TPL Board chairman, summarized the cost savings in the library's 1916 annual report:

The Board was also fortunate in letting the contracts on advantageous terms before the scarcity of labor had become acute and the cost of construction had materially increased, and the buildings have been completed practically within the estimates therefore, their total cost being \$50,000.<sup>55</sup>

## Cornerstone laying, 29 October 1915

On Friday 29 October 1915 at 5:00 p.m., Mayor Tommy Church laid the cornerstone for Beaches Library, noting it was "well and truly laid." In his speech, Mayor Church commented that "the east end had been somewhat neglected in the matter of public libraries, but the temporary branch in the Beach had clearly shown the demand for an up-to-date circulating library." He also noted "This library is beautifully situated in the park. I trust that arrangements can be made whereby patrons can take the books into the park to read during summer months."<sup>56</sup> The cornerstone laying was attended by many local residents as well as members of city council, the library board and library staff. (The cornerstone for the nearly-identical High Park Branch was laid on the same day.)

## Progress, 1915 and 1916

Having been so remiss in the past, Toronto Public Library kept the Carnegie Corporation of New York well informed of their progress in erecting these three branches, with the TPL Board's Secretary-Treasurer E. S. Caswell sending monthly reports. In November 1915, he reported that cornerstones for the both High Park and Beaches branches had been laid on the same afternoon, while Wychwood Branch was well on its way to completion. He also explained how efficiently the construction was being supervised, something that must have pleased Bertram. "Our own Engineer, a very capable man," Caswell noted, "is acting as inspector on all three buildings, and keeping a very close watch. We purchased an automobile for him so that he could cover the distance between the different buildings with no unnecessary loss of time."<sup>57</sup> Norman B. Gash noted in the 1916 TPL Annual Report, "that the interior woodwork and the finishing was done by our artisan employees, and the general work was under the supervision of our capable engineer, Mr. Butler."<sup>58</sup>

On 14 September 1915, Bertram asked Locke to send photographs, plans and elevations of the completed buildings. A year later Bertram wrote again to Locke, noting that, as yet, no pictures or plans had been received. "George Locke's reply, September 14, 1916," claim the authors of *The Best Gift; A Record of the Carnegie Libraries in Ontario* "is one of the most emotional letters in the Canadian Carnegie Library Correspondence":<sup>59</sup>

May I draw your attention to the fact that we are handicapped by the fact that we are at war; that we have enlisted 350,000 men to defend the Mother Country; that an enlistment of that number of men severely cripples industry and other building operations in our Country. Perhaps I can put it more graphically to you when I say that if the United States mobilized five million men and sent them Abroad it would be just the same proportion as we are doing in this Country. I need not say to you that we have made every effort to complete the buildings in as short a time as possible, and I think when you see the plans of the pictures you will agree that we have spent every cent of the money in a very economical and efficient manner. I have been more careful of your money than if it were my own, and I hope that some day members of your Corporation will come to Toronto and see the result of your liberality.<sup>60</sup>



There is no record of Bertram's response. Locke took on extra duties during the war in addition to being chief librarian at Toronto Public Library, a biography noted in 1923: "During the last eighteen months of the Great War, he was associate director of Public Information for the Dominion."<sup>61</sup>

### **Opening, 13 December 1916**

Norman B. Gash, chairman of the TPL Board, reported the openings of the three branch libraries in the *TPL Annual Report*:

The Wychwood Branch was opened on Saturday evening, April 15th; the High Park Branch, Tuesday evening, October 31st, and the Beaches Branch, Wednesday evening, December 13th, 1916. A large number of citizens from the surrounding district assembled on each occasion, and appropriate speeches were delivered by members of our Board, representatives of the City Council and of the Public School Board, and other prominent citizens.<sup>62</sup>

Toronto newspapers praised the new branch at the Beach. The *Toronto Star* described it as a "charming ome for books and readers" and exclaimed, "The man, woman, or child who could not be allured into reading by such surroundings may be regarded as hopeless."<sup>63</sup> The newspaper even saw the building as an antidote to the war in Europe: "While our minds and hearts are shocked by the savagery that has desolated Belgium and Serbia, we may renew our hope and strength by contemplating civilization in its highest form."<sup>64</sup>

#### **Beaches Branch at Kew Gardens, 1916**

### **Connection with Shakespeare**

Wychwood, High Park and Beaches Library have been associated with William Shakespeare. This connection appears to have been the inspiration of George Locke, rather than Eden Smith, and was made after the libraries were built. Neither Locke nor Smith mentioned that the new libraries would be designed as tributes to Shakespeare in their correspondence with the Carnegie Corporation of New York during 1914 and 1915. In March 1915, Locke stated: "I am proposing to reproduce some of that Collegiate Grammar School architecture of the time of Edward 6th, and adapted to modern requirements." Eden Smith commented at the same time that his design was an "adaptation of English 17 Century collegiate style of Architecture." (King Edward VI<sup>65</sup> died in 1553, 11 years before William Shakespeare was born in 1564; the playwright lived until 1616.)

By late 1916, however, Locke had established an association between Shakespeare and the three new branch libraries. On 15 December 1916, a connection was made in the Globe's report of the opening ceremonies at Beaches Branch:

The new public library at Kew Beach, Toronto, modelled after the grammar schools of Shakespeare's day, is open. . . .Mr. George H. Locke, Chief Librarian, described the work done and the aims of the institution. 'In such a type of room Shakespeare studied and read.'<sup>66</sup>

Similarly the Toronto Star commented, "The model is that of an English grammar school of the sixteenth century, such as Shakespeare might have seen."<sup>67</sup> Locke continued to make the connection between the new libraries and the playwright in TPL's 1916 *Annual Report*:

The outstanding event of this year was the opening of the three Branch Libraries, for which money was furnished through the generosity of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The opening of the Wychwood Branch, the first of the three, was planned very opportunely to occur upon the Tercentenary, even to the month, of the death of Shakespeare. Opportunely it was because this building was designed after the fashion of the Collegiate Grammar School of the Seventeenth Century in England, such a building as might be seen in Shakespeare's country in his day.<sup>68</sup>

In another section of the 1916 *Annual Report*, Locke stated:

The Tercentenary of Shakespeare was celebrated in fitting manner in the Shakespearean building known as High Park Branch at a meeting of the librarians of the City, when addresses were made by Mr. J. Davis Barnett, of Stratford, whose collection of Shakespeareana is unrivalled in this country, and by Captain Malcolm W. Wallace, Professor of English Literature in the University of Toronto.<sup>69</sup>

Locke was an enthusiastic and articulate promoter of libraries and education. The tercentenary of the death of Shakespeare happened to coincide with the opening in Toronto of three branch libraries, designed in the style of approximately the same time period when Shakespeare lived. Perhaps Locke saw the two events as cross-promotional opportunities to encourage both an appreciation of Shakespeare and the use of public libraries.

The connection between the Eden Smith-designed libraries and Shakespeare has been perpetuated in more recent times. On 24 December 1988, journalist and local historian Donald Jones floridly wrote about "Toronto's gifts to Shakespeare."

In Toronto, to mark the centenary, the city gave one of the most glorious gifts in its history, and commissioned the building of three magnificent structures in the style of the Elizabethan halls of Shakespeare's time. ... When the halls were completed they were fashioned into three major new public libraries and named the Wychwood Library, the High Park Library and the Beaches Library. They commemorated the three centuries that had passed since Shakespeare's death.<sup>70</sup>



## Epilogue

Beaches Branch continues to be an important local landmark. In 1979, it was listed on Toronto Historical Board's Inventory of Heritage Properties, adopted by City Council on 1 October. It has been renovated twice. The first renovation was in 1980 by Stinson Montgomery Sisam Architects. The second, in 2004, was a joint venture by Phillip H. Carter Architect and Kingsland & Architects Inc., with the library closed on 19 April and reopened on 20 January 2005. In both renovations, an addition was added to the west façade of the building. An historical plaque about Beaches Branch, Toronto Public Library, erected by Heritage Toronto, was unveiled at the branch on 30 September 2006.

## Sources

This paper is a revision of a talk presented by Barbara Myrvold at a meeting of the Beach and East Toronto Historical Society held at Beaches Branch, Toronto Public Library on 12 December 1991, as part of the branch's 75th anniversary celebrations.

## Primary Sources

Carnegie Corporation of New York. Carnegie Library Correspondence Toronto (CLC). Reel no. 32.

Toronto City Directories, 1910-1916.

Toronto Public Library. *Annual Reports*. 1909-1916.

## Secondary Sources

Beckman, Margaret, Stephen Langmead, and John Black. *The Best Gift; A Record of the Carnegie Libraries in Ontario*. Toronto and London: Dundurn Press, 1984.

Brown, W. Douglas. *Eden Smith: Toronto's Arts and Crafts Architect*. Mississauga, Ont.: W. Douglas Brown, 2003.

Campbell, Mary and Barbara Myrvold. *The Beach in Pictures*. Toronto: Toronto Public Library Board, 1995.

Campbell, Mary and Barbara Myrvold. *Historical Walking Tour of Kew Beach*. Toronto: Toronto Public Library Board, 1995.

"Toronto Branch Library," *Construction*, (November 1917): 390-1. Locke, George H. "The Toronto Public Libraries." *The Journal of The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada*, 3 (May-June, 1926): 87-103.

Toronto Public Library. *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to the Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-Jan. 1945*. 2 reels.

## Endnotes

---

<sup>1</sup> Ontario Department of Education's 1905 annual report for public libraries shows East Toronto's revenue included \$100 from "other sources." On 11 December 1905, East Toronto Council voted to give the Library Board \$100.

<sup>2</sup> *Toronto World*, 12 March 1910 in Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*.

<sup>3</sup> *Toronto Star*, 16 December 1916, 8.

<sup>4</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*.

<sup>5</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1910, 7.

<sup>6</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1911, 6.

<sup>7</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1911, 7.

<sup>8</sup> Scarborough Beach Amusement Park operated on a 40 acre-site south of Queen to Lake Ontario between Leuty and MacLean avenues from 1907 to 1925.

<sup>9</sup> *Toronto World*, 6 December 1912 in Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*.

<sup>10</sup> "Will probably abandon Church Street Library," *Toronto Globe*, 11 September 1912, p. 8.

<sup>11</sup> *Toronto World*, 6 December 1912 in Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*.

<sup>12</sup> "Two library branches for east end of city," *Toronto Globe*, 14 June 1913, p. 8.

<sup>13</sup> *Toronto Telegram*, 17 December 1913 in Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*.

<sup>14</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1914, 19

<sup>15</sup> *Toronto World*, 1 April 1914 in Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*.

<sup>16</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1914, 20

<sup>17</sup> Carnegie Corporation of New York, Carnegie Library Correspondence, Toronto, reel no. 32 [CLC], James Bain to Andrew Carnegie, 23 July 1907.

<sup>18</sup> CLC, Bertram to Bain, 8 May 1908.

<sup>19</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1908, 5.

<sup>20</sup> CLC, Bertram to Franks, 10 January 1911.

<sup>21</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 22 June 1914.

<sup>22</sup> CLC, Bertram to Locke, 29 October 1922.

<sup>23</sup> CLC, Bertram to Locke, 24 June 1914.

<sup>24</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 20 November 1914.

<sup>25</sup> CLC, Bertram to Locke, 25 November 1914.

<sup>26</sup> CLC, Bertram to Locke, 8 January 1915.

<sup>27</sup> George Herbert Locke was married to Grace Isabel Moore on 25 August 1898 at Toronto. (Ontario Marriage Registration 002034) He was then 28 years old and a professor living at Cambridge, Massachusetts. She was a daughter of John Thomas Moore, a Toronto business leader, who in 1889 began developing his 100-hectare property as a subdivision for affluent Torontonians, which he named "Moore Park" after himself.

<sup>28</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 8 January 1915.

<sup>29</sup> CLC, Bertram to Locke, 17 May 1915.

<sup>30</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*. The report stated that the 100-foot site was to cost the library board \$15,000, but this would have in violation of the Carnegie grant which stipulated that the local municipality was to provide sites for libraries.

<sup>31</sup> *Toronto Daily News*, 3 February 1915 in Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*

- 
- <sup>34</sup> Beckman, Margaret, Stephen Langmead, and John Black, *The Best Gift; A Record of the Carnegie Libraries in Ontario* (Toronto and London: Dundurn Press, 1984), 114.
- <sup>35</sup> Beckman, Margaret, Stephen Langmead, and John Black, *The Best Gift; A Record of the Carnegie Libraries in Ontario* (Toronto and London: Dundurn Press, 1984), 114.
- <sup>36</sup> George H. Locke, "Some warnings in regard to the planning libraries," *The Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada*, 3 (May-June, 1926): 96.
- <sup>37</sup> "Toronto Branch Library", *Construction* (November 1917): 390.
- <sup>38</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 22 June 1914.
- <sup>39</sup> CLC, Bertram to Locke, 29 September 1914.
- <sup>40</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 30 September 1914.
- <sup>41</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 13 March 1915.
- <sup>42</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 28 July 1915.
- <sup>43</sup> [www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/committees/te/te060913/it033.pdf](http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/2006/agendas/committees/te/te060913/it033.pdf) - (September 18, 2006)
- <sup>44</sup> W. Douglas Brown, *Eden Smith: Toronto's Arts and Crafts Architect* (Mississauga, Ont.: W. Douglas Brown, 2003)
- 1.
- <sup>45</sup> CLC, Eden Smith, "Description of a Branch Library Building," in Locke to Bertram, 13 March 1915.
- <sup>46</sup> CLC, Eden Smith, "Description of a Branch Library Building," in Locke to Bertram, 13 March 1915.
- <sup>47</sup> CLC, Eden Smith, "Description of a Branch Library Building:" in Locke to Bertram, 13 March 1915.
- <sup>48</sup> George H. Locke, "The Toronto Public Libraries," *The Journal of The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada*, 3 (May-June, 1926): 87.
- <sup>49</sup> CLC, Bertram to Franks, 18 March 1915.
- <sup>50</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 25 March 1915.
- <sup>51</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>52</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 15 May 1915.
- <sup>53</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 28 July 1915.
- <sup>54</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 7 September 1915.
- <sup>55</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1916, 6.
- <sup>56</sup> "Mayor used trowel; laid foundation stone of Kew Beach Branch Library," Toronto Telegram, 30 October 1915 in Toronto Public Library, *Scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings, photographs, etc. relating to Toronto Public Library, Dec. 1872-1945*.
- <sup>57</sup> CLC, Caswell to Bertram, 1 November 1915.
- <sup>58</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1916, 7.
- <sup>59</sup> Beckman, Margaret, Stephen Langmead, and John Black, *The Best Gift; A Record of the Carnegie Libraries in Ontario* (Toronto and London: Dundurn Press, 1984), 100.
- <sup>60</sup> CLC, Locke to Bertram, 14 September 1916.
- <sup>61</sup> Jesse Edgar Middleton, *The Municipality of Toronto: a History, vol. 3, The Municipality of Toronto: a History, Biographical and Genealogical* (Toronto: Dominion Publishing Company), 374.
- <sup>62</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1916, 6-7.
- <sup>63</sup> "A new library building," Toronto Star, 16 December 1916, p. 8.
- <sup>64</sup> "A new library building," Toronto Star, 16 December 1916, p. 8.
- <sup>65</sup> Edward VI, son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour, was born in 1537. He ascended the throne at age nine, upon the death of his father. He died of consumption in 1553 at age sixteen having never married.
- <sup>66</sup> "Beaches Library open; building modelled After the Grammar School." *Globe*, 15 December 1916.
- <sup>67</sup> "A new library building, " Toronto Star, 16 December 1916, p. 8
- <sup>68</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1916, 11.
- <sup>69</sup> Toronto Public Library, *Annual Report*, 1916, 14.
- <sup>70</sup> Donald Jones, "Toronto's gifts to Shakespeare," *Toronto Star*, 24 December 1988, M4.