



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: April 23, 2009

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Plaque to recognize two newspapers published in London, the Industrial Banner and the Dawn of Tomorrow
Prepared By:	Historic Sites Committee
Presented By:	Gina Barber
Purpose of Report:	For Decision: Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Library Board accept the recommendation of the Historic Sites Committee to install plaques commemorating two newspapers published in London, the Industrial Banner and the Dawn of Tomorrow.

Background & Review

The Industrial Banner was Canada's first labour newspaper. It began publication in London in 1891, was printed at the London Advertiser Printing and Publishing Company, and was moved to Toronto in 1913. Until 1920, the Banner was edited by Joseph T. Marks, a London tinsmith and founder of the London Trades and Labour Council and the Industrial Brotherhood. The paper advocated for the rights of workers, supported the use of the union label, took a keen interest in municipal politics and encouraged greater public participation in local affairs.

Members of the Historic Sites Committee have met with James Yeomans, manager of Scotiabank at 480 Richmond Street to seek permission to mount the proposed plaque on the south wall of the bank. A plaque in that place would overlook the former location of the Advertiser office during much of the time that the Banner was published in London. Our meeting with Mr. Yeomans was very positive, and we expect that we will receive final permission soon. The following text is recommended by the committee:

The Industrial Banner

Founded in 1891 and printed by the London Advertiser adjoining this site, the Industrial Banner was a monthly newspaper promoting organized labour, education of workers,

political action, the union label, and industrial cooperatives. Edited by Joseph T. Marks until 1920, the Banner was moved to Toronto in 1913, and ceased publication in 1923.

This plaque erected by the Historic Sites Committee of the London Public Library Board, 2009.

The Dawn of Tomorrow was founded in London in 1923 by Christina and James Jenkins as a weekly, and is still published twice a year. Calling itself “The national Negro weekly devoted to the interests of the darker races”, the newspaper carried news of events relating to Blacks, published stories relating to Black history (former LPL Chief Librarian, Fred Landon, was a frequent contributor), and promoted and reported on Black events in Ontario.

Through HSC member, Michael Murphy, the committee has been given permission from David Jenkins, son of the founders, to erect a plaque on the house where the newspaper was printed for many years, 95 Glenwood Avenue. The following text is recommended by the committee:

Dawn of Tomorrow

Founded in 1923 by James and Christina Jenkins (Howson) and for many years printed weekly on this site, The Dawn of Tomorrow was the voice of the Canadian League for the Advancement of Coloured People. The aim of the newspaper was to unify the black population by promoting Ontario events and black success stories.

This plaque erected by the Historic Sites Committee of the London Public Library Board, 2009

Next Steps

The Historic Sites Committee has adequate funds in its account to cover the cost of these plaques.

Upon final approval of the locations the Historic Sites Committee and Library Administration will work to:

- finalize the texts of the plaque;
- arrange for the casting and installation of the plaques; and
- plan and coordinate the unveilings.