

# Heritage News

Spring 2015

Volume 28 Issue 2



John Leviston  
The First to Fall  
*We Will Remember Them*

*The Newsletter of Heritage Mississauga*

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### Front Cover

Cropped image from "Port  
Credit Boys", Salisbury Plain,  
England, 1915, courtesy of the  
Mississauga Library System

## Contributors in this issue



Richard  
Collins



Jayme  
Gaspar



Don  
Hancock



Marjorie  
Hancock



Meghan  
Mackintosh



Barbara  
O'Neil



Jane  
Watt



James  
Walker



Jenny  
Walker



Matthew  
Wilkinson

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Please contact us at: Mississauga Heritage Foundation, 1921 Dundas St. W., Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1R2, phone: (905) 828-8411 or fax: (905) 828-8176, or e-mail: [info@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:info@heritagemississauga.org) You can also visit us at: [www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com)

### NEXT DEADLINE: June 12, 2015

Editor: Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

Content: Matthew Wilkinson

Layout & Typesetting: Jayme Gaspar

**Contributors not shown: Katie Hemingway**

**Photography:** Hancock Family, Heritage Mississauga, Mississauga Library System, Wm. Perkins Bull PAMA, www

**Printing:** The Print Gurus

## Heritage Mississauga Staff - 905-828-8411

**Jayme Gaspar** Executive Director x31, [jgaspar@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:jgaspar@heritagemississauga.org)

**Meghan Mackintosh** Outreach Coordinator x23, [outreach@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:outreach@heritagemississauga.org)

**Jane Watt** Administrative Assistant x0, [info@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:info@heritagemississauga.org)

**Jenny Walker** Program Developer x22, [programs@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:programs@heritagemississauga.org)

**Matthew Wilkinson** Historian x29, [history@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:history@heritagemississauga.org)

## President's Message *By Barbara O'Neil, President, Heritage Mississauga*

### A Strong Start For 2015

I am very happy to report Heritage Mississauga is off to a strong start in the first quarter of this year. Council approved our grant application of \$225,000, which reflects a \$10,000 increase for marketing and advertising efforts. We have also received early confirmation of federal funding for 3 summer students and are waiting (fingers crossed!) on responses to a number of other key grant applications.

Donations and grants are the oxygen of not-for-profit organizations such as ours. Building ongoing relationships with government granting bodies, corporations, and individuals who are able to provide a regular stream of funds is vital to our long term viability and growth. Of course, our ability to attract funding is predicated not only on our profile and type of programs we offer, but on a solid record of managing previous grant monies successfully. Our staff and in particular our Executive Director, Jayme Gaspar, must be given great credit for the amount of time and effort that is put into writing persuasive applications, and for ensuring impressive post-funding reports. **As a result of their excellent work, HM grant funding went from \$238K in 2013 to \$338K in 2014, and total revenue from \$297K to \$412K.**

### Face Time

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, Winnie Fung, Jake Dheer, Jenny Walker, Anthony Dimech and myself had the pleasure of attending **Chinese New Year's celebrations at City Hall**. Jake MC'd the event, with Winnie and Lilian Kwok co-hosting on behalf of the Chinese Business Association, as Vice President and President, respectively. Mississauga's Chinese community was well represented, with traditional entertainment and refreshments providing a vibrant, colourful break from the grey weather outdoors.

February was also Heritage Month, and this year staff hosted our first **Heritage Open House at the Grange**. (See the article in this issue for more details.) Recent visitors to the Grange will have noticed the property is considerably less - well - *treed*, than previously. Sadly, no less than **52 century-old ash trees had to be cut** down and removed this winter by the City Forestry Department, due to damage caused by the emerald ash borer infestation. We will be working closely with the Department to replace the ash trees as soon as possible with a mix of good-sized, heritage appropriate trees, as well as some heritage garden plantings. Much of the beauty and peaceful aspect of the Grange was due to the many ash trees on the property and replacing them is an urgent priority.

In March, I presented an update on Heritage Mississauga's 2014 highlights and 2015 plans to **Mayor Crombie and City Council, on behalf of the Board**. As there are several new municipal representatives, we felt it particularly important to have this "face time" to re-inforce our presence, purpose and programming in the community. With Director Jim Tovey's support, we hope to develop a close relationship with our very

busy Mayor, and welcome her as a regular guest at upcoming events.

### First Nations History Lessons

Our March board meeting was held at the Benares Historic House, since the Grange was fully rented out to community groups that evening. Architect and landscape architecture masters student Mr. Ali Ahmed was introduced by Carolyn King, who had supplied extensive information to him on the history of the Mississaugas in the Port Credit area. Mr. Ahmed documented this history with excellent visuals and graphics, and further proposed concepts for public use of space in Port Credit and north along the Credit River that would not only educate today's residents, but would allow them to experience aspects of native life, then and now. **This proposal is a comprehensive starting point for discussion and planning of public spaces in the City, in a way that is both appropriate and unique.**

Over the past weeks, HM has hosted **several very popular workshops**. While I didn't make either of the 2 recent Irish Genealogy sessions - I plan to attend a future one so I can eventually trace the Irish side of my family tree; my cousin documented our Scottish side back to c. 1700 - I was able to attend the **"Indian 101" workshop presented by Carolyn King**. Ms. King operates her own consulting business, is an active member of numerous Boards, has received numerous awards for her work in the community, and is a former Chief of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. HM's relationship with Ms. King extends back more than a decade and we are fortunate to have such an accomplished, in-demand individual involved with our organization.



Introducing her workshop with the NFB film *No Turning Back*, a documentary about the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Ms. King provided an overview of the evolving relationship between Canada's First Nations, colonial settlers and their descendants. From the creation of early land treaties, to the legal definition of Inuit, Metis, and Status Indian under the federal Indian Act, to the problems inherent in the terms of this Act, to historic wrongs such as residential school abuse, this workshop was a powerful summary of both the history and present day challenges faced by First Nations peoples.

Looking forward to seeing you at our **AGM on May 27<sup>th</sup>**!

## From the Editor's Desk *by Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director, Heritage Mississauga*

As our spring newsletter goes to press we are still experiencing cold temperatures, snow, hail and a bit of freezing rain. The early flowers are fighting to bloom and we are wishing for more of the spring weather we expected. You know that just around the corner Mother Nature will bring warm sunshine, humidity and the buzz of mosquitoes to remind us that we are Canadian and that our weather is unpredictable.

At The Grange we will experience a different spring and summer than usual as our beautiful shady landscape has been ravaged by the removal of 52 Ash trees on the property. All were stricken with the Emerald Ash borer and although the woodpeckers enjoyed the opportunity to feast all last summer and fall, this insect is a disaster for the tree as the borer destroys the inside making the tree a hazard. We are looking forward to working with City Park's staff to revitalize The Grange Park with interesting plantings, including a number of indigenous species that will bring butterflies and new birds to visit.

It has been busy at Heritage Mississauga over the first 4 months of 2015. For the first time we hosted a "**Heritage Day at The Grange**" in celebration of National Heritage Day. Our open house included four workshops. We appreciate the support of Dorothy Kew and Elaine Eigl who presented two of the day's talks. Their expertise in their fields and support for our events is always appreciated. This first "Heritage Day" was a success and we plan to continue to host events in February to celebrate community heritage.

In March we welcomed our new Outreach Coordinator Meghan Mackintosh. A long-time resident of Mississauga, Meghan has travelled all over the world throughout her career and brings an appreciation of the cultural traditions she has experienced to the position. She has settled in and is connecting with the community, meeting old and new heritage friends. Check out her first *Heritage News* article on page 9.

This year there have also been some changes at the Culture Division at the City. We wished Acting Director Andrew Whittemore all the best as he moved to a new role in the City's Heritage Planning department and welcomed Paul Damaso who took over as the Acting Director. Congratulations to Paul on this new role and also to Sonja Banic who took over as Manager Culture Operations. We also had a major change in our City's Museums Management. Annemarie Hagan who has been with the Museums for 20 years moved into an exciting opportunity with PAMA (Peel Archives, Museum and Art Gallery). We wish Annemarie all the best in her new position at the Region. She has been an incredible advocate for our work and partner supporting our programs and initiatives and we will miss her.

In February we welcomed Stuart Keeler as the new Museums Manager and Chief Curator. Stuart had been the Executive Director and Curator of the Art Gallery of Mississauga for

many years. We welcome Stuart to the heritage section of the Culture Division and look forward to working with him and the Museums team. In addition to all of these changes at the Culture division we congratulate Mark Warrack on his new role as Manager, Culture and Heritage Planning. Mark will be working on cultural policy and planning for heritage developments in the City. It's exciting to see the changes going on in our city, with a new Mayor and Council, and cultural staff supporting growth and future prosperity.

Change can be a challenge and sometimes we fight tooth and nail to keep things "status quo". However, change gives us opportunities to try new things and see them through a different lens. Our approach becomes creative and open to possibilities. Heritage Mississauga has seen numerous changes over its past 55 years and we continue to do all that we can to be relevant to our members and the community that we support, in the city's changing environment. Over the next few months a lot of our social media activity will introduce creative opportunities for you to explore your city, discover its spaces, its culture and share in celebrations. We will be there with you celebrating our cultural heritage, melding old with new and experiencing all that our city has to offer. Coming up first in the festivals lineup is the long standing *Carassauga Festival of Cultures* on May 24, 25 and 26. We have once again partnered with the Canadian Pavilion and look forward to seeing you at this festival and the many other events throughout the city during the summer. So far we have booked heritage booths at Bollywood Monster Mashup, Mississauga Latin Festival and Italfest and will be at numerous 1812 events throughout Southern Ontario celebrating our early heritage.

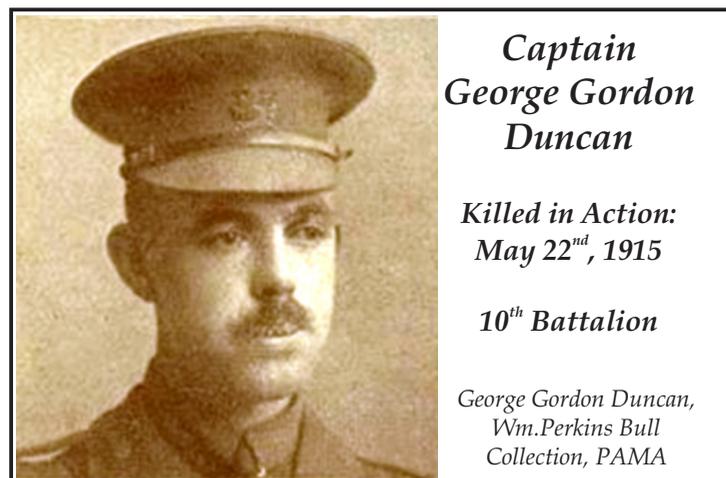
During your travels around Mississauga plan to stop at Burnhamthorpe Library (Dixie and Burnhamthorpe). Our travelling exhibit on the First World War featuring a soldier's Kit-Bag has just been delivered at its next stop. Library Staff have prepared a display of books from their collection on the First World War. Enjoy! We appreciate the partnership of the Mississauga Library Systems in hosting this exhibit.

Mississauga, its yours to experience, your heritage to discover. From the sparkling water of Lake Ontario to the bustle of our International Airport, I challenge you to explore your city. The trails, the parks, the festivals, the events, the galleries and the museums, are all yours to discover right outside your doorstep. Have fun this summer and learn something new about the community you live in.



Casualties from the First World War began to hit home, in historic Mississauga, during the Spring of 1915. The news hit Port Credit the hardest, between April and June of 1915, as the community learned that three of their sons had fallen. The list of fallen for Port Credit, and the rest of historic Mississauga, would sadly grow longer as the war progressed, but here we remember the first three of "our boys" who did not come home.

John Leviston was born on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1884 in Lancashire, England to George and Elizabeth Leviston. In England he served for two years in the King's Own (Infantry) Regiment of Lancaster. John immigrated to Canada and lived in Port Credit, where he worked as a grocer. He joined the 36<sup>th</sup> Regiment Peel Active Militia. He enlisted on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1914, and served overseas with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Central Ontario Infantry Regiment. Private Leviston was killed in action near St. Julien, during the Second Battle of Ypres on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915 at the age of 28. He has no known grave, but is remembered on the Ypres Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium and on the Port Credit Cenotaph.



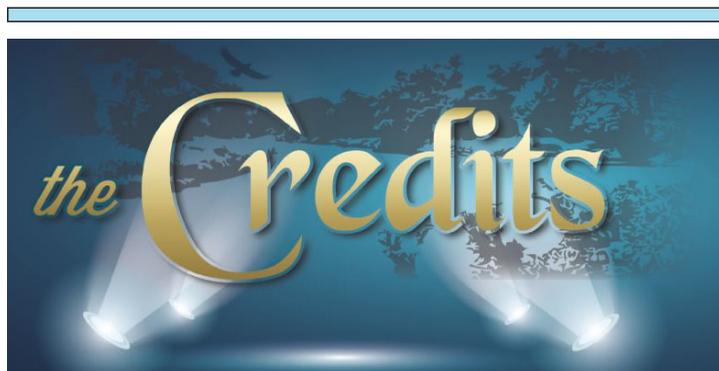
George Gordon Duncan was born in New Lowell, Ontario, on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1892, the eldest son of Reverend George Petrie Duncan and his wife. He was educated at Unionville Public School and Markham High School, and went on to attend University College at the University of Toronto for arts and medicine. The Duncan family later moved to Port Credit where Reverend Duncan served as the Chaplain at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Port Credit.

Like many of his fellow soldiers from Port Credit, Gordon was active in the 36<sup>th</sup> Peel Militia and served as a lieutenant and acting captain. Before he enlisted, George Duncan worked for the Consumers' Gas Company. His younger brothers, Wallace and Alan Gordon, also fought overseas, and their father served as a chaplain during the war.

George Gordon left Port Credit in August of 1914 as a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the CEF for Valcartier, Quebec, and reached France at the end of February of 1915. He later transferred to the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, serving as an Adjutant and Captain. Captain Duncan was wounded on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres. Returning to action, he was killed near Langemarck on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1915 during the battle of Festubert. He is buried at Brown's Road Military Cemetery at Bethune, near Festubert, and is remembered on the Port Credit Cenotaph. His younger brother, Alan Duncan, would also lose his life later in the war.

George Bertram Alexander was born in Christchurch, New Zealand on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1872 to Jonas and Elizabeth Alexander. For much of his life he lived in Kendal, England, immigrating to Canada in 1902, and living in Port Credit. George attended Trinity Anglican Church in Port Credit and worked as a brewer prior to enlisting with the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion at Valcartier, Quebec on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1914. His attestation papers indicate that he had a number of tattoos on his chest and arms of flags, coats of arms, and an eagle and shield. Once overseas he was transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, with which he was fighting when he sustained fatal wounds in action. Transferred to a field hospital, Private Alexander died on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1915 at a hospital in Rowen, France at the age of 53, and is buried nearby at the St. Sever Cemetery. He is remembered on the Port Credit Cenotaph.

Some 90 more residents of historic Mississauga would fall in the years that followed.



**Who is your Heritage Hero?  
Nominate them today!**

**Visit the Heritage Mississauga  
website for nomination information.**

[www.heritagemississauga.com/page/The-Credits](http://www.heritagemississauga.com/page/The-Credits)

## **Air Son ar Duthchais A History of the Lorne Scots, Part 4**

The 20<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> had 411 men ready for duty when the call came for men to sail overseas, but like the reservists of other regiments from across Canada, the men of Halton and Peel had only the most basic of basic training. Soldiers from across the nation gathered together at a place descriptively called, at the time, a “concentration camp” at Valcartier, Quebec where they shed their local uniforms and accouterments, to be grouped into massive brigades of a thousand or more soldiers in basic khaki. The men of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> were assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 1st Brigade, and were sent over to Europe with three other brigades as the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

For the remainder of this war, however long that may be, the soldiers of each successive division of the CEF were to be trained at central camps at Valcartier and Borden, built specifically for that purpose. The new task set for the 20<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> was only to enlist local men, and enlist as many as possible. In response, Lt. Col. A.L. Noble raised an additional 121 men from within Halton, and Lt. Col. R.C. Windeyer oversaw the recruitment of 242 more men at the many offices of the 36<sup>th</sup> in Peel.

Still more men were needed to keep pace with the deaths and injuries in France and Belgium. Just as they had done in the years following the Militia Act of 1855, old officers came out of retirement and patriotic businessmen rose to the challenge, forming new regiments to recruit still more soldiers. Six more regiments were formed in Halton, Peel and Dufferin. The first three of these – the 37<sup>th</sup>, 74<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Battalions were established in 1915 to provide support troops for the established 20<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup>.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Frederick Bick raised 103 men through the offices of the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Alan Joseph McCausland raised another 240 men through the 74<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and the 76<sup>th</sup> raised another 108 men under the command of Major James Ballantine.

The three regiments that followed – raised in 1916 and 1917 – were given more time to form their men into independent fighting units and as a result were much larger. Major Frederick James Hamilton raised the 867-strong 126<sup>th</sup> Peel Battalion. Hamilton was a 20-year veteran of the Port Credit



*Major James Ballantine, www*

company of the 36<sup>th</sup> and called on the support of local starch works owners, John Gray for financial support. The Gray family also supplied the unit's truck. Halton and Dufferin counties were amalgamated to recruit about 900 men for the 164<sup>th</sup> Battalion. This unit's commander, Lt. Col. Percy Domville undertook an aggressive campaign ranging from door-to-door pleas to the printing of posters intended to make men still on the farm feel guilty about not doing their part for the Empire. The last of the battalions raised in our area was the 234<sup>th</sup> Peel under the command of Lt. Col. Wellington Wallace who came out of retirement to raise another 491 men for duty.



*Lt. Col. Wellington Wallace, www*

These soldiers were desperately needed to replenish the ranks in this terrible war of attrition. Just three months into their war service, there were so few healthy men left for battle in the 76<sup>th</sup>, that the battalion was merged with depleted troops of the 37<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Ten days later, this combined force was so exhausted of manpower that it was amalgamated with the 39<sup>th</sup> just to provide a sufficiently-sized fighting force to keep going.

There were no real local fighting forces left in the CEF by this time. Men from one battalion were merged with any conveniently close battalion, which was in need of men from wherever they could find them. About half a year into the fight the 74<sup>th</sup> was merged into the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion. After less than two months in Europe the 126<sup>th</sup> Peel was split in two, to provide men for the 109<sup>th</sup> Victoria County, and the 116<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which had been raised in what is now Durham Region. The 164<sup>th</sup> Halton and Dufferin and the 234<sup>th</sup> Peel never saw action as single units. Before departing Shorncliffe in England, the men were assigned to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battalions respectively, to be sent as needed to any unit heading over to France “in strength”.

There was hardly a man who returned home without at least one injury on his military records. Arthur Hughes, a private with the 76<sup>th</sup> Battalion returned to Oakville with one gunshot wound in his foot, which he earned on the first day of the Vimy Ridge advance, and a second injury months later through both cheeks, from a German bullet that passed through his mouth. For Hughes, as for all the rest of his “chums” in the CEF, the war ended in November 1918, but he didn't get home until mid April 1919. It took months to bring 600,000 men back to Canada. Over 60,000 didn't get as far as Armistice Day.

## The Many Facades of the Municipality

*By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga*

Mississauga (formerly Toronto Township) has had many buildings, over time, that have served, both formally and informally, as the Township Hall/Town Hall/Municipal Offices/City Hall/Civic Centre. This might be a bit of a confusing thread to follow. In short, some buildings survive, some do not.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1850 Toronto Township incorporated under the District Municipal Act (1849). Our first Reeve was Joseph Wright. It was determined that Toronto Township council meetings would alternate between Cooksville and Streetsville, meeting in the Rechabites Hall in Cooksville and the Telegraph Hotel in Streetsville.

The early history of our first Township Hall is a bit murky. It seems to have come about in the early 1850s when a building on Church Street in Streetsville, which was originally built c1844 as a Court House, also became home to Toronto Township Council Meetings. This building, which survives today as a much-altered private residence, functioned as the Township Hall and Court House until 1867. After which the building was transferred to the Town of Streetsville and served as the Streetsville Town Hall until 1939, and the functions of Township Council were relocated to Cooksville.

From 1939 to 1965, the Streetsville Municipal Offices and Town Hall were located in the former (and relocated) Maiden Lane Public School, which survives today at 167 Queen Street. The building serves commercial purposes today. The former Streetsville Grammar School (built c1851) served as the Streetsville Town Hall and Police Station from 1966 to 1974, until amalgamation. The building remains owned by the City of Mississauga today, located at 327 Queen Street South in Streetsville, and is home today to the Kinsmen Senior Citizen's Centre.

Back to Toronto Township's "Township Hall" lineage: After leaving the old Town Hall building in Streetsville in 1867, the year of Canadian Confederation, Toronto Township Council appears to have initially met in the old Rechabites Hall. The Rechabites Hall was adjacent to the Cooksville Fair Grounds on the south side of Dundas Street and west of Hurontario Street, part of which would become known as Confederation Square. The Rechabites Hall was torn down in 1877.

Our first purpose-built Town Hall opened in Cooksville on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1873. This Town Hall building became the east wing of the new Toronto Township Municipal Office in 1953. The old town hall (east wing of the 1953 Municipal Office) burned in 1969 and was demolished. The Municipal Offices, then known as the Town of Mississauga Civic Centre, moved to a new location near Square One in July of 1971 in a land-swap agreement with developer Bruce McLaughlin. This town hall became the first Mississauga City Hall in 1974. The former 1953 Toronto Township Municipal Office building was demolished in 2008. The 1971 Civic Centre building near Square One was demolished in 1988, after the opening of the modern Mississauga Civic Centre in 1987.

For the Village of Port Credit (1914), their first municipal offices and village hall were located in the former Orange Lodge building on Stavebank Road, and operated there from 1914 until 1927. The building later became a library, and has since been demolished. Another building, also on Stavebank Road, served as the Port Credit Town Hall from 1927 until 1941. From 1941 until 1974 and amalgamation, Port Credit's Municipal Offices were located in Clarke Memorial Hall (161 Lakeshore Road West), which survives today and is currently owned and operated by the City of Mississauga.

All of these buildings, whether surviving today or remembered only in historic images, and the decisions made within their walls, played an important role in the growth and development of our remarkable city.



*First Toronto Township Hall, later Streetsville Town Hall, c1900, MLS*



*1873 Toronto Township Hall, Cooksville, c1900, HM*



*Toronto Township Hall and Municipal Offices, Cooksville, 1953, HM*



*Former Orange Lodge, Port Credit Village Hall, Port Credit, c1920, HM*



*Town of Mississauga Civic Centre, c1980, HM*

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

After a long winter, spring is finally here and Heritage Mississauga has lots planned for 2015; it seems strange to say that for such a small staff we seem to find more and more to get involved with each year!

May 1<sup>st</sup>, is the start of HM's official year and I'm pleased to say that our Partners have agreed to continue for another year. This is a great program offering food discounts to HM members at **The Chelsea Restaurant** and the **Crooked Cue** in Port Credit and at **Cuchulainn's** and **The Franklin House** in Streetsville; there's also a great discount offered at **Turtle Creek Books** for those of you who like to read. To take advantage of these unique offers and enjoy some great food in historic surroundings, present your membership card before you order as some restrictions do apply.



The Mississauga festival season kicks off with **Carassauga** on May 22-24. This year 70 different countries are represented at 28 pavilions, each one showcasing their particular culture and celebrating diversity with one of the largest multicultural festivals in Canada. Heritage Mississauga will be there to celebrate Canada's heritage in the Canadian Pavilion; come on down, we'd love to see you!



June 13<sup>th</sup>, will be a busy day at the Grange; at 10am professional genealogist Ruth Blair, in partnership with **Halton Peel OGS**, will lead those interested in Scottish ancestry while at 1pm we will gather outside with members of the **David Suzuki Foundation** as part of their "Plant a Canoe" program to introduce native plants into strategic locations in the area. The program aims to create a pollination corridor to attract birds, bees and butterflies in protection of our natural heritage.



Later in the year we have lots of exciting programs to roll out especially as we move into the fall and bring in various exhibits in remembrance of both World Wars. We also have our major fundraiser, *The Credits* on November 5<sup>th</sup>, in recognition of those "Heritage Heroes" in our community. In this connection we're delighted to announce that we have a number of returning sponsors from 2014 and **Barefoot Wines** have come back to us from 2013. In addition to kindly supplying wine at the event, they have also offered to create a "Heritage Cocktail" in our honour! Obviously as our corporate colour is teal, a blue base would be great, but if anyone has any ideas, we'd love to hear from all the mixologists out there!



In addition to **Barefoot**, we have a number of returning award sponsors; **Enersource** has been a major supporter since 2013 and are once again sponsoring the *Business Leader Award*. The company is very active in the community, supporting a variety of causes and providing great opportunities for staff education and involvement.

As an industry leader recognized for environmental stewardship, **Fielding Chemical Technologies Inc.** delivers **THE SCIENCE OF SUSTAINABILITY™** to help their customers enhance their triple bottom line performance and become part of the recycling solution. This determination to protect the environment is highlighted in the company's support of the *Natural Heritage Award* for the second year and we look forward to welcoming the team at our event in November.



Another returning sponsor is **Erin Mills Development Corporation** who is again sponsoring the *Modern Heritage Award*. This is particularly fitting since EMDC is one of the original community builders and is responsible for much of the modern architectural heritage in the city today. **Rogers TV** has returned as media sponsor and will be filming the event which will be aired on Channel 10 at a later date.



Our latest sponsor is **Kimberly Phinney, from the Loretta Phinney Team at Royal LePage**. Kimberly is a long-time supporter of Heritage Mississauga and is sponsoring the *Community Heritage Group Award* for the second year. The whole Phinney team are involved in over 40 local initiatives, working hard to give back to the community in which they do business.

With the support of these fantastic sponsors, the event is sure to be a glittering success. Nominations are open until August 31, 2015 and forms are available on our website. Please nominate a "Heritage Hero" from your community and recognize those who work to preserve your community heritage; we look forward to meeting them and to celebrating their achievements. **Nominations packages are available at: <http://www.heritagemississauga.com/page/The-Credits>**

# Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage Project

By Meghan Mackintosh, Outreach Coordinator, Heritage Mississauga

## A Fresh New Perspective

In 2014, Heritage Mississauga began working on the *Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage Project*, supported by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation to build awareness of our city's diverse cultural heritage. As the new Outreach Coordinator here at Heritage Mississauga, I'm thrilled to be working on this project and I look forward to meeting many of you in the community who are reading this newsletter.

This project is extremely important, because although Heritage Mississauga has a ton of archive material from the early settlement in the 1800s to the 1950s, with the quickly growing population and changes to the city's demographic since amalgamation, more information needs to be collected on the Mississauga of today. It's imperative that the entire history of our community be captured through oral histories, images, audio, video, online and social media means, so that future generations can trace how their families arrived to Mississauga, as well as learn about their community stories, legacies and cultural activities.



Meghan Mackintosh from Heritage Mississauga at the April 2015 Carassauga pavilion meeting with Fatoumata Keita, Thuy Pham, Anthony Vella, Mary Rose Aquilina, and Vince Aquilina., HM

During the month of April, I've connected with over 30 different community groups and associations, including those participating in Carassauga. The response to the project has been phenomenal, as these community groups are extremely excited to share their histories, stories and current events with Heritage Mississauga, so it lasts for generations. These new partnerships will help us build an ongoing city-wide cultural heritage network, where historical data, events and activities will be collected, recorded and shared with the larger Mississauga community.

This project is close to my heart, as I grew up in Meadowvale, and I can remember as a kid living on Keynes Court with my

backyard overlooking Tenth Line. Back then (in the early 1980s), Tenth Line was still farmland and there was a horse that all the kids in the neighbourhood would visit across the road. Only a few years later they began building houses in that exact spot and Tenth Line became a bustling road and Meadowvale became a burgeoning community expanding all the way to Milton. I often wish that I had a photograph from when I was a kid of that horse and farmland, so that my own memories could be more vivid. Although I spent my school years in Mississauga, I spent most of my 20s and 30s living and travelling abroad. I've visited over 20 countries, and most recently lived in New York City, before moving back to Mississauga in 2012 to be closer to my family. During my travels, I learned first-hand the amazing diversity of our world. I feel blessed to live in Mississauga where I can experience many of the festivals, activities, food and languages that inspired me while on my journeys around the world.

This year as part of the *Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage Project*, we'll be working on the following initiatives:

### ❖ A City-Wide Cultural Heritage Network

Connecting with all the different cultural community groups that reside in Mississauga is a big focus of the project and of our mission here at Heritage Mississauga. We are creating a database of contacts, resources, festivals and events and we will be promoting these events on our social media networks, such as Facebook and Twitter. On our website you'll find our Online Heritage Network, where different community groups and heritage resources will be featured with links to their websites. We're also expanding the Cultural Diversity section of our website, so if you have an article or story to share, please pass it along to us!

### ❖ Heritage Film Series

This year we will be producing three 2-minute Heritage Vignettes, as well as a 30-minute video. Right now we're in the process of researching and script writing, however, we'll be visiting historic areas in Mississauga, as well as interviewing and filming this spring and summer.

### ❖ Heritage Resource Booklets

This year we will be publishing three more Heritage Resource Booklets, which will be available here at The Grange, and which our Historian Matthew Wilkinson will take with him whenever he is out giving a historic talk. These resource booklets will go deeper into the different topics he speaks on and will be related to Mississauga's history.

### ❖ The Cultural Heritage Guide

The Cultural Heritage Guide, which will be published in 2016, will be similar to the Heritage Guide (published in 2012),

Cont'd. pg 15

## The Pines *by Don Hancock, Director, Heritage Mississauga and Marjorie Hancock*

There were always The Pines. The four dramatic White Pines that stand in line appeared to always be there, dividing the major woods of Hancock Woodlands from the fertile sandy cow pastures adjoining Camilla Road.



*The Pines, William Moody Farm, 1936, Hancock Family Photo*

They caught our mother's attention as she came up the newly opened Camilla Road by taxi in response to an advertisement that some areas on The William Moody farm were for sale in five and ten acre holdings. Dad was working in Hamilton and wisely was making use of the open weather of November of 1930.

Mom was ecstatic and there was lively enthusiasm at the dinner table that evening. "The pines Leslie, the pines!!" Dorothy enthused over the four sentinels on the sand ridge that stood guard over the four acres of old woods to the north and away from Camilla; a woods containing White Pine, Beech, Maple, Birch, Sassafras, Pin Cherry, Oak, Pagoda Dogwood, Witch Hazel, and numerous other species. Closer to Camilla was a woods of more than an acre in which there was a natural pond with leopard frogs, garter snakes, newts and dragon flies.

And so the sentinel pines had company as they grew year after year to their majestic stature. It is surprising that they were not cut and shipped to England in the late 1700's as tall masts for their majesty's battle ships, as were the White Oaks for the stout hulls knitted together so sturdily that they would survive many cannon balls without collapsing.

How or why they were missed when thousands of acres of these marvellous specimens were hauled out in winter snows and shipped from Port Credit and Oakville to Southampton, Bristol and the Thames? Perhaps the four Pines were long distance markers, or just slightly too small in those critical years.

Speculation is rarely adequate, but the trees themselves know the story, if only they could talk. The facts are certain that the four pines were only 8 feet shorter 80 years ago when they could have suffered the removal of their straight, strong timber.



*The Pines, Hancock Woodlands, 1991, Hancock Family Photo*

These simple facts with some calculation make it credible that the pines were seventy foot giants and 150 years old when the lumbermen passed through to get the best masts!

And so it is not surprising how excited Dorothy was that evening in their rented bungalow on Cumberland Drive in Port Credit. Her comment, "You have to see it yourself Leslie, you will be thrilled".

However there are potential stumbling blocks in all good plans. "But Dorothy, we cannot afford it without a miracle!" This came by Doctor and Mrs. Macklin, Dorothy's parents, who would be able to source the down payment from their Californian retirement home in St. Gabriel. They had faced evacuation at gunpoint from Nanjing, China in 1927, by the Kuo Min Tang soldiers of Chiang Kai-shek, the Hancocks and the families of Dr. William Macklin, never to return.

And so the property was assured! What happened next? Watch for an ensuing sequel of "The Four Pines".

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## Nothing is What We Hoped For: We Didn't Get it *by Richard Collins*

There's not much left of the "Hole in the Donut". Mississauga is more like a big danish now. The centre's been filled in.

The "Hole in the Donut" was . . . or was supposed to be . . . a large reserve north of Mississauga's recently-developed Square One City Centre, extending north to the Brampton border. Pearson Airport (still called Toronto International, at the time) was to serve as the eastern boundary of the "Hole". From here the "Hole" was to extend westward to the Credit River.

After years of uncontrolled growth in the township, followed by poorly-controlled growth in the Town of Mississauga, a proposal was put forward in 1974 to slow down the young City of Mississauga's northward advance, and allow development to fill in the "Hole" at a measured pace, under zoning rules that favoured mixed land use and efficient flow of traffic. This kind of growth was better than what Mississauga already had; which was vast tracts of honeycomb housing developments isolated and apart from tracts, even more massive, of warehouses and industrial parks. All of this creating a transportation bloodclot as unending streams of cars flowed from one zone to the other each morning and back again each evening, leaving one or the other zone desolate half the day.

The "Hole", despite the impression the word leaves one with, wasn't really nothing. It's only what land developers called "nothing" back in 1979, when Hazel McCallion put on the chain of office for the first time. The "Hole" was farmland. The Hole was the best Class 1, 2 and 3 soil in Canada. Ben Madill's farm was right near the centre of the "Hole", at Hurontario Street and Highway 401. Ben's barn burned down in July 2008. Most of the "Hole" was gone by then.



*Madill Farm, c1960 401 & Hurontario, HM*

Ben was one of the few who didn't sell out to developers and settle into a nice condo somewhere on what used to be his farm. A blaze of glory was the only way the Madill family farm was going to go out. Ben's barn was a stalwart symbol of a time when most Mississaugans commuted to work by walking

out to neatly harrowed rows of crops. Can you remember when there were still farms in Mississauga, and rows of rural route mailboxes lining Dixie, McLaughlin, and Creditview? Some can. Most can't. More than half of Mississauga's three-quarter million residents today haven't lived here long enough to remember.

The idea of putting a tight leash on Mississauga's growth wasn't originally Mississauga's idea. In 1959, as Metro Toronto was beginning to overflow its own century-old boundaries, its planning department felt it prudent to offer urban planning ideas to its neighbouring townships so that they could organize their development plans in advance of Toronto's advance. Metro Toronto suggested that the Township of Toronto (Mississauga before it was Mississauga) place development restrictions on its land west of the airport, noting that the airport itself was about to expand west at least to Dixie Road in the coming decade. The Metro Toronto report referred to this development-controlled zone as a "white zone". It was at subsequent public hearings that Mississauga residents adopted the donut analogy. No one seems to remember who originally coined the phrase.

Lest we be too critical of our neighbour for sticking its nose in where it didn't belong, it's worth pointing out that Metro's 1959 planning strategy specifically identified the Credit River for protection. The report was also responsible for bringing GO trains, and the 401 and 403 into Mississauga. The report also prepared Malton's airport for its inevitable leap into the jet age. One of the primary purposes of the "Hole" was to keep future homeowners clear of noisy flight paths which might, at some point, include supersonic jets. (Hey, it was the '50s.)

Pushy or not, Metro Toronto was only offering advice on what to do with land that was still a decade or more from being developed. By 1960, Toronto Township was just beginning to expand north of Dundas Street.

In 1974, the year the City of Mississauga was formed, the province adopted the "Hole-in-the-Donut" as part of its Parkway Belt Plan, which called for a band of parkland to arc north around Toronto, from Oshawa to Burlington. The province needed this corridor to make room for hydro lines and a high-tech magnetic levitation GO train. (Hey, it was the '70s.) In the '80s the monorail was toned down, and its right of way became the 407.

High density urban development was not to be permitted and as a result, Mississauga's new council did not greet the province's "Hole-in-the-Donut" with enthusiasm. There was at least one exception, and that was councillor Larry Taylor. He represented old Ward 4 from 1977 to 1985, when his ward was the whole hole. "A city whose heart is green", Taylor claimed, "would be a marvelous thing."

*Cont'd pg 12*

## The Donut Hole Cont'd...

Mississauga never tacitly agreed to the conditions of the parkway belt plan, but the city's 1975 Official Plan Review did claim to favour the idea. That changed in 1979. That year, the "Hole" that never officially existed began to shrink. The City was anxious to grow north, and the province didn't really have the legislative clout at the time to stop the City. Even if Queen's Park were to have given itself the power to impose development controls on Mississauga, developers could usually count on the Ontario Municipal Board to come to their aid.

In 1981, the province developed a farmland protection policy called the Food Land Guidelines. It was designed to protect prime soil around the GTA but as its "guideline" name implies, it had no legal teeth. It was really more like a list of polite suggestions to the municipalities. During one development hearing regarding land near the village of Meadowvale, the chair of the OMB hearing on the development criticized the Food Land Guidelines as being too vague to have any actual firm policies that could or could not be upheld. The OMB decision noted the developer had purchased the land in the "Hole" at ten times the rate that the land could make as farmland, and that this action was justification enough to approve the development. It set a precedent. Soon developers began tearing down barns for the first of four stages of the Erin Mills community.

Land along the north side of Burnhamthorpe, close to the recently-completed Square One was the first part of the "Hole" to be sold for residential development. The most rapid growth in the "Hole" was along Dixie and Tomken roads. Close to the expanding airport, land along these two roads was prime for industrial and warehouse development. It was during this early stage in filling the "Hole" that the north half of the city was inadvertently divided into huge tracts consisting either of places to live or places to work. In no case was there an effective balance of both. This helps explain why traffic is so much more congested north of Burnhamthorpe than south of it today, despite the fact that the roads are newer and wider here. Through the 1990s, industrial and warehouse development expanded north and west with the Aimco and Courtneypark developments, while in the west end of the "Hole", the third and fourth phases of Erin Mills Centre, and the Meadowvale North and West developments filled in.

### What's Left of the "Hole"

Councilor Taylor was so enthusiastic in his support of the "Hole" that he even suggested that part of his ward be used for "a demonstration farm . . . for school tours." It's an idea that could still be considered today. The only part of the "Hole in the Donut" that's left is the part that can't be filled in; not that the Peel District School Board hasn't tried. The "undeveloped" land on the west side of Hurontario Street, between Bristol and Matheson is the Britannia Farm. It's an oasis of green in a void of asphalt gray. Do a Google Map

search of the farm and see for yourself how it defies the urban growth around it; right down to lot lines, so clearly defined by crisp edges where Mississauga's growth was abruptly stopped by Reverend James Magrath, Joseph Gardner and Colonel William Thompson.

The farm was donated to the ratepayers of the village of Britannia by the three men. In 1844, they agreed to serve as trustees for the local school section, known at the time as Toronto Township S.S. #12. Revenue generated from the farm was to be used to build a school on part of the farm. (This was done in 1876.) After that, the farm revenue would pay for a teacher and to buy school supplies, maps and books. The little red brick schoolhouse still stands. It's the very same one Ben Madill attended (most of the time) when he was a kid.

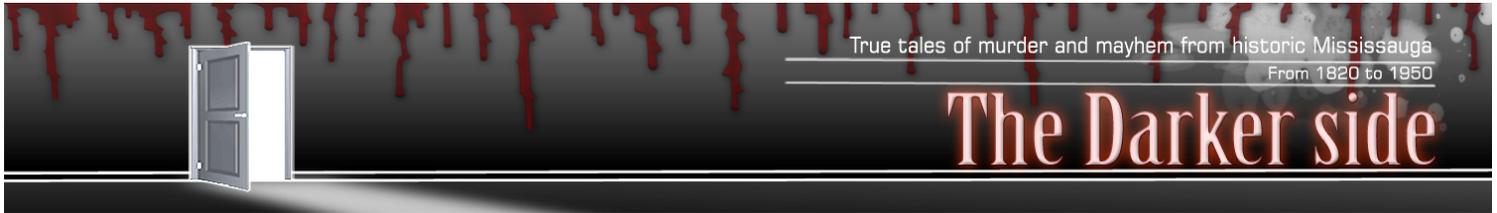
Magrath, Gardiner and Thompson leased the 82 hectare property to the School Section and its successors. More importantly, it was leased "in perpetuity". That's why we still have one last bit of the "Hole" that never really was.

## Clarkson Public School 's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*By Jane Watt, Administrative Assistant, Heritage Mississauga*



On Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Clarkson Public School welcomed approximately 300 current and past teachers, students, parents and members of the community to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Along with Heritage Mississauga, the Museums of Mississauga and Mississauga Library had heritage displays. The event was organized by the parent council committee volunteers. There was a scrapbook assembled by a local resident Major John Barnett in 1893 which had old photos and attendance books. All of the displays were fascinating and kept the crowd busy reminiscing as they saw the photos and memorabilia. As treats they served scones and strawberry jam which was very appropriate as Clarkson was once known as the Strawberry Capital of Ontario.



*By James Walker*

The search for fleeing murder suspects John (sometimes Jack) Brokenshire and Harry Clarkson spanned more than 20 hours, and led Toronto police from Scarlett Road, two blocks east of Islington Avenue, all the way across Dundas Street to Trafalgar Road, on the border of historic Oakville and Mississauga, a distance of almost 30 kilometres. When all was done, two people would be dead, and numerous lives would be changed forever.

The saga began on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1930 when Brokenshire and Clarkson were pulled over by Constables Haliburton and McQuillin while driving in a stolen car. Brokenshire, who was driving, attempted to pretend that he owned the car. When he was unable to produce ownership or registration documents, the men were ordered out of the car and told that they would be taken to the station. It was at this point that Brokenshire opened fire. The force of the shots knocked him off his feet, and Constable Roy McQuillin, shot six times, collapsed and died shortly afterwards.

Leaving the vehicle, Brokenshire and Clarkson were momentarily separated as Clarkson, shot at in his flight, fell into a ditch, and Brokenshire began a haphazard shootout with McQuillin's partner. Constable Haliburton was not injured by Brokenshire's gunfire, but Brokenshire himself was not as lucky. One of the officer's bullets grazed his ribs below the shoulder, drawing blood. The injured culprit then set off on foot, heading west. Clarkson caught up with Brokenshire and the two fled together, fording the frigid waters of the Humber River.

Soon afterwards the streets were in chaos, with sirens wailing and police officers running back and forth on foot, in patrol cars, on motorcycles, or in cars commandeered from the public for the manhunt. The two fugitives were seen heading west, into Toronto Township, but the police did not find this out until later into the night. They searched Toronto and the surrounding area in the dark, with only a few torches and lanterns to guide them.

The fugitives, stumbling, cold, wet, and muddy, became separated. A wounded Harry Clarkson was captured hiding near a cemetery past Third Line in Toronto Township (the cemetery was not identified – likely Dixie Union Cemetery at Dundas Street and Cawthra Road). Having switched shoes with Brokenshire due to the fact that the latter's were wet and giving him pain, Clarkson gave himself up without a fight, and the police were able to concentrate their search effort in the area for Brokenshire. (Note: While Clarkson is mentioned as having spent some of his youth in Toronto Township and was

familiar with the area, it is uncertain if he was related to the Clarkson family of Clarkson, Mississauga).

Toronto Township police joined the search, setting up road blocks, canvassing farmhouses, watching bridges, all in attempts to find Brokenshire. Despite the efforts of police officers spreading out and combing the surrounding area, Brokenshire had once again escaped into the inky darkness of historic Mississauga's countryside. The exact route the fleeing man took is unknown.

The next clue that the police got came the following morning when it was discovered that the hunted man had broken into a schoolhouse (near Erindale) to steal bandages to dress his wounds, and that he had broken into the Shain family farmhouse near Erindale, and stolen food and a pair of pyjamas. The Albertson family also reported seeing a strange individual on their property, who fled when approached, walking in bare feet and staggering as if wounded.

Around 11 am on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1930, a farmer from the Trafalgar area named Williams was driving to Oakville, and spotted someone he thought was Brokenshire walking down Ninth Line. He telephoned the police in Oakville as soon as he was able. The Oakville Police raced to the scene, arriving at roughly the same time as Toronto Police and the Toronto Township Police. Sensing that the net was closing in on him, Brokenshire ran across fields and through the underbrush while the pursuing officers shot at him repeatedly, nearly evading capture again.

Finally, his luck ran out and a bullet brought him down. The decisive bullet, apparently fired by Officer Harry Ramsay, hit Brokenshire in the midriff. As he collapsed, Constable Harry Warton pounced on him, ensuring that he wasn't going anywhere else. Constable Warton had run on foot from Toronto Township to the Oakville border (in modern terms, he ran along Dundas Street roughly from Winston Churchill Boulevard to Trafalgar Road), wearing through the bottom of his shoes in the process.

As Brokenshire lay bleeding, hatless, coatless, and shoeless, it seemed as though he might die. Nevertheless, the police loaded him into a car and he was driven to St Joseph's Hospital in Toronto. He asked the police what they were waiting for, and demanded that they finish him off. The police even went as far as to have one of their ranks provide blood for two separate transfusions in the hopes of saving Brokenshire so

*Cont'd pg 15*

### Early Doctors and Medicine in Historic Mississauga, Part 8

Dr. Beaumont Wilson Bowen Dixie's practice spanned fifty-five years in Toronto Township and he proved to be over the course of his career, a beloved member of the community. So trusted was the good doctor that patients would write to him and ask for treatment although they no longer lived in the township. Leslie Gordon wrote to Dr. Dixie from Auburn, New York, asking him to treat her and send medicine. He was also the doctor people visited when they were displeased with other doctors. Harriet Merigold wrote to Dr. Dixie in 1882 and said "Dr. Aikens sent me a bill of twelve dollars. I think he has charged one a great deal." Obviously Dr. Dixie was deeply trusted by those he served in the community and well loved. The village of Dixie, and Dixie Road, were named in his honour. His second wife, Bessie, and his daughter, Bertha, had a similar reverence for Dr. Dixie. Bessie saved a lock of his hair and after his death Bertha allowed no one to touch his office and dispensary which remained undisturbed until her death in 1951.

Just after Dr. Dixie was licensed, the dreaded cholera struck again in 1849 and would remain with the township throughout the 1850s. It was almost twenty years since the disease had originally struck the Township and doctors knew little more than they did when it hit the first time. This time, however, there were more doctors and more people, which meant that although there was more treatment available there were more people to treat. Dr. William Poole Crewe had a cholera remedy that he swore by, a mixture of quinine, water, calomel, opium and brandy. Like the remedies that came before, this proved ineffective in the treatment of the disease. During previous epidemics cholera sheds were used to quarantine patients. The Streetsville Review reported the building of the sheds in Toronto and comments that the Board of Health commended their construction.

Despite their best attempts at combating the disease, there was no stopping the spread. While exact numbers in Toronto Township are unknown, Toronto reported 414 cases by the end of August 1849 and 254 deaths. The disease again led to panic and during its most virulent periods caused people to become wary of one another. Business dropped and people from the country refused to go near the cities. The government felt pressure to act. New legislation was passed in 1849, which empowered the governor to declare a state of emergency during an epidemic. It also authorized him to appoint a central board to supervise and correlate the efforts of local organizations. This was particularly important in smaller areas with fewer medical professionals.

A good deal of what the pioneer doctor fought against were diseases that were particularly devastating for children. Whooping cough, scarlet fever and measles all had high mortality rates in children. Whooping cough or pertussis is

an intense cough which can last up to 10 weeks. The disease although not deadly in itself weaken the body so the risk of a secondary infection like pneumonia is great. Scarlet fever was another disease, which devastated the young. Many died from the disease but the numbers began to decline in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Scarlet fever was one of the first diseases to decline with preventative action like improved hygiene. Scarlet fever and measles were often confused for one another, the latter being particularly deadly for infants. Measles causes a reddish brown rash to spread over the body and an enlarged spleen. Bronchopneumonia often developed which was the most common cause of death. These are diseases which are preventable today but for the early doctors of Toronto Township it was a constant battle to stop the spread.

Another disease which was particularly devastating for young people was diphtheria, an epidemic, which came through Toronto Township in the summers of 1853 and 1854. Diphtheria derives from *diphthera*, the Greek word for leather and refers to the leathery tissue which develops in the throats of those afflicted. The disease is spread by the rod shaped bacteria *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* and is spread by droplet infection. The incubation period lasts six weeks, but if the bacteria is present for more than twelve weeks without a show of symptoms the individual is simply a carrier. The toxins of the disease can cause permanent damage to the heart. The disease begins with sore throat like symptoms, which is soon followed by coughing and swelling of the mucous membrane. This swelling leads to difficulty breathing and swallowing. Eventually breathing becomes so difficult that a patient could asphyxiate.

During the epidemic of 1853 there was no effective treatment for diphtheria. All a country doctor could do was provide temporary relief by pushing a tube down a swollen windpipe. There was no effective treatment for diphtheria until the discovery of an antitoxin, which was used effectively for the first time in Berlin in 1891. This discovery did little good to the people of Toronto Township during the epidemics of the 1850s. Many families lost their children to the disease. Dr. Dixie lost all four of his children during the epidemic during the summer of 1854. Anna and Harriet Eleanor succumbed on July 15<sup>th</sup>, eight month old Wolston followed on August 9<sup>th</sup> and five year old Richard passed away on August 13<sup>th</sup>. All four of them are buried at St. Peter's Cemetery where four small white crosses stand as a testament to the challenges of early medicine. Despite such tragic loss, Dr. Dixie's day books remained full on the days his children died, demonstrating that despite their own hardships the horseback doctor was loyal and true to his patients.

*Cont'd pg 15*

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## Cultural Heritage Project Cont'd...

however, the focus for this guide will be on the different cultural communities in Mississauga and their history. We're currently working with a Steering Committee to decide the content and layout, and volunteers will gather historical data, photographs, as well as their current initiatives and events for the guide.

Please contact me if you would like to help with the *Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage Project* or if you have an interesting community story to share.

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## Medical Miracles Cont'd...

Several important medical advancements were made during the 1850s and 1860s. By 1853 an early form of the modern hypodermic syringe was developed by Charles Pravaz in France. This design was modified by Alexander Wood in order to enable the flow of medication into a patient. The early design was made in silver but this was substituted for glass by 1869. The result was that it was easier to sterilize and reduced the risk of infection. This discovery allowed for the injection of narcotics in patients to reduce pain levels.

Over the course of the nineteenth century many discoveries helped to make surgery painless for patients. However until antiseptics made their way into general practice, many people died from preventable infections. Joseph Lister is often credited with the discovery of antiseptics. He was the first to develop an antiseptic ritual involving carbolic acid. As a result of the application of Lister's antiseptic policy, surgical mortality rates dropped from fifty to fifteen percent. These theories were quickly applied to medical practice in Canada. Lister's developments were greatly influenced by the growing understanding of germs and bacteria. Theories of contagions were not new to the nineteenth century. People understood that diseases like smallpox were spread through contact but it was not fully understood how the transfer took place. In 1864 Louis Pasteur conclusively demonstrated the existence of microbes and that they were the cause of disease

among other things. In the late 1870s and early 1880s Pasteur applied his microbe theories to the battle against contagious disease, successfully inoculating against fowl cholera and anthrax. The developments made by Pasteur and others in the area of bacteriology had important implications for the medical profession and their ability to combat and prevent epidemic diseases.

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## Darker Side Cont'd...

that he might face trial. Clarkson was brought in quickly to identify Brokenshire, as it was feared that he may die at any time. Doctors gave Brokenshire a 50/50 chance of survival.

But survive he did, and a date was set for his trial. Although the pair always maintained that Clarkson had not fired his gun during the altercation, both men were charged with murder. As the trial progressed, Brokenshire was quiet. Most of the time, he would sit doubled over with his head on his knees, as if in pain, but the court paid little heed. Among the people who testified were some of Brokenshire's doctors, guards, his mother, and Clarkson. In her sad testimony, his mother described how John had changed from an decent, well-behaved boy into a distant and strange man whose actions she could not understand. At one point, his lawyer attempted to reason with the court that his client was not mentally fit for trial, and could therefore not be executed because he was not responsible for his actions. The judge and jury did not believe him, and after a lengthy trial, with interruptions due to the stress that the proceedings had put on the injured killer, the jury found Brokenshire guilty and sentenced him to be hung from the neck until death.

Luckily for Harry Clarkson, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and he was released from police custody. Moments later, however, he was rearrested on the lesser charges of carrying a loaded revolver in a manner dangerous to public safety, and breaking and entering. He was eventually convicted and sentenced to five years in Portsmouth Penitentiary, which he served. In later newspaper interviews, Clarkson sounded like a man who had gotten in over his head, and seemed to be glad for the time that his sentence would give him to think about his life.

Brokenshire's lawyer submitted his case and sentence for review by the Supreme Court of Canada, but despite his best efforts the Toronto court decision was upheld. The execution was delayed by the appeals process, and the fateful date was moved to August 14<sup>th</sup>, 1931. While awaiting execution Brokenshire was pensive. He spoke little to the priest assigned as his spiritual advisor, preferring to keep his thoughts to himself. Brokenshire climbed the scaffold at 7:57 am on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1931, and twelve minutes later he was dead, his punishment served.

# Heritage Matters

## Heritage Mississauga

### Exhibits

**Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre**

**May 5 -June 5** Erindale Secondary School Art Show

**June 9 -July 3** Mary Rose Ayoub Art Show

**Lower Exhibit Hall**

**Mar 24 -June 25** ALFEW "Aggregation 17"

### Events

**May 22 -24** Carassauga

**June 13** Scottish Genealogy Workshop

Art Gallery of Mississauga [www.artgalleryofmississauga.com](http://www.artgalleryofmississauga.com)

### Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

**May 10 - Mother's Day** We appreciate all that our mothers have done for us. Make your mom a pretty posy to show her how much you love her.

**June 14 - Father's Day** Bring your dad to the schoolhouse for some fun. Play horseshoes in the garden horseshoe pit or see if he can walk on stilts.

**June 24** - Strawberry Social

**July 14** - Lemonade on the Lawn

**Sept. to June 2nd** Sunday open for tours

### Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society

For info contact Jane Watt [jwatt@ica.net](mailto:jwatt@ica.net) 905-281-1701

Mississauga Arts Council 1055-300 City Centre Drive Mississauga, ON L5B 3C9 Tel. 905-615-4278 [mac@mississaugaartscouncil.com](mailto:mac@mississaugaartscouncil.com)

### Mississauga South Historical Society

For more info contact Richard Collins [chessie217@gmail.com](mailto:chessie217@gmail.com)

**May 9** is our Annual Field Trip, we are going to Alton Mills, please call for details at 905-828-8411 Ext 0. Our general meetings are on July 21, September 15 and November 17.

### 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](mailto:info@mississaugasportscouncil.org)  
Tel: 905-267-3536 [www.sportsmississauga.org](http://www.sportsmississauga.org)

### Museums of Mississauga

**Until June 14 - Our Boys: Mississauga War Memorial Exhibit** at Bradley Museum. The Museums of Mississauga have collaborated with Heritage Mississauga to present an exhibition highlighting some of the local fallen WWI soldiers.

### Streetsville Historical Society

905-814-5958 [mbyard@sympatico.ca](mailto:mbyard@sympatico.ca)

The archives at Leslie Log House are open on Sundays and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Tours are available.

**May 30** Spring Tour to Wellington County Museum in Fergus

### Trafalgar Township Historical Society

For info contact [jwatt@ica.net](mailto:jwatt@ica.net)

**May 13** 7pm Elise C. Cole, Local Collections Librarian at Oakville Public Library.

**June 19 1:30-3:30pm** Archives Open House, archives research and reminisce.

**July 8 7pm** Historian Chris Raible will be speaking about William Lyon Mackenzie and Mackenzie's Rebellion: Memories and Myths

Visual Arts Mississauga [www.visualartsmississauga.com](http://www.visualartsmississauga.com)

## Did You Know?

### Mississauga's connection to the Second Battle of Ypres



Just over 100 years ago, the first major battle fought by Canadian troops in the First World War took place from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1915, outside the Belgian city of Ypres. The untested Canadians distinguished themselves as a determined fighting force, resisting the first large-scale poison gas attack in modern history, and holding a strategically critical section of the frontline until reinforcements could be brought in. On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1915, the First Canadian Division of 18,000 men took their place between French and British troops defending the Ypres Salient. More than 6,500 Canadians were killed, wounded or captured in the battle. The Second Battle of Ypres also served as the inspiration of Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae's memorial poem "In Flanders Fields".



*Saint Julien Memorial, the Brooding Soldier, Second Battle of Ypres*

Of the casualties at Ypres, three of the wounded and one of those killed were from historic Mississauga: Captain George Gordon Duncan of Port Credit was wounded on April 23<sup>rd</sup> (he would later be killed at the Battle of Festubert); Corporal Harry Kee of Streetsville was wounded at Ypres and received the Military Medal for gallant service; Lance Corporal Egerton Sayers of Clarkson was also at the Second Battle of Ypres (later, in 1918, he would also lose his life in the war); and Private John Leviston of Port Credit was the first of our fallen from historic Mississauga, killed in action on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1915 at the age of 28 while fighting with the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Battalion at Ypres.

**For further information please contact Jane Watt at 905-828-8411 ext. 0**