

Heritage News

Spring 2014
Volume 27 Issue 2



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Battle of Lundy's Lane

The First World War

The Newsletter of Heritage Mississauga

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Jane Watt, Administrative Assistant, Heritage Mississauga



Membership has its rewards! In addition to Gift Shop discounts with Heritage Mississauga members now receive discounts at Chelsea Restaurant, Cuchulainn's Irish Pub, Franklin Poorhouse, The Mad Hatter Pub, The Crooked Cue and Turtle Creek Books. Call me today and find out how you can support heritage preservation and enjoy the benefits that membership with Heritage Mississauga provides! 905-828-8411 Extension "0" info@heritagemississauga.org



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Front Cover

Thompson's Company at Battle of York Day honouring the 201st Anniversary of the falling of Fort York with members of the 10th Veteran Battalion, Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada and York Volunteers. Picture -HM

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Jane Watt: Administrative Assistant x0
Matthew Wilkinson: Historian x29

by Barbara O'Neil, President, Heritage Mississauga



The Case For Strategic Planning

On an early Saturday in April, your Board met at The Grange to review progress against Heritage Mississauga's 2012-2014 Strategic Business Plan, and to develop and affirm its Plan for 2015-2017. Back by popular request, Linda Thomas, E.D. of the Mississauga Arts Council, acted as facilitator for the third straight session.

I'd like to thank Linda, our own E.D. Jayme Gaspar, and all our Board members who devoted most of their Saturday to this critical exercise, as the resulting Plan will direct our annual business plans, shaping our communications, program priorities and budgets for the next few years.

What exactly did we talk about? We brainstormed the Core Values that define our organization (Leadership, Integrity, Stewardship, Innovation, Inclusivity). We reflected on some of our proudest 2012-2014 achievements:

- Greater community awareness and engagement with HM
- Strengthened, more diversified funding
- Expanded use of social media
- Conscientious maintenance and updates of Grange property
- Revitalized annual award night: The Credits
- Establishment of Thompson Company re-enactment militia
- Leadership with Aboriginal programming
- Variety of specific creative initiatives (1812 DVD, iPhone app, Comic Book series, newsletter redevelopment, Heritage Guide, etc.).

In addition, we confirmed our Vision to be ("Mississauga's Heritage Source), our Mission ("To research, record and communicate Mississauga's heritage"), and defined our 4 key Service Areas (Legacy Heritage, Modern Heritage, External Relations, and Facilities Management/Operations).

Lastly, we set some stretch-goal areas of focus for the next 3 years. (The scope of these goals is such that they will be ongoing well beyond a 3 year horizon):

- Develop a layered, long term funding strategy: endowment, donor and/or champion programs
- Initiate a cultural diversity heritage program: an ambitious, multi-part effort that launches shortly
- Be legend-builders: extend our oral history program to include folklore research and promotion (taking inspiration from how such characters as New Orleans' Marie Laveau contribute through the generations to the personality and mystique of vibrant cities)
- Reference our past to actively shape our City's neighbourhoods: in partnership with other appropriate groups, work to develop a network of at least 11 local, "un-programmed" community gathering places for each of the original villages of Toronto Township (bandstand for local musicians and entertainers, green area for skating in winter, kite flying in summer, statues, fountains, art shows, auctions, etc.). No food trucks, organized sports or permit based functions such as group events or weddings.....



Board of Directors and facilitator Linda Thomas, HM

Consensus among fellow Directors at day's end was that we had successfully built on organizational learning and had articulated a clear and meaningful course to pursue over the next 3 years.

Council Face Time

Once or twice a year, I make a presentation to City Council on Heritage Mississauga's activities. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to get this face time to highlight our accomplishments, remind Councillors of the many community programs the City's annual operating grant helps to

fund, and to raise any heritage-relevant issues of concern.

While HM's presentations have been warmly received in the past, bouquets of compliments should never be taken for granted! With our long serving, iconic Mayor Hazel McCallion stepping down after the October municipal election, and a large number of new candidates for Mayor and Council likely, it will be necessary to acquaint both current and new Councillors with our organization and its key role in the community. It will also be wise to apply resources consistently to high-profile, popular programs. And, we must continue to be opportunistic in pursuing new funding sources. Since the decision makers and political agenda of Council beyond 2014 is unknown, these are prudent tactics.



From the Editor's Desk

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director, Heritage Mississauga

Welcome Spring - finally! It has taken a bit of time for Mother Nature to warm things up, but I am very happy to report that at The Grange the first flowers of spring have blossomed and the promise of warmer days are in the air. Recently Heritage Mississauga had the privilege of participating in a special awards presentation with the Ontario Heritage Trust and the City of Mississauga. On April 23rd, the Heritage Community Recognition Awards were presented by Trust Director Dawn Bennett, Mayor McCallion, Councillor George Carlson, Councillor Katie Mahoney and Councillor Jim Tovey, to Mark Shoalts (Built Heritage Award), Duncan Willock (Cultural Heritage Award), Jean Watt (Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement) and a rededication of two awards presented in February at Queens Park, the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement presented to Joseph Paquette and the Natural Heritage Award presented to Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School: Humanitarian Environmental Leadership Program (HELP). Congratulations and thank you for all you do to support heritage preservation in our community.

In this issue you will meet Hilary Walker our new Outreach Coordinator, hired for a special project through the generosity of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Connect with Hilary when you have an opportunity and learn about how you can participate in this exciting new heritage program. A number of articles also ask for your help, we look forward to reminiscing with you about the First World War, the Mississauga Train Derailment and your heritage heroes. Hope to see you at this year's Carassauga Festival on May 23-25th at the Hershey Centre. Visit us at the Canada Pavilion and experience the culture of Mississauga at its finest.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we said goodbye to our dear friend Brian Gilchrist this past week. For anyone who has ever done local research or spent time searching for their ancestors, Brian was their guiding light at PAMA. His hearty laugh, wonderful sense of humour and dedication to history will be missed



Archbishop Romero S. S. Students



Mark Shoalts



Duncan Willock



Jean Watt



Joseph Paquette



Jane's Corner

By Jane Watt, Administrative Assistant, Heritage Mississauga

Genealogy Workshops at the Grange

Each year we host four genealogy workshops with our partner, the Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Topics are varied and have been well attended, offering genealogists the opportunity to speak with experts, helping to break down barriers and find sources. Halton Peel OGS also host speakers throughout the year and we invite you to visit their website for a list of dates and topics: www.haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca.



We just finished our April Workshop and it was a sold out event. Our next workshop will be on June 14, and we will have 2 sessions with Ruth Blair speaking on "Researching in England" and "Researching in Wales".



All workshops are held at the Historic Robinson-Adamson House, The Grange, 1921, Dundas Street West in Mississauga from 10am-12:00, lunch break from 12:00-1:00, with the last session from 1:00-3:00. The fee is \$25.00 per person for the day. Space is limited and it must be prepaid to reserve your spot. For more information call 905-828-8411 Ext. 0.



Ruth Blair, HM

"Seek Thee Thine Ancestors"



Programs Plus *By Jenny Walker, Program Developer, Heritage Mississauga*

Community is Everything

As the winter finally releases its hold on us, the city appears to wake from hibernation and we all start to ramp up for our spring festivals and events. Heritage Mississauga's first celebration of the year was a chilly one as we gathered early on the morning of March 23, with members of the Aboriginal community at our Equinox ceremony, led by Métis elder Joe

Paquette. Funding for this event was generously provided by our friends at: *Loblaws*'s; *Metro*; *Longo's*; *Sobeys* and the *Great Canadian Superstore*. Our local community stores were so generous that together with our program sponsor the *Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS)*, we were also able to fund the genealogy day in April, plus another one in June; thank you all!



We have also been working over the winter to add value to our membership program and I can now confirm that in addition to last year's partners, we are delighted to announce that *The Crooked Cue* in Port Credit and *Cuchulainn's* in Streetsville have also joined us for the 2014-15 season; please visit our website for a brief bio of each, together with a list of benefits offered. We'd like to welcome both John from the Crooked Cue and Karen from Cuchulainn's onboard; now that the weather's nice please check out all of our member partners, support local businesses and enjoy a great experience in the process.



Looking to later in the year, we are in the process of securing sponsors for the heritage awards gala, *The Credits*, which will take place November 13 at the *Park Inn by Radisson*. *Energsource*, *KPMG* and real estate agent *Kimberly Phinney* have kindly agreed to sponsor three awards, and *Rogers TV* will be our media sponsor; more will be announced shortly. In the meantime nominations are open and this fully inclusive program is available to the whole community. Who do you know that is a "heritage hero" in your neighbourhood? Who has championed the cause of heritage in the City?

Nominations are available until June 30, on our website at www.heritagemississauga.org.

There are 10 categories to choose from:

- Heritage Champion Award
- Heritage Business Leader Award
- Heritage Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2 Community Heritage Awards; individual and group
- Heritage Youth Award
- Modern Heritage Award
- Natural Heritage Award
- Architectural Heritage Award
- Mississauga's of the New Credit Cultural Heritage Award



Nomination is easy; just supply a photograph and a short paragraph detailing the nominee's passion for heritage and their involvement in the community together with how they have highlighted the importance of heritage in the city. Please contact us if you have any queries and we'll be happy to help. The heritage community in Mississauga is strong and vibrant due to the ongoing support of city partners, HM members and the local business community. Please show your support and nominate those who have made a difference as we celebrate our "heritage heroes" who go above and beyond to enrich everyone's quality of life.





Richard's Ramblings

Air Son ar Duthchais A History of the Lorne Scots - Part 1

By Richard Collins

The Lorne Scots have been recruiting and training soldiers in Halton and Peel Regions and Dufferin County for almost 80 years, but the history of the Lorne Scots began over 150 years earlier still, in New Brunswick.

Families who chose to remain loyal to King George III during the American Revolution became enemies of the new state when American patriots won their fight for independence. The officers and men of a dozen British regiments left for the Saint John River valley and settled into new lives, in new communities. The British crown allotted land to loyal soldiers by regiment, and assigned the commanding officer of each unit to see to it that all his men received lots in his area. This was an expeditious way to get men resettled efficiently, but it had the added benefit of keeping regiments together so that if the Americans tried to expand their new republic northward, the Loyalists could quickly muster to the king's defence. So it was here in the thick hardwood forests of New Brunswick that the Lorne Scots took shape.

The new towns and villages in these Canadian colonies were much like a company town, with the companies in this case being regimental companies; and that proved to be convenient when, in 1793 the Crown passed the Militia Act that required all men ages 16 to 50 (later extended to age 60) to form a 'sedentary militia'. As its name implies, this new militia was not formed of active units. They were more like boy scouts, ready to 'be prepared' to spring into action when necessary. So long as the Americans remained at peace with their new neighbours, the sedentary militia was required to meet only a few times a year for drills.

The land in the Saint John River valley was not well suited to farming, so many of Loyalist took the opportunity to move to Upper Canada, and specifically to what is now Halton and Peel, around 1808, soon after the Crown purchased land from the Mississauga nation. An expedition of four families who had originally been part of the *New Jersey Volunteers* during the American Revolution, and had settled in Kingsclear, New Brunswick after the war, moved to a new settlement which came to be known as the Merigold Settlement, in honour of

the 2nd battalion sergeant, Thomas Merigold, who led the expedition. These men became part of the *York Militia* - a sedentary force which was established in what is now Halton, Peel and York Regions and Toronto. Because so many Loyalists arrived during this influx from the Maritimes, York was divided in 1808 into three districts. Men living in what is now York Region (more or less) became the 1st York Regiment. Soldiers in what is now Toronto became the 3rd York Regiment. Today's Lorne Scots trace their lineage back to the *2nd Regiment of York Militia*, which embodied all men in what is now Halton and Peel Regions. The Militia Act of 1808 which created this division also required that each man provide his own rifle or musket and no less than six pounds (about 3 kg) of ball and shot to make his musket useful. (The men and women of the Lorne Scots today don't have to supply their own guns.)



Sir George Arthur, *www*

Captain William Thompson commanded the *York 2nd Regiment* from 1808 to 1822. His father, Cornelius, joined Merigold on his expedition to Upper Canada. In 1822, political boundaries were redrawn, and Nelson and Trafalgar Townships (today's Burlington and Oakville, respectively) were attached to the Gore Militia. Trafalgar, because of its large population, was divided into two regiments - the *2nd Regiment, Gore Militia*, under the command of Lt. Col. Abraham Nelles; and the *4th Regiment, Gore Militia* under Col. John A. Chisholm. Nelson Township was commanded by Col. George Chisholm, as the *8th Gore Regiment*. Esquesing and Nassageweya Townships became the *5th Gore Regiment*, with Lt. Col. William Jarvis in command.

At this same time, Toronto Township (today's Mississauga) was joined with Etobicoke Township into the *2nd Regiment of the West York Militia*. Thompson (now a colonel) remained in command, with Lt. Frederick Starr Jarvis as his second.

The "West Yorkers" were a motley crew, at least according to author and traveler Anna Jameson who observed the men on parade in Erindale in 1837. This was the summer that lead up to William Lyon Mackenzie's uprising, and from Jameson's journal *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles*, it appears that Col. Thompson's men were not up to the task of defending the king's realm from rebellious traitors. "The motley troops", Jameson explains of a drill ceremony, "ran after each other, elbowed and kicked each other. The parade day ended in a drunken bout and a riot, in which the colonel was knocked down."

Cont'd pg 15

Early Doctors and Medicine in Historic Mississauga Part - Five

As the century progressed medical advancements continued to unfold. The stethoscope was introduced by a French doctor named René Théophile Hyacinthe Laennec in 1819. It was a 9 inch long wooden instrument which was made in two pieces, a chest piece and an ear piece, and then screwed together. To use, it was held up to one ear and the other end placed against the patient's chest. By mid-century rubber tubing had been added to make the monaural stethoscope flexible and in 1852 the familiar bi-aural stethoscope was created by George Cammann. The creation of this instrument allowed doctors to diagnose lung and cardiac issues.

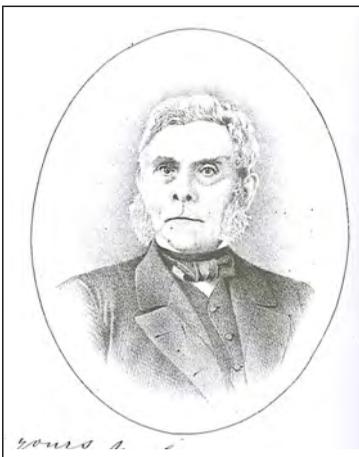
Trails slowly infiltrated the dense forest, isolated homes were connected to each other. Small settlements grew into villages and more and more people were drawn to the area, including doctors.

One such doctor was John Crumbie, who was born in Scotland in 1794 and immigrated to Upper Canada with his father in 1819. When he first arrived he taught in the Niagara District and later tutored the children of the founder of Streetsville, Timothy Street. After four and a half years with the Street family he went on to study medicine at Fairfield College in New York.

There was no medical school in Canada during this time so men wanting to study medicine had to head south to the United States. There seems to be some contradiction as to when exactly John Crumbie received his license from the board of surgeons. William Canniff places the date of his receiving his license in April of 1829. After he was licensed, Crumbie established his practice in Streetsville. Like Dr. Adamson, Crumbie was a horseback doctor and his practice covered a great distance. He was often called thirty or forty miles into the wilderness to attend patients, travelling through what was still mostly wilderness. He would stay away for several days at a time, living in patients' homes when necessary, and performing surgeries by campfire.

John Crumbie, like other pioneer doctors cared deeply for his community and gave himself into their service. He was greatly trusted by the community and as one admirer put it "I doubt if from his cradle he ever told a lie".

Over the course of his career he dabbled in politics and public service in addition to medicine. For many years he acted as one of the county examiners of schools. He became a central pillar of the Streetsville community. Dr. Crumbie also formed connections between the small villages of Toronto Township through his consultations with other doctors in the area including Joseph Adamson. Dr. Crumbie met his wife while he was at school in New York and they were married in 1831.

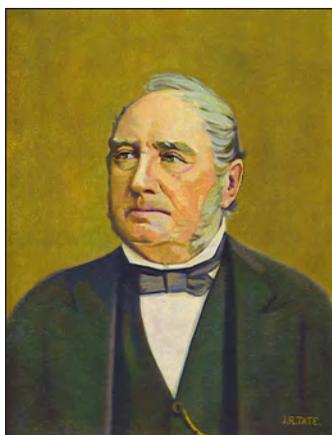


Dr. John Crumbie, 1877 Historical Atlas of Peel County Peel Atlas

Sadly all seven children that they had died in infancy. Having no children of his own Dr. Crumbie adopted his niece, Mary Crumbie, in 1870. In his later years of practice he established a partnership with his nephew, James McBride Woods.

Dr. Crumbie met an unfortunate end in September of 1874. The good doctor's eyesight had begun to fade, which was one of the reasons he had established the partnership with his nephew. On September 2nd he thought that he was pouring himself his daily dose of medication but he accidentally poured himself a fatal dose of nitric acid instead. When Dr. Crumbie died, the community of Streetsville lost an important member. A letter of sympathy from an "eminent scholar" said

that "though his life is lost, his lifetime has not been lost. A more prolonged career of usefulness, uprightness and honour it would be difficult to find." Dr. Crumbie's career was extensive and it paralleled many of the important early medical changes in the nineteenth century. Even after his death people in Streetsville fondly remembered sight of the "Old Doctor" on horseback winding his way to a family in need.



Dr. John Barnhart, Painted by JR Tate, PAMA

Another early Streetsville doctor was John Barnhart. He was born on Barnhart's Island, near Cornwall, Ontario in 1814. He studied medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. He returned to Toronto Township in 1834 to assist in battling a cholera epidemic and in 1834, setting up his practice in Streetsville alongside Dr. Crumbie. Like other doctors of the period, Dr. Barnhart had his hand in many different professions. In addition to his medical practice, he served as reeve of Streetsville in 1861 and he became the first warden of Peel in 1869. He also held positions as Justice of the Peace and Coroner of the township. Over the course of his career he formed a close friendship with Dr. Crumbie and they would often consult together on serious cases and perform operations together unaided by anaesthetic. Dr. Barnhart served the region faithfully until 1869 when he left for Owen Sound where he lived until his death in 1901.

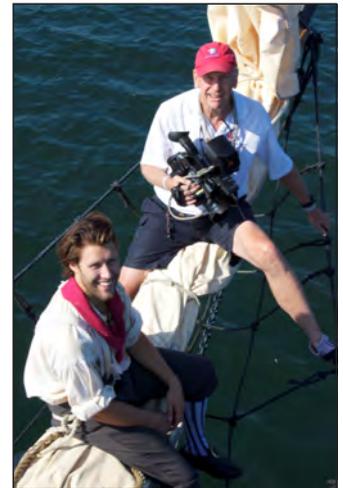
Shipwrecked on a Great Lake *By Peter Rowe*

During the summer of the 200th anniversary of two of the most famous and important of freshwater shipwrecks, filmmaker Peter Rowe led a team to create a new film telling the story of the maritime disaster. *Shipwrecked on a Great Lake* tells the story from the viewpoint of Ned Myers, the seaman who was one of the very few survivors of the wreck, played in the film by British actor Jack Manser. Rowe and his production team recreated the attack on Toronto (the first use ever of the US Marines), and the storm that sank the two ships, first in a Toronto wave tank, then aboard *La Revenante*, an accurate replica of a 19th Century schooner, at the east end of Lake Ontario.



Peter Rowe and re-enactors on the Griffin, Peter Rowe

The film uses an interview between Ned Myers and American writer James Fenimore Cooper, and an original song, "When an East Wind Blows", as the structure for the film, then moves into the modern era with a telling of the search and discovery of the ships led by Dr. Dan Nelson in the 1970s, and the exploration of them by Jacques Cousteau, Robert Ballard and the *National Geographic* in the 80s and 90s. It culminates with the story of the secret rogue dives made on the deep wrecks, and the diver who lost his life trying to explore the cursed ships. It includes exclusive filming of the 2013 archeological sidescan sonar investigation of the two shipwrecks.



Peter Rowe and Jack Manser, Peter Rowe

Shipwrecked on a Great Lake, financed by a number of foundations led by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, will premiere at the Mississauga South Historical Society meeting on Tuesday May 27, 2014 Lorne Park Library, 7:30pm. Will also be screened at the Mississauga Waterfront Festival Saturday June 14th 7:30pm and then DAILY FREE screenings will be held every Wednesday through Sunday evenings at dusk (7:30pm) on a Waterscreen at Saddington Park for the month of July, beginning July 3rd. It will be at Celebration Square on September 12th. The film was produced for the Port Credit Village Project by Pinewood Films, Inc. *Shipwrecked on a Great Lake: 52 minutes – High Definition, Color, Release – June, 2014 ©Pinewood Films Inc., Directed and Produced by Peter Rowe, Starring Jack Manser Host/Narrator – Ashley Rowe Original Music – Vikas Kohli*



Did you know?

People from our community fought at the Battle of Lundy's Lane, 200 years ago this year?

The Battle of Lundy's Lane took place in the evening hours of July 25th, 1814, 200 years ago this year. It was the bloodiest battle of the War of 1812. It was a deadly affair, with close quarter fighting. Although the engagement did not mark the end of the war, and its outcome was indecisive, it was one of the last major battles to be fought on Canadian soil. And a small number of men from our historic community, as part of a larger company of the 2nd Regiment of York Militia, were there. They included Captain William Thompson, Ensign Philip Cody, Sergeant Aaron Silverthorn, Private James Davidson, Private Daniel Greeniaus, Private Alphews Hemphill, Private Aaron London and Private Daniel Wilcox, possibly amongst others. Although there were many casualties on the day, including Major Titus Geer Simons who was commanding the 2nd York, none of "our guys" appear on the casualty list. A few days after the battle, on July 27th, Captain William Thompson was captured by American forces at St. David's and was imprisoned for the remainder of the war. According to one source, the 2nd York was deemed one of the more capable militia units who served on the Niagara Frontier.



Battle of Lundy's Lane, CW Jeffreys

Sponsored by Heritage Mississauga, Thompson's Company of the 2nd Regiment of York Militia re-enactment company is planning to attend and participate in the commemoration and re-enactment of the Battle of Lundy's Lane on July 5th and 6th, 2014, and honour the memory of those who served from historic Mississauga.



Coordinating Connections

By Hilary Walker, Outreach Coordinator, Heritage Mississauga

After starting at Heritage Mississauga in early April, I have been working on an exciting new project that we are now thrilled to announce! With the support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the *Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage* project works to build awareness of the city's diverse cultural heritage by supporting community partnerships and developing a city-wide cultural network. In the coming months (and years) we will be meeting with community members and groups in an effort to make connections and learn more about the vast array of stories and experiences that make up Mississauga. The network will be a valuable tool for the ongoing operations of Heritage Mississauga, but it will also be a hugely important asset for the community. It will offer expanded opportunities for cultural groups to foster friendships, learn from one another, and engage in collaborative projects. One such collaborative project will be the Cultural Heritage Guide, which will provide cultural groups with the opportunity to develop their own content that highlights their group and its history in Mississauga. The format of the Guide will be similar to that of Heritage Mississauga's earlier Heritage Guide. We will be looking to create a Steering Committee for the development of the guide, so if you or someone you know might be interested, please get in touch!

Other products associated with this program include a Heritage Film Series, a Heritage Vignette Series, and a set of Resource Booklets. These materials will provide all members of the Mississauga community with new learning opportunities and a greater sense of shared heritage. The Heritage Film Series and the Heritage Vignette Series will look at Mississauga milestones and the city's diverse communities. Both the 30-minute Film Series and the two-minute Vignette Series videos will be posted on YouTube and will significantly contribute to the growth of Heritage Mississauga's online presence. The booklets will be published as resource material to supplement the videos and existing Heritage Mississauga programs, providing additional "did you know" facts about important stories.

Celebrating Mississauga's Unique Cultural Heritage provides various opportunities for civic engagement in communities, resulting in an increased sense of unity and commonality across the city. This project will help develop a strong cultural identity and ensure our past local heritage is not lost but respected, honoured, and celebrated.

Want to get involved with the project or make us aware of your community group? Send me an email or give me a call – I would love to hear from you! E-mail: outreach@heritagemississauga.org Phone: 905-828-8411 ext.23.

Remembering J. Brian Gilchrist

(1956-2014)

J. Brian Gilchrist, one of Canada's most knowledgeable genealogists, author, archivist and heritage advocate passed away on May 1st, 2014 in Brampton. For many years Brian served as the Reference Archivist at the Region of Peel Archives (PAMA). He also served as an expert witness in Ontario on matters of genealogy, inheritance and cemetery issues, and was a frequent participant on television and radio genealogical programs.



Heritage Mississauga, its staff and Board of Directors, extend our condolences to Brian's family, friends, and colleagues. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for his humour and wit. He was a friend, respected colleague, renowned genealogist, knowledgeable and passionate historian, dedicated researcher, sought-after and entertaining speaker, skilled archivist, mentor and friend to many, and a true heritage champion.

Brian was a founding member of the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, as well as several other branches. He was a member of many notable heritage and geological organizations, as well as a charter member of the Friends of the Archives of Ontario. Brian was also a strong supporter of the work of Heritage Mississauga.

A recipient of many heritage awards, Brian received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award in 2013.

He will be missed.



The Jekyll and Hyde Chicken Farmer

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

Morris Gershon, a well-known Toronto poultry buyer, and his assistant, Murray Baker, went missing on June 19th, 1939. They have never been found, although police suspected that the pair met with foul play and were murdered. They had their suspicions of who was responsible. Gershon's abandoned truck was found along Highway 122 (Royal Windsor Drive), between Clarkson and Oakville, a few days later.

Also in the summer of 1939 police were challenged by an “epidemic of robberies” of tourists in Burlington and Oakville. The robberies took place largely at night and the victims were accosted in their parked vehicles. The assailant was dubbed the “Parked Car Bandit”. There was, at first, little evidence to connect the disappearance of Gershon and Baker and the robberies together.

In the early morning hours on Friday, September 22nd, 1939, 21-year-old Bruce Kivell of Port Credit and 17-year-old Glenna Stoutt were confronted at gunpoint while parked on a sideroad near Erindale. Kivell and Stoutt had met that night at a dance at the Credit Valley Golf Club, and had stopped to talk on their drive home. They were surprised and blinded by a flashlight. Their assailant, who demanded money, forced the young couple to “drive around” for two hours while boasting of other robberies in the area.

Eventually, just south of Streetsville along the Town Line (now Winston Churchill Boulevard), their assailant ordered Kivell and Stoutt out of the car, and instructed Stoutt to tie Kivell's hands behind his back. A struggle ensued, the gun went off, and Kivell fought for his life. Stoutt took off her shoe and began hitting their assailant on the head and face while he struggled with Kivell. The struggle was over. Their assailant was incapacitated in the ditch.

Kivell and Stoutt seized his gun, and perhaps in a moment of questionable wisdom, loaded their prone assailant into their car and drove to the home of Provincial Constable Fraser Bell at 2:00 am, who confirmed that the man was dead.

The dead man was 37-year-old Wilfred E. (“Earl”) Baker, who lived on Lorne Park Road near Clarkson. Baker was a poultry farmer. Morris Gershon had dealt with Earl Baker in the past, and according to the Gershon family, he found

that Earl Baker was a hard man to deal with and he disliked going to his property. Gershon, together with Murray Baker (unrelated to Earl Baker), was on his way to Clarkson on a buying trip when he disappeared. Earl Baker was brought to the attention of local police by a neighbour who was positive that she had seen Gershon visit Baker's farm just before he was reported missing. Earl Baker was questioned by police but denied any knowledge or involvement.



Earl Baker, from September 23rd, 1939 issue of the Toronto Daily Star

Other neighbours also had their suspicions of Earl Baker. While Earl Baker lived alone, a recluse after the death of his mother, his house and property were well cared for and neighbours commented that he loved flowers. Baker rented the property from Reginald Colloton.

However, what concerned neighbours was that he rarely left his property during the day, but departed only at night, often only returning in the early morning hours. Baker was visited by “mysterious strangers” at all hours, and neighbours referred to him as “erratic”, “unbalanced”, “strange” and a “real Jekyll and Hyde individual” following his mother's death. While he was formerly bright and cheerful, neighbours felt that “something unusual” was going on and that they “lived in fear” at night. Police “kept a watch” on Earl Baker, initially in attempts to connect him with the Gershon disappearance, but soon descriptions of the “Parked Car Bandit” led police to suspect him in these robberies as well. That all ended in the early morning hours in a ditch south of Streetsville, with the death of Earl Baker.

ROBBER'S DEATH OPENS UP POULTRY DEALER MYSTERY

Headline, from September 23rd, 1939 issue of the Toronto Daily Star

In the days following his death police and investigators descended on Baker's chicken farm on Lorne Park Road. Items found in the house connected him to some of the “Parked Car Bandit” robberies.

Cont'd pg 15



To the Nearest Point on the Frontier

The Wartime Service of Major Titus Geer Simons, 2nd York Militia Part 1

By Robert Smol

He was aptly described by historian Sylvia Gray in *The Hamiltonians* as “often controversial in his actions, and rarely apologetic.” But by the end of the war of 1812, Major Titus Geer Simons, of the 2nd regiment of York Militia, had earned the trust and respect of the British army in Canada for his leadership and audacity under fire.

A former newspaper editor and entrepreneur, Simons was to serve with distinction in both the 2nd Regiment of York Militia as well as the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada. Most notably, in the late evening of July 25th, 1814 he found himself as de-facto commander of the 2nd Regiment of York Militia during the Battle of Lundy's Lane, the largest and most costly battle of the War of 1812. His service is a testament to the commitment to the defence of Canada shown by many residents of Upper Canada that is often ignored or downgraded by historians as secondary and inconsequential.

Titus Geer Simons was born in Connecticut on January 30th, 1765. He first experienced military life during the American Revolution where, at age 12, serving alongside his father who was a Quartermaster in the British Army. With the defeat of the British army, the family fled to Montreal and eventually settled in Upper Canada. Simons' service in the Upper Canadian militia began in 1804 as Adjutant with the Lincoln militia. With the outbreak of war in 1812 he joined the newly formed 2nd Regiment of York Militia. This regiment drew its officers and men from the residents of Toronto Township (present-day Mississauga) along the shore of Lake Ontario up to Burlington Bay (Hamilton). Today the regiment is perpetuated by the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry.

To better comprehend the challenges faced by Simons during the war we must first understand the type of military he operated in. In order to maximize its reliability and compatibility with the regular British Army, the militia network in Upper and Lower Canada was organized in three basic levels. At the bottom was the embodied (sedentary) militia made of all fit males of military age. While service in the embodied militia was compulsory, actual training was quite negligible. Mainly it was from the embodied militia base that, during the war with the United States, the British authorized the formation of militia “flank companies” which trained and served on the frontier for short-periods of time on a full-time basis. This allowed militia to train to a higher

standard while still maintaining some balance between their military commitment and their obligations to their civilian occupation and family.

Yet for those militia willing and able to take on a full-time commitment during the war there was the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada, essentially a permanent regiment of militia. In addition to the Incorporated Militia, there were permanent provincial regiments raised in both Upper and Lower Canada such as the Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles, the Voltigeurs, and the Canadian Fencibles. It was primarily within the network of Flank Companies and

Incorporated Militia that Simons was to serve during the war.

Whatever their level of service, militia regiments were almost universally saddled with the twin problems of lack of equipment and time to train. In spite of these challenges the 2nd York, as well as the Incorporated Militia, were to play an active role in most of the major campaigns.

In June of 1812 Simons was commissioned as a Major in the 2nd York. As with other militia regiments the focus of their service was in the Niagara region. During this time, Major Simons' duties would have been taken up primarily in recruiting, equipping and preparing his men for the task ahead.

Stationed along the Niagara River in 1812 the 2nd York was present at the Battle of Queenston Heights on October 13th, 1812 where they took their first fatality, Private Henry Cope.

By 1813 Simons had transferred to the Incorporated Militia and remained in the Niagara region as detachment commander. Meanwhile the 2nd York, in March of 1813, was tasked to provide three company-sized detachments for service on the Niagara and to “use every exertion for the assembling and march of these detachments to the nearest point on the frontier.” By a General Order dated July 14th, 1813 Major Simons was given overall responsibility for all the militia in the area.

During the 1813 campaign, when not engaged in fighting or patrolling, units of the militia were frequently tasked with the movement of supplies for the forward units either overland, or, more often by bateaux which ferried provisions back and forth along the shores of Lake Ontario, the St Lawrence, and Lake Huron. Likewise when Simons was placed in charge of the militia in the Niagara region he was also given responsibility for the requisitioning and organizing of militia boat crews.



Titus Geer Simons, Toronto Branch, UEL

To better understand the importance of the militia boat service, one needs to be aware of the strategic situation at the time. For much of the war the American Navy dominated the Great Lakes, severely limiting the Royal Navy's capability to operate in support of the British army. Furthermore, the roads at the time were often unreliable when it came to moving large quantities of supplies. In this situation, small open boats, operated by militia, served as the major lifeline between the army at the front and its supply base further east in York and Kingston.

Therefore, it should not come as much of a surprise that, in the summer of 1813, an attempt was made by the Americans to drive a wedge in the British/Canadian lines of communication to and from Niagara. On July 29th, 1813 Simons received the order to move his troops, and any additional ones he may come across, and take up positions at Burlington heights (now Hamilton). Part of the order read that "there are strong reasons to apprehend that the enemy means to attack our depot at Burlington, *which we must not lose.*"

Leading his troops, which included members of the York Militia, on an overnight forced march of over fifty kilometers, they took up defensive positions in Burlington Bay. There Simons' contingent was joined by another permanent Canadian unit (Glengarry Light Infantry Fencibles) as well as native warriors.

Meanwhile, as the American force landed and prepared to advance on the Heights, its Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Winfield Scott, realized that the high ground was being defended by a much larger force than he had planned for. Not wanting to risk an attack on a well-defended position, Scott withdrew.

A military victory does not necessarily imply that shots have to be fired. Although no blood was shed with Simons' bold maneuver to Burlington Heights, the importance of his move lies in what strategic scenario his actions avoided. Had Simons and the other Canadian units hesitated or faltered in their move to Burlington, the Americans would have established a strategic wedge between the British Forces in Niagara and their command and logistics base in York and Kingston. More importantly, had the Americans been allowed to consolidate their position at Burlington, the already restricted flow of supplies to Niagara might have been completely cut off forcing the British/Canadian army in the region to withdraw.

In December of 1813 the British began to close in on the American garrison that was still occupying Fort George outside of Newark (present day Niagara-on-the-Lake). It was here that the worst single atrocity against Canadian non-combatants took place on December 10th, 1813 when, just prior to retreating back across the Niagara River, the

American army burned most of the homes in Newark. It was at this point that the recently appointed Commander of Forces in Upper Canada, Lieutenant General Sir Gordon Drummond, approved of plans to capture the American Fort Niagara as well as all other enemy military assets across the Niagara River. However, no retaliatory attack was possible without transport. It was here that Simons and other militia soldiers were called upon to muster all accessible boats on the lake and secretly haul them overland to a designated launching site upriver from Fort Niagara. When the nighttime raid on Fort Niagara took place on December 18th, 1813 the militia contingent transported and guided the main attack force to its destination and various select members took part in the raid itself.

In the days following the attack on Fort Niagara, Simons and his militia troops were called upon to paddle, pull and carry their boats in secret more than thirty kilometers upstream to the American strongpoint at Black Rock near Buffalo. As with the attack on Fort Niagara, Simons executed the transport of the British attack force to their objective.

In a letter to the Governor General dated January 2nd, 1814, General Drummond stated that Major Simons "was useful and indefatigable in embarking the troops" and that he and the other militia rendered a "service of considerable difficulty and importance, owing to the great rapidity of the current".

Thompson's Company Update

Thompson's Company, 2nd Regiment of York Militia (War of 1812 re-enactment company) is actively drilling and preparing for their first re-enactment season. The company is aiming to be present at, and participate in, the battles of Chippawa and Lundy's Lane re-enactments on July 5th and 6th, 2014, in Niagara.

Recently, the company participated at the 201st anniversary event of the Battle of York on April 27th (see cover photo). The company will also be at the Canadian Pavilion at Carassauga on Saturday, May 24th, from 1-5pm, and drilling at Fort York on Sunday, May 25th.

Come and see the company "in action", and meet the members! New recruits welcome!





Disaster Planning; not for that kind of disaster!

By Jenny Walker, Program Developer, Heritage Mississauga

There can be few people living in Mississauga today who have not heard of the train derailment of 1979. On November 10 at 11.53pm, a Canadian Pacific freight train carrying a mix of volatile and poisonous chemicals derailed and exploded at the

intersection of Mavis and Dundas. The result was the biggest peace time evacuation in North America until in 2006 the evacuation for Hurricane Katrina. On November 10, 2014 the city will remember the thirty-fifth anniversary of the event which had varying consequences and experiences for the whole community. In remembrance of this defining event, our fall newsletter will focus on the topic and this article is written as an introduction to stimulate memories and conversation.

In May 2012, I sat down with Ian and Ellen McGregor from *Fielding Chemical Technologies Inc.* on Mavis Road. Although the company had been in existence since 1894, it was in 1963 that their Father Jack Macgregor moved it to Mississauga after joining *Fielding* in 1955. While most people in the city have a story to tell about the disaster, the Macgregor family have an unusual perspective. In addition to events which shaped them personally, Jack was also involved professionally since the explosion happened yards away from his premises resulting in potentially lethal results.



Aerial, view - Fielding Chemical, early 1970's

Like most people, Ian and Ellen had stories of being personally evacuated and moving their dinner from house to house as the exclusion area widened, but Jack was also contacted by the Fire Department to determine if any of the chemicals at his site would prove to be a further hazard

should the fire reach them. The fire officer collected him from Ellen's house in Oakville and he coordinated meetings with other business owners in the area to determine if there were "triggers" on site that could potentially worsen the situation. Yet Jack never believed that they would be evacuated for so long (6 days in all); he left his house unlocked and his dog "Bissell" had full access to the kitchen, sunroom and backyard. The dog was entirely capable of opening the fridge for food and used the toilet for fresh drinking water; when the family returned, the dog was fed, watered and absolutely fine.

Ian had another story about one of the Canadian Red Cross coordinators named Marg Lesley. She recruited a number of people to work on a disaster plan for the city ahead of the incident; the group would meet in a house at the base of Hurontario Street near Grace's restaurant. However, they could never have imagined in their wildest dreams the scenario that actually took place. Even if they had, there was a fatal flaw in the plan; no one had exchanged phone numbers and contact details. When disaster struck no one knew how to reach other members on the team; even though there was an evacuation centre in Malton, no one thought to go there!

It is unusual stories like these that are particularly interesting as the anniversary comes around. While many people lived through the disaster, there are others who weren't born or are new to the city, and who are interested in the event. Recounting this modern history gives people a sense of place and pride in their community. As a thank you to Enersource,



Enersource Presentation, HM

one of our program partners, we recently gave a presentation on the train derailment to their employees at their offices on Mavis Road.

This was particularly relevant as their building was at the centre of events and many of the workers employed at the time were unable to get to work. There was a lively discussion at the end of the presentation as many memories were revived and relived creating a sense of place, community and connection for all. The Mississauga train derailment was a defining moment in the City's history that united the community and created a shared memory. It was a lesson from the past which is still relevant today and which could have been so much worse as in the case of Lac Mégantic last year; Mississauga was so lucky that there was no loss of life. Yet while a common memory prevails, there are many variations which we'd love to hear as we compile our fall issue of the newsletter which will be issued around the anniversary and focus heavily on the disaster. Please contact our historian Matthew Wilkinson and share your memories, we'd love to hear from you.



Train Derailment site, HM

Darker Side cont'd...

A watch was also found on the property, apparently hidden under a chicken nest, which was later identified as belonging to Morris Gershon. Despite numerous searches of the property, and in the surrounding area, no trace of Morris Gershon or Murray Baker has ever been found, no motive been identified, and prior to his death Earl Baker had never been charged in connection to their disappearance. The case remains unsolved. According to a newspaper account, the "Parked Car Bandit" did not strike again after Baker's death.

And what of young Bruce Kivell and Glenna Stout? On October 12th, 1939, a coroner's jury exonerated them of any wrong-doing and congratulated them on their escape from the "armed marauder".

Richard's Ramblings cont'd...

Not surprisingly, Mackenzie got away after his failed rebellion, and fears mounted that he might encourage his American protectors to invade Upper Canada. Disappointed with the lieutenant-governor, Sir Francis Bond Head, whose arrogance had inflamed common farmers into rebellion and whose overconfidence in the disorganized and ill-trained militia contributed to the escape of rebels, the colonial office in London replaced him with a man who had proven his ability to keep military order when he governed the imperial penal colony of Tasmania. In 1838, Sir George Arthur formed 12 provisional infantry battalions and two cavalry battalions of willing men to function as a unified colonial militia in Upper Canada for as long as was felt necessary to fend off an American invasion. Strategically he placed all but one of the battalions (the 7th Battalion in Peterborough) at river or lakefront towns that could most easily be attacked from American naval positions. The 1st Battalion of this Upper Canada Provisional Militia was placed in the newly-completed harbour town of Port Credit. Arthur appointed the current sedentary militia's most experienced man in the area, Col. William Thompson, to command the Port Credit battalion. Doctor Joseph Adamson of Erindale was the battalion's surgeon.



Gravestone, William Thompson, St. Judes Cemetery, Oakville, HM

The fear of a rebellion attack ended when a general clemency was granted to rebels in 1845, so Arthur's emergency militia divisions were rearranged into a greater number of smaller stand-down battalions in 1846. At this time, the *1st Battalion of the York Militia* represented what is now Mississauga. Once again, Col. Thompson remained in command. Elsewhere in the part of York County that would someday become part of the Lorne Scots' bailiwick today, Chinguacousy Township became the *York Militia, 7th Battalion* under Col. Edward W. Thomson, and Albion and Caledon became the *York Militia, 8th Battalion* under the command of Lt. Col. Charles Mitchell.

Next time, we'll look at the formation of Upper Canada's first paid army, and the role that men in Halton and Peel had in protecting Canada.

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Heritage Matters

Heritage Mississauga

Exhibits

Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre

May 27-June 27 "Seasons" Art Exhibit featuring the works of Lorraine Ireland, Hans Klaassen & Denise Declerc-Leroux

Lower Exhibit Hall

March 25-June 20 ALFEW-"Aggregation 14"

July 8-October 3 ALFEW "Aggregation 15"

Events

May 23, 24, 25 Carassauga at The Hershey Centre

www.carassauga.com

June 14 10am-3pm Genealogy Workshop-Ruth Blair,
Research in England and Wales

Art Gallery of Mississauga

www.artgalleryofmississauga.com

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

June 8 - 2014 Father's Day! Bring your dad to the schoolhouse for some fun. Play horseshoes, try the stilts or any of our other Victorian games!

June 25: Strawberry Social

July 15: Lemonade on the Lawn

Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society

For info contact Jane Watt jwatt@ica.net 905-281-1701

Mississauga Arts Council

1055-300 City Centre Drive Mississauga, ON L5B 3C9Tel.
905-615-4278 mac@mississaugaartscouncil.com

Mississauga South Historical Society

May 27 -Peter Rowe will premier his new documentary, Shipwrecked on a Great Lake, Lorne Park Library, 7:00, which will premiere a few weeks after our May meeting, at the Mississauga Waterfront Festival.

Mississauga Sports Council and the Sports Hall of Fame

5600 Rose Cherry Place - Suite 101,(Concourse Lobby - near the elevator), Sports Complex - Hershey SportZone, Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 4B6 Contact:
info@mississaugasportscouncil.org Tel: 905-267-3536
www.sportsmississauga.org

Museums of Mississauga

Guided Tours at the Museums available every Sunday 1 to 4 p.m

June 1, 3 to 5 p.m "Downton Abbey" Tea & Tour at Benares Historic House

June 22 Afternoon Tea at Bradley Museum

Reservations required by calling 905-615-4860, ext. 2110

Until July 20 The British Indian Army in the Great War, 1914 to 1918 on display at the Bradley Museum Anchorage.

Streetsville Historical Society

905-814-5958 mbyard@sympatico.ca

General meetings are the 2nd Thurs of the month (Feb, Apr, Oct, Dec), 7:30 pm, at Specialty Care Seniors' Residence (Community Room), 4350 Mississauga Rd, Mississauga (N of Hwy 403, opposite Leslie Log House

Trafalgar Township Historical Society

For info contact Jane Watt jwatt@ica.net 905-281-1701

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CULTURE CAFE 2014 STORIES WORTH TELLING

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ADMISSION IS FREE

For more Heritage Matters contact Jane Watt at
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