

Spring 2012
Vol. 25/Issue 2

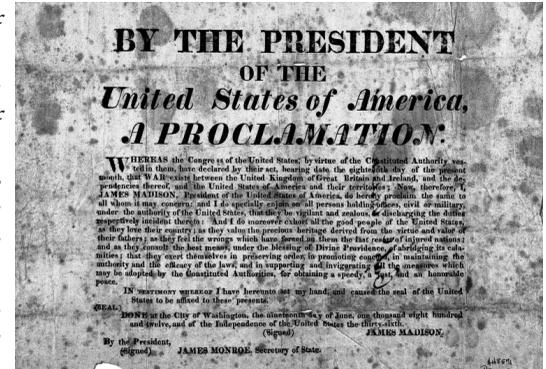
Inside...

- President's Message ~ 2
- The Editor's Desk ~ 3
- The Darker Side ~ 4
- Briggs House ~ 5
- Rebellion of 1837 ~ 6
- Irish have moved In! ~ 7
- Interview: Don Mills ~ 8
- The Grange Gardens ~10
- Historical Societies ~11
- Exhibits Update ~12
- Culture Days ~13
- Peel Heritage Fair ~14
- Heritage Matters ~16

The Storm Breaks, Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That war be and is hereby declared to exist between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the dependencies thereof, and the United States of America and their territories; and that the President of the United States is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the United States to carry the same into effect, and to issue to private armed vessels of the United States commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal, in such form as he shall think proper, and under the seal of the United States, against the vessels, goods, and effects of the government of the said United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the subjects thereof.



Presidential Proclamation June 19, 1812, www.wwv

-An Act Declaring War between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Dependencies Thereof and the United States of America and Their Territories, 18 June 1812



Militia Marching, Wordpress, [www](http://www.wwv)

Storm clouds of impending war had been gathering for years. The fledgling United States of America and Great Britain had come close to war leading up to 1812, notably in 1807 after the *Chesapeake Affair*, although war had been averted prior to 1812. Leading up to the outbreak of hostilities, American discontent (and disconnect), not unfounded, had continued to build. Leading the way on the list of complaints was the British policy of impressment, the blockading of trading ports, and what was perceived by American interests as British support for Native unrest in the Northwest. On June 1, 1812 American President James Madison sent a message to Congress outlining American grievances against Britain.

After a four day deliberation the House of Representatives voted 79 to 49, followed by a 19 to 13 vote in the American Senate, both in favour of war. This was far from resounding support for what many came to call "Mr. Madison's War", and was the closest vote for war in American history.

On June 18, 1812, President Madison signed the resolution into law. War was officially declared.

The opening salvo of the conflict was still weeks away, but the United States of America's declaration of war against Britain and her



SPECIAL EVENTS

Mayoral Heritage Luncheon

featuring

JOHN TORY

Tuesday
June 26th
11:30-2:00pm

Glenerin Inn

Call today to book your tickets.

President's Message

By Barbara O'Neil, President

1812-2012: From Uniformed Re-enactments To iPhone Apps

This month I'm making room for the second half of my interview with Don Mills on the evolution of our City's Central library branch.

In other parts of this newsletter you will be reading about some of the exciting plans we have for the upcoming months: our complete, pocket size *Mississauga Heritage Guide* is launching in June! John Tory (now of News Talk 1010 Live Drive and Community Activist, former leader of the Ontario Conservative Party and CEO of Rogers Communications), is our Annual Mayor's Luncheon Speaker at the Glen Erin Inn on June 26! And, we're releasing an iPhone application later this year!

Heritage Mississauga will be busy throughout the year with numerous commemorative 1812 activities, from television specials, to flash mobs, to costumed appearances at many of Mississauga's major events (Carassauga, Canada Day, Doors Open, etc.). We look forward to seeing you at some of these upcoming events.

Membership has its benefits!

Consider becoming a member of Heritage Mississauga! Membership is affordable and helps us to continue the work we do preserving Mississauga's heritage. For more information please call me today at the Heritage office 905-828-8411 ext. 0.

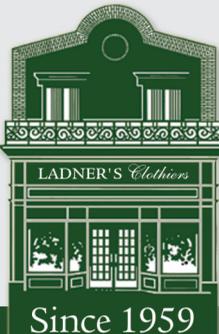


Jane Watt, HM



2012-2013 Board Members gather after the Annual General Meeting May 16th for their official photo. From the right back: Andrew Forbes, Barbara O'Neil, Margaret

Jedlewska, Jayme Gaspar, Greg Carraro, Faith Rivers, Luz del Rosario, Winnie Fung, Ram Dhanjal, Don Hancock, and Councillor Katie Mahoney. Missing from the photo: Jake Dheer, Leslie Fernandes, Douglas Hancock and Kimberly Phinney.



LADNER'S Clothiers

220 Queen Street South
Streetsville ON L5M 1L5
Tel 905-826-2344
Fax 905-821-1771
todd@ladnersclothiers.com
www.ladnersclothiers.com

Since 1959

Todd Ladner

Board of Directors 2011-2012
Barbara O'Neil, **President** Greg Carraro, **Vice President** Andrew Forbes, **Treasurer**, Kimberly Phinney, **Secretary**

Luz del Rosario, Ram Dhanjal, Jake Dheer, Leslie Fernandes, Winnie Fung, Don Hancock, Douglas Hancock, Margaret Jedlewska, Faith Rivers, Councillor Katie Mahoney

STAFF
Jayme Gaspar - Executive Director, Jenny Walker - Program Developer, Jane Watt - Administrative Assistant, Matthew Wilkinson - Historian

HERITAGE NEWS is a publication of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc. The Foundation (est. 1960) is a not-for-profit organization which identifies, researches, interprets, promotes, and encourages awareness of the diverse heritage resources relating to the city of Mississauga. The Foundation acknowledges, with thanks, the financial assistance of the City of Mississauga, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Department of Canadian Heritage - The Heritage Canada Foundation, Community Foundation of Mississauga, Canada Summer Jobs, the Ministry of Culture, Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, Peel School Board which, together with its members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers, help to preserve Mississauga's heritage in its many aspects. Articles, contributions, comments, advertisements, and letters to the Editor are welcome. 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. You can also visit us on our Web page: www.heritagemississauga.com **NEXT DEADLINE: June 8, 2012**

Editor: Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director
Content: Matthew Wilkinson
Layout & Typesetting: Jayme Gaspar

Contributors: Richard Collins, Culture Division COM, Kayla Demers, Elaine Eigl, Jayme Gaspar, Barbara O'Neil, Louise Peacock, Jenny Walker, Jane Watt, Jean Watt, Matthew Wilkinson, Zofia Krivdova

Photography: 1877 Atlas of Peel, City of Mississauga, Heritage Mississauga, Library & Archives Cda, "Men of Canada", Mississauga Library System, McGill Library, Louise Peacock, Scruffy's Irish Pub, Toronto Star, www

Printing: The Print Guru's



DeSerres

FINE ARTS
CREATIVE DIY
GRAPHIC ARTS
ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS
SCRAPBOOKING & FINE PAPERS
STICK-ON DECORATION
FRAMING
FURNITURE

OAKVILLE / MISSISSAUGA
2501 Hyde Park Gate
(905) 829-9181

26 STORES ACROSS CANADA | SINCE 1908

SHOP ONLINE
DESERRES.CA

From the Editor's Desk

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

It has been a very busy spring here at Heritage Mississauga. We had standing room only at our second genealogy workshop in April. Many thanks to speaker Rick Roberts from *Family Tree Maker* for bringing his wisdom and helpful hints for recording family records. We appreciate the ongoing support of our workshop sponsor the Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Look to our website for details on the next genealogy workshop in September with speaker Fawne Stratford Devai of "Ancestors in the Attic".



Jayme Gaspar, HM

Our research and programming continues into the War of 1812 and Mississauga's contributions to the war effort. During Carassauga we will be introducing our soldiers in full replica uniforms. We appreciate the support of the Hazel McCallion Foundation for their assistance of a generous grant to support our celebrations this year. You will find our soldiers at a number of events including the Bread & Honey Parade and Festival and Canada Day in Port Credit and Streetsville. Come out and visit our volunteer soldiers in action.

Last year we announced a very important publication: the *Mississauga Heritage Guide*, it will be available this summer. We appreciate the support of the Community Foundation making this publication possible and the numerous writers and editors we have engaged to help make this guide a lasting publication.

With the generous support this year of the Community Foundation we will be communicating our heritage in a very modern way. This summer we will launch the first Heritage Mississauga iPhone App. Focused on our *Mississauga Remembers* this FREE app will take users on a journey through the War of 1812 and the important contributions made by our own residents to the war. Battles, weaponry, uniforms, recipes, and biographies of veterans will pay tribute to the heroes of the war. You will connect with residents like Amos Wilcox, Lewis Bradley and the Merigold's amongst others. We will also introduce a number of our Native Veterans of the War including Joseph Sawyer. We are working closely over the next phases of our research with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation to help research the significant contributions made by our First Nations people during the War. Heritage Mississauga gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of

Mississauga, a registered charitable public foundation serving the people of Mississauga.

The Community Foundation of Mississauga has been matching acts of caring with community needs since 2001. Working with donors and the broader community, the Foundation invests in building strong and resilient places to live, work and play. By providing effective and efficient endowment options for donors, the Foundation is creating a lasting legacy of community vitality. To find out more about the Community Foundation of Mississauga, visit the web site at www.CFofM.org.



Finally I would like to congratulate the following on receiving honours from the Ontario Heritage Trust Recognition Awards: Alan Skeoch, Fred Durdan, James Kelhammer, Malton Community Garden and Terry Wilson. Thank you for your dedication to the preservation of the cultural heritage of this community. You are an inspiration to us all.

Looking forward to celebrating with you over the next few months as we honour Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812.

Heritage Mississauga Fund Raising Event

Heritage, Lessons Learned Speaker: John Tory

Tuesday June 26, 2012
Glen Erin Inn, 1695 The Collegeway
11:30am-2:00pm

Tickets: \$100 each
\$700.00 for a table of 8

Charitable Receipts will be issued



John is the host of NEWSTALK 1010's afternoon show "The Live Drive" which airs Monday to Friday. John says "I try to measure everything I do by whether it can make a difference"; he lives this by lending his support to a number of local charities. Join us as John reflects on his thoughts concerning heritage, lessons learned and why heritage and the fight to preserve it, is so important.

Don't Miss It!!

The Darker Side: The Rumbold Murder

By Kayla Demers



Kayla Demers, HM

At approximately 7:15 am, in the early morning of July 22, 1930, John Nightengale was returning home from work and stumbled upon an old car parked on Mineola Road in Port Credit. Nightengale looked in the car and saw a man sitting on the floor with his feet up on the front seat.

The man was identified as Philip Rumbold, 57 of Tonawanda, New York. He was found with his hands tied behind his back. It was quickly determined that the victim had been beaten with a hammer and strangled with a cord. Rumbold was a wealthy real estate operator in Tonawanda. His family told police that he was travelling to Sunfish Cove for a week-long fishing trip with a friend. They said he had no reason to stop in Port Credit nor did they know anyone in the area.

The police began their investigation immediately that morning. They did not have a lot of direct evidence. They found gold-rimmed glasses beside the car. Rumbold's wife later told police that the glasses her husband wore were similar to the pair found. Also, the police found that Rumbold had small pieces of cotton in his nose and mouth. From this, they determined that he was gagged and possibly drugged. At this point the remaining evidence is non-direct, circumstantial and/or pure coincidence.

As the days progressed and police tried to piece together Rumbold's movements after he crossed the border and before he died, they found many witnesses who had either seen or spoken to Rumbold. The first witness was Maxwell Hodgson, who was a 17-year old milk driver for the Credit View Dairy in Port Credit. He told police that he had seen an American car parked in the exact same spot as Rumbold's between 3:30 am and 4:00 am on the morning of July 22. Another witness had seen a man walking away from the spot where the car was found at around 11:30 pm on July 21. The witness gave the man a ride towards Hamilton. The most important witness was a Mrs. Marsaw from Hamilton. Her husband, Edward Marsaw owned a restaurant at 225

King St E. in Hamilton. Once Rumbold's body was sent home, Mrs. Marsaw travelled to New York and positively identified him as the man she had talked to at her husband's restaurant. She said that Rumbold was at the restaurant and had ordered a meal there around 5:45 pm and told her that he had to wait there because he was meeting a friend. However Rumbold left without meeting up with anyone. By July 24, police had at least 5 possible theories of what, how and why Rumbold had been killed. They no longer thought that Mineola Road. was where he was killed. They thought he had been killed somewhere else and was then driven in his car to Mineola Road. where he had been found. The police surmised that any one of these theories could have happened:

- * Rumbold was the victim of a business feud and was purposely followed from the time he left his home in Tonawanda and killed along the way then driven to Mineola Road.
- * Rumbold was followed by people he met along the way, they saw he had money, he was robbed, killed and left for dead.
- * Rumbold picked up a hitch-hiker(s) somewhere along the way and was later attacked.
- * Rumbold could have been at a roadhouse and been attacked there.
- * The last theory was that Rumbold could have been killed by a "maniac".

This case was never solved and none of the "theories" listed above were ever proven. The most disturbing part of this case is how much more evidence, even weak at best, was never followed up on, such as:

- * Rumbold had been carrying almost \$300 on him when he left his home in New York. When his body was discovered, he had only \$1.45 in his pockets and because of the missing money, the police had the theory that robbery was the motive for the killing, and this theory remained dominant for the entire investigation. However, in those days \$1.45 would still be enough to steal. Why didn't the "robber" take everything?
- * If the victim was killed somewhere else then driven to Mineola Road, then why were his glasses found outside of the car? There would be no reason to scuffle with a dead man.

Cont'd pg 12



Toronto Daily Star, July 22, 1930

Briggs House Designated

By Elaine Eigl, Heritage Coordinator, Culture Division, City of Mississauga

City Council, at its April 11, 2012 meeting, adopted the recommendation made by the city's Heritage Advisory Committee to designate the property known as the Briggs House, located in Lorne Park Estates in south-west Mississauga. In doing so, the Briggs House has been added to the list of roughly 280 properties which have been recognized by the City as having heritage significance per the Ontario Heritage Act.



913 Sangster Avenue, COM



John Graydon, HM

The Briggs House was deemed to be worthy of designation because it is a rare example of the late nineteenth century resort architecture which demonstrates a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit as a well-built and aesthetically pleasing building which yields information about the lifestyle of well-to-do late nineteenth century residents. Further, it demonstrates the work of John Graydon who was significant to the communities of both Streetsville and Lorne Park Estates;

and it has direct association with Reverend William Briggs who was significant to both the Methodist and the early Canadian publishing communities.

The area, named for the then Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, was developed at a time when a commonly held belief was that rural life was both healthier and morally superior to city life. The park was created to be a pleasure ground for Toronto's more affluent residents and officially opened on May 24, 1879. It quickly became a popular destination, drawing as many as 5,000 visitors in one day.

Edmund Burke (1850 - 1919), of Langley & Burke, was a prominent Canadian architect who designed many of the cottages in the park, including one for himself. Although definitive proof that the design of the Briggs House can be attributed to Burke was not found during the research into the property, the shape and form of the building, and the existence of other Lorne Park Estate



Edmond Burke, McGill Library

drawings by Burke at the Land Registry Office, strongly suggest his influence.

John Graydon is significant to Mississauga as a long time resident of Streetsville, who was a prominent builder and businessman. He purchased the subject property in 1888, and is presumed to be the builder of the cottage. Owning the property for only eleven months, he sold it in 1889 to Reverend William Briggs, for more than five times as much as he had paid.

William Briggs is presumed to be the first occupant of the subject dwelling, owning the property from 1889 until 1910. He is representative of the class of people who made their summer homes in Lorne Park Estates in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The community was designed to appeal to well educated, wealthy, upper class people.



William Briggs, "Men of Canada"

The Briggs house is one of the few remaining examples of the Lorne Park Summer Resort's late nineteenth century summer cottages. The property's characteristic narrow lot pattern, which was part of the original lot layout of the 1888 plan of subdivision, and its connection to the



Lorne Park Wharf, MLS

common area park found further south in the neighbourhood both help to define and maintain the historic community. The property is graced by a variety of large deciduous and coniferous trees, as well as a selection of mature shrubs and

other vegetation dotted thoughtfully throughout the lot. As a remnant of the summer resort lifestyle, the property helps to define and maintain the essence of the historical community, as well as supporting the character of the area today.

Humbertown Framing

Distinguished Framing For the Discriminating Collector
www.humbertownframing.com

Roza, Berc & Arnold B.F.A.

www.humbertownframing.com

416-239-6574

270 The Kingsway, Etobicoke, Ontario M9A 3T7

The Rebellion of 1837 Remembered

Part Two of Four: The Low Road

By Richard Collins

William Thompson was as blue as a Tory could get. He held a large track of land in Mississauga. He had Loyalist roots. He was also a retired army officer. With this modest military record Thompson was hired as the local tax collector and roads commissioner. Like anyone in Upper Canada who obtained power and influence through entitlement, William Lyon Mackenzie considered Thompson an enemy of democracy.



Richard Collins, Mayor
McCallion, Volunteer
Awards Ceremony, COM

Thompson had also served one term as the Assembly member for York-2nd Riding (the riding which includes present-day Mississauga) and was unopposed in the 1828 election until Mackenzie chose to enter the race, officially as a Reformer but ultimately to stop the west district of York from falling again to a Tory.

Mack had even less political experience than Thompson, but he was a newspaper publisher, so he had a forum for his political views. Unlike newspapers today which are issued on a daily or weekly basis, Mackenzie and other publishers in the 1820s printed a "broadsheet" only when enough news accumulated, or if the publisher had something to say. Mack was never at a loss for something to say and with an election coming – one in which he was running – he put an Election Special of the Colonial Advocate on the streets.



William Lyon MacKenzie,
www

Whenever there was a high road and a low road to choose from, the Colonial Advocate invariably took the low road. Instead of using his paper to promote his ideas for political change, Mack chose instead to print one of his infamous Black Lists to discredit his opponent in the upcoming election. Thompson dropped out of the race. Maybe the smear campaign took its toll. Or maybe Thompson was simply aware that the Reformers in his riding were riding a wave of popularity and that his chances of

winning against Mackenzie were slim. Thompson ran again in several later Assembly elections, most against Mackenzie. He never won, leaving him ample time to tend to his farm in the Merigold settlement.

Mackenzie had barely gotten his new legislative seat warm when Tories attempted to push him out of it. Mack's opinions proved to be even more grating in person than in print. His constant accusations against conservatives were often wild, but they were just as often incisive. As his criticisms became more frequent and inflammatory, right wing members called for his dismissal from the Assembly.

Sir Allan MacNab (of Dundurn Castle fame) was one of Mack's favourite targets (often with just cause). MacNab called for a vote to remove Mackenzie for misconduct but because Mack's insulting statements were not libellous the vote for expulsion fell five members short.



Sir Allan MacNab, Library
& Archives Canada

It was George IV who unseated Mack for the first time. It was nothing personal. It just happened that the king died and, in Britain's own wonderfully archaic way of doing things, Parliament had to be dissolved and a new election held. (This was just one of many peculiarities in the system that made Mack such an ardent opponent of old politics.)

With no serious contender in the coming 1831 election, Mack had to settle instead for a positive campaign on his own merits. He spent the summer travelling throughout his huge riding, from Lake Simcoe to Mississauga, holding village hall meetings where he collected over 1,000 signatures for a petition to be sent to the Colonial Office in London listing the grievances of Canada's farmers and small businessmen.

Back in Parliament he was quickly back to his old ways. And as much as the Family Compact hated him for it, it seems the people loved his contentious ways. This time, the Assembly successfully expelled Mackenzie on charges of libel but during the resulting by-election (where Mack ran to regain the seat he had just been removed from), he defeated his challenger, Timothy Street (the founder of Streetsville) 119-to-1.

Early into the new 1832 session, Mack and fellow reformer George Ryerson sailed to London to present the collected grievances of the public to the Colonial Office. The colonial secretary (former British PM, Lord Goderich) wasn't willing to act on the changes proposed by the report, but Goderich agreed to dismiss the colony's two most powerful legal officers – attorney general Henry John Boulton and solicitor general Christopher Hagerman – for abusing the king's power in forcing Mackenzie's expulsion.

While in the UK, the Assembly back in Upper Canada expelled Mackenzie again – this time on charges laid against

Cont'd pg. 14

Program Plus

By Jenny Walker, Program Developer

The Irish have moved in!

As the recognition and celebration of the War of 1812 ramps up, Jayme & I have been out and about to connect the old with the new; last Thursday we went to Scruffy's Irish Pub at Eglinton and Hurontario, to connect with a very important figure from the war. This beautiful stone house was built



Jenny Walker, HM



Scruffy's Irish Pub, Scruffy's

around 1850 by a man who had proved his loyalty to the British Crown many times over the years. Amos Wilcox was one of thirteen children, the son of United Empire Loyalists who had come to Canada from the US with his family at the end of the 18th century. The Wilcox family returned to the United States in 1808 and Amos, aged 15 years, remained in Canada working various jobs.

War broke out in 1812 and 19 year old Amos played an active part, volunteering with the York Militia and fighting in major battles at Detroit, Queenston Heights and Stony Creek; he was even awarded a General Service Medal for his efforts. Later as William Lyon Mackenzie attempted to flee in the Rebellion of 1837, Amos again offered his services in an unsuccessful attempt to capture the renegade as he escaped across Mississauga.

The plight of the Wilcox family was a common one. While Amos fought on the side of the British, his family were resident in the United States although there is no evidence so far to indicate that they fought in the war. With communications sparse, it would always have been a worry that loyalties may have been divided and that they would one day meet on the battlefield on opposing sides.

The war ended and as a veteran, Amos was entitled to land from the Crown although this would have been elsewhere as Toronto



*Yours truly
Amos Wilcox*

Amos Wilcox, 1877 Historical Atlas of Peel County

that time. In addition to any gifted land, he subsequently bought an area at the corner of Eglinton and Hurontario in 1819, aged 26. He married his wife, Annie Papps in 1820 and they had a large family of 10 children, building a successful farm that sustained them through the years.

Yet how would this conservative British Loyalist feel today now that his home has become an Irish pub? Is it any coincidence that many people have reported a feeling of being watched as they descend the basement stairs down to the bathrooms? And that one member of staff rushed out one night refusing to be alone in the building? Or that the chef from the previous business, Barbizon, came by specially to warn staff to beware of falling crockery from shelves in the kitchen. Are these



Basement Stairs at Scruffy's, HM

strange happenings in any way connected to the spirit of Amos Wilcox who was a conservative man who likely didn't drink, and was probably wary of the Irish who fled the potato famine in the thousands, bringing with them disease and a neediness, that all but exhausted the resources of Toronto Township's fledgling community. Whatever the reason, Heritage Mississauga has now presented the Manager, Jaymie Thomas with a portrait of the original owner who may rest a little easier now that his picture hangs in the place he once called home. Or perhaps it's another presence that lived there? No one will know until a site history is complete and a full picture emerges of all previous owners and their particular stories. So go and see for yourself, but don't forget to look behind you as you never know who's watching!

The information presented concerning the Wilcox family is correct as at the time of writing but new data is constantly being uncovered and if anyone has any family stories or pictures of Scruffy's, particularly as a private house, we'd love to hear from you.

CanClone
Services Inc.

3267 Lake Shore Blvd. W., Toronto ON M8V 1M2

- CD & DVD duplicating & replicating
- Short and long runs
- Complete disc packaging
- Digital printing
- Graphic design
- Wide Format Printing

Candi McNeil
sales@canclone.com
www.canclone.com
416 620-6933

Where The Personal & Municipal Intersect: Part Two

An Oral History Interview With Don Mills,
Chief Librarian, Mississauga Library System
By Barbara O'Neil, President, Heritage Mississauga

In anticipation of the 20th Anniversary of Mississauga Library System's Central Library, I met some months ago with the City's Chief Librarian, Don Mills. This was an opportunity to talk not only about some of the highlights of building what is now one of the largest public library systems in Canada (with 18 branches and over 300,000 registered users), but also about some of Don's personal memories of his career in "the System". To all of you who have spent many happy hours at your local library – enjoy our edited chat!



Don Mills on site during construction, July 1989, Canadiana Room, MLS

Looking back on the process, what do you find most gratifying?

As soon as it opened, Central Library became the busiest public library in Canada. We loaned more books out of this wonderful five story building than any other public library in Canada at the time.

Is there a particular architectural firm that's associated with the overall design of the Central Library?

We sat down with all these renowned architects, discussing our visions, and I said I wanted to see a library that is open to the public, no closed stacks, easy to find your way around. It has to be built to be functional, because one thing we knew was it is going to have to change to accommodate imminent technology and service innovations.

We needed a building that we could literally bring wires to any point and we did that very cleverly. All the ceilings allow us to take wires easily to every corner and section of the floor above. Just by drilling up you can put a power or telephone outlet anywhere you want. I am very proud of the fact that we do not have a single power pole in this building.

Finally, we found an architect that said: give us some ideas. Pretend you are in the finished building, what do you see, how does it feel, how you are using it? That was the fun part, just to sit there and try to paint a great big picture for them. The architectural firm was *Shore Tilbey*. I did visit other buildings of theirs that I liked a lot. They incorporated quality materials, a balance of grandeur and human scale, and enough classical touches befitting a facility the public can feel comfortable in.

I think that had to have been very important to provide that kind of direction because it wasn't necessarily where a lot of architectural design was headed in our fairly recent past.

Absolutely not. Libraries were seen as warehouses and custodial, and they aren't, they just aren't. I was here on a gorgeous Saturday in the middle of summer, and the place was just packed with young people studying, and families, and hobbyists. Of all the ways they could have spent their sunny afternoon, they chose to come to the library because it welcomes them. They could find a cozy seat and spend some time.



Library under construction, January 1990, Canadiana Room, MLS

Central Library has recently undergone some interior remediation.

A refresh. You know, libraries are always changing. In one of my first jobs I remember fighting vehemently for the inclusion of paperbacks in the collection; the Board was adamant that we would not have paperback books. Subsequent to that I had to fight for LP records, 8 tracks, cassettes, video games, online databases and access to the internet. Even magazines had an uphill battle in their day. Since we must accommodate new resources, libraries are always changing. Central Library, as a heavily used 20 year old building, needed some rejuvenation.

We have done a good job maintaining Central Library as a showcase. I visit a lot of libraries in a lot of different cities and some are quite appalling. When I was in Texas I went to Houston and Dallas specifically to see their grandiose Central Libraries (both extensively covered in the press when they opened). They were sorry, unloved buildings with broken furniture.

What we are doing at Central Library is a bit of a rethink of purpose. With decentralization, we are rethinking this building as more of a branch library with auxiliary functions, rather than as a reference library with some branch functions. In the future, we are even looking at potentially being able to keep parts of this building open at different times so that the community library could have certain hours and the reference service could have different hours. The reason for this is the 60,000 people moving into the immediate area around City Hall who were not envisioned when Central Library was first built.

Many of the theatres, the restaurants, the Playdium that exist right now at street level are going to be sacrificed so that some of that future building can happen. At minimum, it is nice that the library will be here.

Cont'd pg 9

We believe it is going to be increasingly popular, which is wonderful since cities that experience urban decay also see library usage drop, certainly after office hours. So yes, the City has paid some attention to that; they are looking at the Civic Centre as a Community Centre with auxiliary features, including Central Library.



If you are surrounded by dense development, perhaps you're serving the community best if you run 24/7.

*Mayor McCallion, ground breaking ceremony, September 23, 1988
Canadiana Room, MLS*

Yes, library literature now has articles about libraries that are unstaffed. You have your library card, you identify yourself when you enter, you're watched while you are in the building through cameras, you identify yourself when you leave, and have a nice day.

I just know that we don't all get up at 8 and go to bed at 10 anymore. My two daughters, who have been students all their lives, do their best work at 3am and love to dial into the library catalogue to do their research. I know the University of Toronto Mississauga campus has experimented with 24/7 service and found it very successful.

Of course, the (Sheridan) Community College has moved in right next door. We will be working together with them to determine what needs their 10,000 students will have, beyond the College's own Resource Centre.

What other potential innovations do you see in Central Library's future?

Self-service using radio frequency tags on all library items. Library cards could also have frequency tags - few libraries have gone that extra step yet, but with it you could literally let yourself into the building, find your books and let yourself out at midnight, if you wanted to.

Personally, I would like our libraries to be as inviting as the nicest art gallery or museum, and not promote the notion of control with security gates above everything else. Even small branches invariably have turnstiles or gates that lock if you try and leave with something. That is all going to be gone in a few years. We knew that 25 years ago when we were planning Central Library. We were kind of a bit ahead of our time.

How far away are we from adopting such technology?

If we were to ask for the requisite funds to retrofit the library, the payback would now be a pretty short timeframe. The costs of self-service have dropped by 75% since we started looking at it a decade ago. And there are coding systems which allow libraries to put postage stamp decals on their shelves, so one could walk through with a Black Berry or PDA and capture information for a variety of purposes.

Do you see a connection between libraries and heritage?

It has always been a personal philosophy of mine that a public library has an important mandate to acquire and promote local information. So the work that our libraries have been able to do promoting local authors and documenting local history is critical. At the end of the day, for very little cost and effort, we'll create a legacy for many generations to come. It puzzles me that not all libraries recognize this role. How you could spend all that money, have all of these amenities and facilities and resources, and not feel that somewhere you had a moral responsibility to do right by our residents in this way?

The monasteries of medieval times were repositories of cultural information during periods of great social upheaval. If you think about auxiliary services very broadly, a City's library system could evolve in many new ways as an extension of local culture, don't you think?

I do indeed. We were one of the early innovators with digitization, believe it or not. It just struck me as such an obvious way to preserve and promote. We could see that with high speed internet, in the middle of the night, you could tap into our entire collection: data, pictures, sound bites.

As well, we've identified over 300 local authors whom we gather together twice a year to celebrate (for Canada Book Day in the spring, and for the Literary Festival in the fall). We offer to buy five copies of any book they've published, have them in to do a book talk, conduct autograph sessions, and put some money in their pocket. We also sell their books on the City's on-line store. Writing is tremendously lonely and these authors all tell us they love being in a room where they realize everybody else is facing the same problems getting published and read as they are. It's great to welcome them and acknowledge them.

It surprises me we have so many local authors.

There are a lot of closet writers and illustrators. One works for us. He's a graphic novel artist in his off hours.

One very high profile, bestselling sci-fi author is a Mississauga resident.

Rod Sawyer is big internationally. The nicest guy, you could be sitting next to him on the bus, and never even know who he was. I think several of his books have been turned into current TV shows. He lives two blocks away and comes to our events.

In your career with the MLS, what are you most proud of?

There is an old debate about libraries: would you rather have the collection or would you rather have the customer focused staff? I used to be on the collection side of the

Cont'd pg. 13

Restoration of The Grange Gardens

By Louise Peacock (Louise is a Mississauga-based custom Landscape Designer and Horticulturist)

We know that the pioneers of the 1800s did not spend a lot of time on ornamental gardening - they had to spend a very large part of their time in getting food and in meal preparation, often using a single pot. They brought with them seeds and in some cases roots (like tubers and bulbs) from the old country to start gardens in their new homes.



Louise Peacock, HM

A typical 19th century pioneer garden might have had basic root plants such as beets, carrots, turnips, and radishes, and leafy vegetables such as lettuce, chard, cress, legumes and pumpkin. Other plants would have probably included garlic, asparagus, rhubarb, potatoes and corn.

At the Grange, it is not practical for us to grow vegetables, since they would require a large commitment in care and would quickly be destroyed by the wildlife in the area, but what we can have is herbs, or plants with herbal uses intermixed with ornamentals.

There were not too many flowerbeds, but the settlers did plant a few flowers amongst their vegetables, and eventually, as life settled down for them, they had modest flower gardens, of which they were very proud.

Today we'll address some of the ornamentals that might have been found in a pioneer flower garden, and what we are going to with these in the Grange gardens.

We are going to add Creeping geranium to the front border of the Kitchen garden (which is where we began our work). If we can find some, we'll add some Primrose to this same bed. I believe I have a line on some *Iris cristata*, and will be adding those along the sunniest part of that border. If I can get some *Monarda fistulosa*, I will add that to the same bed.



Creeping Geranium, Louise Peacock

In the front beds we have some low-grow, drought resistant plants - Lamium and Sweet Woodruff which will help to fill in the rock garden near the front path. We could use some more Creeping Thyme (hint hint - so if anyone is digging, let us know). We are also helping to thin out the overbearing lemon Balm and Mint, nice in small amounts but, trying to take over at the moment.

For the large flower bed in the middle of the park (facing Dundas) Jen has been reorganizing plants to accommodate some special 1812 rose bushes contributed by Heritage Mississauga.

In addition, we have a donation of some red-leafed Canna Lilies which will help to create a colourful focal point for midsummer in that bed



Canna Lilies, Louise Peacock

The really big news for this year for the garden renovation is that with the cooperation and able assistance of the park Gardener, Jen, a new bed is being created at the side of the driveway. What makes this new bed unique is the method in which we will be creating it and the fact that eco-friendly is at the top of our agenda.

The bed will be made from wood chips. The wood chips are from felled tree parts that have been chipped by the City - recycled in other words. The plants that we will use to fill the bed will be either donations from individuals, or divisions from other City Park projects. The only thing that is not recycled is a small amount of soil that we will use in "pockets" where we place the plant material.



New Garden Site, Louise Peacock

Park gardener Jen will be dumping a few yards of wood chips in the location between the two tree stumps.

Next, I, along with my garden assistant Marzy, will rake that mound of chips into a garden bed shape. Jen will provide us a small pile of garden soil and we will then make holes in the new chip bed, add a small amount of soil to the holes and place previously rooted ornamentals in the holes.

This location gets roughly 5 to 6 hours of sun and we will be planting perennials and annuals that will thrive in the location. We don't want to create more work for either the folks at Heritage Mississauga, or the park gardeners, so hardy plants are the over-riding requirement.

Plants that we already have for the bed, in pots and waiting to be planted include many of the ones in the list below, so we are planting in the spirit of our ancestors. We already have Shasta Daisy, Daylily, Creeping Geranium, Iris, Wild Rose, Daylily, Peony, we also have some Clara Curtis mums, which although not typical of the time, is one upon which we can rely to overwinter in our zone. From Garnetwood Park bed we will be getting some Rudbeckia and some Iris of the bearded type. Check out the Heritage Mississauga website at www.heritagemississauga.com for information on the numerous ornamental plants a pioneer garden might have had.

Mississauga South Historical Society Happenings

by Richard Collins,
President



With so many interesting stories about the War of 1812 to tell, we have decided to hold a July meeting this year. Our guest speaker will be Zig Misiak – a Polish-Canadian who is the first to admit he hasn't got a drop of aboriginal blood in him, but does have a deep interest in the Haudenosaunee people and has learned much about their life and their culture. No doubt, much of that interest in Haudenosaunee culture stems from his association with the Brantford area where members of the Six Nations settled after the American Revolution. Zig is the chair of Brantford and County's War of 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration Steering Committee. Zig will tell us the usually untold story of the aboriginal people and their contribution to the war. Sir Isaac Brock considered the Mohawk soldiers an invaluable resource during the war, and admired their courage and dedication. Zig will be our speaker on Tuesday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Lorne Park library, 1474 Truscott Drive.

Thank you to Ray Hatton for accepting the position as our new treasurer. Our collections coordinator, Elaine Eigl is busy getting our collection of artifacts, photos, slides, books and magazines organized. We're moving ahead with our initiative to make digital scans of all our photographs and newspaper articles. We'll still keep the originals, but it will be nice to have digital back-ups of our collection for safe keeping. We're also planning a "scanning day" soon so that members, and the public, can bring in old photos we can scan. It's a great way to share your old photos, and keep the originals yourself. We'll keep all our members informed on when that event will take place.

In the meantime, thanks to member Charlie Hare who got the ball rolling by bringing in a large collection of old photos of Port Credit's harbour, skating on the Credit River, floods north of the railway tracks, and Henry Howard's long lost gas station at Hurontario and the QEW (which, at the time, was known as "Centre and Middle".) Check out our website in the near future. We'll be posting some of the pictures there.

I would like to thank all of our MSHS members who attended Heritage Mississauga's 2012 Heritage Awards event on February 23. Our group was awarded the MHF Heritage Award. It's quite an honour and it was an enjoyable evening at the Burnhamthorpe library.

Streetsville Historical Society Happenings

By Jean Watt, Publicity Director



Streetsville Historical Society will host "Doors Open" at the Leslie Log House on September. 29.

Our fall meeting will take place October 11, 7:30 at the Specialty Care Facility, 4350 Mississauga Road, South. Our guest speaker will be Rick Archbold who will speak on his latest book "How Fares the Maple Leaf". New members most welcome. Call Jean at 905-826-1860 for further information.

We have had a busy time since the last Heritage News Issue. On April 2 another successful fund-raising euchre was held at the Leslie Log House with great prizes and delicious food for the 16 people attending.

Our annual spring tour took place on May 12 with a full bus load visiting Fort York, followed by lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory.

The book sale on May 26 at the Leslie Log House was a fantastic success. Thanks to all the people who donated their books and the many volunteers.

Mark June 9 on your calendar. This is the date of our car boot/garage sale at the Leslie Log House 8am-1pm. For more information call Bernice at 905-826-7198.

August 16 is the date of "Summer Theatre in the Park", name of the play to be announced. For further information call Museums of Mississauga 905-815-3200. This event will be held at the Leslie Log House.

Did you Know?



Which historic Mississauga first elected Reeve (forerunner of Mayor) had ties to the War of 1812?

Answer pg. 12

STREETSVILLE LAW OFFICE
Lawyer, Notary

Ayoub A. Ali
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public

12 Thomas Street
Mississauga, Ontario L5M 1Y5
ph: 905.826.3421
fax: 905.826.5053
aa@streetsvillelaw.com

www.streetsvillelaw.com

Springtime Exhibits!

By Zofia Krivdova, Summer Exhibit Coordinator
Heritage Mississauga

Heritage Mississauga hosted an exhibition titled "Our Spring Show", featuring Mississauga artists Lorraine Ireland and Hans Klassen. The exhibit opened on May 15, 2012 and is running until June 7, 2012.



Opening of "Our Spring Show", HM



Artists Looking for Empty Walls

Heritage Mississauga and ALFEW (Artists Looking For Empty

Walls) invites artists to walk in the footsteps of history and to retrace and capture an image from the "Rebel Route" of William Lyon Mackenzie's escape following the failed Rebellion of 1837. This is a juried show and prizes will be awarded to the winning entries. All entries will be part of the ALFEW show "Capturing Mississauga's Heritage 2: Remembering the 175th Anniversary of the Rebellion of 1837", which runs from June 19, 2012 to August 24, 2012 at The Grange. All entries must be submitted by 4pm on June 7, 2012 at The Grange. For more information on the art contest, and submission guidelines, please visit: www.alfew.com/contests. For more information on Mackenzie's historic route of travel, sites along the route, or information about the Rebellion of 1837, please contact Heritage Mississauga.

The Darker Side Cont'd...

* The coroner determined that Rumbold died of strangulation. However, his hands were tied behind him and there was cotton in his nose and mouth. Does this suggest torture or punishment before the killing? This does not seem to suggest a simple robbery.*Two months before this occurrence, Rumbold changed his life insurance benefit from \$8,000 to \$48,000, and \$30,000 for accidental death. Did Rumbold foresee that his life might be in danger?

The Inspectors spoke with a taxi driver who claimed to have picked up two men at 4:00 am, on the day of the murder and drove them to a roadhouse east of Port Credit. Even though the men seemed "roughly dressed" and had no luggage, they seemed to have plenty of money.

Sadly we may never know what really happened.

HERITAGE SPEAKERS SERIES

Mississauga Heritage Speakers Series 2012:
Anniversaries

www.mississauga.ca/heritagepartners

Presented in collaboration by
Mississauga's Heritage Partners:
Heritage Mississauga, Mississauga Library System,
Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee, and the
Museums of Mississauga.

All lectures begin promptly at 7:00pm.
Free.

Lecture 3

"In Their Own Words: Contemporary Accounts of the Battle of York, 1813" Date: Tuesday, June 5
Speaker: Richard Gerrard, Historian, Bicentennial of the War of 1812, Museum Services, City of Toronto
Where: Noel Ryan Auditorium, Mississauga Central Library

Lecture 4

"War of 1812: The Big Picture" Date: Thursday, October 11
Speaker: Dr. Carl Benn, Chair of the Department of History, Ryerson University
Where: Maja Prentice Theatre, Burnhamthorpe Library

Lecture 5

"Fighting Words: Mississauga and the Great Debate on the Rebellion of 1837" Date: Tuesday, November 6
Speaker: Interactive Debate
Where: Meadowvale Theatre

Did you know?

The first elected Reeve of Toronto Township (Historic Mississauga) was Colonel William Thompson (1784-1860). Elected in 1851, Thompson was a staunch conservative and had been active in political and business circles for many years. Thompson (then a Captain) served with the 2nd York Militia and the Royal Artillery Drivers during the War of 1812, was present at the Battle of Queenston Heights, and was captured by American forces in 1814 (released in 1815). He remained active in the militia through the Rebellion of 1837, rising to the rank of colonel, and later to lieutenant-colonel. He died in Toronto Township in 1860 and is buried at St. Jude's Cemetery in Oakville. One of Historic Mississauga's more prominent citizens, he is remembered as one of the founders of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Erindale and Thompson Street in nearby Erindale Village carries his name.



William Thompson, St. Jude's Cemetery, HM

Culture Division News

culturedays



CELEBRATING ARTS + CULTURE FROM COAST TO COAST TO COAST

Be a part of Culture Days in Mississauga! Artists, historians, writers and performers of all genres are invited to organize an event and register it online at www.culturedays.ca. Join other planned events in the City, including the Mississauga Urban Design Awards on Friday, September 28, Doors Open Mississauga on Saturday, September 29, and a selection of performances, exhibits and workshops at various venues throughout the weekend.

"Leaf A Message"

Cheer on our Canadian Athletes at the London 2012 Summer Olympics, July 27 to August 12, 2012

From May 3 to July 27, *leafs* will be available at all libraries in Mississauga and the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame to write a message, expression, a word, a poem or create a drawing to cheer on our Canadian athletes as part of Mississauga's 2012 Cultural Olympiad celebration.



The *leafs* will be displayed at all the library branches and the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame at the Hershey Centre. Watch the trees grow as *leafs* are added and foster our Olympic spirit.

Leafs are available at www.mississauga.ca/leafmessage.

Print and design your very own leaf.

Take a photo of your messaged leaf to drop off at your local library, or send it back to the Culture Division at social.culture@mississauga.ca to post online on our Flickr site for everyone to view.

Presented by the City of Mississauga's Culture Division, Mississauga Library System and the Mississauga Sports Council.

Thanks for Leafing A Message!

Sunset Concert Series 2012

Bring a lawn chair and/or blanket and enjoy the beautiful sound of music on Sunday evenings from 6:30 pm to sunset at Port Credit Memorial Park located at Lakeshore & Stavebank Road. Performances will take place on July 8, July 15, July 22, July 29, August 5, August 12, and August 26. Free admission! For a list of performers, please visit our website www.mississauga.ca/culture. Follow us online [Twitter.com/SaugaCulture](https://twitter.com/SaugaCulture) & 'Like' Mississauga Culture on Facebook



Interview with Don Mills cont'd....

argument: just give me a really well stocked library and I know I can make the community happy.

But evidence shows that we are a people service for all kinds of reasons. People come to the library for more than a book. It's a place of tremendous serendipity, inspiration, personal satisfaction. It encourages you to just slow down and think, and for all of those reasons, like a good garden, it needs gardeners. Now I think staff trump collections. When you have a staff with a strong customer service attitude, you've got the formula for success.

So what makes me proudest about my time at MLS is management's relationship with our employees. When I came to Mississauga, the very same week we were exulting over the excitement of building the Central Library, staff relations were rock bottom. But today the union knows our staff is happy and doing important work. That's my biggest satisfaction.



Last load of cement at topping off ceremony, July 1989, Canadiana Room, MLS

Dr. J. Eric Selnes

BA, BPHE, DDS, MSc, D. Ortho, FRCD(C)

1556 Dundas Street West, Mississauga Ontario L5C 1E4
905 . 615 . 0353

103-83 Mill Street, Georgetown Ontario L7G 5E9
905 . 873 . 1066

drselnes@heritageorthodontics.com www.heritageorthodontics.com

Peel Heritage Fair

By Jenny Walker

Heritage Mississauga was recently asked to participate at this year's Peel Regional Heritage Fair which was held at the Peel District School Board on May 10 and I was happy to be a judge. The day was a great success as children from grade 5 to 8 came from all over the region to present their heritage projects. In all we had over 65 candidates with many diverse topics such as immigration, women's studies and cultural diversity, in addition to specific historic events and periods like the War of 1812. The children were each seen by 2 groups of judges and awarded points for presentation and content; they were also marked on the quality of their sources and how engaged they were with their topic. It was obvious from the start that an awful lot of work had gone into each project and all the students should be commended for attending the fair, regardless of whether they won a prize or not.



Participants of the Peel Regional Heritage Fair, Peel District School Board

As the only heritage organization in the city, Heritage Mississauga was pleased to present 4 awards for social history that was based on an aspect of the city's heritage. The winners shown here and their projects were based on the history of the Vic Johnston Arena and Second Cup building in Streetsville; "Mississauga, Then & Now" and a project that looked at the cultural diversity in the city created by the large influx of immigrants in recent years.



Jenny with the recipients of this years Heritage Mississauga awards, Peel District School Board

There were so many excellent entries that the judges had to delay the awards ceremony as they advocated for their favourite. Finally in addition to our awards, prizes were given from many other organizations like the Archives of Ontario, the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Ontario Genealogical Society to name a few; there were also awards for women's history, multiculturalism, and military history in addition to some general awards.

The standard and variety of work was really great but the best thing for me was the enthusiasm of the students, and while many just recited their initial presentation, those that scored highly were the ones who really engaged with their topic and were able to discuss it in detail. Well done everyone and thanks for a really great day!

1837 Rebellion cont'd.....

Mack before he left for London. The trans-Atlantic message from London urging the Assembly to cut Mack some slack had not arrived by the time the vote for Mack's in-absentia removal was won. Not that expulsion mattered. Mack ran again in the by-election that was forced by his removal and again he was returned – this time by acclamation. Mack was so hot in Mississauga and elsewhere in the large York West riding that it seems no one was willing to run against him, and against such overwhelming odds.

In 1834, a Tory named Thompson did rise to the challenge. Edward William Thompson was no relation to the Thompson that Mack smeared out of contention in 1828, but E.W. was no less blue than his Tory predecessor. E.W. was a successful contractor and financier for the Second Welland Canal. He settled in Toronto Township where, in 1830 he founded the local agricultural society. Thompson had an impressive CV to be sure, but he lacked Mackenzie's spirit for the fight. Mississauga was farm country, and Mack was the man of the common farmers.

Once again Mack was returned to office. Once again Tories called for his dismissal. The same old story, over and over again. Voters seemed to be growing tired of it all. The effects showed in the 1836 election.

A Change of Heart

The Library of Parliament in Ottawa could be filled to its vaulted ceiling with all the essays and theses written over the past 175 years analysing how a colony that had been charging forward toward Reform with each passing election could suddenly take a shift back to the Royalists in 1836. Perhaps the other 3 R's (the reform, republican and radical wings) split the progressive vote. Certainly Mackenzie's aggressive style turned many away. Whatever the cause, Mack was swept out of office in the conservative backlash. It was his first election loss.

Mackenzie had barely spent any time in the assembly during the six previous elections he won – being constantly expelled by the members he opposed. The political status quo was designed to prevent reform, and that concern was the driving force of the reform movement. How does one establish a political system in which the people affect change when the existing political framework is one that prevents the public from participating effectively? Short answer; It can't. By necessity history's great democracies have been born of uprising, and Upper Canada's was no exception.

Next time, we'll look at how Mackenzie lead that uprising.

Congratulations to Richard! *On page six you may have noticed a new image of our Lifetime member Richard. At the City of Mississauga volunteer ceremony held this year Richard was honoured for his long history of volunteering with the Mississauga South Historical Society. Congratulations Richard, we appreciate your dedication and support.*

The Storm Breaks cont'd.....

colonies set into motion a series of events that would bring what was to be a bitter and drawn out war to Canada. But information often travelled slowly, and news of the declaration of war reached Montreal on June 24. This was relayed to Governor General Sir George Prevost in Quebec, reaching him on June 25. In Upper Canada (now Ontario) news of the declaration of war (via another informant) reached Major General Isaac Brock at Fort George in Niagara, while British officers were entertaining their American counterparts for dinner, on the evening of June 26th. It would still be several weeks before news of war reached officials in London, England, and months more before Britain officially responded.



Matthew Wilkinson, HM

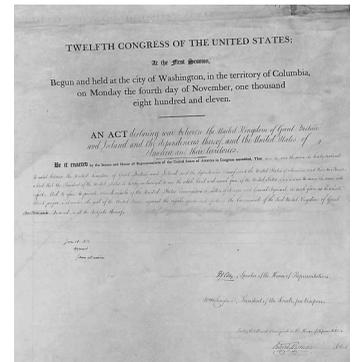
In this apparent vacuum of communications, American pursuit of the war began haltingly, initially with much indecision and a decided lack of preparedness. In the Canadas, the civil and military authority under Prevost and Brock, directed by officials in Britain, were to focus resources on a more defensive campaign since little help could be expected from overseas as Britain was engaged in a titanic struggle in Europe against Napoleonic France.

The many published interpretations and reinterpretations of the War of 1812 reinforce the concept that the war was, at times, a strange and confusing affair. The two principal nations arguably did not want the war in the first place, or at the very least actively sought to escape from the conflict several times during the war. The causes of the war were muddled, and many were no longer even factors by the time the war actually commenced. Poor communications hampered the prosecution of the war, affairs were often confused and mismanaged on both sides, and battles continued to be fought after the peace treaty had been negotiated. This war, while helping to cement two emerging National identities and ideologies in America and Canada, also fractured societies, families therein, and brought the young American government to the brink of collapse. Indeed, this small, bitter war shaped the destiny and psyche of a continent.

In Canada, the war is often remembered in passing for the fall of a charismatic General who died within the first few months of the war, and not for the gallant defence of the border undertaken by regular soldiers and civilian militia over the succeeding years. Arguably in America and Britain, the war is barely remembered at all, whilst amongst the Native peoples of Canada (and the northern United States) the war is often lamented as the ending of autonomy.

In Historic Mississauga, one might wonder how news of the war arrived and word travelled amongst our citizens. The rumblings of potential war had been known and likely discussed in the months and years preceding June of 1812. Since 1808 civilians had been enlisted, and in some sense trained, as part of the Embodied Militia. Many civilians and settlers in Historic Mississauga had grown up in families with military legacies, were of Loyalist descent, and several were veterans of the American Revolution. Nonetheless, war would have been, to many, a disconcerting proposition, and a rupture of the normal routines of life and land. However, to many young men, war may have provided excitement and a perceived opportunity, as many volunteered to serve in the Flank Companies of the Militia in early June before war had been formally declared.

While we do not know for certain, word of the coming war would likely have passed from township to township by word of mouth, possibly connected to the early places of gathering such as inns and taverns, while newspapers of the day such as the *York Gazette* also carried the news. One can imagine the Silverthorn brothers gathered at Philip Cody's tavern on Dundas Street, perhaps listening to stories of past wars from their father John and the older Allen Robinet; or perhaps of the Gables, Marlatts, Merigolds, Mongers and Thompsons gathered at Joshua Pollard's inn on the Middle Road pouring over and discussing the news and newspapers of the day. For Frederick Starr Jarvis and Lewis Bradley, news may have come even sooner: Jarvis' father, Stephen, was the Acting Adjutant General of the Militia in York, while Bradley served as an Adjutant in the 2nd York, and both may have been party to information earlier than others. Militia captains Thomas Merigold and William Thompson also had family connections in York and Niagara respectively, perhaps aiding the news of the coming storm to spread throughout Historic Mississauga and beyond.



Act Declaring War Signed, signed June 18, 1812, www

When the storm clouds broke and conflict began in the weeks and months after the formal declaration of war, notably with the capture of Fort Detroit in August of 1812, several residents of Historic Mississauga actively took up arms in support of the British cause and the defence of Canada.

For more information please visit www.heritagemississauga.com as we continue to explore the connections between Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812.

Heritage Matters

Heritage Mississauga Events

May 8 to June 8, Art Exhibit with Lorraine Ireland and Hans Klaassen

June 19 to August 24, Rebellion of 1837 Art Contest with ALFEW (Artists Looking for Empty Walls)
Lecture Hall

June 5 to August 31, Aggregation 9-Summer Theme

June 26, 11:30-1:30 Mayoral Heritage Luncheon at historic Glen Erin Inn with Keynote speaker John Tory

Art Gallery of Mississauga

Visit the gallery website for events and programs scheduled.
www.artgalleryofmississauga.com

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

June 10, Father's Day. Challenge dad to a game of horseshoes and let him win. Get him to try walking on stilts and don't laugh. His reward juice and cookies.

July 8, Garden Tour. Our gardens are in full bloom with roses, delphiniums, lupines and many native wildflowers. Wander through the garden and enjoy tea in the shade.

Aug 12, Summer Games. Lawn games were popular at the turn of the 20th century when the weather was too hot for strenuous activity. Come out and enjoy making bubbles, playing horseshoes, graces and walking on stilts.

Halton Peel O.G.S.

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

June 1-3, in Kington, Ontario The Ontario Genealogical Society's Annual Conference

Sept. 23, Oakville Public Library-Ruth Blair, professional genealogist "Scottish Research from Afar"

Oct. 28, Oakville Public Library-Richard Feltoe-"Upper Canada and the War of 1812"

Mississauga Arts Council

Visit the website for events and programs scheduled.
www.mississaugaartscouncil.com.

Mississauga South Historical Society

July 17, 7:30 at Lorne Park Library, 1474 Truscott Drive
Speaker Zig Misiak "Six Nations During the War of 1812"

Streetsville Historical Society

May 26, 1-5 Fun raising Book Sale at the Leslie Log House. We need hard cover, soft cover books, CD and DVD, no magazines or Reader's Digest. Books can be dropped off at the Leslie Log House Wed. or Sun. afternoons from 1-5 pm. For pick up call Bernice at 905-826-7198

June 9, 8am-1pm-Car Boot/Garage Sale at the Leslie Log House

Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

July 20, 1:30-3:30 Open House

We are always adding family histories, journals, relevant school texts (elementary), photographs and postcards. Most recently we have added the King Family by Rory McAlpine with photos and documents to our archives.

June 26, 7:00-"Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812" with Heritage Mississauga Historian Matthew Wilkinson

Museums of Mississauga

May 27 & June 10, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Afternoon Tea at Bradley Museum

May 26 & June 16, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. "Downton Abbey" Tea & Tour at Benares Historic House

Until June 29, JALNA Revisited: The 85th Anniversary of Mazo de la Roche's Award Winning Novel on display at the Bradley Museum Anchorage

August 16, "Summer Theatre in the Park" at the Leslie Log House

INFO: www.museumsofmississauga.com or 905-615-4860

For more Heritage Matters please call Jane Watt at 905-828-8411 ext "0"

Kathleen A. Hicks Historical Writing Award



The Mississauga Library System announces the second annual writing contest for local youth. The contest encourages reading and writing about Mississauga's heritage and history and honours local historian and researcher, Kathleen Hicks, who has written a series of books about Mississauga's past.

Entries will be a maximum of 1000 words and should focus on a real person, event or place related to the history of Mississauga. Entrants must be 14-19 years of age. The deadline for entries is Friday, August 31, 2012.

For freaky facts from Mississauga's past, contest rules and to register an entry, go to www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/librarycontests. Call 905-615-3500 ext. 3544 for more information.