

## Advance Publicity for “North Etobicoke Bus Tour”

North Etobicoke was mostly farmland after World War 2, although there were a few settlements such as Thistletown that date back to the early 1800s. Starting in the late 1940's the fertile fields became fields of houses with subdivisions such as Rexdale and Kipling Heights. There were also innovative social experiments such as the dedicated seniors' housing at West Acres which opened in 1957 and Warrendale where in the 1960s emotionally disturbed children could be treated in a family-like setting. This will be a tour that visits the old, the new and the innovative aspects of the North Etobicoke community.

Richard Jordan is a former President of the Etobicoke Historical Society and a former **Toronto Star** local history columnist. His feature articles on historical subjects have also appeared in the **Saturday Star** and the **Sunday Star**. He says, “I like to look at a neighbourhood and imagine how it changed through time – who once lived there and how they lived.”

The photos below show: (left) the Grubb family properties in Thistletown. Consisting of two houses joined at one time by a covered walkway, the home to the left is the oldest house in Etobicoke. We will be visiting it on our tour. And (right) 60 Esther Lorrie Drive with its fountain in 1961. The height of the apartment buildings in North Etobicoke was limited to the length of the fire department's ladders!

(Photos courtesy of (left) the Etobicoke Historical Society and (right) the Archives of Ontario)

