



# Heritage News

*Serving the Community for over 50 Years*

Fall 2011  
Vol. 24/Issue 4

## Inside...

President's Message	~ 2
The Editor's Desk	~ 3
The Darker Side	~ 4
War of 1812	~ 5
Mississauga's Name	~ 6
Kennedy Family	~ 7
Library Contest	~ 7
Footsteps of History	~ 8
Museum News	~ 9
CityChattr	~10
Historical Societies	~11
Park Opening	~13
Program News	~14
Heritage Matters	~16

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Carolling at the  
Grange**  
Sun. Dec. 4th, 2011  
6pm-9pm

**2012**

**Mark your calendars**

**Heritage Awards**  
Thurs. Feb. 23rd  
6:30 registration  
7:00pm program

**Equinox Sunrise  
Ceremony**  
Sun. Mar. 18th  
Sunrise

## Whispers of War: Haunted Mississauga recalls the eve of the War of 1812

*By Matthew Wilkinson,  
Historian, Heritage Mississauga*

The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 is almost upon us, marking 200 years of peace between Canada and the United States.

With our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Haunted Mississauga event, which took place on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at the Bradley Museum, the theme was, perhaps fittingly, the eve of the War of 1812. Our story was set in

October of 1811. The rumbling of impending war with the United States was in the air. Residents of historic Toronto Township (Mississauga) were faced with a decision that tested their resolve, courage and loyalty: some were sons and daughters of Loyalists; some were

Americans by birth; some had questionable loyalties; some had a proud military tradition and were chomping at the bit to carve their own glorious legacy, while others were of humbler origins, farmers and craftsmen, who had never taken up arms; and one was destined to become a traitor. All were called to declare their loyalties, serve in and support the militia. This fun and informative evening allowed visitors to interact with actors portraying real people from our past, and weaving a story connecting historic Mississauga to the War of 1812.

At Heritage Mississauga our ongoing research project, **Remembering the War of 1812**, is documenting the militiamen from Toronto Township who volunteered to serve during the

War of 1812. For more information on this project, and for information relating to bicentennial activities in our area, ongoing 1812-themed speakers series, and much more, please visit [www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com). Thank you to the Museums of Mississauga for opening the Bradley House Museum Complex for the event, and a special thank you to our actors and crew. See page 12 for a complete list and photo.



## President's Message

By Barbara O'Neil, President

### Newsflash: Heritage Advocates Are Pro-Development!

Yes, you read that headline correctly.

Like many today, I have a couple of "day jobs", one of which is teaching college courses, some to students in the construction field: engineers, renovation and HVAC technicians, etc. In a class discussion one day, my affiliation with Heritage Mississauga came up, and one student said half-jokingly, "Oh so you're the enemy," or words to that effect. Students have very sensitive radar for hypocrisy and I took the opportunity to explain why I was very comfortable teaching Professional Ethics to the future leaders of the Canadian construction industry. Essentially, I see **everyone as potential allies and partners in community-building.**

Anyone who is against development of any type, "on principle" has simply not thought through the consequences of their position. The **building industry is a giant economic engine**, with a projected 100,000 new workers needed to meet growth demands over the next 9 years in Ontario alone. It is an area that has been least-impacted through the economic downturn, providing skilled, generally well-paying jobs for tens of thousands of people in the province. And, as investors and home owners can attest, property, whether ICI or residential, has proved to provide excellent ROI over time, with fewer wild value swings than today's stock markets.

Another undeniable truth: as long as there is population growth, there will be a continuous **need for more shelter of all types.**

Then too, the structures that heritage lovers fight to preserve today were once newly-built by individuals and developers. **If we had no visionary builders, we'd have no treasured "built heritage".**

What enlightened heritage supporters and progressive developers advocate for is a **sense of esthetic responsibility and awareness**, as well as a focus on compliance and cost-effectiveness. Because, for better or worse, what is built or demolished today will define a community for generations. If a city's profile is dominated by cookie-cutter track housing and faceless concrete high rises, with few



Barbara O'Neil

unique focal points or bits of local character, this lack of personality will have long term consequences for the quality of life for its residents: in terms of higher crime rates, fewer tourism dollars, less overall utilization of local businesses and participation in community groups, and so forth. Western Europe, with its adaptive reuse and human-scale neighborhoods provides many best practice examples of effective community building. **But there are examples of clever, esthetic design in Mississauga, too.**

On a recent weekend walk along the lake, the area around FRAM Building Group's well-designed waterfront townhouse condos was busy with people watchers enjoying the scenery.

The "Marilyn and Joe" buildings now so prominent on our skyline (aka Absolute Condos, by Fernbrook Homes and Cityzen Development Group) have received international recognition for their curve-y appeal. And the Palisades Gardens apartments adjacent to the Glen Erin Inn, created by The Majestic Rose Corporation, does a laudable job of integrating with the exterior finish elements of the nearby historic building and wooded setting.

Now that I've started you thinking about esthetic development, I'd love to hear about your favourite places or buildings, big or small, built and natural, in Mississauga. **Email us your suggestions and we'll publish a list of favourites in our next issue.**

#### Board of Directors 2011-2012

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Adaptive Reuse: Forester House, now  
Heritage House Dental in the Orlando  
Development of Heartland, HM



## From the Editor's Desk

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

As 2011 begins to wrap up, moving into the cold months of November and December we reflect upon the past year, the experiences shared, the partnerships made and the many ways heritage has been celebrated in the city. Once again success is written all over the 2011 heritage report card. It always astounds me, the sheer volume of work we produce each year through this small facility. Whether it is supporting community events or producing our own programs we grow by leaps and bounds each year.



Nicole, Kayla, Milan, Zofia, HM

Special thanks go to our summer research students for their outstanding contributions to heritage preservation. Through a generous grant from Canada Summer Jobs we welcomed three students: Nicole Mair, as Assistant Historian, Zofia Krivdova, as Exhibits Coordinator and we were able to keep on our UTM Internship student Milan Gocmanac to continue his War of 1812 research. Joining the group this year was Kayla Demers, who worked in our office for the Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. Thank you for your efforts and best of luck to you all in your further studies.

So many students have worked with us over the past decade. Many of them continue to volunteer their time to support our programs and events. This summer we welcomed back four students for a reunion: Nicole Mair was joined by Bryan Ho, Meaghan FitzGibbon, and Erin Bruebaker.



Nicole, Bryan, Meaghan, Erin, HM



Grangestock, HM

This summer marked the third annual Grangestock Music and Art Festival. Lots of fun was had by all. Many thanks to our partners: the Sir John's Homestead Ratepayers Association and our sponsors Pizza Pizza, Long & McQuade, Sherwood Forest Village Plaza shops, Dallas Lowe-McLean,

Kimberly Phinney, Councillor Katie Mahoney & Councillor Pat Saito for helping to make this event such a success, despite the torrential rain. Our sincerest appreciation to our co-chairs Greg Carraro and Scott Mair and to the numerous volunteers, we could not have done it without you.

Right after Grangestock we moved into full event planning mode helping the Meadowvale Village Ratepayers Association to host their town's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over 4000 shared the day with Garry Sault, Ojibway Elder as he opened the event with traditional ceremonies of water and strawberries. Soon the sound of Irish band *Madd Paddy* filled the village, as families visited the exhibits and demonstrations that were going on all over the streets. An army of volunteers set up and supported the event all day. The Heritage Showcase was in the Village Hall with a special exhibit of a replica of the painting by Fred Haines: "Indians on the Credit at Meadowvale" loaned by the family of Grant Clarkson for the event. Congratulations to the organizing committee for an outstanding celebration.

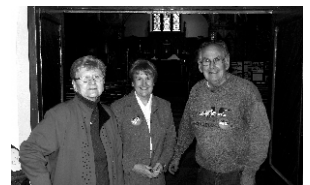


Streetscape 175th, HM



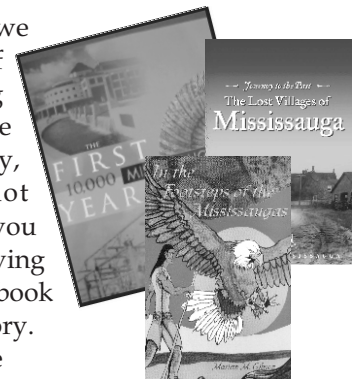
Event Volunteers, HM

October began with one of the biggest city-wide events planned by the Culture Division – Culture Days and the Annual Doors Open. These two events welcomed a record 13,000 visitors over the weekend of October 1<sup>st</sup>. Windy but bright, Doors Open on Saturday brought in 6,000 of that total, another wonderful success for this Culture Division event. Congratulations to Culture Division's Paola Poletta, her team, organizing committee and partners.



St. Peter's Volunteers with Bob Lang, HM

It has been a busy fall and we look forward to seeing all of you at our annual "Carolling at the Grange" as we celebrate our 51st birthday, with cake, campfire, hot chocolate and lots of fun. If you are thinking of your gift giving options, may I suggest a book about our community's history. Visit the gift shop at Heritage Mississauga or our website for a listing of what is available.



Next year 2012 is shaping up to be a very busy year for

Cont'd pg. 12

# The Darker Side: Justice Undecided: *The Execution of Stefan Swryda* By Deanna Natalizio

On April 12<sup>th</sup> 1908, Oleck Loutick (sometimes spelt Leutik - various spellings for both victim and perpetrator are found in official reports) was a hopeful 17 year-old, newly landed in Canada. Loutick's plans of joining the track gangs on the Grand Trunk Pacific took an immeasurable turn. A mere four days after his arrival, he was found beaten to death in Faskens Woods near Erindale village. His alleged perpetrator, Stefan Swryda, was a Polish immigrant living in York County. Swryda disavowed his involvement in the murder throughout the entire period leading up to his hanging. His execution is historic in that it marked the first to take place in Peel County.



Deanna Natalizio

Swryda emigrated from the Eastern European region of Galicia to Rochester, New York, alongside his wife. He later moved to York County in March of 1907. Described by the media as a "friendless young foreigner," a build-up of circumstantial evidence and variations of his alibi led to his indictment in May of 1908.

Upon Loutick's arrival, progress on the railway had slowed. Like many other immigrants, he was advised to seek wages elsewhere. Destitute and devoid of connections, he sought refuge on the floor of the police station for two nights before meeting Swryda; both men were of Galician origin which may have prompted Swryda to extend his care. Swryda took the distraught boy in for two nights at his lodgings on Adelaide Street. They left the city on the eve of Good Friday, in the hope of finding Loutick work on a farm in Erindale. Swryda had heard rumours of labour opportunities out that way and spoke of this to the owner of the boarding house. Two receipts were later furnished to police confirming their travel on the electric railway from Sunnyside to Port Credit.

Prior to leaving, Loutick sold his concertina (a small accordion) for 1 dollar, a fact that would be later tied in to the pile of circumstantial evidence built against Swryda. Swryda aroused suspicion by paying that same amount for overdue room fees upon his return. According to his landlord, he had continually put off his payments of rent. A *Toronto Star* article printed on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 1908, strongly intimated at Swryda's motive for committing the crime, titling their article "Did Swryda Murder for \$1?" It was such unfounded hearsay that contributed to the growing case against Swryda.

Loutick's body was found by 3 young boys lying in the woods of Samuel Fasken's farm (Fifth Line and the Middle Road near Erin Mills Blvd. and the QEW, today). The body was obscured by stumps, twigs, and other debris in a seemingly deliberate attempt at concealing the remains. Autopsy reports showed that Loutick's skull had been severely crushed in by a piece of wood. Trousers saturated with blood and emblazoned with the number "13" were found beneath a log. A bonfire had been started in the bush nearby, surrounded by empty beer bottles and a whisky flask. Fasken's bush was a popular hangout for teen revellers at the time. This widely known fact perhaps should have prompted constables to widen their search for suspects.

Swryda contended that Loutick was placed at a farm in Clarkson, although he later had difficulty naming the exact location of the farm. The farmer paid him \$1.75 for the new labourer (which may have been the origin of the 1 dollar paid by Swryda to the lodging housekeeper).

Provincial detectives searched Swryda's room at the lodging house on May 12th and found matches of a strange manufacture. They were quickly discerned to be the exact make of the matches found in Loutick's luggage. A reasonable explanation for this circumstance was never sought, and only hardened the opinion of officials.

Mrs. George Manley, who lived on an adjoining farm a mile east of the Fasken property, claimed that Loutick and Swryda called at her house the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup>. In a statement taken by police the day before Swryda's inquest, she claimed she saw two men nearing the entrance of Fasken's bush at dusk. She described Swryda as a heavy set man wearing a light-coloured overcoat (a garment fitting the description was found in Swryda's room the day of the arrest, purportedly stained with blood).

## IN SIGHT OF GALLOWES HE VOWS HE DIDN'T KILL BOY

Swryda Says He Is Not Afraid to Go to God, for He Is  
Innocent—Says He Would Tell Truth If He  
Had Murdered Him.

By Our Own Reporter.

Brampton, Ont., Feb. 10.—"I no kill that boy; I go to my God not afraid, because I no kill that boy."

Within twenty-four hours of the gallows, Stephen Swryda thus avows his innocence of the crime for which he has been sentenced to die at dawn tomorrow morning.

In broken English and trembling voice the sturdy young Galician declares he did not take the life of his young fellow-countryman last Good Friday. He says it so emphatically and with such apparent honesty that the death watch, the men who have been with him continuously since the death sentence, are beginning to wonder if justice does not get on the wrong track sometimes.

But twelve good men and true of Peel County have heard the evidence, and declared his guilt, and the law of his adopted land says he must die.

Said He Must Die.

It was in the wee-small hours of this morning that the condemned man made such an emphatic declaration of his innocence. When he came to the jail he

the surgeon, Jailer Wilson supplies the man with anything he expresses a fancy for at any time during the day or night. Sometimes he asks for "two eggs, two buns," adding his fingers up to more definitely indicate the number. One of his favorite dishes is meat soaked in vinegar.

Put in Another Cell.

Since the pronouncement of the death sentence Swryda has occupied a cell upstairs in the jail. Jailer Wilson this morning had the west corridor down stairs prepared. Three unoccupied cells were put into this corridor, which opens to the jail through two strong doors. Into one of these cells the prisoner will be placed late afternoon with his spiritual adviser, who is expected to arrive at 5 o'clock and stay till after the execution. The Greek priest has requested that the planter and he be left absolutely alone during the last few hours to prepare for death in secrecy, according to the rules of the Greek Church. The death watch will patrol the corridor outside, but will not intrude on the religious services within the condemned man's cell.

Gallows Are Ready.

J. R. Radcliffe, the official executioner, is here. He has been about Brampton more or less for a week, and



STEPHEN SWRYDA, Who is to be Hanged at Brampton To-morrow.

Headline, *Toronto Daily Star*, February, 10th, 1909

Cont'd pg. 15



# Fighting For the Frontier: The War of 1812 Remembered

## Unquestionable Loyalties

By Milan Gocmanac

Loyalty during the War of 1812 was often questioned. Through a series of letters written by a soldier near Niagara, historians can confirm that desertion was a major issue. The soldier, Ridout, had stated that 8 to 10 militiamen and soldiers deserted daily. However a testament to the loyalty of the men from Toronto Township is that among their group only one had deserted to the enemy.

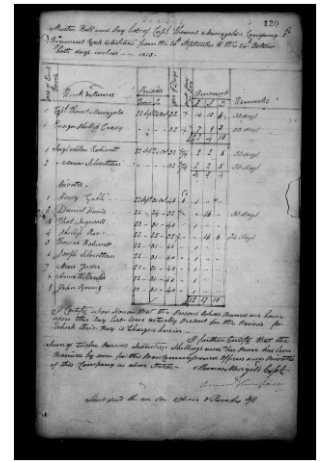


Milan Gocmanac at Brock's Monument, HM

Historians have often tended to discuss the importance of the militia in one of two ways, either the militia had saved Upper Canada or it was irrelevant and was grossly unreliable. However the evidence provided through muster rolls and documentation regarding discipline and penalties confirms that neither of those dichotomous approaches seem to be entirely accurate. Other historians have suggested a more accurate approach, suggesting that the militia played an important, but secondary role in the war partly due to their kinship with Americans. The Toronto Township militiamen are one of the examples of very few desertions, and are comparatively much more impressive than neighboring townships such as Trafalgar (now Oakville). Although there were a number of desertions within the 2nd York, 3rd York, and 5th Lincoln Regiments just one individual of 51 deserted from modern day Mississauga. Instead of fleeing to the enemy during times of indecisive battles or unfavorable results the militiamen stood their ground and continued to fight.

In one particular instance a total of 108 individuals deserted from one regiment alone; the 2nd Leeds. Some of those were captured and others were not. Therefore a statistical comparison suggests that the loyalty of Toronto Township individuals to the Crown is unquestioned. Numerous families, particularly those of the initial settlers of Merigold's Point, were from the United States and fled as Loyalists after the American Revolution. The fact that so many individuals had an American background often led historians to suggest that the desertion rate was because of those close ties to the United States. However Toronto

Township clearly was a break from that thought. In terms of their overall contributions to the war effort, however, it is clear that there were pockets of strength and weakness within the overall militia. Major General Isaac Brock's comments regarding the militia being amateurs suggested that the general tone of government officials with respect to the militia was not impressive. However the militia at large did not revolt, sabotage or desert en masse, but rather served loyally and responsibly, with some exceptions. It seems likely that the militia was initially perceived as unreliable, however the perception changed and certain regiments were, in fact, reliable and that is why they were repeatedly called up for service. This can be seen in a study of the muster rolls as they pertain to militiamen from historic Toronto Township as many individuals were called up as many as five or six times at different points in the war, and militiamen from Toronto Township served in most of the major conflicts along the Niagara frontier, and at York.



Captain Thomas Merigold's Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment York Militia, from September 25<sup>th</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1813, RG9 T10383, Library and Archives Canada

## Heritage Mississauga hosts a War of 1812 Exhibit

In partnership with the Region of Peel Heritage Complex, Heritage Mississauga is delighted to host the War of 1812 travelling exhibit from the Archives of Ontario from January 10th until February 24th, 2012. This free exhibit will open on Tuesday, January 10th, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

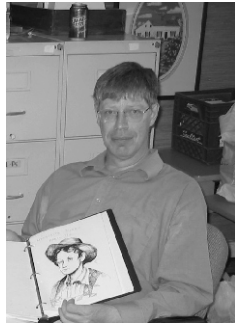
The Archives of Ontario's War of 1812 travelling exhibit sheds light on formative events in the history of Ontario. The War of 1812 had long-term effects on the economic, social and political life of the province. This exhibit is a history resource that showcases some of the personalities and locations that played a role in the war, and explores the events of that conflict using the correspondence and diaries of those who lived it. Their words are illustrated with artwork, maps and photographs from the holdings of the Archives, many being made widely available for the first time. We invite you to explore this exhibit and learn about the War of 1812 in Upper Canada.

# How Mississauga Got Its Name

## Part 8 of 8: Democracy Rules, Finally

By Richard Collins

Never before have residents had to work so hard to get what they wanted from their elected officials. The public overwhelmingly favoured "Mississauga" as the new name for their new town. Too bad their councillors didn't feel the same way. Previously in this series, I explained why township council disliked "Mississauga" and why it favoured Sheridan or Malton – two names relatively unpopular with the voting public. "Mississauga" survived only because Toronto Township council had a necessary change of heart.



Richard Collins, HM

Fearing that the rising public backlash over naming the city would sour the already strained negotiations with the Ontario Municipal Board over incorporation as a town, township council decided to reconsider its initial decision to drop "Mississauga" from the running. Going all the way back to the list of names submitted by the public two years earlier, councillors put five names to the re-test. This time their former favourite, "Sheridan" was rejected by five of the eight councilors. A public petition against "Sheridan" with 3,000 names on it likely swayed council.

"Peel" was put back into circulation, although only one councilor voted for it to appear on the ballot in the upcoming election. "Malton" was suspiciously absent from the discussion. It remained in the running on the insistence of Reeve Robert Speck. Council split evenly on "Mississauga", 4-4, but it was the closest thing to a win at the council table. And so, in this inauspicious way, "Mississauga" was back in the race, after Speck had already assured the people it was out.

Since the OMB had earlier requested that only two names appear on the ballot at election time, all but one of the other names had to go and since Reeve Speck insisted that the challenger for "Mississauga" should be either Malton or Sheridan, one of these had to be dropped from the ballot in favour of the recently-restored "Mississauga". Malton lost out in a last-ditch eeny-meeny-miny-moe deliberation.

When the whole matter was finally put to the people, "Sheridan" was never in the race. The people voted for "Mississauga" 11,796 to 4,311. "Mississauga" was the clear victor, but even after election day, "Mississauga" had enemies. Certainly the 4,311 people who voted for Sheridan in the 1967 election weren't big supporters of "Mississauga", and they weren't alone. One letter to the editors of *The Port Credit Weekly* summed it up simply. "Mississauga sounds like a reservation, not a city."

"Mississauga" was the longest name of any incorporated town or city in Ontario. *The Mississauga News* considered the name to be of an "unwieldy length"; this in spite of the fact that the paper had selected the same unwieldy word for its bannerhead years earlier.

Worse still, "Mississauga" is as easy to misspell as "misspell". At a council meeting back in March 1965, councillors considered three different ways to spell Mississauga before finally rejecting the name altogether in the process of paring down the list that they planned to submit to the OMB in April 1967. Claims ran as high as 85 variations, but Matthew Wilkinson, historian for Heritage Mississauga has catalogued 15 different spellings of "Mississauga" from official Crown documents dating back to 1783. These are (in addition to "Mississauga"): Minzazahgeeg, Michisaguek, Oumisagai, Michesaking, Messassagas, Mississaugua, Mississaga, Mississaugi, Michi-Saki, Migizi, Meekaso, Mississague, Missisakis and Massesagues.

Considering that the word "Mississauga" began as a British misnomer applied to people who never called themselves Mississaugans (they prefer "Anishinabe", which means "the people") no one spelling of "Mississauga", including its present form, is truly correct.

Misspelling was only one of the concerns Canada Post had over Toronto Township's new name. They never had a "Toronto Township" post office. Canada Post sorted and distributed mail from a number of local postal stations (Clarkson, Cooksville, Dixie, Erindale, Lakeview, Malton and Meadowvale) and was opposed to the idea that these individual stations would have to be grouped into one name, "Mississauga"

In the Mineola neighbourhood, north of the still-officially-separate Town of Port Credit, residents paid their taxes to the newly-formed Town of Mississauga, but mail delivered to homes in the same neighbourhood was sorted at Port Credit's post office and hence had a Port Credit address.

Two days after the plebiscite which chose "Mississauga", acting Reeve, Chic Murray was on his way to Ottawa to meet with officials of Canada Post to try to settle this first of many battles over the new name. To resolve the problem, council

Cont'd pg 14

## Mississauga chosen name of new town; Post Office disagrees

By JOHN GILLIES  
Globe and Mail Reporter

COOKSVILLE — Toronto Township voters have overwhelmingly chosen Mississauga as the name for their new town which will become the largest in Canada on Jan. 1, but the Post Office Department refuses to recognize it.

By a 7,400-vote majority Saturday residents picked Mississauga over Sheridan, the only names on the ballot for the new town which, with its 103 square miles and population of 105,000 will be the largest in the nation.

Reeve Charles Murray said the Post Office Department has refused to recognize the new town and plans to carry on with the existing postal districts of Port Credit, Cooksville, Clarkson, Malton and Brampton. The township has submitted a proposal of the town name and seven numbered postal districts. The new council's first fight will be to gain post office recognition for the new town.

disqualified when she failed to produce proof of citizenship on time. Ward 6 council candidate F. J. Clemmet was defeated by incumbent Frank McKechnie by 1,043 to 430 and R. J. Murray ran sixth in a seven-man contest for two Hydro Commission seats.

In neighboring Streetsville, voters elected an almost all new council turning out Mayor William Tolton, Reeve George Parker and Deputy Reeve Ross Machin. J. J. Graham won the mayoralty, Donald Hewson the reeveship and Mrs. Hazel McCallion was elected deputy reeve.

The six councilors are Murray Bell and Norman Thomas in Ward 1, Robert Weyle and William Arch in Ward 2 and C. D. MacLean and James Graham in Ward 3.

In Port Credit, Thomas McCallum was returned as mayor by 35 votes over former Councilor John Caldwell. The council was returned by acclamation.

Headline, *Globe & Mail*, Monday, December 11, 1967



## A Family's Fine Record of Service: The Kennedy Family, Part Five

*By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage  
Mississauga*

Maybe there was something in the water. Or maybe it was a deep sense of commitment they felt, or were ingrained with, towards their community. Or maybe it was a sense of duty. Regardless, the Kennedy family from Dixie served, and continues to serve, their community at many levels over several generations. Although one can only surmise, more Kennedys may have served in some public capacity and in politics than any other Mississauga family. This continuing article series has already documented, in part, the remarkable career of Thomas Laird Kennedy (1878-1959), as well as that of his brother, John Kennedy (1883-1931). Our story continues with a look at the next generation and the career of service of John and Evelyn Kennedy's son Robert Douglas (1916-2003).

Without a doubt inspired by the civic-minded dedication of uncle Thomas Laird, and father John (who served as Councillor, Deputy Reeve and Clerk in Toronto Township before his untimely passing in 1931), John's son Robert Douglas (Doug) served in politics for many years.

Doug was born in Cooksville in 1916, the third child in a family that would include ten siblings. As a youth, Doug attended Burnhamthorpe Public School and Port Credit High School. In 1939 Doug graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, and shortly thereafter married Kathleen Kraft. Doug served in the Second World War with the Canadian Army, attaining the rank of Ordinance Captain. Following the war, Doug found employment with the VLA, assisting with resettling returning veterans and their families. He took his first run at public office in 1955 when he was elected a School Trustee for Toronto Township, where he served for eight years. From 1963 to 1967 he served as the Commissioner of Toronto Township Hydro.

In 1967, Doug was elected as a Member of Parliament in the Ontario Legislature, and held the seat for Peel South for the next 18 years, until his retirement in 1985. He was often referred as being a "folksy, grass roots" politician, who was well known and respected for keeping in touch with the concerns and issues of his constituents. He was involved, during his career, with the establishment of the Sheridan Villa Home-for-the-aged in Park Royal in 1969, and the purchase of 67 acres of the Cawthra Estate by the City of Mississauga. In 1994, in tribute to his many years of active community involvement and leadership, the City of Mississauga rededicated a park in Lakeview Promenade Park as the Douglas Kennedy Headland. Doug passed away in 2003 and was buried at St. John's Anglican Cemetery in Dixie, leaving behind him a remarkable legacy of civic involvement and selfless service.

## Mississauga Library System presents the Kathleen A. Hicks Historical Writing Award Contest

The Mississauga Library System launched an annual writing contest for local youth intended to encourage reading and writing about Mississauga's heritage and history. The writing contest honours local author, Kathleen Hicks, who has written a number of books about Mississauga's past. Entries were to be a maximum of 1000 words and were to focus on a real person, event or place related to the history of Mississauga. Entrants were between the ages of 14-19 years old.

20 submissions were received on a wide variety of local history subjects, and the judges (Professor Jan Noel from the Historical Studies Department at the University of Toronto Mississauga and Matthew Wilkinson, Historian with Heritage Mississauga) selected the top three.

Congratulations to all of the entrants in the contest: Amini Alaheh, Afshan Bhatti, Adanna Chigbo, Angus Connor, Paloma D'Silva, Kayla Demers, Stephanie Dwarka, Amini Farhat, Aneesha Ghosh, Tania Hlavenka, Jimmy Hu, Morgan Liu, Winston Liu, Victoria Nader, Piyush Nanda, Nyasha Nyereyemhuka, Julia Raftery, Julia Xiong, and Kaitlyn Wuebbolt.

The top three, as selected by the judges, were Kayla Demers (1st place), Winston Liu (2nd place) and Julia Raftery (3rd place).



*Winston, Kathleen Hicks, Kayla, Julia, and  
Chief Librarian Don Mills, MLS*

From the judges: "It was fascinating and thought provoking to read about a younger generation exploring, interacting with, and making connections to the history of their community. It is also most interesting to see their interpretations of Mississauga's stories. In judging we tried to focus not just on a historical narrative, but also on personal exploration, observation, and also of making personal connections to the history and heritage of Mississauga." As professor Noel succinctly commented, "Kayla Demers offers tangible connections with a variety of historical events and people at the Credit River's mouth; Winston Liu's is impressively creative in style and concept and nicely weds past and present railways; and Julia Raftery's piece is quite imaginative and creates very memorable imagery about successive inhabitants of an historic house."

Congratulations to all of the entrants, and we hope you continue to enjoy exploring Mississauga's rich and vibrant heritage! The top three selections will be published in the January 2012 issue of "Heritage News".

# I Walk in the Footsteps of History

By Kayla Demers

*Kayla is a history student enrolled at the University of Toronto Mississauga, and was employed in the summer of 2011 with the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.*



Kayla Demers, HM

I have always been interested in history, and in recent years I have become interested in genealogy. I enjoy visiting historic homes or areas and learning about the people who lived there. I am always trying to find out why they settled in one place and not another, and what their day-to-day lives were like. This interest increased when I started working as an interpreter for the Museums of Mississauga and became even greater when I got a summer job for the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. My job with OGS was to read transcripts of cemetery records and enter them into a chart to be put on the OGS website. It is these cemetery records that gave me the idea for this article.

If you live in Clarkson, as I do, then you probably know a little about Warren Clarkson, and the Clarkson family, who founded the village. You also probably know about the Harris family, the wealthy family of Captain James Harris who lived at Benares (now a museum), and I can almost guarantee that you have been to, or know of, the farmhouse of the Bradley family. Perhaps you have been with your school, or perhaps your children convinced you to go. There were other families who lived in the Clarkson area as well.

How did I start learning about these families? Cemetery records! While transcribing these records I began to notice that many of these people came from the same families, or had married into these families. Names such as Gable, Hammond, Oliphant, Oughtred and Wilson, amongst others, were repeated over and over. Many of these families lived in the Clarkson area well before the Clarkson or Harris families had arrived. I was sure that these families were prominent, well-known people. Out of curiosity, when I tried to find out more, I discovered that we knew very little about some of them. Why? Because, unlike the Harris and Bradley families, we often have little left besides some old pictures and weathered gravestones.

Through doing the research for this article (and with the help of historian Matthew Wilkinson) I was able to find out some of the history of the land on which my house now stands, and about the people who once lived there. For this article I will be talking about three families who have changed my view of the history of Clarkson.

The first settler to receive a land grant in the area we now call Clarkson was Henry Gable. Henry received Lot 35, Conc. 3 and 4, South of Dundas Street in 1807. He and his family

moved to their new property from the Niagara area, several years before Warren Clarkson, and a year before the noted Merigold, Jarvis and Thompson families. When the Gables first arrived they would have seen a very different environment from what we see today. There were no roads, and their land was likely covered by a dense forest. The family had settlement duties they had to perform in order to keep their land grant. They had to build a cabin, clear and fence five acres of land, and clear the roadway in front of their property. The Gables were luckier than many settlers, as they had sons who were old enough to help clear and farm the land. Many settlers ended up losing their land because they were not able to fulfill their settlement duties.

The Gables received the patent to their land on December 19, 1807, making them the first official settlers in the area known today as Clarkson. Some of the Gable's children married prominent farmers in the area, and stayed in Clarkson for several years. Henry's daughter, Lucinda married David Hammond in 1838, the son of David and Rebecca Hammond. The Hammonds were another family who had settled and established themselves early in the area. David was a farmer, mostly growing fruit. He was also a very active member in the community, which by this point had grown from a few farms to an expanding village.

David and Lucinda had three children, Henry, Austin and Alvin. Henry died on May 26, 1840, when he was only a month old. Austin married Louisa Hardy (from another well-established settler family in the area). Austin and Louisa are buried in Springcreek cemetery in Clarkson. Another son, Alvin Hammond, married Catherine Nauman on October 29, 1873 in Hagersville, Ontario. Alvin and Catherine had one son, Melvin. Alvin died on March 12, 1904 at the age of 55. Catherine died on January 2, 1924, at the age of 69. Both Alvin and Catherine are buried at Springcreek Cemetery as well.

The name of the family who owned the former farmland on which my house was built were the Wilsons. It was more difficult to find information about the Wilson family, most of which I ended up finding while searching for the Hammonds. The first thing I was able to find out was that the person who owned the property in 1877 was John Wilson. He was born in 1838 to Christopher and Elizabeth Wilson, who lived closer to Erindale. John married Amelia Falconer and they had four children: Christopher Winfred, Alice, Edith,



Sheridan General Store & Post Office  
c1990, HM

*Cont'd pg. 12*



## What's Happening at the Museums of Mississauga

*By Stephanie Meeuwse, Collections and Exhibit Coordinator, Museums of Mississauga*

The Museums of Mississauga are offering several special events and programs this Fall and Winter season. Join us once again at our annual Christmas event, Home for the Holidays on Sunday December 11th from 12 to 4 pm at all three locations, Bradley Museum, Benares Historic House and the Leslie Log House. Have your photo taken with Santa & Mrs. Claus in the Log Cabin and enjoy a seasonal tea room, horse drawn wagon rides, children's crafts and more seasonal festivities! Admission is free with a donation of a non-perishable food item for the local community food bank.



The Museums of Mississauga are offering a variety of pre-registered programs for all ages. To register for any of these programs listed, please call the Customer Service Centre at 905-615-4100, ext. 3 or visit [www.connect2rec.ca](http://www.connect2rec.ca). Programs for children include Pioneer Christmas Crafts (4 to 10 Yrs) on December 3rd at the Bradley Museum. Both parents and children are encouraged to register for this unique seasonal program called Christmas Is Coming to Benares on December 10th at Benares Historic House. Our adult programs include seasonal programs such as Cooking for an Edwardian Christmas on November 26th and Edwardian Style Christmas on December 1st at Benares Historic House.

Traditional Afternoon Tea is being offered on a monthly basis at the Bradley Museum. Call the Museums at 905-615-4860, ext. 2110 to reserve your spot for the following dates: November 20th or December 18th. The afternoon consists of a tour of the Bradley Museum followed by a traditional afternoon tea in the Log Cabin. Call ahead to reserve your spot!

Currently on display at the Bradley Museum Anchorage is "Celebrating Friendship: An Exhibit Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning of Mississauga and Kariya, Japan". This exhibit features images and artifacts collected over the last 30 years from the Mississauga Friendship Association and the City of Mississauga. This display will run until December 21st. The Visitor Centre at Benares Historic House features the exhibit 'Please Be Seated: A History of Chairs' on display until November 30th. The Museums of Mississauga have a number of interesting and beautiful chairs in our collections. From the early settlers we encounter many home-made examples while later chairs show a variety and elegance made possible by modern techniques. The history of the chairs' styles and the families that used them are explored in this exhibit. You can view the exhibit in the Anchorage at the Bradley Museum and Benares Visitor Centre free of charge, Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm.

We offer a variety of education and children's badge programming including Overnight Programs! Guided tours are available year round on Wednesday & Sunday afternoons, 1 to 5 pm.

For more information about the Museums, please visit or call 905-615-4860 or e-mail us at [museums.mississauga@mississauga.ca](mailto:museums.mississauga@mississauga.ca). Follow us on [Twitter.com/SaugaCulture](https://twitter.com/SaugaCulture) & 'Like' Mississauga Culture on Facebook.

Bradley Museum is located at 1620 Orr Road  
Benares Historic House is located at 1507 Clarkson Rd. N.  
Leslie Log House is located 4415 Mississauga Road

### Interested in advertising in Heritage News?

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### Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Central Branch!



Due to space constraints, our article on the history of Mississauga's Central Branch Library will appear in our next issue.

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# The Talk of The Town

By Saskia Wijngaard  
www.citychattr.ca



Location location location; buy low and sell high; the 4 c's carats, cut, clarity and colour; these phrases of wisdom are meant to protect our investments. Yet like our mother's wise words of wisdom or a stranger's advice, in the real world, they are seldom used.

For instance, the first phrase location, location, location, comes from buying a home. The home is normally regarded as the biggest investment the average family makes. Families, when considering purchasing a new home, begin, according to statistics, looking to realtor.ca. They locate a home and go to the open house to see if it meets their needs. At the open house they might find a knowledgeable agent, or not. In Mississauga, the housing market is still hot and people are more inclined to buy on impulse, afraid to lose out. Then the old adage of "act in haste, repent in leisure" kicks in. So the biggest investment of your hard earned cash is done in a moment of rashness. On moving day, you come to the sudden realization you know nothing about what the neighbourhood has to offer.

What are the schools like? Is there an active neighbourhood association? What are the crime rates? Where are the best restaurants? Are there neighbourhood events like farmer's markets or block parties? What are the historical places in the neighbourhood. In fact, is there an historical society that is active and accessible. What are your neighbours like? Are they on average a younger community with programs geared to families or is it a more mature adult community. Who is the MP and MPP and other government officials who have a say how your community operates? When is garbage pick up? Has anyone seen Fluffy who has just high tailed it over the neighbour's fence? These questions and more like them could be answered by your neighbour, but you don't know their name and the welcome wagon doesn't exist anymore. Apart from going old school and borrowing a cup of sugar or developing a friendship over a fence these questions remain unanswered and you need to go it alone.

In the 80's there was a TV program called Cheers. The intro song concerned a bar "where everyone knows your name". What if you could introduce yourself to the neighbourhood, and have your questions answered before you moved in, from the neighbours that already lived there. If they knew what Fluffy looked like and returned him to you before you even knew he was gone. I found a cat on a neighbours roof. We didn't know where he belonged. Would have loved to see the happiness of a loved pet returned. Imagine if you could communicate with neighbours before you even started looking in that area for a home. Imagine if we could put the location, location, location phrase back in play and

focused on the neighbourhood again. Celebrating neighbourhoods and building communities like the old Welcome Wagon ideal. Imagine if you could ask a question and listen to the "City Chatter".

That is what I hope to accomplish, a place to ask questions and get answers from the neighbours that live there. Approaching the problem of searching for your largest investment, using a prudent research method. I created www.citychattr.ca as a resource to provide you with answers right from the people that live there; your neighbours. Past, present and future neighbours all have a say in managing the online image of their neighbourhood by promoting discussions about important community issues, contributing local event information and posting videos and pictures, or just reporting the best place to skip a stone and buy an ice cream. Go to www.cityChattr.ca and use the invite code 86FA8E9D and get a sneak peak. Although we are in Beta it is the next best thing to borrowing a cup of sugar!

*Editor's Note: CityChattr also has a strong heritage component, as we are working with the website to include area and village histories, note heritage landmarks and heritage happenings! We invite you to check it out!*

## 2012 Cultural Heritage Property Awards of Excellence

*(Presented in collaboration by the Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee and Heritage Mississauga)*  
**Heritage Mississauga Awards February 2012**

For the full nomination form, please visit [www.mississauga.ca/heritageplanning](http://www.mississauga.ca/heritageplanning) or [www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com). Copies can also be picked up at Heritage Mississauga offices at The Grange, 1921 Dundas St. W. 905-828-8411 ext. 0.

The Cultural Heritage Property Award is presented jointly by the Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee and Heritage Mississauga. This award encourages and recognizes excellence in preservation, restoration, conservation and/or enhancement of cultural heritage property, built and natural heritage.

Properties and projects may be nominated and will be judged in FOUR categories: Restoration, Adaptive Re-Use, Sensitive Infill (for Listed or Designated properties) and Sensitive Infill in a Cultural Landscape.

Please submit your nominations to Heritage Planning, Culture Division, City of Mississauga, 9th Floor, 201 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, ON, L5B 2T4, or contact Elaine Eigl, Heritage Coordinator, at 905-615-3200 ext. 5070 or [Elaine.eigl@mississauga.ca](mailto:Elaine.eigl@mississauga.ca)

**Nomination Deadline: Nominations for the 2012 Cultural Heritage Property Awards must be received by 4pm on Friday December 9th, 2011.**



## Mississauga South Historical Society Happenings

by Richard Collins, President,  
www3.sympatico.ca/chessie217



Before I get to what's coming up for the Society, I should spend a paragraph dealing with the past. (Hey, it's what we do at MSHS.)

First, a big thank you to all MSHS members who participated in a special Doors Open Mississauga event at the former Small Arms Plant in Lakeview on October 1. MSHS presented a slide show of Lakeview's history. Volunteers talked about the past and future of this historic building while Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller and Vera Lynn performed in the background. Guests included Colonel Gerald Haddon (the grandson of Canada's first airborne man, John McCurdy) and 94 year old Olga Cutmore of Long Branch, who worked on the assembly line here 70 years ago.

Next, my special thanks to Gord Hatten. Gord was our guest speaker for September, where he presented a one-man Show and Tell of just a small part of his huge collection of Mississauga memorabilia, including hockey jerseys, photos, high school yearbooks, maps and phonebooks. His presentation included advertisements from Port Credit stores long gone, and a 1940s calendar from a soon-to-be gone Lakeshore Road West service station. (Do you remember when gas stations used to give out full-colour calendars to customers?)

"Show and Tell" will be our theme again for **November**. Normally we schedule our annual Show and Tell event for January, but we're moving it ahead to November. That's because we have a guest speaker in November who has asked us to bring our Show and Tell items along.

Jane Venner works at the Peel Heritage Complex and leads a project called "Passages". This internet project is a collection of keepsakes from people in Peel County, including a story to go with this special treasure. Already dozens of people across Peel have contributed images of artifacts and a story about why the item is special to them. Take a look at Peel Heritage Complex's "Passages" page at [www.peelregion.ca/heritage/passages/#/landing](http://www.peelregion.ca/heritage/passages/#/landing).

I recall dozens of "Show and Tell" items from many past MSHS meetings that were intriguing and engaging, so I encourage all past participants to bring in not only something new, but also special items they've shown in the past, to be included in the "Passages" project. Our November meeting will be at the Regency Retirement Residence, 29 Mississauga Road North in Port Credit, on Tuesday, November 15, starting at 7:30 as usual. Let's help Jane out by making our November meeting a Show and Tell to remember, forever.

## Streetsville Historical Society Happenings

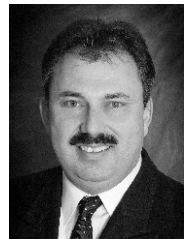
By Jean Watt, Publicity Director



The Streetsville Historical Society has been extremely busy. A very successful fundraising euchre event was held on September 28<sup>th</sup> at the Leslie Log House, with lots of food, fun and prizes.

During Doors Open in October, 244 people visited the log house and 92 people visited the historic Timothy Street House in Streetsville. Refreshments, books, and other items made by SHS members were on sale.

Our guest speaker at our December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be Councillor George Carlson. He will give a presentation, touching on such subjects as the Dowling House on Britannia Road, his own heritage home on William Street, the Village Hall, the Odd Fellows Hall, and the success of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Meadowvale Village, and many more topics of interest to our Society.



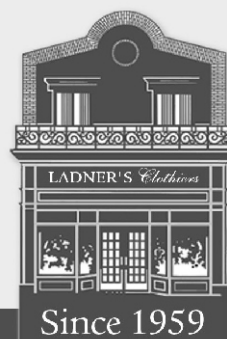
Councillor George Carlson, COM

Please join the Streetsville Historical Society on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 1-4pm at the Leslie Log House for "Home for the Holidays". Come and enjoy apple cider, gingerbread cookies, tours, children's crafts and Christmas memories, including antique toys.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at Specialty Care, Mississauga Road (4350 Mississauga Road).

For more information on the activities of the Streetsville Historical Society, please contact Jean Watt, Publicity and Programme Director, at 905-826-1860.

Heritage Trivia returns in the next issue of Heritage News.



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Todd Ladner

## Footsteps of History cont'd . .

and an unnamed daughter. And this is where the mystery of the Wilson family deepened for me.

From his tombstone at Springcreek Cemetery, Christopher Winfred Wilson was born on June 9, 1878 and died on July 10, 1952. He married a woman named Lottie Alma, who died on July 10, 1958. Christopher Winfred and Lottie had three kids: Dorothy, Jean and John. Normally census records help to find out the names and ages of people, to determine a year of birth and death. However, the census records for the Wilsons only add to the mystery. He is listed in the census for 1881 and for 1901, but not in 1891. The next part of the mystery of the Wilson family is about a daughter they had. According the William Perkins Bull research files, assembled in the 1930s, notes on the Wilson family make no mention of Christopher, but mentions an unnamed daughter who married a man named Robert Broddy. I found this discrepancy fascinating! I will definitely be continuing research to see if I can find out more about the "mysterious" Wilson family!

I almost forgot to mention how the Wilsons are connected to the Gables and the Hammonds. Noted earlier in the article, Henry Gable was granted land on Lot 35, Con. 3 and 4. When Henry Gable Sr. died, he left his land to his son, Henry Gable Jr. It was Henry Jr.'s daughter, Lucinda, who married David Hammond. When Henry Gable Jr. died he left his land to his daughter and son-in-law. It just so happens that the land the Wilsons owned was at Lot 35, Conc. 2, just north of the Gable-Hammond Property. That's right, the Wilsons and the Hammonds were neighbours! To learn that the land I live on today is connected, in a sense, to the first family to ever settle in this area was exciting! I am indeed walking in the footsteps of history.

## Editor's Desk cont'd.....

Heritage Mississauga as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812, the 175th Anniversary of the Rebellion of 1837 and numerous anniversaries of groups throughout our community. Look to the newsletter and our website for updates of the interesting and unique events and programs you can attend in your own city. Remember the slogan from a few years ago "IT'S HERE? Well, it really is all here in Mississauga for you to enjoy. No need to leave for parts unknown to enjoy a cultural experience, visit a museum or art gallery, experience a library 7 days a week, enjoy a concert or theatre production. It really is all happening here. Looking forward to seeing you out there, somewhere, in our fine city experiencing all it has to offer. Happy Holidays to one and all. Meet you back here at the Editor's Desk in 2012. Signing off for another year.



Sheridan, 1877  
Atlas

## Haunted Mississauga 2011 rocks!

Many thanks to our cast and crew of the 2011 "Haunted Mississauga Spirit Tour". Once again a fantastic success, with the introduction of the "Whispers of War"



Cast & Crew

Greg Carraro, Yvonne Carraro, Richard Collins, Lindsay Doren, Elaine Eigl, John Eigl, Paul Eigl, Suzanna Elmazi, Mary Finley, Meaghan FitzGibbon, Evan Gaspar, Jayme Gaspar, Les Gaspar, Milan Gocmanac, Annemarie Hagan, Bryan Ho, Olga Kalynowysch, Rose Langley, Lynn Liu, Alex MacKay, Denise Mahoney, Nicole Mair, Arlene Manning, Kiki Redmond vanRees, Jenny Walker, Jane Watt, Matthew Wilkinson, Mavis Wilson, Paula Wubbenhorst, Joe Zammit, Heritage Mississauga, Museums of Mississauga, and costumes provided by Theatre Unlimited: [theatreunlimited.ca](http://theatreunlimited.ca)

## Heritage Home in Meadowvale Village Heritage Conservation District Lost in Fire

In the early morning hours of November 12th, 2011, the Lambe-McDonald House, also known historically as the "Cantelon Cottage", located at 1066 Old Derry Road in historic Meadowvale Village, was gutted by fire. The home had



recently been sold, and was undergoing a major renovation

at the time of the fire. The cause of the fire is not immediately known. A portion of the house was believed to have been built by William Lambe circa 1921. For more information about the history of this property visit our website at



[www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com).



## O'Connor Park Opened

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

Mississauga's newest public park, O'Connor Park, located in Ward 10 adjacent to Ruth Thompson Middle School, was officially opened on Saturday, September 24th, 2011. The park consists of a natural wetland, playground, walkway and two soccer fields within 6.97 hectares of land. It is located on what was once farmland owned by the O'Connor family, amongst others.



Stacey Bucca, Cathy Standring & Councillor Sue McFadden, Miss. News

We can pick up the thread of the O'Connor story easily enough: the patriarch of the family, Bartholomew O'Connor, arrived in this part of Trafalgar Township around 1819. Local legend indicates that the young Bartholomew O'Connor and Charles O'Hara walked over 40 miles to the town of Dundas (near Hamilton) and persuaded Father O'Reilly to come to the "Catholic Swamp" to celebrate mass. The first mass for the burgeoning crossroads community was held in the O'Hara log cabin. Visits by travelling ministers continued sporadically until 1823, when a congregation was officially established and a log church was built.

As for Bartholomew O'Connor himself, he was born around 1801 in County Armagh, Ireland, and came to Canada with his siblings, Michael (born c.1806), and Mary (born c.1810) around 1819. From here, we have only been able to piece together fragments of the O'Connor story. Bartholomew and his wife, Sarah, had at least four children that we can identify: Isabella (born c.1823), Michael (born c.1825), Charles (born c.1830) and Ellen (born c.1841).

According to local histories, Bartholomew at first lived and worked on the farm of his cousin, Peter O'Hara, before acquiring land of his own. Bartholomew purchased 50 acres on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 1854 from Peter O'Hara in the East Half of Lot 3, Concession 10, in the New Survey of Trafalgar Township. Bartholomew then acquired a 50 acre grant of land on May 1, 1855 from the University of Toronto, immediately abutting the property he had purchased earlier. In modern terms, the 100-acre parcel of land owned by Bartholomew was located on the west side of Tenth Line, south of Thomas Street, and includes the new park named after the family.

On January 8, 1861, Bartholomew sold his 100-acre farm to his son, Michael, who is said to have built a substantial family homestead in 1878, replacing the earlier log cabin. As

for Bartholomew and Sarah, they passed away in 1874 and 1862 respectively, and are buried at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church cemetery on Ninth Line. However, this is where we begin to lose trace of the O'Connor family. Charles O'Connor acquired a farm along Ninth Line, nearby the family homestead. He had at least one daughter, Kathleen (1885-1928), who married William Frederick Sanford of Toronto Township (Mississauga). As for Michael, who owned the original family farm, we can trace two possible children, John and Katherine. John seems to have relocated to the Dixie area of Mississauga, married Ellen O'Leary from Port Credit, and may be the father of the internationally renowned "O'Connor Sisters", who were vaudeville stars from 1910 until 1937.

In short, our search for the O'Connor family, and historical pictures from their farm property, is ongoing. We hope to uncover more on this family, and other families who settled nearby. If you have any information or pictures relating to the O'Connor family or other early settling families in this area please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Carolling at the Grange

Sunday December 4th, 2011  
6pm-9pm

**FREE ADMISSION**



Enjoy old fashioned Christmas carolling around an outdoor campfire, cup of hot chocolate and fun for the whole family. We're celebrating our 51st birthday, cake will be served at 7pm.

Help those in need, please bring a non-perishable donation for the Deacons Cupboard Food bank at St. Peter's Anglican Church.

### STREETSVILLE LAW OFFICE Lawyer, Notary

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## Program News

By Jenny Walker,  
Program Developer



Volunteers Olga and Yvonne with Jenny, HM

The summer is over, and there's an air of quiet anticipation as the office settles down to fall programming and the many great plans that are in the pipeline for next year, as Heritage Mississauga firmly establishes itself as the heritage resource for the city.

We had such a great summer as the city celebrated Carassauga. Many people stopped by the Canadian pavilion to take in our display of the Cooksville brickyard and help their children make heritage kites and dream catchers. In August, the organization hosted its third Grangestock Festival; a celebration of music and art in the spirit of Woodstock from 1969. We had live music from the Jerry Stiff Band in addition to great singers from the Carswell Music Studio and Lynn Liu, a Chinese artist who brought the crowd to an awed silence as she played the Guzheng, a traditional instrument. We also had some excellent vendors who sold beautiful jewellery and knick-knacks that were ideal stocking fillers for those wishing to get ahead for Christmas. As parents shopped, children enjoyed face painting, popcorn, crafts and the Pizza Pizza bouncy castle. A great time was had by all until the heavens opened at 3pm, luckily we didn't get to experience the tornado that hit poor Goderich! A great success despite the weather. We appreciate the contributions from the business community at Sherwood Forest Village Plaza. Many thanks also to our volunteers who gave their time and efforts both on the day and the week before setting up tables, blowing up countless balloons, preparing children's crafts and basically doing anything we asked of them. You know who you are, you were awesome; thank you so much.

Next year is the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 which will see celebrations spread Canada-wide as both the federal and provincial governments supply funding to commemorate the event. While Mississauga was not in the thick of battle, we did supply the militia who left their farms and families to go off to war; many of whom are buried in the old cemeteries around the city. These families will become the focus of our research over the next few years, as we bring their stories to life and celebrate their commitment to a conflict that many believed served to unite the fledgling country and provide the basis for Canadian Confederation over 50 years later. If you have any information of local families involved in the war, including those who were left behind to maintain daily life as husbands, fathers and brothers went off for months at a time to fight for King & Country contact us, we would love to hear from you!

## Mississauga's Name cont'd . . . . .

suggested that all mail in Mineola be sorted at the Cooksville station, because both areas were in the new Mississauga. But this would delay mail delivery to Mineola residents and require residents there to drive further (to Cooksville rather than Port Credit) to drop off mail and parcels. Canada Post had its own relatively efficient way of doing things and wasn't going to let political name-calling get in its way.

Six months later, an arrangement was concluded whereby "Mississauga" appeared on the address, hyphenated with a village name. The public, which had finally come to grips with the fact that they had to learn how to spell "Mississauga", now had to write longer postal names like "Mississauga-Erindale" or "Mississauga-Malton". Residents complained about postal addresses that were longer than a #10 envelope so, as of January 1, 1969 Canada Post assigned numbers to the substations. Residents in old Dixie, for example, became residents of "Mississauga-6".

This made residents complain even louder. The numbered substations were easily confused so on July 1, 1969 Canada Post officially recognized two-letter shortforms for the substations. Hence, mail sent to residents in old Cooksville, for example, could now be addressed "Mississauga-CV".

As it turns out, many Mississauga residents stuck to their old address for years to come, and since Canada Post (unofficially) preferred it that way, the mail always got through. Ultimately the problem was resolved when postal codes were phased in, nation-wide from 1974 to 1976. "Mississauga" became meaningless at this time when, from Canada Post's point of view, people began living in places like "L4W" or "L5H". But who wants to live in a town called "L5H"?

Mississauga is a name we should be proud to call our own. On the one hand, it rolls off the tongue like a flat tire, but above all else it honours the people who first began to shape this place we call home. The people of Mississauga fought hard for this name: perhaps the most historic and honourable in all of Canada. We fought the OMB, we fought the post office and we even had to fight our own elected officials. But it was worth the fight.

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## The Darker Side cont'd.....

At the May 21<sup>st</sup> hearing, she again varied her story, claiming to have encountered the two men on the road as she travelled by carriage with her son. The light emitted by a bright moon allowed her to identify one of the men as Loutick and identified Swryda from the witness stand as the taller man accompanying him. She had seen Loutick's body and asserted she was not mistaken in her identification of either of the men.

The most damning evidence came from CPR fireman Albert Weir, who claimed he saw Swryda on the morning of Good Friday washing his hands and clothing in a pool beside the tracks as his train moved into the City. Asked what he was washing by the Attorney, Weir answered "Apparently blood, sir. He had blood on him." On the return trip, Swryda was seen walking beside the tracks in the direction of the City, presumably to his lodging house. Contrary to this story, was evidence from a Grand Trunk Railway employee, Robert Henry, who, from his watchman's tower in Mimico, said that he saw a man like Swryda walking to Toronto along the GTR tracks the afternoon after the murder. The contradictory claims diminish the credibility of both stories.

Although reticent throughout the majority of the trial, Swryda's story was said to have wavered and the variation did not sit well with Swryda's detractors. He first maintained that he placed Loutick himself with a farmer, then said Loutick had fallen in with a group of three Jewish men, and that he had arranged for the same men to find Loutick work (which he later denied).

An inquest was held May 14<sup>th</sup> at Erindale, arousing the interest of nearby villagers who clamoured to fill adjacent establishments. As the materials found at the scene of the crime were displayed during the proceedings (brown overcoat, a battered cap, white blood stained trousers and underdrawers), Swryda made no overt signs of discomfort as he took them in. A verdict of murder was quickly brought in by the jury.

In a hearing before Police Magistrate Shaver in Cooksville on May 20<sup>th</sup>, Swryda pleaded not guilty. Crown Attorney McFadden brought forth the testimony of key witnesses in support of the prosecution. Swryda remained silent and did not wish to discuss his position with anyone, including his lawyer; Mr. Morris. Mr. Morris attempted to establish reasonable doubt when cross-examining the doctor who performed the post-mortem by examining the likelihood of alternate causes of death. The doctor was resolute in his belief that Loutick had died of a fractured skull that could not have been produced by an accidental fall or being hit by a train. A committal for trial was set for November 18<sup>th</sup>, 1908, with Swryda to appear before a Peel County citizen jury. It was at this time that twelve men decided upon a sentence of death by hanging.

Sywyryda was remanded in Peel County Jail in Brampton until the date of his execution on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1909. A mere 24 hours before the hanging, he proclaimed "I no kill that boy; I go to my God not afraid, because I no kill that boy." Officers on death watch said his English continually improved during his period of incarceration. He had declared his innocence so fervently that they were beginning to doubt whether justice was truly being served.

In three previous cases where a death sentence had been passed and later commuted, the evidence of guilt was much more compelling. Townspeople were of the growing opinion that the evidence in this case was not conclusive enough to warrant the hanging, even gaining the support of Sheriff Brody in favour of its annulment. This undercurrent of sympathy produced a swell of interest in the execution, with townspeople divided into two camps; those who wished to view the hanging, and those who left town due to the unease associated with it neighbouring their homes.

Swryda met with a Polish priest hours before the hanging to have his last rites administered. His last words before executioner Radcliffe took him to the gallows were, "friends, I'm no guilty, I'm no guilty. I'm guilty before the people, but not before my God." Twelve minutes later, he was pronounced dead.

A short burial service was conducted at the grave site, the grounds of which now belong to the Peel Heritage Complex. In 1983, the body of Swryda was exhumed and reinterred at Meadowvale Cemetery after being discovered by a contractor conducting renovations on the property.

Doubt and speculation surround the question of Swryda's guilt to this day. A play commemorating the one hundred year anniversary of the execution was carried out at the historic Peel County Courthouse, aptly titled *A Complex Verdict*. A 2009 article published in the *Mississauga Booster* calls the sentence an "Injustice Most Foul", describing the village of Erindale at the time as a "bastion of the British Empire" and Swryda an unwelcome foreigner with no chance of having ever escaped police scrutiny.

There were many points of contention in the chain of circumstantial evidence leading to Swryda's conviction gone undisputed. The contradictory reports of the railway staff, Mrs. Manley's assortment of tales as to how she came into contact with the men, and an unsubstantiated motive for murder did not likely elicit the confidence of the jury.

Whether this was a case of justice served with the strong hand of the law, or the triumph of early 20<sup>th</sup> century prejudice, will never be known for certain. Swryda's execution has undoubtedly left a legacy in the courts of modern day Peel Region - one of citizens' rights to fair and equal treatment before the law.

# Heritage Matters

## Heritage Mississauga

### Events

**Dec. 4, 4pm - 9pm** - Carolling at The Grange

**Feb. 23, 2012** - "Heritage Awards"

### Exhibits:

**Debbie Hatch Discover Centre and Lower Hall Gallery**

**Sept. 27 - Dec. 3**-Art Exhibit with Pat Hertzberg

**Jan. 10 - Feb. 24, 2012** - War of 1812, Exhibit from Ont. Archives

**Dec. 4 - Feb. 24**-Aggregation 7-Winter Theme

## Art Gallery of Mississauga

**Nov. 16, 4-7pm** Meet Stuart Keeler

**Nov. 27, 1-4 pm** Paper Art Workshop

**Feb. 12, noon** -"Hornacopia" French Horn Quartet performs at the Art Gallery of Mississauga. Drop by during your lunch break and enjoy a beautiful hour of music.

**Feb. 2, noon** - The Elgin String Quartet performs at the Art Gallery of Mississauga. Drop by during your lunch break and enjoy a beautiful hour of music. For current listings visit please visit the website: [www.artgalleryofmississauga.com](http://www.artgalleryofmississauga.com)

## Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

**Thurs. Nov. 17 and Fri. Nov.18, 10am - 3pm** **Christmas Sale** in the atrium of the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre. Hurontario at Matheson. Lots of unique wooden toys, and other interesting items especially chosen for Christmas giving.

**Sun. Dec. 4, 1-4 pm** **Annual Christmas Open House.** An extensive assortment of old fashioned toys and games plus lots of other unusual items. Parking in the H. J. A. Brown Education Centre lot off Matheson Blvd. Please call Joan Reid at (905 277 3396) for further information.

## Halton Peel O.G.S.

**Nov. 27, 2pm**-Brampton Library-Annual General Meeting "Thinking Outside The Box" Brian Gilchrist, Region of Peel Archives, "Locating Sources in Places You Wouldn't Think To Look."

**Jan. 22, 2pm**-Brampton Library - Guylaine Petrin, Reference Librarian at Glendon College, York University, "Using Upper Canada Land Petitions for Research"

**Feb. 26, 2 pm**-Oakville Library-Marian Press-"Googling for Genealogy" How to take advantage of all Google has to offer. For more info contact Jane Watt [jwatt@ica.net](mailto:jwatt@ica.net) 905-281-1701

## Mississauga Arts Council

Please visit the website [www.mississaugaartscouncil.com](http://www.mississaugaartscouncil.com) or call (905) 615 4278.

## Mississauga South Historical Society

**Nov. 15, 7:30pm**- Show And Tell and Jane Venner from the Peel Heritage Complex speaking on the "Passages Project".

**Jan. 17, 7:30 pm**-Matthew Wilkinson, Historian at Heritage Mississauga, A Call to Arms: Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812. Meetings held at Regency Retirement Residence, 29 Mississauga Road just north of Lakeshore Rd. W.

## Join Heritage Mississauga

**Membership Prices:** Individual \$30, Family \$50, Senior \$10, Student 16+ \$10, Schools/Non profit groups \$35, Small Business \$50

Your membership and donations help us to continue the work we do to encourage awareness of Mississauga's history. For information, please contact: 905-828-8411 Ext. 0 or by email at [info@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:info@heritagemississauga.org)

## Museums of Mississauga

**Until Dec. 21**-Bradley Museum Anchorage-Celebrating Friendship: An exhibit commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the twinning of Mississauga.

and Kariya, Japan. This display highlights our wonderful collection of kimonos and related memorabilia.

**Until Nov 30**-Benares Historic House Visitor Centre: Please Be Seated: Chairs from our collection. The history of the chairs' styles and the families that used them are explored in this exhibit.

## Streetsville Historical Society

**Dec. 8, 7:30pm** at Specialty Care Mississauga Road (4350 Mississauga Road, Room 102). Councillor George Carlson will speak on the Dowling House, the Odd Fellows Hall, his own heritage home and the success of the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Meadowvale Village.

## Trafalgar Township Historical Society

For more info contact Jane Watt [jwatt@ica.net](mailto:jwatt@ica.net) 905-281-1701  
**Nov 29, 7pm**-Guest Speaker: John McDonald, Author, speaking about his new book "Halton's Heritage" at the Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas St. W. in Oakville.

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

## Multi-cultural Seniors Club at Heritage Mississauga

**FREE FREE FREE**

**When:** Every Friday 2pm-4pm

**Where:** The Grange, 1921 Dundas St. W.  
(one block west of Mississauga Road at Sir John's Homestead)

**Meet other seniors and socialize!**

**Call for more information to 905-828-8411 ext.  
"0" or Ms. Kohli 905-823-0436**