

# Heritage News

# Celebrating Over 200 Years of History

# The Newsletter of Heritage Mississauga

Fall 2009	
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# SPECIAL EVENTS

DOORS OPEN
Sept. 19, 10am-4pm
Grange Open For Tours
and Heritage Showcase
City Wide Sites

HAUNTED HERITAGE BALL

> Oct. 17, 6:30pm Waterside Inn Port Credit

HAUNTED MISSISSAUGA Oct. 23, 7:00pm tours start Streetsville Pioneer Memorial Cemetery

HOT BOX Exhibit Nov. 10, 7:00pm The Grange

CAROLLING AT THE GRANGE Sun. Dec. 6, 2009 6:30pm

# "A Baptism By Fire: 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment"

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

"Where were you?"

For some, those words may conjure a distinctive response, a first gut reaction that can shed light on a formative or significant event. Ask a long time Mississauga resident that question, and quite often the respondent will recall the train derailment. November 2009 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historic event, which indelibly left its mark on the proverbial and elusive collective psyche of our City.

Stepping back in time, to the years before the derailment, Mississauga was a young city, boldly emerging from two amalgamations, in 1968 and 1974 respectively. Many citizens viewed this "Mississauga" as an artificial city that lacked cohesiveness and a common bond. One can argue that changed significantly on the evening of November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1979. Perhaps



Fighting the Fire, ariel image of the Mississauga Train Derailment, HM

that can be considered, if not the birth of our City, then perhaps as its baptism, a baptism by fire and as a result, also a coming of age.

Some refer to it as the "Mississauga Miracle". It was a miracle no loss of life and no permanent scarring on the land, the people or the collective psyche. Yes, intangibly, the Mississauga that awoke amidst the thunderous explosions and mass evacuations in the early hours of November 11<sup>th</sup> was fundamentally changed. The first major evacuation and emergency faced by the young City tested its mettle, its leadership, its emergency services, its organization, and its citizens -all of which passed the test with flying colours.



Fire Fighter walking away from the Fire, HM

On the evening of Saturday, November 10, 1979, Canadian Pacific freight train #54 was carrying 106 rail cars from Sarnia to Toronto on a weekly scheduled run. Thirty-eight cars were carrying cargo designated as hazardous, including liquid styrene, caustic soda, liquid petroleum products, and liquid chlorine. At approximately 11:53pm, as the train crossed Burnhamthorpe Road, an axle bearing failed and one rail car lost a pair of wheels. The train continued until, at approximately 11:56pm at the Mavis Road crossing, 24 rail cars derailed. The immediate and massive explosion caused by ruptures in butane and propane-carrying rail cars, was seen more than 100 kilometres away. Several subsequent explosions, one of which hurled a 90-ton tanker car filled with liquid propane more than 675 meters away from the derailment

site, followed the first explosion within minutes.

The initial cause of the derailment was a "hot box" or a journal box that connects the moving axle of the wheel to the car above. As the train reached Mississauga, the "hot box" failed, and the 33<sup>rd</sup> car, which carried liquid toluene, lost its axle and a set of wheels. When the dangling undercarriage of the damaged car left the rail tracks, 23 other cars followed it. The resulting evacuation of more than 240,000 residents

# President's Message

By Barbara O'Neil, President

#### Our Fall Social Calendar

As you read our fall newsletter, we've wrapped up summer with our first annual *Grangestock*. Organized as a free admission, "good times" community awareness event, rather than a fund raiser, *Grangestock* was named in honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Woodstock. On Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> we partied the afternoon away



Barbara O'Neil, HM

to the old time rock and blues of the Jerry Stiff Band, browsed and bought the works of local artists on exhibit, ate BBQ and sampled beer from our own local Old Credit Brewery Co.

Pumped by the response to Grangestock, we're now moving forward with the final arrangements for Doors Open on September 19<sup>th</sup> (we're a host location), as well as plans for our annual Haunted Mississauga Spirit Tour on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and this year's Haunted Heritage Ball on October 17<sup>th</sup>. **To obtain tickets for either of these 2 events**, call or drop by the Grange at your earliest convenience.

There's some important news you should know about this year's Haunted Heritage Ball. This event has become a very successful and financially critical initiative on Heritage Mississauga's fund raising calendar. In response to a slower economy, we have reduced ticket prices this year to \$95.00 per person for members and \$105.00 for non-members. We know this opens the door to a wider potential audience but it also means we must sell more tickets and more items at our silent auction that evening to meet our fundraising goal of \$20,000 net.

Attendees (who are encouraged to dress in period costume) will enjoy a gourmet meal with, music, dancing, entertainment and the spectacular lakeside views offered from the Waterside Inn. Please invite your friends to join you for what's becoming **one of the must-do events on Mississauga's social calendar!** 

Also before year end, **Hot Box**, an exhibit commemorating the  $30^{\text{th}}$  anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment, opens at the Grange November  $10^{\text{th}}$  ('Where we you when...?''). And **Caroling at the Grange** - bonfire and toddies included - is scheduled for December  $6^{\text{th}}$ . Check our website regularly or call our office for updated details.

#### **Salute To Students**

The beginning of every fall marks the end of our summer students' tenure at Heritage Mississauga, as well. This year we were lucky enough to have funding for 5 students: Nicole Mair, Zofia Krivdova, Liwen



Nicole Mair, Liwen Chen, Zofia Krivdova, Andrea Kennedy, Sharifa Khan, HM

Chen, Sharifa Khan and Andrea Kennedy.

This was Nicole's  $4^{th}$  summer with us and as Assistant Historian her primary tasks were editing and assembly of images and text for the

Cont'd pg. 8



SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2009 WATERSIDE INN PORT CREDIT

FLAPPER GIRLS, SCHOOL MARMS, ESTABLISHED GENTRY, RUM RUNNERS, STONE HOOKERS, DEBUTANTES, PIONEERS, FARMERS, BOBBY SOCKS AND BRYLCREEM-BECOME A PART OF THE PAST AT THIS YEAR'S HAUNTED HERITAGE BALL

This fund raising event supports the research and educational outreach programs of Heritage Mississauga

**Members \$95.00** Non-Members \$105.00

For Sponsorship and Ticket information please contact Heritage Mississauga at 905-828-8411 ext. "0" or by email at info@heritagemississauga.org

#### **Board of Directors 2009-2010**

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#### NEXT DEADLINE: December 18, 2009

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### From the Editor's Desk

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

Why does it seem that as we get older time moves faster. Everyone I have talked to this past week has said the same thing. Where did the summer go? Many have also said "what summer". How right they



are, it has gone quickly and did not provide the best weather for the many outdoor events we all attempted to attend or host. September is at our doorstep with the promise of beautiful painted trees, cool evenings and a pace like the Indy 500 for most of the community. With school returning, clubs and teams starting their schedules, the fast pace of life will no doubt take over us once again. Even with the bad weather, this summer has been a whirlwind for the Staff and Board of Heritage Mississauga. We have been busy pulling together the final threads of our long awaited new website and look forward to launching the site very soon. Keep checking over the next few weeks and let us know what you think, It will be a work in progress, continuously updated, so ideas and suggestions

are very much appreciated. Give me a call at 905-828-8411 ext. 31 or by e m a i 1 at jgaspar@heritagemississauga.org.

All hands were on deck at the end of August as we celebrated our first **GRANGESTOCK Music and Art Festival** at the Grange. This cultural awareness event was a wonderful success bringing together for the first time on our grounds, music, art and heritage. Many thanks



Guests enjoying the Jerry Stiff Band at GRANGESTOCK, HM

to our sponsors this year: Councillor Katie Mahoney, Dallas McLean-Lowe, Don Hancock, In-Kind Canada, Lesia Kennedy, Linda Thomas, Long and McQuade, Museums of Mississauga, Old Credit Brewery, Paul Smith, Stagewest and Think Marketing. We also acknowledge the incredible support of our dedicated volunteers: Sara Ahmadi (Board Member), John Bruce, Yvonne Carraro, Liwen Chen, Arthur Dias, Sonja Hidas, Mary Finley, Adam French, Jerry French, Brent Gaspar, Les Gaspar, Andrea Kennedy, Jacob Klukowski, Zofia Krivdova, Barbara O'Neil (President of Heritage Mississauga) and Linda Thomas. Many thanks to Co-Chairs Greg Carraro and Scott Mair for their dedication and belief in this very important new heritage event. Lastly but certainly not least, thank you to Heritage Staff Jane Watt and Matthew Wilkinson, for their support above and beyond. Mark your 2010 calendars for Saturday August 28th and celebrate our 50th Anniversary with us at GRANGESTOCK 2010.

Plans are well underway for the next heritage event in Mississauga - DOORS OPEN. On Saturday September 19th, visitors will have the opportunity to visit 20 different sites across the city and admission is FREE. The Grange will be open this year for tours, and will include the Heritage Showcase as well as a BBQ to enjoy. Other sites that will be open are Meadowvale Museum and 19th Century Miniature Village, Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple, Mississauga Civic Centre, Visual Arts Mississauga, The Riverwood Conservancy, The Riverwood Trail and Grounds, Islamic Society of North America, Mississauga Masonic Temple, Streetsville Public Cemetery, Former Erindale Public School -now U of T Mississauga Alumni House, U of T Mississauga

AwardWinning buildings, Bradley House Museum, Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Canadian Coptic Centre, Cawthra Estate, Living Arts Centre, Gurudwara -Dixie Road, Wild Wood Park - Malton Greenway Trail. Enjoy many of these heritage treasures in your community.

Right after Doors Open we move full force into the most important event Heritage Mississauga hosts each year - The Heritage Ball. The tickets for members are only \$95.00 and for non-members \$105.00. We are also going to have a great deal of heritage fun by including the Haunted theme in the Ball. That's right folks the Haunted Heritage Ball is now a costume ball encouraging you to dress as someone from our Mississauga past. What era tweaks your fancy? Is it flappers, gangsters, pioneers, rum runners, bobby socks and brylcreem or maybe fishermen and stone hookers. Mississauga's past has much to choose from and many characters from history that you can build a theme upon. Bring a group and outfit a table from the Roaring 20's or from the Victorian age. Lets have lots of fun with this event and help to raise much needed funds to support the work that Heritage Mississauga does from "The Grange". Funds raised will support the research, and educational outreach programs that are so vital to preserving and promoting the importance of our heritage. We need your help to continue this important work in our community. Support the event by purchasing tickets, become a sponsor or donate an item for the Silent Auction table. This is your chance to help to make a difference. Can we count on you?

Where were you on November 10th, 1979? That is the question we will all be asking each other as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment at the Grange on the 10th of November 2009. With the help of Mississauga artist Sonja Hidas we will host "HOT BOX" an art installation that examines the question in our Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre. This is a multi-art community project that will open on anniversary day. Please join us for this grand opening at the Grange.

We wrap up the year with our **Carolling at the Grange** a celebration of the holiday season. This open house also celebrates the 49th birthday of Heritage Mississauga. We hope you will all join us on December 6th, 6:30pm-9:30pm for hot chocolate, holiday treats, singing round the outdoor campfire and celebrate friendship and the season.

As we move into the new year, 2010, we look forward to seeing many of you at the **50th anniversary** celebrations that Heritage Mississauga will be hosting throughout the year. We will be launching a new publication "Mississauga's Lost Villages", hosting Maanjidowin-Native Pow Wow and Metis Rendevous and meeting more of you as we gather community stories, images and reflections. Have a wonderful fall season, see you back here in January 2010 as we once again travel through our history one story at a time.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Join us on Tuesday November 10th 7:00pm-9:00pm for the official opening of the HOT BOX Exhibit. This exhibit at the Robinson-Adamson House "The Grange" celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment of Nov. 10th 1979. The second installation will be at the Living Arts Centre's visual gallery and a third location will be at The Art Gallery of Peel's community art gallery. The Hot Box is a conceptual art project by Sonja Hidas and supported by its connectors. To include your memories of the train derailment in the "Hot Box Project" contact Sonja Hidas at: 416-305-7985 or Sonja@sonjahidas.com

### The Lost Hamlet of Hawkins' Corners

By Nicole Mair

The lost hamlet of Hawkins' Corners, once at the intersection of Tomken Road and Eglinton Road, is unfortunately one of the few places of Toronto Township that has been almost completely lost. Very little remains in existence beyond a list of family names that once called Hawkins' Corners home. The community most likely was centered on the business provided by the blacksmith shop that once operated there. It may never be known, however, whether or not the residents of Hawkins' Corners acted as a



Hawkin's Corners, 1877 Peel Atlas

close community. This does make what little stories could be preserved all the more valuable.

Squire John Hawkins originally settled at what would come to be called Hawkins' Corners in the 1820s, on 100 acres of Lot 1 Concession 3 east of Hurontario Street, the current intersection of Tomken Road and Eglinton Avenue. In 1852 the land passed on to his son William Hawkins, for which the crossroads community was named.



John C. Price & Wm. Hawkins, Wm. Perkins-Bull Collection

John Hawkins, born in 1792, emigrated from County Tyrone in Ireland in the early nineteenth century. He mostly lived in Dixie, and may have owned land in Albion as well. His son, William Hawkins, was born in Ontario around 1823. William, who lived at the Corners, had a blacksmith shop and carpentry shop on the northwest corner of Lot 8, Concession 2 north of Dundas Street. He

hired men to help tend to it. William Hawkins was married to Elizabeth Price and had two daughters: Maria and Jennie Jennie, also known as Mary Jane, later married John Hurst Price.

After Elizabeth died in 1865, William married her sister, Maria Price, and they had one daughter, Annie. Both of William Hawkins' wives were daughters of Colonel Samuel Price, who also resided at Hawkins' Corners, along with his family. William Hawkins was described by one local resident as a "big swarthy man and everybody was a little afraid of his gruffness". He died in 1898 at age 75.

Major Samuel Price along with his wife, Sarah Charters, and four of their children came to Canada in 1817, and settled in Toronto Township on the northwest corner of Hawkins' Corners in 1822. Samuel and sons spent the first several years clearing their new land and constructing the barn and fences, and by the early 1830s they were ready to start work on a more permanent dwelling: "The Mud House". With the help of the ox and his sons, Major Samuel Price built the two-storey house using moulded clay bricks, and then covered it with pine sheeting. "The Mud House" passed from Major Samuel to his son Alexander Price briefly, before going to Jackson C. Price, another son of Major Samuel. Jackson C. Price kept the house for almost fifty years, and after passing through a few more Price family members, it at length made it to the Cook family. The house would last 140 years, the longest of all the Price family homes, until it was finally torn down in the late 1970s. Another family present in Hawkins' Corners was the Craig

family. Robert Craig was born in Ireland in 1810 and immigrated to York In 1825, at age 15. At first he worked for Dr. McCuaig. He would ride the doctor's horse around collecting the patients' accounts and often returned with livestock and other farm produce as payment. After his marriage to Margaret McConnell in 1836, the couple settled in Lambton Mills and Robert started up a cooper shop. Around 1842, Robert Craig moved to Toronto Township. In the early 1860s, Robert Craig helped establish the Cheese Factory along with Robert McKay, who was the owner. Craig also apparently gave land to the Irish Catholics near Dixie (Irishtown) to build a Church as well as houses, although he was Methodist himself. That area would become home to families such as the Mahars, Carrigans, Markys, Curtises, Hickeys and Longs. Robert Craig was very well liked in the community and soon became known as "Father Craig". Two of his eight children also lived at the Craig homestead at Hawkins' Corners: John R. and William W. Robert Craig and his wife are buried at Trinity United Church Cemetery, at Britannia and Dixie roads, in nearby Hanlan.

According to Colonel Kennedy, who resided in Dixie and was also a hotel proprietor, the Dixie McCarthys kept a hotel at Hawkins' Corners, on Lot 1, Concession 3 east of Hurontario Street. There is also a record of Henry Berry, who lived near Hawkins' Corners, being granted a tavern license in 1843.

There is mention of a few other buildings which were located at Hawkins' Corners; however, there is little surviving documentation to confirm their existence. There was reportedly a school located on the southeast corner. As well as Orange Lodge warrant no. 1027. The first master was Alexander Davis. The lodge was dormant in 1862, but revived in 1866 by Francis Shaver. William Hawkins apparently then succeeded Francis Shaver as master.

Today, there is nothing left of the community of Hawkins' Corners to mark its place. Stories and memories too, are scarce. Please help keep the memories alive of the family names such as Allison, Craig, Hawkins, King, McKinney, Mercer and Price, by sharing your stories.

# "Baptism By Fire" cont'd.....

took place with little panic or injury and no loss of life. Dubbed the "Mississauga Miracle", the evacuation was, until then, the largest peacetime evacuation in North American history (it was only eclipsed in 2005 with the evacuation of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina). Approximately 226,000 residents of the young City of Mississauga were asked to voluntarily leave their homes. Additional residents in neighboring Etobicoke and Oakville were also evacuated.

So where were you? Share your memories, stories and pictures of the Mississauga Train Derailment with the "Hot Box Project: Memories of November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1979" at **hotbox24@live.ca**. Also, during the week of November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a series of exhibits entitled the "Hotbox Project", coordinated and produced by Mississauga artist Sonja Hidas, will be featured at several Mississauga venues, including Heritage Mississauga (exhibit opening on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm) and the Living Arts Centre (exhibit opening on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm).

Lastly, Heritage Four Mississauga presents a special lecture commemorating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment with guest speaker and former Mississauga Fire Chief Gordon Bentley on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 beginning at 7:30pm at the Port Credit Public Library.

### "From Portugal to Canada", Part Two

By Cassandra Melo

Editor's Note: This is a creative story researched and written by Cassandra Melo, a co-op student with Heritage Mississauga from St. Joseph's Secondary School. While the characters are her creation, the background, time period and experiences are historically accurate.

# Part Two:

A couple of months pass and everyday I am the first to run to the mailbox to check if we have a letter from my dad saying we can join



Cassandra Melo, HM

him but all we get are pictures of him working at a mushroom factory and friends he has met and a note saying how much he misses us, but nothing telling us we can go to him. I have been saving up myself. 30 escudos. Not even close. My mom keeps telling me to not give up and keeps reminding me that my dad misses me and he will have money shortly, but I soon start to loose hope. I know I am going to have to wait a long time until I see him again and until I have to leave my friends and home. Instead, I start enjoying everyday I have with my friends and this beautiful island that I will end up having to leave.

March 1954, finally! My mother comes home with a smile on her face and a letter in her hands. "Start packing." She tells me. I could not believe it! It has been two years and for some strange reason, I am not happy at all. It actually feels as if I am not leaving. As if I am just going on a short holiday. I guess I got used to being away from my father and throughout the whole time he was gone, I did not get along with my mother and I felt angry and confused, and I had stopped reading the letters father mailed to us. I do not feel so excited to see him anymore. I go to my room and pack almost all of my belongings and when I am done, I go for a walk. I see my friends at the park we always go to and they are yelling my name and happy to see me. I am going to miss that. I walk up to them and tell them I have bad news. After I tell them, they begin to cry and I start crying with them. It hits me. I am leaving my friends. I tell them I will come back and visit when I am older and have enough money. My best friend, Catarina, pulls me aside and starts crying. Catarina has been my best friend my whole life and saying goodbye to her is as bad as it was when I said goodbye to my father. We hug each other for a long time and we cannot seem to stop crying. I tell her I will never find a friend like her where I am going and that I will never forget her. We finally let go and I tell all my friends that it is time for me to go home and help my mom pack because we are leaving early tomorrow. I give everyone one last hug and finally walk away.

After we all finish packing, I stare at the empty house and I feel even more down. I go to my room and try to fall asleep but I cannot. It is hard to sleep knowing this will be the last night I sleep in my room, in my very first house.



SS Saturnia, www

The next morning we wake up very early and my uncle gave us a ride to our ship. We said goodbye to him and we got onto a boat named, "The Saturnia". I read in the letter my father wrote that he had to pay \$200.00 for each of us to come to Canada. It was the same ship he was on. There were only about 10

women. A part of me wants to just run back and be in the only place I feel safe but I know I cannot. The inside of the ship was nice. It was big with a huge dining room, theatre and chapel. I watched my island slowly disappeared behind me. I will keep you in my heart!

The entire way to Canada, my mother and little sister were both sea sick. We stopped in different countries to pick people up. People from Italy had gotten on the ship before us and my mother met a lady that was also going to meet with her husband. While she was sick, she asked the lady to keep an eye on me. My mother said that the Portuguese and Italian languages are alike and my mother had no trouble trying to understand what she was saying and the lady understood what my mother said also.

After thirteen days on the ship, we finally got off in a place called "Halifax". I looked through the crowd of men, looking out for my dad. I finally spotted him waving his hands at us and excited to see us. I was the first to run up to him and he picked me up. I squeezed him so tight, I swear all of his bones could just pop out of his body. I began to cry with him and told him how much I missed him.

We took a train to a place called "Port Credit", and the whole way I could not keep my eyes off of him I just started at him and picked out everything different about him. His hair is shorter and he finally started shaving. I was so excited to see him. We finally arrived in Port Credit and my father rented a car to drive us to Streetsville, where our new house was.

Our house was in someone's basement and it was small and cold. The company my father worked for was paying for rent and gave us financial security but this was only for a certain amount of time. I had to share a room with my little sister and the people living above us were Canadian. They seemed like nice people, we just had a difficult time talking to them. My father promised that he would have enough money soon to move, especially when my mother started to work. I gave my father all the money I had saved up and he said he would convert it and put it into savings. There was about 100 escudos.

My father took the next day off to show us around. He first showed us where he was working. It was a mushroom company called Leaver Mushroom Company. It was located on Stanfield Road, between the Queensway East and the Queen Elizabeth Way. My father said that there are about six Portuguese men working with him. It was good to work with people that



Leaver Mushroom Office Building, HM

spoke the same language as you but then again, it was not a good way to learn to speak English. There were also Japanese people working with him too but they were slowly leaving. The owner, Lloyd Leaver, liked Portuguese workers because they are good workers that never turn their faces against hard work. He must be talking about men because I am not like that! I can't even sleep in my room when I know there is a spider in it. Even if the spider is the size of a small crumb! My fathers company paid him about \$7.50 a week.

We then went to see where my sister was going to go to school. She was five years old now and going into kindergarten. The school was a nice building called Maiden Lane Public School. She seemed excited to start. She is lucky she is starting school at a young age.

Cont'd pg. 15

# **Hubbs Ruined Hundreds and Almost Ruined Lakeview** *Part II*

By Richard Collins

Things started to unravel for Harold Hubbs early in 1930.

In the previous Heritage New, I started to tell you the story of Hubbs, who set up a Ponzi scheme right here in Mississauga and left his investors with unpaid mortgages on halfbuilt homes. He might have escaped prosecution had



From the Toronto Star

not the Township of Toronto come looking for the taxes on all the houses Hubbs had sold but never built.

The key to a successful Ponzi scam is to disappear before creditors come looking for their money but scam artists are greedy. They're never ready to disappear. Not when there's another dollar to be scammed. That's how Bernie Madoff got caught 78 years later. Hubbs and Madoff were victims of their own greed.

And so where was the Township's tax money?

As it turns out, Hubbs had it. As part of his scam, Hubbs told the people he had sold land to, to pay everything up front to him and he'd manage their taxes. This was the same grift he used to get his investors' mortgage money in the first place and he pulled an insurance scam on the homes the same way. Hubbs' confederate, J. Cecil Hamilton, a Listowel lawyer, even sold his many clients there "wind insurance", warning them that the gales off the lake in Lakeview could blow buildings away and that wind insurance was the best protection.

Standing on the roof of James Cassina's service station at Stop 7 in Lakeview, Hubbs had a bird's eye view of the housing subdivision plan that he had just submitted to the Township.

It was up there that Hubbs planned his downfall. Since he never intended to build the homes he was selling, there was no need to worry about lot lines. Where 96 homes were surveyed in one of his developments, Hubbs sold 112 homes.

In cases where people were actually smart enough to check up on their investment, Hubbs' business secretary, Llewellyn Burlingham admitted twice under oath to showing suckered investors on development C-23 (at Stop 7) the wrong property where a house was built or being built.

In one case, Charles Harrington paid Hubbs for his new house by selling Hubbs his old home. Then he discovered that Hubbs had sold the first home but neglected to pay the mortgage on the second home with the revenue from the sale of the first home, leaving Harrington with no money from his first home and no legal title to his second. The cash from both deals was in Hubbs' pocket.

Harrington planned to use the money from the first home to build cabins on his land beside the Toronto-Hamilton Highway. He feared that all the bad press from Hubbs' fake land dealings would give Lakeview a bad reputation and drive away his tourist business this coming summer.

After pulling one scam too many, angry investor called the cops and on December 14, 1929, Hubbs and Burlingham were arrested. The men were placed on house arrest (not bad for Hubbs who had a nice house in Toronto's High Park district) but bail was set at an impossible \$100,000 each. (That's well over a million in today's money)

Four days later the two men were charged with conspiracy to defraud. Burlingham pleaded ignorant and convinced the court to lessen his sentence to 30 months. Hubbs had no alibi. He was clearly the mastermind. He faced three charges of fraud and two of false pretenses. By pleading guilty, Hubbs escaped more serious charges of conspiracy.

Hubbs' lawyer pleaded for clemency claiming that his client "tried to save a listing ship" and that like those he swindled, Hubbs too was a victim of the stock market crash that occurred after millions of people made bad investments in an effort to get rich quick.

The judge didn't buy it and certainly his victims in Lakeview didn't. They felt that six years was too lenient.

The men were sentenced in January 1930. Hubbs and Burlingham figured it was all done for them when they were loaded into a police truck bound, or so they thought, to the slammer in Kingston. Instead they were en route from Brampton's courthouse to Toronto to catch a train to Listowel to testify against Hamilton and to possibly face even more charges of their own when confronted by angry victims in Perth County courthouse.

At the very least the two men, handcuffed together for the trip, could expect a volley of jagged rocks as their train passed through Lakeview.

Jennie Gray wasn't among the trackside jeering squad. She was on the same train to Listowel. "I haven't a cent left in the world", she said of her \$7,000 loss (close to \$100,000 in today's money). She spent what she had borrowed to see Hubbs testify against Hamilton.

So many of the estimated 425 people scammed by Hubbs and his henchmen planned to attend Hamilton's trial (on one count of conspiracy and 25 counts of false pretenses with intent to defraud) that the case was moved from the courthouse in Stratford to a public hall in Listowel. Everyone in Listowel was affected. Even the local magistrate, T.L. Hamilton had been a victim of the "land bubble". He stepped down as crown prosecutor, partly because of the personal conflict but mostly because he shared the same last name as the accused. The two were not related, but the crown wasn't taking chances with this one. Listowel's town folk were out for revenge.

Hubbs and Burlingham faced additional charges of false pretenses in Listowel, too. They learned that aboard the train.

Said one Lakeview victim, George Barlow, "If it only gives Hubbs and Burlingham a longer sentence, then that will be something".

In early February 1930, Barlow and others stung by Hubbs gathered together to form a committee to deal with getting their money back.

One can only imagine how many pencils were worn down to the nub at the Attorney-General's Office, but when it was all worked out, Hubbs had collected \$797,203 in unpaid mortgages, rent paid to investors who didn't own the homes they thought they owned,

Cont'd pg. 15

### MISSISSAUGA SYMPHONY GIANT ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE

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# Nominate an Excellent Cultural Heritage Property Project

The Heritage Advisory Committee and Heritage Mississauga are now accepting nominations for the 2010 Cultural Heritage Property Awards of Excellence. The program encourages and recognizes excellence in preservation, restoration and/or enhancement of cultural heritage



2009 winners of the first cultural Heritage Property Award, Siobhan & Tony Kukolic with Heritage Mississauga Director Josip Milcic and Councillor George Carlson, HM

property. Nominations are accepted for restoration, adaptive re-use and sensitive infill projects, completed in the last two years. The successful nominations will be announced at the Heritage Mississauga Awards on February 18, 2010.

Program and eligibility details, as well as a nomination form, are available at:

 $http://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/Heritage\_Award\_Nomination Call.pdf.$ 

The deadline for nominations is October 2009. For additional information, contact Paula Wubbenhorst at 905-615-3200, ext. 5385.

# Heritage Four Presents Speakers Series 2009 "Events That Shaped Mississauga"

### Next Lecture

Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009: "From A Vision to Reality! The Birth of Mississauga's Downtown Core"

Featuring Ron Duquette
Producer and former S.B. McLaughlin & Associates
Communications Director

Mississauga's Four Heritage Partners (the Heritage Advisory Committee, Heritage Mississauga, Mississauga Library System and the Museums of Mississauga) present a collaborative Speakers Series through 2009, focused on "Events That Shaped Mississauga". For more information and an up-to-date list of speakers, times, topics, dates and locations, please visit: www.mississauga.ca/heritagefour or call 905-615-4860 ext.2113. All lectures start promptly at 7:30pm.

### Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

"From A Vision to Reality! The Birth of Mississauga's Downtown Core" by Ron Duquette (producer and former S.B. McLaughlin & Associates Communications Director)

Location: Noel Ryan Auditorium, Mississauga Central Library, 301 Burnhamthorpe Road W.

### Thursday, October 15th, 2009

**Remembering Hurricane Hazel** by Steve Pitt (author) Location: Texaco Room, Port Credit Branch Public Library, 20 Lakeshore Road E

#### Thursday, November 12th, 2009

The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment with Chief Gordon Bentley

(Former Mississauga Fire Chief)

Location: Texaco Room, Port Credit Branch Public Library, 20 Lakeshore Road E

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# Heritage Advisory Committee Launches Newsletter

By Paula Wubbenhorst, Heritage Coordinator, City of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga's Heritage Advisory Committee has just launched its inaugural newsletter. Entitled *The Bridge*, the publication is named for the committee's logo, which features Middle Road Bridge. The logo is meant to underscore the fact that heritage extends beyond buildings to include structures and landscapes.

The two-page communiqué gives a brief synopsis of events and issues related to the preservation of



Mississauga's cultural heritage property. It is meant to raise awareness and debunk myths regarding the protection of such property. The newsletter will be distributed throughout the community and is available online at: <a href="http://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/TheBridge1.pdf">http://www.mississauga.ca/file/COM/TheBridge1.pdf</a>. For more information on heritage planning in Mississauga, visit us online at <a href="http://www.mississauga.ca/heritageplanning">www.mississauga.ca/heritageplanning</a>.

### In Memoriam

H. Peter Langer, known as the "Man Who Built Meadowvale", passed away on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> in his 94<sup>th</sup> year. He was a visionary real estate broker and developer who left a legacy of successful office, industrial and retail projects and planned



Peter Langer, Mississauga.News

residential communities across North America. He was noted to be a true gentleman of great integrity, whose word was his bond. He also devoted much of his personal time to the public housing sector and believed that every Canadian had the right to a decent place to live. He believed in providing a mix of housing, long before it was mandated or fashionable to do so. Mr. Langer, the driving force behind Markborough Properties Ltd. And the New Town of Meadowvale developments in the 1960s and 1970s, and was considered one of the "Big Three" developers in Mississauga, along with Marco Muzzo of Erin Mills Development Corporation and Bruce McLaughlin of S.B. McLaughlin Associates. Mr. Langer was the former Chairman, President and CEO of Markborough Properties Ltd., Past President Toronto Real Estate Board, Past President Urban Development Institute, Founding Director Ontario Housing Corporation, and he served as a Major in the British Army during WWII. Mr. Langer was also a leader in introducing a concept which, while controversial at the time, is now an accepted practice for realtors and a widely-used tool for home buyers: the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Mississauga has lost one of its "founding fathers", and a industry leader of great integrity and high ideals.

### President's Message cont'd.....

"Mississauga's Lost Villages" book, plus writing and content editing for publication on the Heritage Mississauga website. Nicole is entering her final year of undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto.

**Zofia** was our Resource Centre Assistant. This is Zofia's 3<sup>rd</sup> summer with us, after spending a year with us as a co-op student. Her primary tasks were to populate and update our new resource database, catalogue new library acquisitions, and organize Heritage Mississauga's text and newspaper files. Zofia is entering her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at York University.

**Sharifa**'s role as 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Researcher meant she assembled a comprehensive history of our organization; she organized photographs relating to the early history of and milestones associated with Heritage Mississauga and conducted oral history interviews with past members, staff, volunteers and directors. This is Sharifa's 2<sup>nd</sup> summer with us. She is entering her first year in the Master's Program at the University of Toronto.

**Andrea** was our Outreach and Educational Program Developer. In her 2<sup>nd</sup> summer with us, Andrea's main focus was the development of an outreach and educational presentation on early doctors and medicinal practices in Mississauga. Andrea is entering her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at the University of Waterloo.

Liwen in her first summer with us took on the task of Arsenal Lands Researcher. She developed a comprehensive history of the property referred to as the Arsenal Lands, which encompasses the former Small Arms Limited factory site, the Rifle Ranges and the Long Branch Aerodrome (Canada's first aerodrome). Liwen is entering her first year in Teacher's College at OISE.

Our summer students are a talented and friendly bunch who've made some significant contributions over the years to Heritage Mississauga and who have used their experience here to progress to full time professional roles in their respective communities. **Former summer students include:** 

- Bryan Ho, now a secondary school art teacher in Mississauga
- Meaghan FitzGibbon, Curator of the Erland Lee Museum in Stoney Creek
- Tanja Kosovski, currently teaching in England
- Erin Brubacher, who spent the last year teaching English in Kuwait and
- **Lindsay MacDonald**, Education Officer, Volunteer Coordinator & Acting Director of the Nepean Museum.

Students, we thank you all for your efforts and urge you to carry your passion for heritage forward in your future careers!

# **Hot Off The Press!**

After four years in collaborative production, the "Property Research in Peel: A How-To Guide" is now available for free! The Guide is a comprehensive introduction on conducting property research in the Region of Peel. Please call Heritage Mississauga to obtain your copy.



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# Brief History of the Arsenal Lands

By Liwen Chen

The Arsenal Lands refer to a group of properties that are geographically adjacent to each other, comprising over 15.7 hectares, located south of Lakeshore Rd. E on the eastern border of the City of Mississauga. The property is now largely overgrown by wild grasses which have dominated the landscape over



Small Arms Factory, aerial, HM

the years. But behind the flora, there is much history embedded within the property. The Arsenal Lands are composed of the former Long Branch Rifle Ranges, Curtiss Aviation School and the Small Arms Ltd. factory site. All three properties have strong connection to military production and training throughout the First and Second World Wars.

As the Arsenal Lands Researcher this summer, I conducted literature and archival research on the Arsenals property in Lakeview, Mississauga. Resources came from books, scholarly journals, newspaper clippings, company newsletters and archival materials. This research was conducted as part of a new park development project (the proposed park will include a heritage walk trail that will feature interpretive signage looking at the history of these significant heritage properties), and to expand our knowledge of the unique history of this remarkable group of properties.

#### Long Branch Rifle Ranges



Rifle Ranges, HM

The Military District of Ontario formed the Ontario Rifle Association in 1868 as a means towards national defence to promote and encourage military and civilian marksmanship throughout the province. Consequently, a rifle range was constructed along Toronto's waterfront at Garrison Commons. The rifle ranges were relocated to

Lakeview in 1891 after the City of Toronto claimed the Ranges unsafe.

The Ranges stretched along the shores of Lake Ontario, from Etobicoke Creek to Aviation Road in Lakeview. Shooting competitions were held annually on its Short, Median and Long range facilities. Competitors for prize meetings could only enter if they were active, serving members of the militia wearing the uniforms of their units. The first competition at Long Branch in 1893 attracted more than 250 competitors.

The Grand Truck and Canadian Pacific ran six trains every day from Toronto Union Station to the Rifle Range Station, located near the Third Line crossing, to accommodate the riflemen travelling in from all over the province. Infrastructure on the grounds was also improved such as the laying of cinder roads and pathways and the establishment of telephone service between Toronto and the Ranges.

Annual prize meetings took place every year except during World War I and World War II. During World War I the Ranges were used for military training and military shooting practice. In 1917,

the Royal Flying Corp developed the Cadet program to train pilots in The adjacent Long Branch airfield (Curtiss Aviation School). The cadets used the Ranges for practice as well as training on chemical warfare and unarmed combat. In the beginning of World War II, the Long Branch Rifle Ranges was opened for training to Ontario's Militia of 800 men. Rifle competitions resumed in 1946 until the last annual prize meeting on 1957 where 227 entrants entered.

### **Curtiss Aviation School**

Canada's first aerodrome was built next to the Long Branch Rifle Ranges at the start of World War I. This was the starting point of military flight training in Canada. An aerodrome, defined by the Aeronautics Act is "an area of land or water used, designed, prepared, equipped or set apart



Aerodrome Curtiss Plan, HM

for the arrival, departure, movement or servicing of aircrafts including any buildings, installations, and equipment situated thereon or associated therewith".

The establishment of the Canadian aviation industry was largely attributed to the efforts of John McCurdy (Wise, 1980). In 1909 McCurdy was the first British subject to be recognized by the British Commonwealth to fly a "heavier than air" powered plane. In late 1914 McCurdy advocated for Canada to form its own exclusive aviation corps. He was the General Manager of Curtiss Aviation School and offered to train Canadian pilots at his school. But his proposal was denied by Canadian Prime Minister, Robert Borden. However as World War I progressed, the shortage of English pilots led to the recruitment of Canadian pilots for the Royal Naval Air Service (R.N.A.S) and the Royal Flying Corps (R.F.C.) to be trained at the Curtiss Aviation School.

Eligible candidates were British subjects of "pure European descent" between nineteen and twenty-three years of age with a maximum age limit of thirty years old. In addition, candidates had to pass an interview and medical examination before successful applicants were accepted. The pilot license involved 400 minutes of flight instruction at a cost of \$400, all at their student's expense.

Curtiss Aviation School ran for two seasons and produced a total of 261 graduates. 108 pilot graduates served in the R.N.A.S and 21 graduates for the R.F.C. The closing of Curtiss Aviation School did not lead to the abandonment of Long Branch as an airfield. Toronto was selected as the R.F.C. Canadian headquarters and a flight training camp was built at Long Branch to further train R.F.C. Cadets.

#### **Small Arms Limited**

The Canadian government declared war against Germany while Canada was still in the Great Depression. With a total population of 11 million people, approximately 900,000 workers were unemployed out of which 20% were women. Lakeshore Area in Lakeview, Mississauga suffered from unemployment before World War II but the establishment of Small Arms Ltd reversed the condition by providing thousands of people with work to support the war. Small Arms Ltd. manufactured firearms for Canada and the United Kingdom from 1941-1946. Small Arms Ltd. produced a variety of different firearms and ammunition. These products included the famous Lee-Enfield No. 4 Mark I\*, Sten Carbine, the Long Branch Training Rifle, .22"

Cont'd pg. 15

# Port Credit Memorial Arena: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009

The Port Credit Memorial Arena was built between 1958 and 1959, and is one of the oldest surviving recreational structures in Mississauga. The construction of the building was funded through the Town of Port Credit without the assistance of Toronto Township, and predates the Town of



Port Credit Arena, HM

Mississauga (1968) and the City of Mississauga (1974). The official groundbreaking ceremony for the Port Credit Memorial Arena took place on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1958, however plans for an arena and community hall had begun a year earlier, under the direction of Port Credit Councillor John Holland. Final plans for the arena were approved by Port Credit Council on June 16, 1958. John Holland was appointed chairman of the arena committee.

The final cost of the building was \$360,000. The arena had seating capacity for 700 spectators, and standing room capacity for around 2000. The arena was officially opened on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1959. In attendance were Port Credit Reeve J.C. Saddington, Toronto Township Reeve Mary Fix, MPP William Davis and MP John Pallett. In 1966, an addition designed by architect Donald Skinner was added to the arena and provided snack bar facilities, a kitchen, lobby, ticket office, meeting rooms and a manager's office. Arena managers have included Edward Boehnert (1959-1972), Archie Chase (1972-1993) and Al Foxton, amongst others.



The Port Credit Memorial Arena was the second covered arena, after the Dixie Arena, to be built within what is now the City of Mississauga. It was also the first public arena to be built, and it is the oldest surviving arena within the City. The Arena has been home to countless sporting and social

events, and is a well-loved landmark in the community. It is also a fine example of a rare (in Mississauga) architectural style. The building is functional in its form with a wave-like portico over the front door reminiscent of the 1950s Contempo design. It has stylistic elements of the International and Post Modern Architecture, and was designed by the award-winning firm of Rounthwaite and Fairfield. The barrel vaulted roof with its complex truss system makes it unique in the City.

Port Credit Memorial Arena was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* by the City of Mississauga in 2009. The Arena celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 9:30am to 8:30pm. For more information, please visit: www.portcreditarena.ca

# Book Launch Erindale: Early Times to Evolution

The last of this nine book series is now complete. The Erindale book covers 200 years of history about this community the history of St. Peter's Church, the Magraths, the Barkers, the Prices, the University of Toronto at Mississauga (Erindale College), Glen Erin Inn, the 1919 Fire and the most infamous crime of the last century, the murder of Christine Demeter in the former heritage house of Dr. Beaumont Dixie.



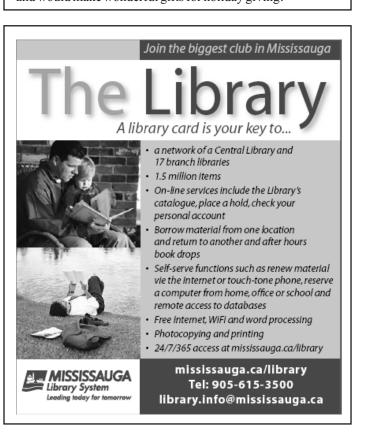
Author Kathleen Hicks, HM

The book is launched at:

St. Peter's Anglican Church 1745 Dundas Street W Sunday, October 18, 2009 2 p.m. 6 p.m.

The Our Heritage Series covers the historical story of Mississauga's nine communities Clarkson, Meadowvale, Lakeview, Cooksville, Dixie, Malton, Port Credit, Streetsville and Erindale. The series is published by the Mississauga Library System and the Friends of the Mississauga Library System.

All books in the series are available for borrowing and purchase at all 18 branch library locations and for purchase on-line at the City's e-store at <a href="https://www.mississauga.ca/library">www.mississauga.ca/library</a> and would make wonderful gifts for holiday giving!



# Mississauga South Historical Society Happenings

by Richard Collins, President, MSHS

Our members have had the summer off to get their land legs back after our May field trip aboard the sailing ship, Kajama with members of the Streetsville Historical Society.



Fall will soon be here (temperature-wise, it seems it's already here) and the guest speaker for our September 15 meeting will be C.W. Hunt or "Uncle Bill" to MSHS member Pauline Duinker, who suggested that Bill would make an interesting speaker.

I'm certain he will. Bill is a director of the Hastings County Historical Society, but his topic is near and dear to many in Mississauga. Bill's presentation will be on the Royal Flying Corps one of the earliest organizations in Canada to recruit and train pilots during the First World War.

The RFC trained men at Camp Mohawk, in Bill's neck of the woods, but as Mississaugans will proudly tell you, Canada's first aerodrome was located in our city, on part of the historic Rifle Ranges property, south of Lakeshore Road East. The RFC called it "Long Branch" after the nearest post office, but the airfield was located firmly in Lakeview.

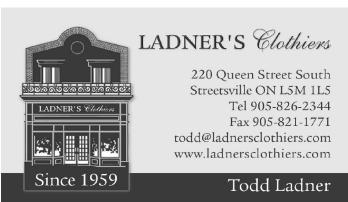
Bill's latest book is called "Dancing in the Sky", about the men of the RFC.

This meeting will be at the Peter Jones Room of First United Church, 151 Lakeshore Road West in Port Credit. Meeting time, as usual is 7:30 p.m.

Our November meeting will be at the Texaco Room of the Port Credit library. We're fortunate to have as our speaker, Gordon Bentley.

Gordon is something of a hero in Mississauga, although he doesn't like to be referred to that way. He says he was just doing his job during the 1979 train derailment. And he did it well. Over a quarter million people were evacuated without a single fatality and that was quite a feat considering the great danger Gordon and his fellow firefighters were in during the first few hours after the derailment.

This meeting takes place at 7:30 p.m. on November 12 (the 30th anniversary of the derailment plus two days) and will be hosted in conjunction with the 2009 Heritage Four speaker series.



# Streetsville Historical Society Happenings

By Jean Watt, Publicity Director, SHS

The next meeting of the Streetsville Historical Society will be on Thursday, October 8th, 2009 at 7:30 at Specialty Care, 4350 Mississauga Road South. Our guest speaker will be well known author Terry Boyle from Rosseau, Ontario. He is



Ontario's best known ghost writer and has authored "Haunted Mississauga" and "Haunted Ontario", amongst many other books. Come out and learn about some of the fascinating "ghosts" right in our own area.

Our December meeting will be on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, also at Specialty Care, 7:30pm. Our guest speaker will be well known local author Dave Cook who will talk about his 3 books that he has written about the history of Mississauga. For more information on the Streetsville Historical Society, please contact Ann Holmes, Secretary, at 905-826-3183 or Jean Watt, Publicity Director, at 905-826-1860.

### **Doors Open Mississauga**

By Bridget MacIntosh, Supervisor, Arts & Culture Culture Division, City of Mississauga

On September 19th, 2009 from 10-4, The Office of Arts in Culture invites you to "Doors Open Mississauga" where 20 sites across the city will "open their doors" for you to come in and explore.



Across the province, many cities have embraced the "Doors Open" philosophy to encourage citizens to get out and experience different places in the city they've never been to before. It is a free, family friendly event featuring heritage sites, places of worship and urban greenscapes with their own activities and informative tours to give you a different perspective on the spaces and places that make up our cities.

Here in Mississauga, have a cup of tea in the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist Temple and take a guided tour of this impressive building. Explore the Bradley Museum and take part in the Museums of Mississauga Fall Fair that will be taking place throughout the day. Visit our Heritage Mississauga friends at The Grange, one of the oldest landmarks in the city, and come up to the Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute on the Pearson International Airport property to learn about this architecturally unique building and the incredible training that takes place at this location.

This is just a taste of what the day has to offer. To learn about the 20 sites participating and the free activities they'll be offering on September 19th visit us at

www.mississauga.ca/doorsopen.

Happy exploring!

# A Family's Fine Record of Service: The Kennedy Family: *Part One*

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

The Kennedy family a provided their community, their Township and City, and their Province with an outstanding record of service, particularly in the arenas of politics and community development. From brothers Colonel Thomas Laird Kennedy (1878-1959) and his John Kennedy (1883-1931), to John's sons Robert Douglas (1916-2003) and Harold (1927-2009), to Ted Chudleigh, grandson of T.L. Kennedy, successive generations of the Kennedy family have remarkably served in public life since 1907 at a variety of levels of government.

Many individuals have left their marks in the annals of Mississauga's ever-evolving story, but few families have served their community with such passion and dedication, and without fanfare, as have the Kennedy clan. Indeed, with a grass-roots approach and a strong moral standard, the Kennedy family, even in their quiet way, have helped to shape the City that



Braeside -Kennedy House, Dixie, HM

we call home today through successive generations. This series of articles seeks to pay tribute to those distinguished members who so selflessly served their community.

It is sometimes a daunting task to write about and pay tribute to individuals whom one has never met. In studying local history, I was well aware of the Kennedy name, and of Colonel Tom Kennedy in particular, and their connections to the Dixie community. But I never did had the chance, much to my regret, to meet members of the family prior to Harold Kennedy's passing earlier in 2009. In speaking first with Councillor Carmen Corbasson, who put me in touch with Harold's daughter Helen Kennedy with whom I was also able to speak, I was able to gain a small insight into Harold's career and community interests. This led to further "discoveries", at least for me, in looking at the remarkable Kennedy family legacy. It seemed that for over 100



John & Evelyn Kennedy's House -Dixie, HM

years the Kennedy family has been indelibly linked to the story of Mississauga, of Peel County, and of Ontario, and have touched the lives of many, many citizens. Most often, it seems, they did so without fanfare or expectations of gratitude, but rather they were driven by something less tangible: a desire to sincerely make there communities better places to live, work and play.

In a sense, this article, as Part One in the series, is both an introduction and a disclaimer. One cannot hope to do justice to a multiple generations of public service and community commitment in mere words. But we will look at the careers of Colonel Thomas Laird Kennedy, one of Mississauga's (then known as Toronto Township) most famous sons; we will look at John Kennedy, who tragically passed away at a young age while

still serving his community, leaving a widow with a large family during the Great Depression; and the careers of Douglas and Harold, who were undoubtedly influenced by their father and uncle, their father's passing at a young age, and their determined mother Evelyn. If you wish to learn more about the Kennedy family, outside of this article series, I recommend visiting the Mississauga Library's local history resources, or any of the other heritage informational resources in our community, or find a copy of "When Lightning Strikes" by Joyce Beaton, which looks at the remarkable story of Evelyn Kennedy.

The next article in this series will look at the early years of the Kennedy family, from settling in Toronto Township near Dixie in the 1830s through the life and career of Colonel Thomas Laird Kennedy.

# News from the Past

# TORONTO STAR Thursday, July 4, 1912 CLARKSON FARMS SOLD

Several farms in the vicinity of Port Credit, Lorne Park and Clarkson have changed hands.

The Samuel Peer farm of 46 acres at Clarkson, was sold to Mr. Shaver of Lorne Park for \$12,000. Mr. H. J. Coon bought the W. Urquhart farm of 100 acres for \$30,000 and the James Wilson farm at Erindale, consisting of 88 acres for \$18,000. The Arthur Bostock farm, at Lorne Park, consisting of 40 acres, was sold to T. R. Jarvis, of Toronto. Mr. Chas. Young bought the Thomas Aldwell farm at Clarkson, consisting of 20 acres, for \$5,500. The Patchett homestead, at Port Credit, was sold to Mr. Peter Chormann of Toronto.

All these sales were put through by Stephens and Co., land brokers, 84 Church Street.

Submitted by Jane Watt, found while doing family research

# Trivia Question: How did Hurontario Street get its name?



Did you know that Hurontario Street, historically referred to as Centre Road, was first surveyed in 1819 and received its name from points located at either end of the route – Collingwood and Port Credit – or Lake Huron and Lake Ontario. Interestingly, a story is told that the first submitted name for the road was "Street Road", named as such by surveyor Richard Bristol after



Hurontario Street, Matthew Wilkinson

Timothy Street, who financed the New Survey of Toronto Township in 1819. That name was rejected, and the name of Hurontario Street was chosen. For those interested in taking a "step back in time", north of Orangeville, near Primrose, Hurontario Street / Centre Road and Highway 10 separate, and you can still follow the pioneer route of Hurontario Street / Centre Road, often a winding and narrow dirt road, most of the way to Collingwood.

# The AVRO Arrow: Destroying the Dream

By Matthew Wilkinson Historian, Heritage Mississauga

We continue our series of articles looking at perhaps the darkest chapter of the story: the destruction of the planes and associated materials. Arguably no other aspect of the story of this famed aircraft was and is met with as much anger, disillusionment and bitterness as was the order to scrap and subsequent destruction of the planes following the order to cancel the program on "Black Friday", February 20th, 1959.



Death Row, HM

The background behind the formal cancellation of the program has been looked at in previous articles in this

series and much more in depth in numerous publications. However, the story behind the formal destruction and scrapping of the planes and related materials is relatively obscure. My reason for looking at this side of the story is simple it is rarely covered, and finding information on the actual scrapping process was difficult, at least in terms of what was covered in published materials held in our Resource Centre and the public library.

After the decision to scrap all materials connected with the program was reached by the end of April, 1959, the Department of National Defence relinquished control of the "associated materials" to the Crown Assets Disposal Corporatiom.

Within two months of the project cancellation, all airframes, engines, production and fabrication tooling and components, blueprints, plans, and technical information were ordered scrapped. Part of the reasoning were a fear that classified information, materials, schematics, engines, technical data, and other technological achievements connected with the CF-105 project and which made the Arrow such a superior aircraft out of fear of espionage. Also cited was the worry that the plane could potentially cause embarrassment if, for example, the airframe were to be used as a "road side stand". This decision to destroy the plane and its components and tooling has without doubt fueled the mythology and conspiracy theories that abound today. For more information on the cancellation process, and the associated decisions which culminated in the decision to scrap the components and airplanes, I recommend reading "The Avro Arrow Scrapbook: Rebuilding a Dream and a Nation" by Peter Zuuring, "Shutting Down the National Dream" by Greig Stewart or "Storms of Controversy" by Palmiro Campagna, amongst many other publications.

In regards to the actual destruction of the "component parts", on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1959, the formal bid tenders were sent out requiring that scrapping and clean up were to be completed within 90 days. Bids were opened on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Samuel (Sam) Lax, of Samco Steel (Lax Iron and Steel) of Hamilton was awarded the contract by offering a \$300,000 performance bond and agreed to the 90-day stipulation. Samuel, together with his brother Sheridan, was well known to the Crown Assets Disposal Corporation and A.V. Roe Canada, having had previous dealings with them. It is possible, given the short time frame for the bids to be received and 90-day

requirement, that there were not many bidders, and persistent rumours suggest that the Lax brothers may have tendered the only bid. Most of the actual disposal and scrapping of the planes and associated material was overseen by Morris Waxman, who at the time worked in conjunction with the Lax brothers.

According to records and photo evidence, the scrapping process of the five flying Arrows likely began on or about May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1959, beginning with RL-202. By June 24<sup>th</sup>, RL-202 had been completed dismantled, and the cutting up of RL-205 was almost completed as evidenced by photographic evidence. By July 7<sup>th</sup>, only RL-201 and RL-203 remained in recognizable in form. The last two flying Arrows were scrapped by July 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 1959, respectively, as reported to the Department of Defence Production (DDP).

According to an interview with Sam Lax, many years later, he recalled the site being under strict scrutiny, and that all scrapped parts were weighed prior to shipping and the melted down scrap was weighed afterwards to ensure that no parts or components remained intact and not smelted. It appears that, despite the scrutiny and the thoroughness of the work, that parts did escape the destruction, with some making their way to museums, while still others continue to turn up perhaps consciously being saved from destruction by protective former employees. As for the melting and scrapping process, the five flying Arrows were cut apart by torch and by hand, while those on the assembly line were unceremoniously scrapped, it is rumoured, by a bulldozer. Wreackage and remnants were taken, covered by tarps, on flatbed trucks to the Lax brothers' Hamilton scrap yard where the scrapping process was completed. There is also some suggestion that largely components were removed to an intermediate location (rumoured to be a farm north of Oakville) where further scrapping was completed prior to sending the remnants to the Hamilton scrap yard.

Final melting down of the component parts and remnant wreckage was reportedly completed by the end of August, 1959, although it appears that not everything met its end as engine components and other fragments were located many years later, some still at the Orenda plant, and some at the scrap yard.

One thing of the Avro Arrow story is that it is a story, a myth, a legend and a legacy that refuses to stay quiet. We have been able, over the past two years in *The Heritage News*, to capture and relate fragments of the overall story, individual moments if you will, but those interested in learning more about this remarkable Canadian chronicle, I would suggest heading to your local library, visiting our Resource Centre, or dropping in at the Peel Heritage Complex or the Canadian Air and Space Museum. We have only scratched the surface of the incredibly complex and compelling story of the Avro Arrow.



# Museums of Mississauga Update

# Fall Festival 2009: 'Get Back to Simple Living' at Bradley Museum

The Museums of Mississauga will again be hosting the Fall Festival at Bradley Museum on September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 4pm. Enjoy the lovely rustic setting of historic



gardens and buildings, including Bradley House, the Anchorage and the Log Cabin at Bradley Museum. Featuring three stages of non-stop Folk Music and a ton of family fun!! Displays and activities from over thirty different environmental organizations will give you new ideas for "living green". Horse and wagon rides through the park, historic demonstrations, lectures in the log cabin through out the weekend and great food round off the day! Admission free with the donation of non-perishable food item for Compass Food Bank, or a suggested \$2 donation. This event is also a part of Doors Open so we hope to see you there! Please call 905-615-4860 or visit us at <a href="https://www.museumsofmississuaga.com">www.museumsofmississuaga.com</a>.

# Port Credit 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1835-2010

Port Credit will be a fun and informative place throughout 2010, as the Port Credit Community celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Port Credit 175th Anniversary Committee are preparing to host monthly events throughout 2010, including the Anniversary Celebration Day on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Port Credit 175th Anniversary Committee is an independent community entity which is supported by both individuals and groups such as the Port Credit BIA, Heritage



Mississauga, the City of Mississauga and many more. Our mission is to recognize Port Credit's heritage, pride and future during a year-long celebration of the 175th Anniversary in 2010. A public volunteer meeting is being held on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, at Clarke Hall in Port Credit. After being updated on the major plans for 2010, interested volunteers will have the opportunity to sign up to participate with any of the individual events that will be held each month.

So what date is Port Credit celebrating exactly? The survey of the "old village", which is the west side of the Credit River and south of Lakeshore Road (recognized today as the Port Credit Heritage Conservation District) was registered by surveyor Robert Lynn on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1835. A year earlier, in 1834, the Credit Harbour Company was formed, but the the official plan and registered name of "Port Credit" formally came into existence in 1835. As for the east side of the river, which is recognized as the commercial core of Port Credit today, it was surveyed by Crown Surveyors George Strange Boulton and John Stoughton Dennis between 1846 and 1849. A formal plan was registered in 1852.

# Heritage Mississauga Presents: GPS Adventures

To participate in your own **Mississauga GPS Adventure** all you need is a device equipped with GPS technology. In addition to GPS devices for travel, GPS technology can also be found on some cell phones as well as Google<sup>TM</sup> Earth. All modes of transportation work for a GPS Adventure, such as walking,



biking, and driving. Pick your favourite method (or combo) and start exploring! What you need: Input a set of coordinates into your device and the GPS will pinpoint their location in the city and direct you towards your destination. It's up to you how you get there! Once you are approaching the exact location, keep your eyes open for Plaques, Signs, and Heritage Buildings: these will help you to answer the corresponding question. When you have visited all twelve locations and answered all the questions return to the Heritage Mississauga office or email <a href="mailto:history@heritagemississauga.org">history@heritagemississauga.org</a> for entry into a prize draw from Heritage Mississauga!

#### **Ouestions and Coordinates:**

**Question 1:** What is the original name of this building? **Coordinates:** N43°35.744, W079°36.242

**Question 2:** When was this site established? **Coordinates:** N43°35.443, W079°46.045

**Question 3:** For whom was this building constructed? **Coordinates:** N43°32.409, W079°39.779

**Question 4:** When was the area mentioned on this sign founded?

Coordinates: N43°35.352, W079°36.380

**Questions 5:** To whom is this plaque dedicated to? **Coordinates:** N43°31.630, W079°38.224

**Question 6:** What was located at this site? **Coordinates:** N43°34.714. W079°33.388

**Question 7:** In what year was this building constructed? **Coordinates:** N43°33.908, W079°40.454

**Question 8:** What does the plaque at this site commemorate? **Coordinates:** N43°34.252, W079°38.377

**Question 9:** What is the original name of this site? **Coordinates:** N43°34.461, W079°41.651

**Question 10:** What is the name of the body of water that once ran through this area and the name's meaning? **Coordinates:** N43°42.500, W079°37.454

**Question 11:** When was this building constructed? **Coordinates:** N 43°35.704, W079°35.987

**Question 12:** What was the area around this site known as? [2 words]

Coordinates: N43°33.583, W079°45.732

### Hubbs Ruined Lakeview cont'd.....

tax payments that Hubbs said he'd pay to the township someday, and insurance premiums that were never backed by a reputable insurance company. That was in 1930 dollars. In today's money, Hubbs grifted about \$10.4 million.

At first, Hubbs faced charges on just the \$404,594 which he pleaded guilty to collecting from Lakeview residents. The other \$392,609 came to light in Listowel at the trial of his criminal cohort, Hamilton.

In the end, it was discovered that Hubbs had never even paid the Duck family for the original Lakeview land deal that started the whole Ponzi scheme in 1922.

To be fair to Hubbs (if he deserves such fairness) it has to be admitted that Hubbs' customers in Lakeview were guilty of being greedy and stupid. Ponzi schemes only work when investors are as careless as the con man is unscrupulous. One of the Listowel investors used his life savings to buy ten properties in Lakeview without ever looking at the property or confirming whether Hubbs was investing his money properly.

The harshest criticism has to be laid at the Cooksville doorstep of the Township. They were responsible for collecting taxes on all these homes that did or did not exist and if anyone should have known how many homes were or weren't, it should have been the same township administrators. They were the ones responsible for issuing building permits.

F.J. Byrne, the Hubbs investor who organized a class action suit against Hubbs and Hamilton in the Listowel cases, warned the Lakeview victims, "Toronto Township has some dirty linen to wash".

The Township had a policy of going after errant tax revenue after six months. Yet Hubbs withheld taxes for up to three years, lending credence to Byrne's claim that Hubbs was in cozy with Township councillors.

Or at least the councillors with a Liberal leaning.

Just days after buying his first property in Lakeview the Toronto resident opened a real estate office in Lakeview and with that done, H.W. Hubbs "of Lakeview" got himself elected as president of the Peel County Liberal Association.

Six years may not have been the sentence Lakeview residents were hoping for (Bernie Madoff got 150 years) but the sentence was long enough for Hubbs to miss the already-planned wedding of his daughter, Velma in November 1932. For Lakeview residents, the more important step was to rebuild their lives and their village.

As soon as the warming weather of spring 1930 came, owners got together to fix up the vacant homes, especially the ones adjacent to the highway or close to the public beaches so that Lakeview wouldn't look so shabby. With the Depression hitting, tourism was all that Lakeview had left.

Township reeve, Herbert Pinchin of Erindale approached Peel County for a larger share of the regional disbursement to compensate for taxes lost in the Hubbs debacle. But the Depression was reaching a new low in 1931 and Lakeview didn't recover until World War II when suddenly the village became the nation's centre for small arms production.

Lakeview did flourish again, and when it did, it did so without Hubbs.

### From Portugal to Canada cont'd.....

As for me, I do not know anyone, I do not speak the language and that is why my parents told me to wait a bit and then they will find someone who can teach me English from a church in our town, and then start looking for schools I wanted to get into and I have to decide what career I wanted. I had no idea what I wanted to do! My father said I had time to think about it but he was expecting me to become a teacher!

My father then said he had a surprise for my mother. He said he got her a job at another mushroom farm that Lloyd Leaver also owned. He said he spoke to the supervisor working there and he agreed to let my mother work there since he heard how hard of a worker my father was and that my father's English is coming along well. My father said that it was where most of the women that were immigrants worked at and it is not as



Working on the Leaver Mushroom Farm, HM

hard or dangerous as the place he was working at, which was good for her. We were all excited and knew we were off to a good start. My parents said that I had to help my mother at this farm to help make money because I could not just stay at home all day- oh joy! "This is not like Portugal anymore Andreia! You are a big girl and you need to work hard just like us!" My father said to me. I realized this was not like my home in Portugal the moment we entered the house on our first day and there was a sign that my dad made saying, "Welcome home!"

Part Three, the conclusion to Cassandra's story, will appear in the next issue of The Heritage News.

### Brief History of the Arsenal Lands.....

Rifles, combination holsters, magazines for M3, and wooden bullets.

The demand for labour by Wartime Industry was high since most young men in the labour force were already enlisted in the armed

forces. Small Arms Ltd. hired full time recruiters who travelled across Canada offering jobs to single women or married women without children with husbands in the armed forces. Hired workers were given free passage to Toronto for a good paying job in good working conditions. In total the personnel department hired and released over 14,000 employees during its entire operation.



Small Arms Assembly Line, HM

In 1943 when Small Arms Ltd. was in

full operation it employed approximately 5,500 employees working 3 eight hour shifts producing over 30,000 units per month. Approximately 62.8% of the employees were women/housewives making approximately 50 cents an hour. 25% of them were ages 40 and older. World War II marked the first time that women were allowed to work on munitions in Canada.

For more information, or to share information, on the history of the Arsenal Lands please contact Heritage Mississauga. The research on the Arsenal Lands is an on-going project and we greatly appreciate any information regarding these properties.

# Heritage Matters

### Heritage Mississauga

**Doors Open Mississauga** - Sat. Sept. 19th 10am-4pm City Wide event - The Grange will be open for tours. **Haunted Heritage Ball** - Sat. Oct. 17th 6:30pm, Waterside Inn Port Credit

Haunted Mississauga Spirit Tour, Fri. Oct. 23, Tours begin 7:30pm Streetsville Pioneer/Memorial Cemetery HOT BOX, Exhibit Opening Free Admission Tues. Nov. 10th 7:00pm 30th Anniversary of the Train Derailment Carolling at the Grange -Sun. Dec. 6th 6:30pm at the Grange

#### **Art Gallery of Mississauga**

Hours of Operations Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10am - 5pm. Thursdays 1-am-8pm and Weekends noon-4pm

#### Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

September 18, 19 20, Brampton Fall Fair 9am-6pm

October 30 Hallowe'en Fun

November 18, 19 Christmas Sales - Peel Board Atrium

**November 29** Christmas Open House For more information: 905-890-1010 ext 2911or info@britanniaschoolhousefriends.org **Halton Peel O.G.S.** 

September 27 - Oakville Ruth Burkholder, professional genealogist and author, "Research in Colonial America" Oakville Public Library

October 25 - Oakville - David Beasley, author, "From Bloody

Beginnings: Richard Beasley's Upper Canada". Richard Beasley was the first Assembly representative for Halton. Oakville Public Library

November 22 - Brian Gilchrist, and Annual General Meeting Brampton Four Corners Library For more information contact Jane Watt at 905-828-8411 ext "0".

#### Mississauga Arts Council Open

The MARTYS Now into its 15th year, the MARTYS (formerly known as the Mississauga Arts Awards) honour artistic achievement of the city's established artists and encourages and supports emerging artistic talent. The MARTYS award ceremony at Stage West All-Suite Theatre Restaurant on Monday October 19th, 2009 will feature fabulous entertainment and "the envelope please" to announce the official winners. Over \$10,000 will be awarded. Don't miss this glamorous evening including a fabulous silent auction, dinner and show. Please call 905-615-4278 for additional details.

**December 4th** Cranberry Breakfast Glen Erin Inn 7:45am please call the office for addition details.

#### **Mississauga South Historical Society**

November 12th - -Speaker: The 30th Anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment, speaker: Gordon Bentley (Former Fire Chief. Location: Texaco Room, Port Credit Branch Library, 20 Lakeshore Rd. Museums of Mississauga

**September 19 and 20** - Fall Festival, Bradley House Museum 11am - 4pm Admission Free with a donation of a non-perishable food item for Compass Food Bank or a \$2.00 donation.

October 17 & 18 Lakeshore Art Trail: Bradley House Museum, Benares Historic House and Various Locations. FREE Call Carole at 905-823-3010 or email cgwoodward@rogers.com

October 25 - Historic Halloween Fun at Benares Historic House 1pm-4pm Admission \$13.00/family

**December 13** 1pm - 4pm Home for the Holidays at the Museums of Mississauga Admission FREE with donation of non-perishable food item for Compass Food Bank

Exhibits at the Museums: History Salvaged: the O'Neil Apple Farm, Erindale Bradley Museum Anchorage to December 23, 2009 What's New in Old Stuff: Recent Donations made to the Museums (2007 & 2009) December 4, 2009 Benares Visitors Centre For more information: 905-615-4860, www.museumsofmississauga.com Streetville Historical Society

October 8 -Speaker: Terry Boyle author of "Haunted

Mississauga/Haunted Ontario. 7:30pm.

December 10 -Speaker Dave Cook,

Meetings held at Specialty Care 4350 Mississauga Road

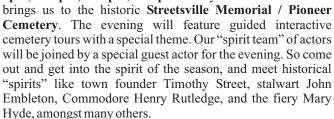
Trafalgar Historical Society/Doors Open

**September 26**, Family Heritage Day Palermo Schoolhouse Dundas St and Hwy 25 10am-4pm

# Haunted Mississauga 2009:

# Spirit Tour of the Streetsville Memorial Cemetery

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Haunted Mississauga evening for 2009 will be held on the evening of **Friday**, **October 23**<sup>rd</sup>, tours times are **7pm**, **7:30pm**, **8:00pm**, **8:30pm**. This year



### **MEMBERSHIP**

I frequently get calls into the office asking when the next issue of Heritage News will be produced. If you don't want to miss an issue, please consider taking out a membership. Your



membership and donations help us to continue the work we do to encourage awareness of Mississauga's history.

\$30.00 individual \$50.00 family \$10.00 seniors \$35.00 non-profit groups and schools \$50.00 small businesses

For further information, please contact me at: 905-828-8411 Ext. 0 email <u>info@heritagemississauga.org</u>

### Visit Youtube For Heritage Tours!

Inspired by Heritage Advisory Committee member Jim Tovey (Mississauga's 2009 Citizen of the Year), and under the direction of teacher Liz Wilde, visual arts students from Cawthra Park Secondary School have filmed a series of short videos highlighting heritage sites around Mississauga. The videos are posted on YouTube, and can be located by searching for "Mississauga Heritage". Sites include the former Small Arms building, Cawthra Estate, Adamson Estate, Clarke Hall, Streetsville and Riverwood, Congratulations to the talented student filmmakers for their wonderful work.

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