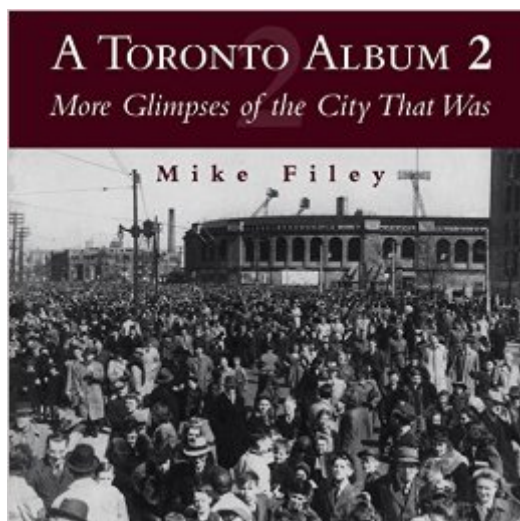


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A Toronto Album 2: More Glimpses Of The City That Was (No.2)



Synopsis

Winner of the 2013 Heritage Toronto Award of Merit A Toronto Album 2, companion edition to Mike Filey's immensely popular original album, is a photographic journey through bustling Toronto from the late 1930s to the early 1970s. Among the 100-plus photographs is a quartet that shows the remarkable changes to Toronto's skyline over a half-century. Others capture the 1939 royal visit, steam trains in their twilight years, the evolution of the Hospital for Sick Children, a look at Christmas past, and glimpses of a few landmark buildings we weren't smart enough to keep. A Toronto Album 2 is a keepsake Torontonians will treasure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mike Filey is well known for his weekly newspaper columns and many books about Toronto's past. It is obvious that he has access to archives that give him an inexhaustible source of photographs from the city's past. While photography became an invention of the 1860's ;don't expect to find anything in this book dating back before the 1940's, except for a couple of photos. The history of Toronto, if one were to look at it from this book, seems to be of little more than street cars, the building of the subway, a couple of disasters such as Hurricane Hazel, Construction of highways and shopping malls, a couple of landmarks such as Maple Leaf Gardens, the Exhibition, the CN Tower, a bit about the city during WWII, few old gas stations, etc. Filey can hardly be faulted for not including more exciting, imaginative, or even interesting photographs, for the simple reason that Toronto has never been, nor is even today, a city that conjours up much in the way of a city with a spirit, filled with interesting events, excitement, or much of anything else that gives a city character, spirit, culture, or

the things that make a city distinctive; such as one thinks of when imagining cities like St. Louis, San Francisco, New Orleans, Washington, Chicago, Montreal, Vancouver, Quebec, Calgary, New York, etc. There have been a couple of times when it appeared that the city might come out of its doldrums, such as when Ontario Place, and the CN Tower were built, but Toronto remains a city that can't even decide what to do with a natural asset like Toronto Islands, or even its location on Lake Ontario. Actually, there were more imaginative uses of these assets a half century ago; but the planning and use of these resources has gone backward, rather than forward.

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