

MAY 2018

THE GREEK CANADIAN HISTORY PROJECT (GCHP)

THIS IS IMPACT

[THE CAMPAIGN FOR YORK UNIVERSITY]

liberal arts &
professional studies

YORK
UNIVERSITY
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LEARNING FROM OUR PAST

There is much to be learned from studying our past. Our history can teach us a great deal about where we come from, about the people – whether known or not – who blazed our trail, and about the social, cultural and political factors that have come to represent us. Most importantly, these learnings can lead to a broader and richer understanding of our world today, and serve as a road map for how we should approach the challenges and opportunities ahead.

With more than 250,000 Canadians of Greek ancestry, and a long history of immigration dating back to the 1840s, the Greek-Canadian story is a vital part of our country's anthology, and a vast compendium of knowledge and experience with incredible potential to influence our future.

Since 2012, the **Greek Canadian History Project (GCHP) at York University** has been a vehicle for the preservation and promotion of this history and of the experience of generations of Greek immigrants who are part of the Canadian multicultural community. Our work through the GCHP has centred on the identification, acquisition and digitization of very large collections of historical materials - including photographs, papers, diaries, books and audio-visual multimedia - which illuminate the diverse stories of individuals and groups that make up the collective memory of Canada's Greek community. The GCHP has aimed to capture the diverse experiences that define the Greek-Canadian past and help our country understand the important role it has played in our national identity.

While this project seeks to preserve the primary source documentation of the community, it is also intended to provide online access to a selection of records for use by researchers, scholars, teachers, students and the general community interested in learning more about the Greek experience in Canada. This open and accessible online portal will promote free dissemination of knowledge and scholarship while preserving the original sources in the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections, which will ensure the integrity of the long-term access to material, and a central location for scholarly research. Our goal is to create an infrastructure for the recovery, acquisition, preservation, and accessibility of vital primary source material that documents the experience of Greeks in the Canadian mosaic.

We are indebted to our donors for their tremendous support; they have contributed invaluable historical materials to the GCHP. We are also indebted to financial supporters, including the Hellenic Heritage Foundation (HHF), and to those who are working so hard to make the project a success, including Professor Sakis Gekas and Dr. Chris Grafos, the Clara Thomas Archives team, especially Michael Moir and Anna St. Onge at York University Libraries, and many students. Our Project seeks to integrate the growing collections of sources with historical research, teaching and public history and make York University the hub for Greek Canadian History.

Our efforts over the past six years have spanned a range of dynamic activities and initiatives that not only enhance the GCHP's historic collections and showcase these materials to the local community through innovative events and exhibits, but also provoke challenging questions and spark engaging discussions about the rich cultural history of the Greek-Canadian community.

This report contains details about the GCHP's ongoing impact on the Greek-Canadian community through its extensive archival and public history efforts, examples of the highly valuable contributions and collections of our individual and community partners, and insight into future opportunities on the horizon for the GCHP.

York University is eager to discover the exciting possibilities that await as the Greek Canadian History Project continues to grow and evolve. By building upon the extensive work already underway and expanding our network of support, the possibilities are truly endless.

OUR IMPACT HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.



THE GREEK CANADIAN HISTORY PROJECT

DOCUMENTING THE GREEK IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN CANADA

WHAT IS THE GCHP?

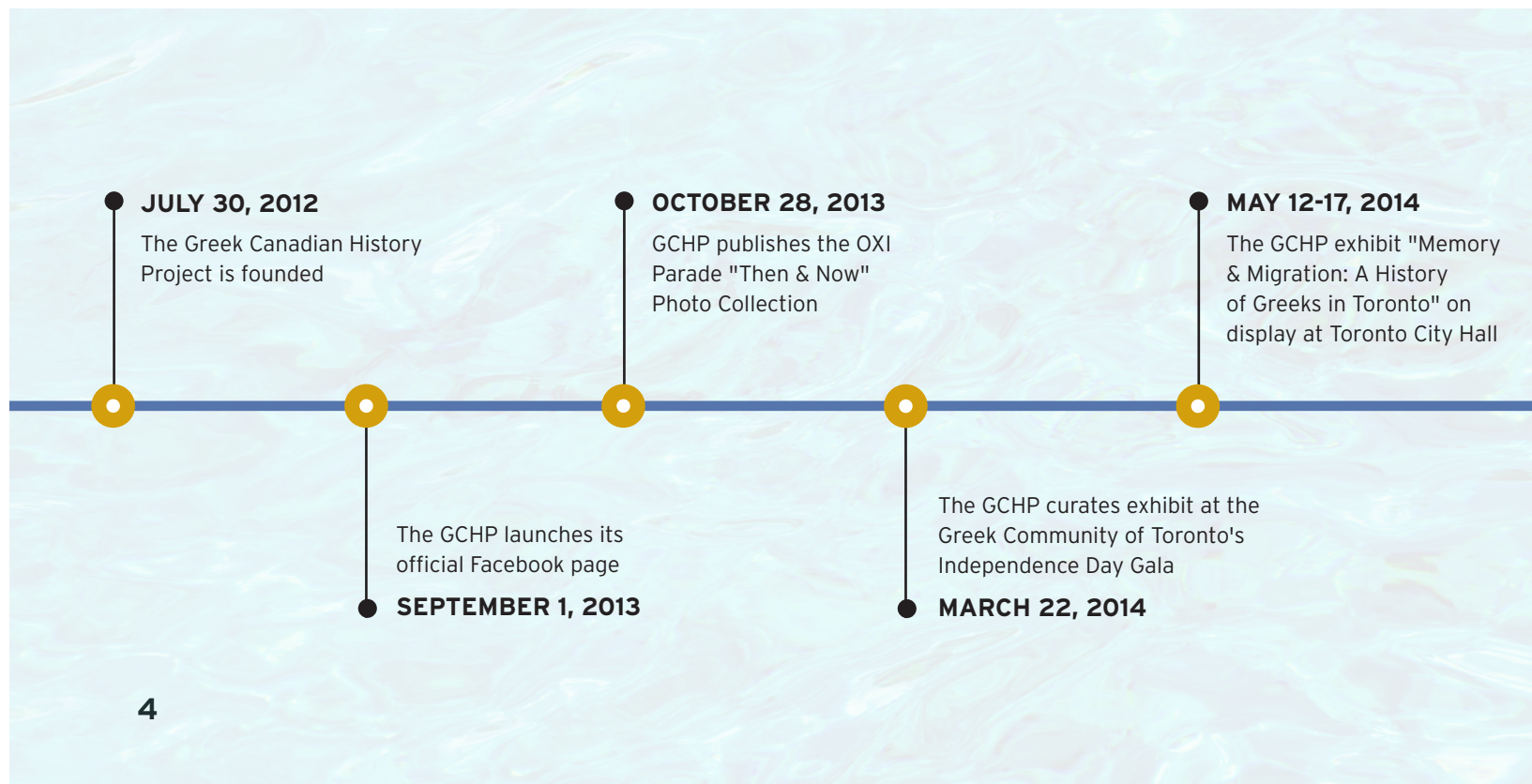
The Greek Canadian History Project (GCHP) is an initiative designed and committed to identifying, acquiring, digitizing, preserving, and providing access to primary source materials that reflect the experiences of Canada's Greek immigrants and their descendants. The collected sources, currently in the hands of private individuals and organizations in the Greek-Canadian community, are placed in the care of the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections at York University Libraries. The Project's co-founders and stewards are Research Associate Dr. Christopher Grafos and Professor Sakis Gekas, the Hellenic Heritage Foundation Chair in Modern Greek History at York University.

HOW THE GCHP BEGAN

The GCHP was initiated in July 2012 when, as a budding PhD candidate and the incumbent HHF Fellow, Chris Grafos began collecting Greek-Canadians' diaries, notes, newspapers and photographs with the intention of compiling a complete history of Greeks in Canada from 1945 until the end of the Cold War. Grafos discovered that items related to Greeks in Canada were being discarded because people did not think it had historical value. He felt that unless something drastic was done, this material was going to become a victim of time and neglect. Grafos began looking into methods of preserving the materials, developing a quickly expanding network of experts, one of whom was Gilberto Fernandes, founder of the Portuguese Canadian History Project (PCHP) at the Clara Thomas Archives. After extensive consultations with Fernandes, who had successfully created a project to preserve and promote Portuguese-Canadian history and culture, Grafos sought to create a similarly strong project that adequately reflected the legacy and impact of Canada's vibrant and important Greek immigrant community. With the PCHP serving as an inspiration, Grafos enlisted the support of HHF Chair, Prof. Sakis Gekas to partner in the formal creation of the Greek Canadian History Project.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

Since the GCHP's inception, its collection has grown exponentially and an increase in activity – both locally and around the world – have changed the way people understand and consume Greek-Canadian history. These efforts are raising the profile of this community's story for generations to come.



GCHP LEADERSHIP



Chris Grafos, Principal Investigator

Chris Grafos completed his doctorate in the Department of History at York University in 2016. His dissertation, titled *Canada's Greek Moment: Transnational Politics, Activists, and Spies During the Long Sixties*, examines Greek immigrant homeland politics during the period of Greece's military dictatorship from 1967 to 1974 in Toronto and Montreal. It carefully considers the internal dynamics of anti-junta activism in Canada's Greek populations, but it also contemplates the meanings of external perceptions, particularly from the Canadian state and Canadian public discourse. The study acknowledges the dominant paradigm of Greek immigrants as unskilled workers however, it demonstrates that this archetype is not monolithic. In many ways, it is challenged by a small number of Greeks who possessed skills to write letters to politicians, create petitions, organize public rallies, and politically mobilize others. At the same time, this dissertation carefully considers Canada's social and political environment and shows how uniquely Canadian politics ran parallel to and informed Greek homeland politics.



Prof. Sakis Gekas, HHF Chair in Modern Greek History

A renowned expert on Modern Greece, Prof. Sakis Gekas studied history in Greece and England and worked at universities in the UK and Italy before arriving at York University. Gekas' research focuses on the history of the Greek state, British colonialism in the Mediterranean and pre-1945 Greek immigration to Canada. He teaches courses on Greek history ranging from 1800 to the present, and focuses on topics such as Greek migration and diaspora, and the impact of colonialism on Hellenic populations of the past.

● DECEMBER 6-10, 2014

The GCHP presents a series of talks in Greece at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and in Athens

● AUGUST 2015

"Memory & Migration: A Photo Exhibit" on display at Broadview Espresso



Students from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki visit the GCHP at the Clara Thomas Archives

● JULY 24, 2014



GCHP's Chris Grafos delivers keynote address at the Toronto District School Board's inaugural Greek Heritage Month

● MARCH 28, 2015



GCHP collaborates with the Greek Canadian Games

● MAY 2016

OUR COLLECTIONS PRESERVING THE PAST

The GCHP seeks to preserve the memories and experiences of Greek-Canadians that reflect both ordinary life and extraordinary moments and people. The Project serves as an information repository that identifies, acquires, digitizes, preserves and provides access to primary source materials reflecting the experiences of Canada's Greek immigrants and their descendants. Our goal is to promote the value of personal collections – items such as papers, diaries, photographs, books, pamphlets, audio and video materials – that contribute to broad understandings of the social, cultural and economic practices of Greeks in Canada.

The materials that comprise the GCHP's collection, which have been donated from individuals and organizations in the Greek-Canadian community, are housed in the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections at York University Libraries.

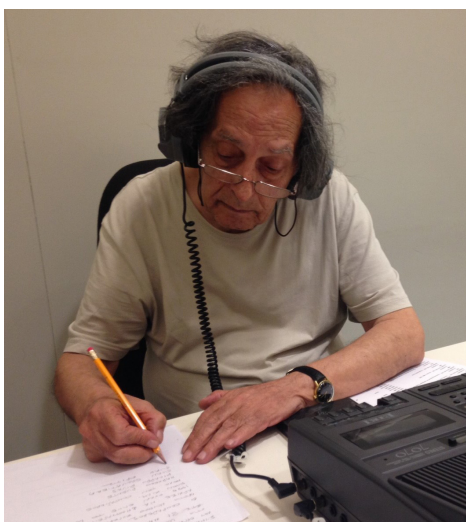


Through the GCHP, I have seen a profound difference in the way people speak about Greek-Canadians. Our photos and narratives have played a significant role in the way people understand and consume Greek Canada, and immigrant Canada in general. People are taking the message seriously. We hope that the GCHP will become fundamental in illuminating the history and events that have shaped the experiences of Greek immigrants in Canada and their descendants."

- Chris Grafos

GEORGE PAPADATOS

The largest donation to date is from George Papadatos, a Greek national who sought refuge in Canada and was active in Toronto's anti-dictatorship movement. The collection (see examples below) includes significant material related to the political and cultural life of Greeks in Toronto and includes speeches, newspapers, posters, audio-visual materials, and organizational materials of anti-dictatorship activity in Toronto during the time period of Greece's military junta from 1969 to 1984. These documents capture political life on Toronto's Danforth Avenue, York University and in other contexts. The collection also documents musical, poetic and other intellectual activity centered on Greek themes in Toronto, including concerts and various other events that display the transnational aspect of Greek immigrant life in Canada.



From left to right:
George Papadatos visiting
the Clara Thomas
Archives (June 2017),
Examples from the
Papadatos collection

CEPHALONIA-ITHACA ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO

This collection is an assortment of documents that traces the organization's proceedings from the mid-1970s forward. While consisting mainly of documents that highlight how the diasporic organization managed its operations and events in Toronto, the collection also includes interesting historical pieces that illuminate how the process of migrating from Greece intersected with the medley of everyday life, pressures of integration, and Canada's growing commitment to multiculturalism. Included in the collection are financial records, mission statements, event details and planning records, organizational correspondence, and other materials related to the Association's affairs.

TRIFON HAITAS

This collection largely consists of audio-visual materials that reveal and document the lives of Greek-Canadians. Since the 1980s, Haitas has used his recording materials to capture some of the Greek community's largest and most important events. He has also amassed a very large interview collection wherein Greek immigrants discuss the events and themes that have shaped their lives. The collection is currently being processed.

TORRY KOUTSOULIANOS - NISYRION ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO, CANADA, "PANAGIA SPYLIANI"

This collection outlines the activities of the Nisyriion Association across North America and includes materials that date back several decades.

GREEK COMMUNITY OF TORONTO

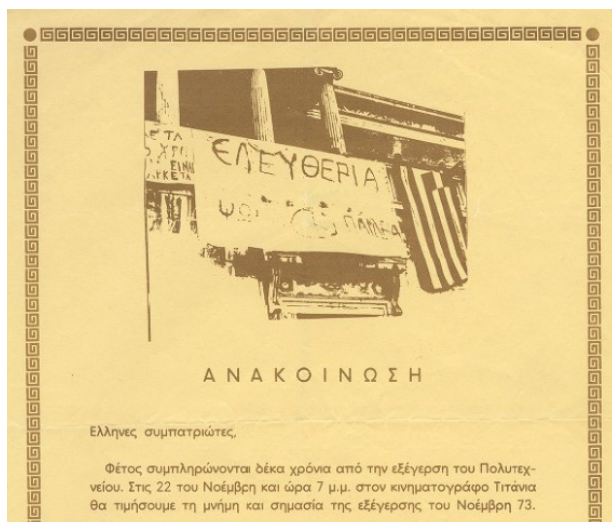
This collection consists of photographic material that document events and individuals related to the Greek community of Toronto over a period of the mid-1980s to the early-1990s. Many significant events are captured in the donation, including various galas, parades and charity golf tournaments.

FRANCIS THEMELIOPOULOS

This donation includes materials related to the Greek school system in Toronto. It also has a resource related to a Toronto initiative seeking to advance issues related to Greek women.

PROFESSOR MICHAIL VITOPOULOS (1948-2018)

Professor Vitopoulos, who passed away in February 2018, arrived in Canada in 1969; he joined York University in 1989 and served as professor of Modern Greek at York for almost three decades. Prof. Vitopoulos donated his substantial library in 2013. This collection of more than 2,000 titles captures the political and literary life of 20th century Greece. There are hundreds of books of literature, history, literary criticism, pamphlets, periodicals and other works, many rare, that speak to the world Greek immigrants came from. The collection has been processed for the Library's catalogue with the invaluable help of Maria Matthaïou, Hellenic Studies student and Sotiria Kalpachtsi, Stavros Niarchos Fellowship visiting student from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2016.





HIGHLIGHTS & MILESTONES

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

As part of fulfilling its mission to promote widespread access to education on topics of Greek-Canadian history and culture to the community, the GCHP has participated in the Community Conversations initiative through the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies. Community Conversations are a series of public events designed to encourage dialogue and discussions on topics that matter and are of keen interest to our diverse community and are held in a variety of locations across the GTA such as cafés, libraries, community centres – anywhere that constructive dialogue can flourish.

To date, the GCHP has played a role in two Community Conversations, with Prof. Gekas serving as host for both events:

JANUARY 31, 2017

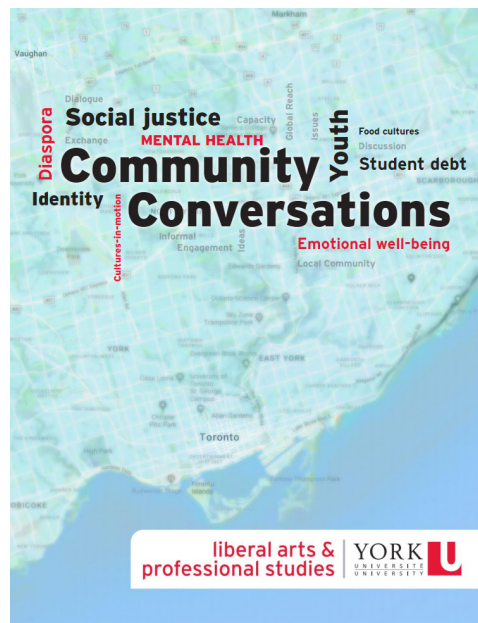
A Nation Divided: The November 1916 Battle of Athens & Greece's Entry to the Great War

This conversation was a public lecture which took place in the Coxwell and Danforth Toronto Public Library. It commemorated the 100th anniversary of the November 1916 Battle of Athens and Greece's entry into the Great War. As the war began to spread, Greece was faced with the choice to remain neutral or to enter the war on the side of those who would best serve its interests. Greece joined the war on the side of the Allies, which was the result of a domestic conflict between Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos and King Constantine I, which temporarily split the country into two separate states. Professor Gekas shared the details and historical significance of this event, while the discussion that followed was centered on the historical impact of the war on Greece, development and conflict.

MARCH 19, 2017

The Greek Immigrant Experience: Then and Now

This discussion addressed a perception in some quarters that Greek-Canadians face challenges that relate particularly to concerns over education, identity, 'Greekness' and Greek language acquisition by second and third generation descendants of Greek immigrants to Canada. To this end, the talk briefly discussed the achievements and challenges of Greek-Canadians, their difficulties and accomplishments since the early 20th century, as well as the issue of Greek history education (including the history of Greeks in Canada). The Conversation invited several notable guests to participate in the discussion, including several key stakeholders from the Greek Community such as City of Toronto Councillor Mary Fragedakis.



GCHP DIGITAL IMPACT

Preserving the collective memory of Greek-Canadians and enabling community access to this memory requires that the GCHP maintain a significant online presence – including both social media and a website – where materials and information can be housed, showcased and shared for the benefit of future generations. The GCHP's primary social media platform is Facebook, which has garnered more than 1,500 followers and achieves an impressive reach of between 1,000 to 6,000 impressions per post.



^ Official rating of Facebook page as of March 2018.

OUR PROJECTS

COMMITTED PROJECTS

MAY - JUNE 2016

Greek-Canadian Historical Exhibition in Athens and Thessaloniki

This exhibition included historical materials from the GCHP collection. In addition, the exhibition also highlighted that many of the world's Greeks live and consume the culture of Greece without living inside the country's geographical boundaries.

MAY 28 - 29, 2016

Greek-Canadian Games

Through this photo exhibit and multi-day history exhibition, the GCHP highlighted education through the lens of Greek-Canadian history. Our introductory lecture and historical exhibit unlocked many forgotten moments of the Greek-Canadian past.

ONGOING

Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Curriculum Development

The GCHP and the HHF History Committee are currently working with a cohort of TDSB teachers in order to construct teaching plans formed from GCHP materials. Recently, a curriculum package was approved which centres on the 1918 anti-Greek riots. The initiative is designed to introduce students to ethnic history in Canada's urban populations. The initiative also allows students to interact with a university archive while working on their projects.

FUTURE PROJECTS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT AND DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Capturing Those Forgotten in History

The GCHP will conduct and record 225 interviews that will be housed on a YouTube style format for the purposes of academic research and teaching undergraduate courses, which may also be used for high school projects. Participants will be selected to highlight the diversity of Greeks across boundaries of gender, class, generation, education and occupation. We have also received a commitment from the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota to share resources for a digital storytelling campaign which allows individuals to record themselves or their family members and submit answers to screened questions.

DIGITIZATION

Making History Accessible to Researchers and Students

The GCHP would like to continue its digitization efforts, focusing on collections that are most desirable by researchers and the public. Currently, there is an online collection which has received attention from many online communities. We plan to use research and graduate assistants to help translate our historical collections into the digital age.

ONLINE EXHIBITS AND MOBILE APPLICATION

Creating a Usable Past

In addition to our digitization efforts, the GCHP plans to create online exhibits that uncover themes and events that have vanished from our collective memory. Together, with our affiliate, the Portuguese Canadian History Project at York University, we seek to create an interactive historical map of Greek and Portuguese neighbourhoods in Toronto. The map will be a part of an online collection produced for the Virtual Museum of Canada.

CONFERENCE AND PUBLICATION ON DIASPORAS IN CANADA

Together with our partners at the Portuguese Canadian History Project and our close ties with Italian-Canadian scholars in Toronto, we are planning to host an academic workshop at York University, highlighting our collections and examinations of diasporic groups in Canada. The papers circulated at the conference will be used for the submission of an edited volume on the topic of diaspora and ethnic history in Canada.

HISTORICAL WALKS WITH HERITAGE TORONTO ●

History in Toronto's Streets

The GCHP has been approached by Heritage Toronto to coordinate historical walking tours of Greek neighbourhoods in Toronto. The historical walking tour will introduce and analyze important elements of Greek immigrant life in Toronto predating the mass immigrant cohort of the 1960s and 1970s.

TORONTO MIGRATION MEMORY COLLECTIVE

History in Toronto's Streets

Our long-term objective is to contribute to the creation of a long overdue Toronto Museum of Immigration. An important piece of our advocacy strategy is the organization of a Toronto Migration Memory Collective (TMMC), bringing together ethnic representatives, public historians, scholars, politicians and other stakeholders interested in raising the profile of migrants in Toronto's and Canada's public memory and national consciousness.

TRAVELLING EXHIBITS ●

GCHP on the Road Across Canada and Greece

After seeing our past events, we plan to continue our successful model of disseminating historical knowledge through public exhibitions. We have received calls by individuals from Canadian cities across the country, including Halifax, Montreal, London, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Victoria.



From top to bottom: Easter Service at Maple Leaf Gardens (May 3, 1964), March from Queen's Park to 100 University, Greek immigrants at Malton (February 4, 1955 or April 2, 1955)



● = Examples of these projects are featured in pages 12-15.

PUBLIC HISTORY EVENTS

The GCHP is consistently working to expand and enhance its profile through the local community, and its ongoing mission of bringing the Greek-Canadian community in close contact with materials and content that demonstrate and celebrate the Greek-Canadian immigrant experience. To this end, there have been a number of exhibitions and events that have taken place in and around Toronto that have put the Project's work at the forefront in a variety of creative, engaging ways.



Clockwise from top left: Memory and Migration: A History of Greek Immigrants in Toronto, A Night to Remember Manos Loizos: Highlights of the 1981 Toronto Tour, Memory and Migration: A Photo Exhibition, Christopher Grafos presenting at the Toronto District School Board Inaugural Greek Heritage Month, Toronto District School Board Inaugural Heritage Month

MAY 12-17, 2014 ●

Memory and Migration: A History of Greek Immigrants in Toronto

This exhibit celebrated 150 years of Greeks in Toronto through historical artifacts such as photographs, newspaper clips, books, documents and brochures. This display is the culmination of a decades-long collection belonging to Greek Torontonian, Michael Mouratidis.

NOVEMBER 19, 2014

History Matters: The Toronto 1918 Anti-Greek Riot War, Intolerance and Identity

The presentation by Chris Grafos took place in collaboration with ActiveHistory.ca and Heritage Toronto. The August 1918 anti-Greek riot, led by returning war veterans, was one of the largest instances of violence in Toronto's history. This presentation by Chris Grafos charts the lasting legacy and broader consequences of intolerance towards Canada's immigrants.

MARCH 28, 2015

Toronto District School Board Inaugural Greek Heritage Month

The Greek Canadian History Project was invited to the First Annual Greek Heritage Month Festival celebrated by TDSB. Chris Grafos, co-director of the GCHP gave a keynote address at the event. The presentation included a selection of materials collected as part of the project and highlighted important historical events related to the Greek immigrant experience.

JUNE 7, 2015 ●

A Night to Remember Manos Loizos: Highlights of the 1981 Toronto Tour

George Papadatos, who was visiting Toronto after his significant donation to the GCHP in December 2014, put on a wonderful event in collaboration with the GCHP in order to commemorate the 1981 North American tour of composer, Manos Loizos. His presentation included photographic material which captured many compelling moments of the 1981 performances, but also entailed more personal images of the entire group that travelled with Loizos and his accompanying musicians as they visited cities with large Greek populations.

AUGUST 1-31, 2015 ●

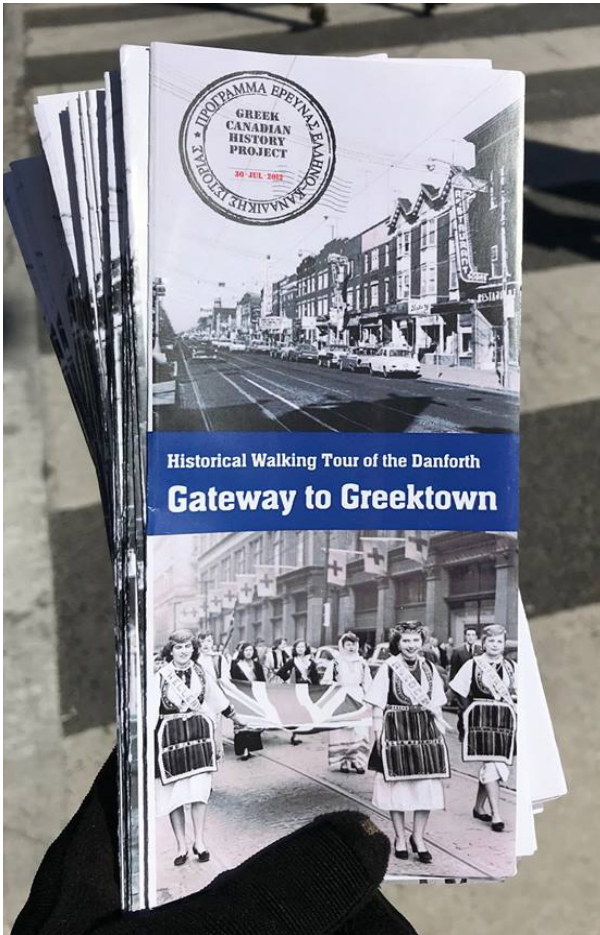
Memory and Migration: A Photo Exhibition

The GCHP was invited by Broadview Espresso to participate in a month long collaboration. The images selected for this exhibit were chosen to illustrate elements of public life of Greek-Canadians in Toronto. Moments of family reunification, public protest, mass religious gatherings and cultural celebration are documented through the lens of an outsider looking in. The images were also selected because of their ability to highlight moments of the Greek immigrant past that have begun to fade from the city's collective memory.

MARCH 24, 2016

Tradition Overseas: A Spotlight into the Greek Community of Toronto

In celebration of National Greek Independence Day, the Hellenic Students' Association, York University Libraries Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections Online Exhibits, and the Greek Canadian History Project proudly presented this exhibit venerating the Hellenic presence in Toronto post World War II. In this exhibit, the photographs displayed were of Greek-Canadian immigrants celebrating their Hellenism in parade walks, theatrical representations of Greece's motion for independence from the Ottoman Empire, and an array of traditional Greek costumes worn during this holiday.

"The walking tour will bring out the things you can't really highlight in a history textbook: the sounds, the smells, the everyday life of Greeks in the city. We're going to get beyond what is typically known as the Greek immigrant experience in Toronto."

- Chris Grafos



Clockwise from top left: Canadian Historical Association Conference, Poster for the Final Performance: The Trojan Horse 1974, Myseum: Intersections, 'Arrivals and Departures' Exhibition, Brochure for Myseum: Intersections, 'Arrivals and Departures' Exhibition

MARCH 31, 2016

From Difference to Danforth: The Long History of Greeks in Toronto

The Greek Canadian History Project had the pleasure of presenting at Terraview-Willowfield Public School as part of the festivities taking place during the Toronto District School Board's Greek Heritage Month.

NOVEMBER 24, 2016

Athens Polytechnic Uprising Academic Night

The GCHP collaborated with the Hellenic Students' Association at York University for their upcoming Academic Night which commemorated the Athens Polytechnic Uprising. Co-Founders of the GCHP, Chris Grafos and Sakis Gekas presented some of the archive collections on the history of the anti-dictatorship movement in Toronto and York University.

APRIL 20-22, 2017

50 Years After: New Approaches to the Dictatorship of the Colonels

In Athens, Prof. Sakis Gekas presented his paper titled, *Immigrant activists. The anti-dictatorship struggle in Canada.*

MAY 2017

Canadian Historical Association Annual Conference

Prof. Sakis Gekas presented a paper titled, *The first Greek Canadians. Immigration from the Ottoman Empire and Greece, 1890s-1930s.*

MAY 20, 2017

First Thessaloniki International Greek-Diaspora Symposium

Prof. Sakis Gekas, together with Prof. Tassos Anastassiadis from McGill University presented a paper titled, *Immigration and Language in Canada. Greeks and Greek-Canadians.* The paper was on the Immigrec Project which focuses on the history of Greek immigration to Canada.

MAY 29-31, 2017

Canadian Historical Association Conference

Prof. Sakis Gekas presented his paper titled, *The first Greek Canadians. Immigration from the Ottoman Empire and Greece, 1890s-1930s* at Ryerson University.

JUNE 17, 2017

Final Performance: The Trojan Horse 1974

This unique event illuminated forgotten aspects of Toronto's Greek immigrant past and the Danforth. A screening of a previously undiscovered video that highlighted an important moment from the "Trojan Horse", the Danforth's "scene" for political activism during Greece's military dictatorship.

MARCH 2018 ●

Myseum: Intersections, 'Arrivals and Departures' Exhibition

In collaboration with the Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections, York University, and Myseum of Toronto, organized the historical walk *Gateway to Greektown: A Historical Walking Tour of the Danforth.* Chris Grafos offered four historical walks and participants enjoyed the memorable experience to learn about the evolution of one of Toronto's most recognized neighbourhoods.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

In addition to the GCHP's efforts to promote Greek-Canadian history in the local communities, we are also highly active in bringing Canadian perspectives on Greek topics, including the unique Greek-Canadian immigrant experience, to the international community in Greece and beyond. Through these engaging activities – including an array of presentations, workshops and exhibitions – the GCHP has not only been successful in building connections between experts in both Canada and Greece where ideas, scholarship and opportunities for collaboration can freely flow, but also in sharing the vivid entanglement of Greek and Canadian history through the lives of immigrants to our country. Overall, the GCHP's reception in Greece has been overwhelmingly positive, with our message resonating with audiences and providing impetus for sustained intellectual and cultural exchange between Canada and Greece.

DECEMBER 2014

Symposium – The Greek Diaspora: Greek and Canadian Perspectives

This two-day symposium was hosted by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and included a keynote lecture by Prof. Sakis Gekas. Audience attendance throughout the event was very strong, while the opening addresses by the speakers listed below emphasized the importance of exchanging ideas across international boundaries. Speakers included:

- » **Yiannis Boutaris**, Mayor of Thessaloniki
- » **Pericles A. Mitkas**, Rector of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- » **Pantelis Petmezas**, Honorary Consul of Canada at Thessaloniki
- » **Dimitris Mavroskoufis**, Dean, Faculty of Philosophy, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor, School of Philosophy and Education
- » **Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou**, Professor Emerita, Philosophy of Science, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, President, Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies
- » **Marilyn Lambert-Drache**, Associate Vice-President International, York University, Associate Professor of Linguistics, Department of French Studies, York University

As part of the symposium, the GCHP presented a lecture titled, *The Making of an Archive: Find a Home for Greeks in Canada*, which outlined the Project's history and its vision for collecting, maintaining and promoting Greek-Canadian stories both in Canada and around the world. The lecture was presented by Prof. Gekas, Chris Grafos and Kali Petropoulos, PR coordinator for the GHCP. It was followed by a vibrant discussion between the panelists and the audience, with comments and questions directed towards the presenters underscored by strong interest in and support for the GCHP's mandate and a desire for further dissemination of immigrant histories.

DECEMBER 2014

A Glimpse into Greek Immigrant Life in Toronto – 1864

Following the symposium, the GCHP was also invited to speak at the Canadian Institute in Greece (CIG), a privately-funded, not-for-profit organization that promotes research in fields relating to Greece's heritage through its academic and archaeological programs, through the provision of accommodation and library facilities in Athens, as well as through the provision of fellowships and internships for Canadian students. Professor David Rupp, director of the CIG, began the evening with a few opening remarks that introduced the audience to the GCHP speakers. The lecture, titled *Memory and Migration: A Glimpse of Greek Immigrant Life in Toronto, 1864-Present*, spawned an interesting discussion about the cross-pollination of people, ideas and culture between Canada and Greece, and was concluded by a lively reception.



INAUGURAL GREEK CANADIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

We are proud to announce the inaugural Conference on Greek Canadian Studies is taking place May 3-5, 2018.

CONFERENCE FOCUS

A central theme of the conference will be how to define Greek Canadian Studies. The conference will feature individual papers or sessions that are relevant and contribute to any aspect of Greek Canadian Studies from a breadth of academic fields. We welcome papers that present work – scholarly or artistic – which is not ‘merely’ produced by Greek Canadians, but includes Greek Canadian content and addresses issues relevant to the Greek Canadian experience.

Comparative and interdisciplinary approaches are particularly encouraged, especially in comparison to Greek American and Greek Australian Studies; while Greek communities in Canada are not necessarily comparable to those in the United States or Australia, scholars working in Greek Canadian Studies may find similarities with Greek American or Greek Australian Studies.

The conference will also showcase the research project “Immigrec” on the history of Greek immigration to Canada from the 1950s to 1970s, funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

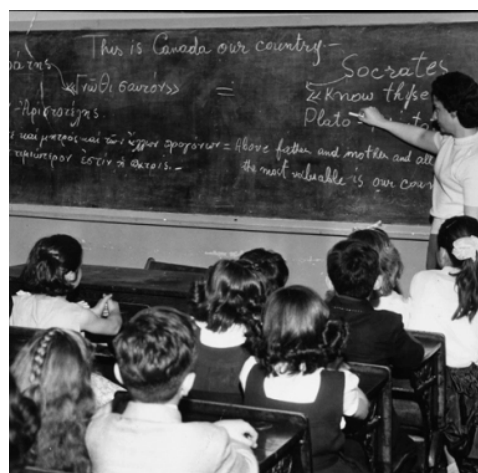
KEYNOTE LECTURE

We are delighted that Professor Thomas W. Gallant, Nicolas Family Chair of Modern Greek History and University of California, San Diego, will give the keynote lecture on the making of the documentary ‘Violent August’ about the anti-Greek riots in Toronto on August 1918.

FUNDING

Graduate students are particularly encouraged to apply; the conference will try to cover expenses for their travel and accommodation.

The conference is funded by Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University, the Immigrec Project and the Hellenic Heritage Foundation.



From left to right:
Reg Towers, “Ethnic Groups : Greeks,” York University Libraries | Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections online exhibits

THE STAVROS NIARCHOS SUMMER SCHOOL

Thanks to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Canada-Greece Fund, a delegation of 10 students and one professor from the Aristotle University of Thessaloníki (AUTH) were welcomed to York for a two-week initiative designed by York International. The program had a strong learning focus on Canadian multiculturalism and the Greek diaspora in Canada.

The visiting students worked alongside 12 York student volunteers as they were treated to a wide range of academic and cultural experiences on York's campus and across the Greater Toronto Area, including lectures, tours, interactive workshops and an exclusive introduction to the GCHP by second-generation Greek-Canadian Chris Grafos. They learned about various topics, from astrology to geography to anthropology; had lunches and dinners with York's senior leadership; and visited Toronto cultural landmarks like the Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Distillery District and Greek Town on Danforth Avenue, a major settlement area of early Greek immigrants to Toronto. Throughout their stay, the students were also asked to showcase what they were learning, delivering excellent presentations and stimulating rich dialogue among the group.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Summer School had a profound impact on the visiting students, both academically and personally.

"I met people from across the globe, participated in extraordinary lectures and presentations, delved into the history of my people in Canada and created strong bonds with my fellow visiting students and the students and professors at York."

- Mariza Tzouni, AUTH student

By exposing the students to a range of academic disciplines through various activities, it broadened their understanding of these fields and their distinct approaches to studying them. Several students remarked that their experience influenced their focus for future studies at the Masters and PhD levels, inspiring them to rethink their thesis or career path and explore new possibilities.

The students were beyond impressed by the University's investments in Hellenic studies, as well as the amount of financial support available for students in Hellenic studies and for students from Greece to study at York.



From top to bottom: Students from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki at York University for the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Summer School in August 2014.



THE IMMIGREC PROJECT

The Immigration and Language in Canada: Greeks and Greek-Canadians (Immigrec) Project started in January 2017 and will continue until January 2019.



This two-year long collaboration between York University and the Universities of McGill, Patras and Simon Fraser was made possible due to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Research Grant.

This \$1 million grant, of which \$165,000 will come to York for the study of Greek immigration and language in Toronto as well as Ontario and Manitoba, is the first large-scale research project that will map the history of Greek language and immigration in Canada.

This project aims to explore the history and language of Greek immigrants in Canada and elucidate their connection to the social and cultural history of the country. It will contribute to the study of Greek transatlantic immigration and to the understanding of ethnic diversity in Canadian society. Historians and linguists from the four universities will record and study the memories and stories of Greek immigrants who came to Canada between the 1950s and 1970s. The interviews conducted will be in digital audio format and will be deposited in the Clara Thomas Archives at York University.

This is a long overdue project and its findings and results will:

- » Contribute to our understanding of Greek-Canadian history in major and innovative ways and advance the research agenda and collections of the Greek Canadian History Project.
- » Facilitate the digitization and collection of the interviews collected in the 1970s and deposited (in cassette form) with the Multicultural History Society of Ontario.
- » Train several undergraduate students in the collection of data for the mapping of Greek presence and its change over time by creating a digital map of Greek businesses in Toronto.
- » Lead to the creation of a virtual museum of Greek immigration to Canada and contribute to the history and understanding of the ethnically diverse Canadian society.
- » Attempt to develop interdisciplinarity among historical, sociological and linguistic research in order to fill this gap in Greek and Canadian history and provide a fully-fledged analysis of both the historical and sociolinguistic characteristics of Greek Canadian communities.
- » Move a step beyond the standard practice in linguistic and historical research by producing groundbreaking deliverables in connection with the development of digital humanities that will ensure the sustainability of the results.
- » Train and benefit from the research assistance of two former HHF Fellows, Elaina Lampropoulos (MA in History) and Peter Milonas (PhD student in Social and Political Thought), and graduate of Hellenic Studies Major and current MA student and former President of the Hellenic Students Association, Christina Ioannides.

To accomplish our goals, new technologies will be used in the collection of data in order to make them easily accessible to anyone interested in exploring the different historical, social and linguistic aspects of Greek-Canadian communities. The deliverables of the project are expected to raise public interest in Greek-Canadian history and provide a long-lasting point of reference for educational and social purposes.

The project confirms the strong partnership with and the continuing support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for our teaching and research activities; it will also confirm the leading role of York, the HHF Chair and the Greek Canadian History Project as one of the places that do innovative work on the history of Greeks in Canada.

OUTCOMES

Virtual Museum

The main deliverable of the project will be a Virtual Museum. This online portal will encompass the Greek-Canadian immigrant experience from Greece to Canada. One will be able to follow individual immigrant trajectories from the departure point to the arrival one. The Virtual Museum will unfold Greek history in Canada by providing the following:

- » Access to timelines, interactive maps and historical commentary
- » Archival databases and links to relevant sources; primary sources that document the Greek-Canadian immigrant experience and the communities under investigation
- » Oral and visual material that will illustrate the social and cultural ethnic life between 1949 and 1979

Electronic database

The “living narrative” of the immigrants' experience will be accessible through a database for educational, academic or other purposes. The aim is to have an ever-expanding database, which will facilitate users in locating the material according to basic research criteria and categories: gender, place of origin, date of arrival, locus of settlement, type of labour etc. These categorizations indicate the common routes of immigrants in Canada, while allowing ample space for the study of regional and other differentiations.

Documentary

An independent byproduct of the Virtual Museum (and especially of the oral testimonies' collection) will be a short documentary (45-60 minutes) on the Greek-Canadian immigrant and ethnic experience. This documentary will incorporate visual material and oral testimonies collected by the project and will offer a narrative supplementing the logic and scope of the Virtual Museum.

Webpage

A webpage containing information about the project – such as the work plan, the work flow, recent events and publications that are not subject to copyright restrictions – will be designed and developed from the very beginning of the project.

Collection development

A selection of collected oral and written pieces will be stored in digital form. Digital photos and videos describing events and characterizing features of the Greek-Canadian communities will also be collected and stored.

Scientific dissemination

The members of the research teams will present their work in internationally recognized scientific journals and conferences. Three talks have already been approved for presentation in peer reviewed conferences. An honours and graduate student research seminar will be held at McGill and York Universities with students actively working on the archival data collection, thus participating in the collective project while pursuing their individual research. A PhD Dissertation on contact issues involving Greek and English will be carried out by Vasiliki Mouchtouri, a PhD student at the Department of Philology of the University of Patras, under the supervision of Professor Angela Ralli.



From top to bottom: Greek Displaced Persons Arrive at Union Station (April 22, 1950), March from Queen's Park to 100 University, Greeks (March 25, 1955)





LOOKING FORWARD

We would like to thank our many donors of valuable materials and financial resources, for supporting the GCHP and creating impact in these communities and at York University. For us, the importance of preserving the history of our Greek-Canadian community for future generations and showcasing it to the public is more than a research agenda; it is a passion. This is why the GCHP seeks to play a pivotal role in this vision. We aspire to cultivate inspiration and excitement around the future of the Greek Canadian History Project. We continue to invite new contributions of all kinds, to help sustain and grow the project and to see it thrive.



yorku.ca/impact

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