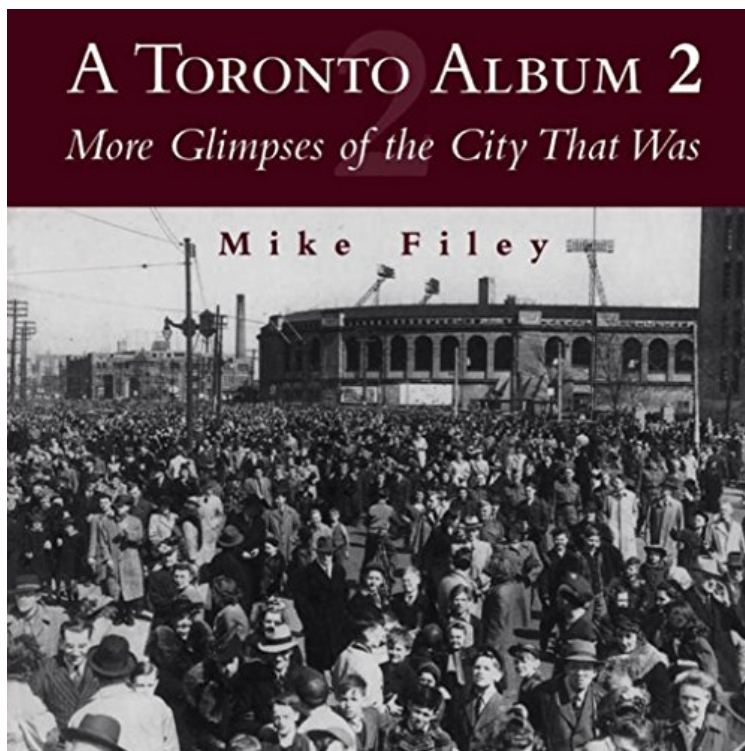


## A Toronto Album 2: More Glimpses of the City That Was: No.2

Mike Filey

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**Mike Filey : A Toronto Album 2: More Glimpses of the City That Was: No.2** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Toronto Album 2: More Glimpses of the City That Was: No.2:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. ... years and I read it for many years (I like learning about the history of Toronto)By Teena in TorontoMike Filey had a column in the Toronto Sun for about 30 years and I read it for many years (I like learning about the history of Toronto). I've read all his books where he compiles some of his columns. In this book, Filey includes over 100 photographs with a description of what the picture is and what was going on at the time.He starts by showing Toronto's skyline in 1925, 1932, 1970 and 2002. Wow! What a change! The book also includes pictures and descriptions of:\* Toronto's ladies\* The Toronto Transportation Commission\* Hurricane Hazel\* The Notorious Boyd Gang\* The CNE\* Toronto's sports facilities\* Toronto's contribution to the war effort\* Toronto's motion picture theatres\* Buildings that have been demolished\* Royal visits to Toronto\* Toronto Island\* Toronto's rail lines in days of old\* Traffic problemsFiley mentioned the Avon Theatre. When I moved to my 'hood in 2001, there was a rent-to-own store with a marquee above the doorway on the NW corner of Dovercourt/Queen Street W. A few years later, Starbucks took it over.The building was constructed in 1887. The ground floor contained a fruit market, with apartments above it. It remained a retail outlet until 1915, when Childrsquo;s Theatre opened on the premises. This theatre lasted only a year and then it became Kingsquo;s Hall and Kingsquo;s Playhouse Theatre, operated by Mr. King Hyman. In 1950, it became the Avon Theatre, a 325 motion picture theatre.Even though it was published in 2002, it was an interesting book because the pictures of older Toronto were great. If you live in Toronto or are from

Toronto, you should check it out. Blog review post: [...] 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Toronto seems to be more of a city with a Past --but what happened? By Jerry Guild 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 conjures 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. The reason for this has to be that the politicians, planners and developers have simply lacked the imagination and more than that, the ability, and maybe even the collective will, needed to develop a vibrant, exciting, world class city. At the present time, Toronto is continuing to stagnate. The city is shabby, the traffic is in Gridlock, Mass transit is in a mess, nothing of any consequence has been developed, except condos and highrises, and the things that were built decades ago have fallen into disarray, such as the Ex and Ontario Place. While all this goes on, the city has been unable to attract any world class events, and the elected politicians are even overchallenged occupying themselves with bicycle racks and lanes, plastic bags, ridiculous solutions to Hot Dog vendor carts, graffiti by-laws, and on and on. And would you believe it, the city are now congratulating themselves with an inspired solution to the lack of public toilets---portable paid toilets. This is even more inspired than what they came up with to celebrate the city's Bicentennial --A big birthday cake with candles, placed on top of the washroom structure in front of City Hall. The Mayor must have been proud to sit in his office and enjoy the view, of watching the tourists and people admiring that piece of work!! Hey Mike; why not put that photograph on the cover of your next book? It is not my intent to fault Filey for his attempt to give us an interesting look at Toronto's past. He does the best with what he has had to work with; too bad the present and future doesn't look much better.

A companion edition to A Toronto Album, this is a photographic journey through bustling Toronto from the late 1930s to the early 1970s.

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. (Toronto Sun) When Mike Filey writes a book, history buffs prick up their ears. (Where Magazine, February 2003) About the Author Mike Filey, popular Toronto historian, is a member of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and past member of the Heritage Toronto Board. In addition to "The Way We Were," Mike's regular column in the Toronto Sunday Sun, he is the author of many books on Toronto, including A Toronto Album: Glimpses of the Way We Were, The TTC story, Discover and Explore Toronto's Waterfront, I Remember Sunnyside, and the Toronto Sketches series.