

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

William Lyon Mackenzie: Rebel. Printer. Mayor.

Toronto Metropolitan University's Creative School Students have hijacked a 1840's printing press with modern 3D-printed plates, forgotten newspaper mastheads, and a "Then & Now" map, turning the historic Mackenzie House – Toronto's first mayor, William Lyon Mackenzie's final home - into a time-bending print lab just steps from Yonge and Dundas. Come pull a print of Toronto's first rebel mayor and check out centuries of city history in one visit!

Toronto – July 16th, 2025

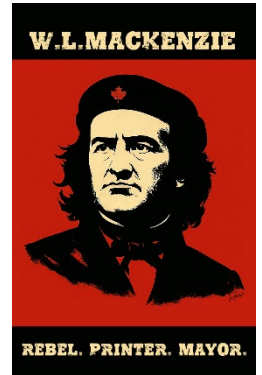
Working closely with experts at municipal historic site and museum *Mackenzie House*, a team of TMU's Creative School students have restored artifacts and ancestors of 1800's Toronto for the city's "At Home in Toronto" exhibition running at municipal historic sites. Using contemporary graphic-industry techniques like 3D printing, digital illustration and UV-inkjet reproduction, this team up helps enable the public to explore this fascinating period in the city's history. These collaborative projects focus in particular on the media dominance of newspaper publications at the time, written and published by historic personalities such as:

- **William Lyon Mackenzie**
Toronto's (controversial) first mayor, Leader of the Upper Canada Rebellion and publisher of *The Colonial Advocate* and the *Toronto Weekly Message*.
- **Mary Ann Shad Cary**
The first Black woman newspaper publisher in North America, founding *The Provincial Freeman* (a widespread abolitionist paper).
- **Henry Bibb**
Born into slavery, Bibb escaped and founded *The Voice of the Fugitive*.

On display now in the Mackenzie House gallery space, projects feature 3D printed plates of said figures which have been designed by Graphic Communications Management (GCM) student Kieran McGlade specifically to printable on the authentic 19th century Albion iron hand printing press housed in the period accurate Newsroom at the rear of Mackenzie House. While hand-carved wood and lead type has given way to 3D printed plastic, the resulting prints are just as detailed and vibrant as traditional methods!

Prints of key 1830 - 1860 newspaper mastheads, reproduced by Creative Industries graduate Megan Quan using UV-inkjet on cotton-based "rag stock" paper to emulate the texture and feel of newsprint of the time, are displayed in the museum around an annotated map of the historic King Street area so visitors get a scope of just how intertwined and lively the journalism scene of Toronto was during Mackenzie's time.

Tying everything together, GCM student Elianna Nghiem produced a "Then & Now" neighbourhood map that presents 1860 downtown Toronto with digital illustrations of important landmarks alongside the city as we know it today. The juxtaposition of modern points of interest alongside historic ones allows museum visitors to compare the ever-changing nature of the city, highlighting vanished taverns, print shops, and of course Mackenzie's own Newsroom.



“Running a plastic plate printed on a modern 3D printer through a 180-year-old cast iron press feels like a sort of alchemy” says Lee Eldridge, project advisor and University Instructor at TMU’s Creative School. “Students aren’t only studying graphics or history here with these projects - they’re helping to co-print it and share it with the city!”

Exhibition Details - “At Home in Toronto”

- Where:** Mackenzie House, 82 Bond St., Toronto ON M5B 1X4
(a 2-minute walk from Sankofa Square at Yonge St & Dundas St)
- When:** Open Wednesday to Sunday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Now through November 23rd
- Admission:** General admission is free.
Some exhibitions and events may carry a separate charge where noted.

Interviews & Follow-Up

For additional information, images, or to arrange an interview please contact:

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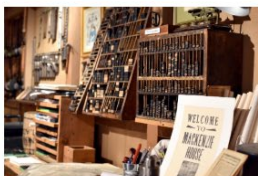
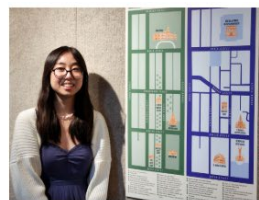
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Images and Resources

Images and resources available for download here – select samples shown below:

<https://www.graphiced.org/press-releases/mackhouse/>



About Toronto Metropolitan University (*formerly Ryerson University*)

Located in the heart of downtown Toronto, Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) is a leading institution known for its innovation and research in various fields. TMU is committed to providing students with hands-on learning experiences that prepare them for successful careers in their chosen industries.

About Mackenzie House

Mackenzie House is a municipally run historic building and museum in the heart of downtown Toronto that looks to explore the Victorian era in the city and the contrary and controversial man who had such an impact on it's history - from journalist to mayor, mayor to exile, exile to politician. Discover the Mackenzie story and gain a glimpse into the gritty Victorian era in which he lived: a time of macabre fascination, an era obsessed with crime, secrets, spirits, and death. Learn about the history of the house, the diverse people who made it their home, and the ever-evolving urban neighbourhood that has grown up around it. The site features furniture from the nineteenth century, an 1845 printing press and artifacts from Mackenzie's former print shop.

<https://www.toronto.ca/explore-enjoy/history-art-culture/museums/mackenzie-house/>

About GraphicEd.org

GraphicEd.org is focused on bridging academia and industry in the graphic communications and printing sectors. We aim to shape the future of graphic communication through accessible resources and research, innovative programs, and hands-on learning experiences. Our mission is to inspire creative minds, foster growth, and build a brighter, more inclusive future for the next generation of visual communicators - supporting the advancement of workforce-ready education in print, packaging, and related creative technologies.

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