



Heritage News

Celebrating Over 200 Years of History

The Newsletter of Heritage Mississauga

Fall 2007
Vol. 20/Issue 3

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SPECIAL EVENTS

**Haunted
Mississauga**
Oct 22, 7pm

Heritage Ball
Nov 3, 6:30pm

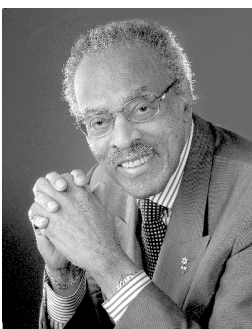
**Birthday
Open House**
Dec 6, 7pm

**Carolling at
the Grange**
Dec 17, 6:30pm

Celebrating Mississauga's Heritage: the theme of our Annual Heritage Ball

By Princess Alexander, Chair, Mississauga Heritage Ball

As you read this newsletter, fall is upon us and as the days count down, the excitement and anticipation of the inaugural Mississauga Heritage Ball heats up. This year, our Honorary Patron is the Honorable Lincoln Alexander, former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Mr. Alexander is currently the Chairman of the Ontario Heritage Trust, the province's lead heritage agency. He was appointed Chair in April 2004 and is passionate about heritage conservation in Ontario. Our Foundation is honored to have a Patron with such an illustrious career join us for this event. We are also delighted that Mayor Hazel McCallion is our honorary guest at this event.



*The Honourable
Lincoln M. Alexander,
Gilbert & Assoc. Toronto*

As my thoughts reflected on the future of Heritage Mississauga, the Heritage Ball and its benefits to the community, the question as to "What is Heritage?" crossed my mind. On the Ontario Heritage Trust website, heritage is defined as "everything we have inherited, that we value and wish to preserve for future generations. It is a living legacy that helps us to understand our past, provides context for the present and influences the future". Often, we think of heritage in the limited context of advocating and preserving buildings. The Ontario Heritage Trust definition is so encompassing that it generates enthusiasm and a vision that could take one's breath away. It is with this vision in mind, driven by the possibilities and opportunities that we at Heritage Mississauga are

embarking on a far reaching fundraising strategy that will have more and stronger impact. These efforts will enhance our brand recognition and contribution to our community.

Heritage Mississauga is one of Canada's most respected civic heritage organizations. Its mandate is to research, record, preserve and promote Mississauga's heritage. Over the years, we have developed extensive educational programs, prepared ground-breaking publications (such as the recent, highly acclaimed *Mississauga: The First 10,000 Years* and *In the Footsteps of the Mississaugas*). As well, we have promoted diversity, raised funds for local landmarks, and advocated for the preservation of architectural and natural heritage. The Heritage Ball is an annual event that will support specific heritage projects, restorations, renovations or causes that are important to the preservation and conservation of Mississauga's heritage. Each year the Board will work with the various communities in Mississauga to identify and fund a heritage conservation project. The project to be funded will be announced coincident with our annual Heritage Ball.

The 2007 Heritage Ball will be held at the historic Barber House, 5155 Mississauga Road North. It will be a Black Tie event and will include dinner, dancing to a big band sound, and a silent auction. The event



*Queen Street, Streetsville,
c.1900, HM*

will bring together politicians, businesses and other heritage enthusiasts in the community to raise funds to support Mississauga's heritage projects. Proceeds from this Ball will construct a series of interpretive exhibits that will highlight the period of Mississauga's history when Streetsville was a boom town, with numerous mills along the Credit River. The construction of the exhibits will ensure that the history of the community is captured for future generations while coinciding with Streetsville's 150th anniversary, to be celebrated throughout 2008.



Barber House, HM

Cont'd pg 3

President's Message

By Marian M. Gibson, President

Welcome everyone. Summer is always the time for a banquet of stimulating reading and special visits with friends not seen for a long time. It's also a time when for me awareness of how heritage is cherished in so many communities, here in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada. Heritage has recently become a buzz word which people are using to express pride in who they are, and where they have come from.



Marian M. Gibson, HM

This year was no exception for me. Reflecting on world concerns beyond wars and terrorism, I read several thought provoking fiction and non-fiction works.. Among them, Brian Fagan's fascinating scientific narrative about the peopling of North and South America entitled *The Great Journey*, and his historical view on global warming *Floods Famines and Emperors* which tells about how throughout history, there have been natural happenings around the world affecting the fate of civilisations. El Ninos over thousands of years, severe storms in one area, droughts elsewhere, numerous climatic changes and effects continue, and man adapts or succumbs to the conditions these have engendered. Both books are excellent reading, requiring reflection and thoughtful effort. The quotation below is from the latter book,

"Today we realize that sudden climate change was a key player in history, especially as a final blow that undermines generations of escalating stress caused by poor leadership, growing population densities, and environmental degradation to mention only a few of the cumulative effects of living out of balance with the natural carrying capacity of one's homeland."

Bearing this in mind, if we assume that history is found only "over there," we lose sight of the uniqueness of the history and heritage around us, we miss a vast opportunity to learn about ourselves that is real, not clothed in artificial glamour and insidious corruption. The dire warning is there and echoes in our willingness, or otherwise, to heed the lessons of history, natural or man made.

Within our own communities, if we look for them, there are important symbols, natural and other, that tell the reality of who we are, and what has gone before us. We reject that heritage around us at our peril.

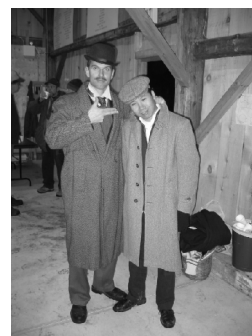
Eric and I found a tranquil spot with friends this summer, in a beautifully restored 1850's Ontario farmhouse between Perth and Ottawa, to recharge much depleted personal energy reserves. There wild life in abundance co-existed with rich memories of pioneer life that have evolved into the realities of modern comfort. All this and excellent home cooking, a soothing vista out over the fields and bush beyond, was wrapped in a glorious backdrop of sunny weather, rich golden dawns plus ruby and orange sunsets,

I trust everyone is also refreshed and ready for the Heritage Mississauga happenings of the coming Fall and Winter: HM's Haunted Mississauga in October, and the inaugural Heritage Ball fund raising event in November that is targeting preservation of a sequence of Mississauga's heritage sites for all to enjoy.

So join us at Heritage Mississauga, energised for this coming year. Let's make this one even better than those that have gone before. Let's take pride in the importance of our collective efforts and make heritage really matter for us all, now and for the generations to come.

Haunted Mississauga 2007: The Evening

Join Heritage Mississauga on Monday, October 22nd, 2007, at Springcreek Cemetery in Clarkson (1390 Clarkson Road North) as we present the 6th annual "Haunted Mississauga" evening. The evening will feature guided "spirit" walks around this historic cemetery. Visitors will have an opportunity to interact with "spirits" of the past, and enjoy a mixture of history, humour, and a mystery waiting to be solved! Come and meet some of Mississauga's early pioneers! Join us between 7pm and 9pm for an enchanting evening in the cemetery! For more information, please contact Heritage Mississauga



HERITAGE NEWS is a publication of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc. The Foundation (est. 1960) is a not-for-profit organization which identifies, researches, interprets, promotes, and encourages awareness of the diverse heritage resources relating to the city of Mississauga. The Foundation acknowledges, with thanks, the financial assistance of the City of Mississauga, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Department of Canadian Heritage - The Heritage Canada Foundation, Community Foundation of Mississauga, Human Resources Development Canada, the Ministry of Culture Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, Peel School Board and Career Essentials which, together with its members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers, help to preserve Mississauga's heritage in its many aspects. Articles, contributions, comments, advertisements, and letters to the Editor are welcome. Please contact us at: Mississauga Heritage Foundation, 1921 Dundas St. W., Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1R2, phone: (905) 828-8411 or fax: (905) 828-8176, or E Mail: info@heritagemississauga.org. You can also visit us on our Web page: www.heritagemississauga.org

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Ontario Heritage Plaque Missing

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

For at least the second time in its history, the Ontario Heritage Trust plaque on Mississauga Road, which commemorates the Credit Mission Indian Village, has gone missing. It appears that the plaque was forcibly removed from its stand by vandals. It was located at the entrance to the Mississauga Golf and Country Club at 1725 Mississauga Road. The plaque likely went missing in the late fall of 2006, and was brought to our attention late last year. We have tried to locate the plaque, hoping it was unintentionally knocked from its base, but attempts have been, to date, unsuccessful. We are now faced with looking to have the plaque replaced, and potentially, relocated to help ensure against future similar losses.



Credit Mission Plaque, HM

In addition to the missing plaque on Mississauga Road, the City of Mississauga is home to 11 other Ontario Heritage Trust plaques: Barberton, Canada's First Aerodrome, Charlotte Schreiber, Dixie Union Chapel, Government Inn, the Honourable Thomas Laird Kennedy, the Kindree Family Cemetery, Reid Mill in Streetsville, Reverend James Magrath at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Erindale, Sir William Pearce Howland, and the Village of Streetsville.

The OHT's Provincial Plaque Program is a recognized and acclaimed heritage program that helps to showcase our province's history, and plays an integral role in the heritage tourism and history education of communities throughout the province. The plaque program through the Ontario Heritage Trust is the OHT's oldest and perhaps best-known activity. Over 1,200 "blue and gold" provincial plaques have been unveiled, including 22 international plaques. The plaques help to bring Ontario's history to life by telling stories of the people, places and events that helped shape our province. The OHT has also assisted communities to erect over 600 local markers across Ontario. Heritage Mississauga has been in contact with the OHT's Provincial Plaque Coordinator in regards to the missing plaque on Mississauga Road. Her response to us states:

"As the Ontario Heritage Trust is a not-for-profit agency of the Ontario Government our resources are very limited with regard to the replacement of plaques that are stolen, damaged or vandalized. At present the cost to produce a new plaque is approximately \$3750 ... Ideally we would like to be able to attend to all of these cases but are simply not able to so, due to financial constraints and a lack of field resources ... Generally, we are able to replace a plaque when the local municipality or applicant organization is able to absorb, or contribute significantly to the replacement cost. Otherwise the plaques are added to a growing list and we endeavour to fund the total replacement of three or four plaques per year, as resources allow."

Heritage Mississauga is anxious to see this plaque replaced, and perhaps affixed and/or relocated to a more secure setting. Heritage Mississauga will be undertaking a fundraising effort to see the plaque restored and perhaps placed in a more secure and accessible location.

As a community, we will need to "significantly contribute" to the replacement cost, which would likely entail raising money for not only the replacement of the plaque, but also fashioning a more secure installation, likely something in excess of the \$3750 quoted by the OHT. This is all in the initial discussion and planning stages, and please feel free to "pass the word", on the outside chance that the missing plaque may yet be found! Heritage Mississauga will begin a fundraising effort to replace the plaque in the near future.

Mississauga Heritage Ball cont'd.....

At Heritage Mississauga, we recognize that successful execution of our mandate requires the support and commitment of our community at large. To date, the Board, numerous volunteers, university and high school students, and our professional staff have been working to showcase Mississauga's rich and varied heritage.


We intend to build connections, alliances, partnerships with all organizations and community groups who are interested in preserving heritage. To volunteer and/or get a further look at our work, please stop by our offices at the Robinson - Adamson House (The Grange) at 1921 Dundas St. West, Mississauga or



Robinson-Adamson Grange, HM

contact us via our website (www.heritagemississauga.com). At the Grange, Heritage Mississauga provides a public Heritage Resource Centre dedicated to local Mississauga and Peel Region history. Also located in The Grange, is the Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre, an exhibit space that hosts four exhibits yearly on unique topics of our history. To any of you, who are interested in preserving Mississauga's heritage, join us, volunteer and be part of a growing organization that will make future generations of Mississauga proud in years to come.

Join us on Saturday, November 3rd, 2007 to celebrate Mississauga Heritage at the historic Barber House, in Streetsville. Tickets are \$250.00 and can be purchased by calling Heritage Mississauga office at 905-828-8411 ext "0". Also call us if you are interested in arranging sponsorship for the Ball, or assisting with our planning and preparations for the event, or call our offices to volunteer for one of our projects or committees. We would love to have you on board.



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The Lost Hamlet of Harris' Corners

By Nicole Mair

Over one hundred and fifty years ago the stagecoach business in Mississauga was thriving. A visitor from Toronto or Georgetown could catch a ride on one of William Harris' efficient stages and be dropped off almost anywhere in Toronto Township. Harris' Corners was one such stopover along the way. In the early nineteenth century the southwest corner of Mississauga Road and Derry Road was known as Harris' Corners. It was named for one of its most prominent residents, William Harris. The village was a crossroads for people travelling to Meadowvale, Streetsville, Huttonville, Norval, Georgetown and beyond. William Harris, nicknamed "Ginger" Harris and "Irish" Harris, was born in Ireland around 1800, and probably immigrated to Canada in the early 1820s with his Scottish wife Elizabeth. On early censuses "Ginger" Harris is listed as a mail contractor and a hotel keeper. He had three sons: John, Thomas and Alex.



Harris' Corners - 1877,
Peel Atlas

"Ginger" Harris built a large white frame hotel and barns in 1823 at Harris' Corners, located two miles north of Streetsville. He called it the Grand Hotel. Joseph Harris operated the hotel from 1859 to 1870; no definite connection can be found between "Ginger" Harris and Joseph Harris. David Mason also ran the Grand Hotel for a time. The hotel eventually ceased operation in 1881. There is some speculation that there is a connection between the closing of the Grand Hotel and the death of "Ginger" Harris' son, Thomas, who died of typhoid fever.

The Grand Hotel was not "Ginger" Harris' only hotel. He also ran the Royal Exchange Hotel in Cooksville and the Globe Hotel in Streetsville. During the great fire of 1852 in the village of Cooksville, Jacob Cook's hotel was one of the many buildings destroyed in the blaze. The proprietor at the time, Moses Teeter, had insured the hotel, and it could therefore be rebuilt. "Ginger" Harris tore down the remainder of the old structure and rebuilt a new hotel from the ground up. He named it the Royal Exchange, and began advertising it in 1854 in The Brampton Standard and the County of Peel Conservative Journal. The new hotel had "a larder and bar second to none other in the Township". Harris sold the hotel in 1859 to Francis B. Morley, and focused his attention on the Globe Hotel.

In November of 1857, "Ginger" Harris purchased the Stephens House from Robert Stephens and changed the name to the Globe Hotel to further emphasize the new management of the establishment. It was first listed under the new name in 1859, on the Tremaine map of Peel. For the first few years, from about 1860 to 1863, Daniel C. Ward acted as the innkeeper of the hotel. The Globe Hotel was described as "a good-sized hotel and a very nice place". It also had large stables that could hold up to thirty-five horses and rigs. In 1865 Thomas Harris, and his wife, Arabella (Rutledge) Harris, began assisting at the Globe. Thomas got a licence for the hotel in 1874, and started advertising the "first class house" under his own name. Despite the competing hotels in the area, the Globe was the principal hotel in Streetsville at the time, a hotel that had been managed by the same family for nearly twenty years. The Globe Hotel was destroyed by fire in 1876, a fire that wiped out most of the block, including the Telegraph Hotel.

The Harris family was also very musical. They formed a small orchestra among themselves and would perform in the surrounding areas. Arabella Harris, who was also known as Patricia or Pat to avoid confusion with her mother of the same name, had a pleasant singing voice and sang at concerts and garden parties. It was said that her voice would always draw a crowd at any show.

As mentioned above, William "Ginger" Harris had a successful stagecoach service, with a depot at the Grand Hotel. The coaches ran along the plank road, which had been laid from Harris's Corners to Springfield, present day Erindale, in 1847, and later to Georgetown in 1848. The traffic was so heavy that the boards that made up the road wore out very quickly and, unfortunately, were never replaced. Instead, it was covered with less expensive gravel. Many tollgates also lined the plank road, but they offered little financial success to their operators. Many travellers preferred to drive five miles around the tollgates rather than pay the ten-cent fee to pass. Harris' stagecoaches were pulled by six horses, which were replaced once they reached Cooksville. The horses were Irish thoroughbreds, which "Ginger" Harris and his neighbours imported and bred. His coaches were large, carrying twenty or thirty people at a time, and he would personally drive them for much of the journey. They would leave Harris' Corners at 6 AM, reach Best's Hotel in Toronto by dinner, and then return by 8 PM. For trips beyond Harris' Corners, such as to Georgetown and Guelph, passengers would ride with "General" Trimble. An early account helps to recreate the scene:

"Ginger Harris was a born horseman and his stable had as fancy a bunch of road horses as any in the province. ...Sharp at six o'clock every morning four blood horses held by a hostler at each bridle, came in front of the hotel. The guard's bugle sounded. The inside passengers were stowed away, the luggage put in the boot and the overflow put on top, with the outside passengers. At the final blast of the horn the hostlers gave way and the four horses sprang to their collars. Old timers speak of these morning scenes Ginger, with all the skill of Ben Hur, or Messala, holding the reins, with the grip of a vice, the stage, with its 25 or 30 passengers, being bowled down the grade at a swinging gallop, the blast of the guard's horn, the salutation of the outside passengers to the passerby. All this had a charm far away beyond a mere express team (sic) or a motor car."

The success garnered by "Ginger" Harris's stagecoach service did not go unnoticed by the other residents of Toronto Township. His success inspired Buster Sterling to also get into the business and compete with "Ginger" Harris:

"In every barroom, at every crossroad the merits of the different stages were discussed. Many were the races between them, and large crowds assembled at the Globe and Telegraph Hotels every night to see who was the winner as the eight foaming horses, guided by Ginger and Buster, galloped home."

Also living at the Corners was Colonel William Birdsall. Colonel Birdsall graduated in England at age eighteen, as a land surveyor. He was appointed to come to Canada in 1810 to help surveyors. Some time after his arrival William Birdsall joined the Canadian Militia at Fort York. He participated in many battles in the War of 1812, rising quickly through the ranks. After the war he picked up surveying Southwestern Ontario for fourteen years, until in 1828 when he received his own land grant of 400 acres.

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Heritage Mississauga Receives Grant

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

Since December of 2004 when Heritage Mississauga moved into its permanent facility at the Robinson-Adamson Grange it has been our wish to have a fully functional Resource Centre, with all of the materials required to complete research on hand, a one stop shop if you will. Parts of the Centre were already on hand: an extensive library of books on local and provincial history, an extensive image collection donated by many over the years, paper documents including newspapers, letters, reports that tell the history of our city and oral history interviews with many local historians long since gone.

However more was definitely needed. In order to do property research well land registry records are required. These are not located in Mississauga. In order to confirm stories, dates, names and our cultural history the Perkins Bull collection seemed to be a constant research medium. Again, this material is not all close by. A plan was developed to apply for assistance to create a fully functional Resource Centre at the Robinson-Adamson Grange.

In May of this year Heritage Mississauga was awarded a much needed gift to accomplish just that. A grant in the sum of \$17427.00 was presented to our President Marian M. Gibson at the grant ceremonies of the Mississauga Community Foundation through the generosity of the Pendle Fund.

With this gift the Resource Centre has purchased a microfiche reader and has ordered Land Registry records and a large quantity of the Perkins Bull Collection. New computers and a colour laser are also part of the new centre to assist Historian Matthew Wilkinson as he answers inquiries and helps visitors with their research.

When all capital expenditures are in place Heritage Mississauga will host an open house and launch a marketing plan to ensure that Mississauga residents are aware of this facility.

We are grateful to the Mississauga Community Foundation and the Pendle Fund for their support at this time and look forward to working with the community unveiling the many hidden threads of their family and community histories.



*Marian M. Gibson,
Kathy A. Drury President
Mississauga Community*

Foundation, Jayme Gaspar, HM

Upcoming Book Mississauga's Fading History

By Dave Cook, Author

My third book, Mississauga's Fading History- stories of historical interest, will touch on a wide range of topics. Each of the 15 chapters tells a different story. There are chapters on great football players, golfers, the once world-renowned 400-bed Workmen's Compensation Hospital, a Broadway music theatre under a tent at Dixie Plaza, flying saucers, the manufacturer of the Lancaster bomber'flying saucers' ??????.. Yes, you read correctly, we actually built and flew an honest to goodness flying saucer right here in Mississauga. Now, many of the old timers will surely remember when A.V. Roe had its top secret Project 'Y' under wraps in the 1950s. Later we all discovered it was a real flying saucer. Plenty of pictures make this chapter come alive.



Avrocar Flying Saucer, www

For the sports minded, I tell the story of the great Toronto Argonaut player Teddy Morris. Just after the war years, Teddy, who lived on the 6th Line, Malton, took the Boatmen to six Grey Cup wins. Another footballer, Port Credit's Bobby Cunningham Jr was a standout player for the Montreal Als in their 1949 Grey Cup win. Bobby later took up golf, a game his father had mastered. Bobby Cunningham Sr. was a pro at Mississaugua Golf and Country Club, and then later moved to St. George's Golf and Country Club. His son, Bobby Jr., joined him as his assistant and then became the club's pro when his father retired.

Broadway stars were often seen in Dixie Plaza during the summers of 1958, 59 and 60. The likes of James Garner, Joey Hetherington, Eve Arden, Roddy McDowell, Red Buttons and many more, entertained audiences when Music Fair presented theatre under the big top on a circular stage located behind Dixie Plaza. Many of the teenagers living in the Port Credit and the Applewood areas were employed during the summer months as apprentice actors. This usually meant they did all the behind the scenes work in make-up and costume departments. A few, however, did manage to land roles in some of the productions. One young man from Applewood, Robert Smith, actually had a speaking role. His part in the 1959 production of Showboat had Robert saying 'Moooooo' (repeated three more times). His role, you see, was 'Rubberface', a cow.



O'Connor Sisters, www

There is also a chapter on the third oldest golf club in North America. On the east side of Dixie Road, south of the QEW, sits a beautifully groomed piece of real estate known as The Toronto Golf Club. While researching the original landowners who sold off chunks of land when the course relocated from Toronto to Mississauga in 1911, I

discovered a wonderful story about the Six Singing O'Connor Sisters.

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HERITAGE NEWS 5



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Rhododendron Gardens: Exhibitions, Expropriation and the Mars Experiment

By Richard Collins

Residents chained themselves to their homes to defy the court-ordered eviction notices. When the sheriff arrived on the ferry to enforce the writs, the old WWII air raid siren was sounded to muster residents to the Algonquin Road bridge, there to form a human barrier.

Three years later, at the western reaches of Port Credit, residents were in a similar fight to protect their homes from expropriation. But that fight was 25 years ago. Rhododendron Gardens is one of the most peaceful and beautiful parks in Mississauga. But it is also a park with a history both convivial and confrontational.

The land on which Rhododendron Gardens now rests originally marked the extreme west end of the one-mile limit from the Credit River that the Mississauga nation retained after selling the remainder of the tract to the crown.

The land was purchased by Frederick Chase Capreol to become part of his grand scheme to turn Port Credit into Ontario's industrial capital. Like everything else "Mad Cap" got his hands on, his Peel General Manufacturing Company never amounted to much and in 1906 the land was sold to provincial supreme court judge, John Milton Godfrey. Having recently lost his bid to become the member of parliament for Peel, Godfrey built a summer cottage called Ardmore, after the Irish birthplace of his ancestors.

In 1913, John Walker hired architect Murray Brown to build a summer house on land he had purchased from senator Godfrey. In 1925, Walker sold his home to his son in law, James Harris. Harris had just retired and planned to make the parkland setting at Cranberry Cove his retirement paradise.

Harris had taken over the family-run business in May 1914 and took the company big time after World War I. He bought out a bankrupt, city-owned abattoir (at a discount price) in the Junction District an area so named because Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific tracks ran outward every which way to the rest of the country. Taking advantage of this new site, James ordered special railway cars, like big ice-boxes on wheels, with which he shipped meat well beyond his father's old customers in Toronto. Not one to be intimidated by the giants at his loading docks, Harris happily pitted the two railways against each other to obtain lower shipping rates for himself.

With this kind of cunning, Harris Abattoirs became the largest meat packing firm in Canada. In the years following Harris' retirement, his company merged with other meat packing giants to form the present-day Maple Leaf Foods.

Jutting into Rhododendron Gardens' property, Harris' home on Godfrey's Lane still stands. Across the laneway, Harris' neighbour engaged in a business that couldn't have been more different. A.M. Hobberlin didn't "dress" turkeys. He dressed men and he did so in only the finest of fashions from the UK.

In 1886, three Yorkshire brothers set up a business in Toronto, named Hobberlin Brothers and Company. When Edward died in 1932, Andrew Matthew (known to the family as "A.M."), purchased brother Mark's share of the business and renamed it The House of Hobberlin.

As might be expected of a man whose well-dressed clientele included gentlemen with a button-down sense of conservatism, A.M. was a old-crony Tory dedicated to good business, economic thrift and loyalty to king and country.



*Hobberlin Estate Victory party, 1919,
HM*

When he hosted a Civic Holiday gathering in 1919 for returning veterans of the Great War, he not only arranged an "airplane exhibition of aerial maneuvers" by members of the Royal Flying Corps, he also managed to get Arthur Meighen as the day's guest speaker. Just months after rousing the crowd to a patriotic fervour at Ben Machree Park, "Sir Arthur" was the prime minister of the nation.

Like Harris' home across the way, Hobberlin's home still stands at 20 Ben Machree Drive, but Meighen's grassy podium is now gone. As I write this article in my apartment, five stories up on Lakeshore Road, I'm sitting right above the spot where Meighen spoke to the people of Port Credit, while the trees in Cranberry Cove swayed gently in the background.

Twenty years later, with yet another world war underway, the sight of aerial maneuvers returned to Mississauga's lakeshore. Malton Airport had become one of a number of bases across Canada for the British Commonwealth Air Training Program with the waters offshore of Lakeview serving as a bombing training site for young Canadians hoping to serve the Empire once again.

BCATP's mandate became all the more crucial in the early days of April 1940, when the Luftwaffe introduced Norway to its fearsome blitzkrieg. Thousands of young Norwegians fled to Canada, not out of fear but to find a place to continue training in their war against the Nazis.

Colonel Thomas Sutton, who had retired to a cottage in Cranberry Cove in 1928, rented the land to the federal government, who provided the space for officers. When off duty the Norwegian airmen cultivated the colonel's gardens to provide their own food.

With peace came a return to normal life at Cranberry Cove. At least for the moment.

Sutton sold his cottage in the 1950s to Alex Gooderham, who winterized it for use as his permanent home the first in Cranberry Cove. He also built a two-storey stucco barn. Upon Mr. Gooderham's death the house was purchased in 1958 by Jack Soules, who rented it out. Though Soules didn't know it at the time, he set the stage for Cranberry Cove's own war when he rented the home to Dr. Doug Alton and his wife, Janis.

The Altons were the last people anyone would expect to have as enemies. Doug was a well-respected Lion and Janis was, well, Janis was just a reserved housewife and mother. The family had planned a quiet life in scenic Cranberry Cove. Doug even built a playhouse behind the old Sutton home in 1965 for his children. But then perennial parliamentary backbencher, Steve Otto came into the picture. Otto was president of Bevark Holdings an investment group that purchased waterfront properties, including a number of sites in Toronto.

Cont'd pg 9



Your grandchildren will have something to aspire to.

All good fortune does not fall to youth. It will be many years before your grandchildren qualify for residency at Amica. Until then, they can visit you and learn the rewards of hard work and a life well lived. They can share in an endless array of activities, join you for tea and treats and family members can stay in our convenient guest suite. Then they can leave. Life isn't entirely child's play, after all.

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Arrow and Sputnik - Fifty years ago in October

By Eric Gibson

Just fifty years ago, on October 4th, 1957, three remarkable events made the headlines. One was local, a happy event and the birth of a dream. But within two years the dream was destined to turn into a nightmare which would have devastating social effects both locally and nationally. The second event was an international story. It led to a dramatic increase in the tensions of the “cold war” and was the catalyst which was to destroy the dreams and bring hardship to many in the Mississauga area and, to a lesser extent, throughout Canada. The third was purely an entertainment story which had no bearing what-so-ever on the events described by this article. The event - which happened in the United States - will be remembered fondly by many of our older readers, but they will probably have to explain the story to their children and will definitely have to explain it to their grandchildren.

Of course, our city was not known as Mississauga back then. It was called Toronto Township and the constituent parts were little more than villages, farmland and orchards. Mississauga was not formed until 1977, so to be accurate we have to say that the local part of our story took place in Malton.

The subject of the story is, of course, the Avro Arrow, the sophisticated fighter aircraft which was conceived and constructed at Malton. It also suffered a painful death at Malton, but that is a story for another day. The history of the Arrow was told in the Spring 2007 issue of this journal so it will not be repeated here. Instead, this article will concentrate on the events of that one bittersweet day, Wednesday, October 4th, 1957.

It was a cool but sunny day, typical of the fall, and that was very much appreciated because it was the day on which the Avro Arrow was to see the light of day for the first time. A platform had been erected outside the hanger from which the aircraft was to emerge and rows of chairs were in place ready for the hundreds of guests who were expected. By 2 o'clock in the afternoon the dignitaries had taken their places on the podium, the guests were settling into their seats and the company's employees had left their workstations to observe the ceremony which was about to begin. Among the honoured guests on the podium were company officials, high ranking officers of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Air Force together with several government officials and Members of Parliament.

Also on the platform, but having no role to play in the ceremonies, was the Honourable J.A.D. McCurdy. He was Canada's first airman, having flown the Silver Dart at Baddeck in Nova Scotia in 1909. He was in fact the first man to fly an aeroplane anywhere in the British Commonwealth. He was paying a return visit to Toronto Township for he had spent some time in Lakeview during the First World War where he had been the first manager of the Long Branch Airfield. Most readers will know that although it was called Long Branch, the field was actually in Lakeview very close

to the site of the now defunct Lakeview Generating Station. The speeches that day were, except for a couple of prophetic items, pretty much what one would expect. There were expressions of pride in the achievements to date and acknowledgements of the skill and devotion of the plane's designers and builders. But there were also cautions that there was still much testing to do before the Arrow could begin to perform its role in the defence of North America.

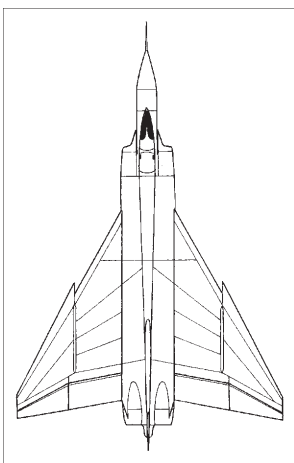
The last person to speak, and the one who officially unveiled the Avro Arrow, was the federal Minister of National Defence, Major-General George Pearkes V.C. It was he who uttered the prophetic words: Much has been said of late about the coming missile age, and there have been suggestions from well intentioned people that the era of the manned plane is over and we should not be wasting our time and energy producing an aircraft of the performance, complexity and cost of the Avro Arrow. Of course he went on to say that he did not agree with these sentiments and felt that manned aircraft would always have a part in air battles. However there are many who feel that his comments were triggered by the knowledge, or at least the belief, that the Conservative government of the day would, at the appropriate time, order cancellation of the Arrow.

However, it was Pearkes comment about the coming missile age which was to prove uncannily accurate. For on that very same day, half a world away, the Russians launched their Sputnik satellite into orbit. It was the world's first artificial satellite and its deployment indicated that our “cold war” opponents were well on the way to developing the capability of launching intercontinental ballistic missiles. Missile attack was no longer just a theoretical threat. It had suddenly become a distinct possibility, though no one expected the development to occur overnight.

This was exceedingly distressing news for the engineers at Malton because manned aircraft, no matter how fast and sophisticated, cannot be effective against incoming missiles. It meant that their beautiful aeroplane was obsolescent before it had made a single flight. However, no one expected that an attack by missiles, though now a proven threat, would become viable for several years to come. The Avro engineers retained their confidence that their new aeroplane would be capable of meeting not just the present threat, but any threats that Russia could make for the next decade or so.

However, there is no doubt that the late breaking news cast a shadow of gloom over what had started out as a glorious day for everyone at the Malton aircraft plant. Russia had certainly rained on Avro's parade!

Now, on the lighter side, what was the third event which occurred on that Wednesday fifty years ago? Well, south of the border in the United States, CBS television launched its new family programme called “Leave it to Beaver.” This new TV series was to be relatively short lived, but its humour was much appreciated and the show soon became very popular with Canadians as well as with Americans.



AVRO Outline, www



Sputnik, www

Rhododendron Gardens cont'd.....

That got the young City of Mississauga responding to fears that it too may lose potential waterfront recreation lands to condo developers, including Cranberry Cove owned by none other than Bevark Holdings.

Otto had purchased the land cheap from an earlier land speculator, Morning Dew Developments which (probably owing to its name) had failed to find enough investment money to pave Cranberry Cove over. In 1976, the City purchased the 6.6 hectare parkland for \$2.4 million, for a “passive park”.

Of course, to be truly passive, any residences on the park that might otherwise be deemed as “active” had to go. In December 1980, the Altons were handed their eviction notice.

There's no good time to get kicked out of your home but the unfortunate eviction of residents from Cranberry Cove couldn't have been better timed. The following week, a provincial election was called and as soon as the campaign buses were ready to go, the local politicians went out in search of causes. Liberal candidate, Basil Gerol came to the support of those evicted from their empty but still-standing Cranberry Cove homes.

Alton and Cranberry Cove neighbour, Angus Robertson formed the Bevark Action Committee to protect the homes and to lobby the City to revitalize Cranberry Cove Park, using the existing barn and the Harris' old stables on Godfrey's Lane for public events.

The Tories were returned to office and while winners and losers set out to pick up their campaign signs, support for Cranberry Cove faded. The barn built by Gooderham went up in flames just days after the election. The fire conveniently removed one of the barriers to park development but it also underscored Alton's initial rationale that if vandals had set the barn ablaze, it wouldn't have happened under the watchful eyes of Cranberry Cove's recently-expropriated residents.

Three months later, Alton's crusade to save the park in its natural state was bulldozed away. Her home at 419 Lakeshore Road West, and six others were demolished. The City insisted that “some of the homes were in need of extensive repair” and while true, it doesn't explain why the other homes that weren't amongst the “some” (including Alton's home and senator Godfrey's historic Ardmore, both in excellent condition) were torn down as well. The City planned to build a gazebo where Alton's home once stood. It was never built.

The only part of the park project to be built was the “comfort station” (a.k.a., washrooms) that has since become a frequent target of vandalism and graffiti.

Other historic buildings to fall included a guest home (40 Godfrey's Lane) built after World War I by Senator Godfrey, and a delightful little home (433 Lakeshore Road West) built in 1915 and later used by the Suttons as a guest house. It was known locally as the Pink Cottage, in reference to the colonel's playful paint scheme.

As if taking belated heed of Alton's suggestion, the Harris' stables survived and were offered as a meeting place for the Mississauga Players Theatre. Oddly, the City justified the offer by noting that the presence of activity at the park would be a deterrent to vandalism. But that logic was contradictory, for two reasons.

One: The City had already rejected Alton's claim that full time residents were not necessary to keep an eye out for park vandalism, making it even odder still for the City to suggest that an occasional theatre group would serve the same purpose.

Two: By now, the park facilities that could otherwise be vandalized were already razed!

Unsuited to their needs, the theatre group passed on the offer and the coach house at 15 Godfrey's Lane was torn down in 1992.

Cranberry Cove sat without pride or purpose until a timely gift to the City seemed to heal old wounds. Dr. Joseph Brueckner donated 3,600 rhododendrons a collection of 60 different species including two hybrids developed by Brueckner. He called these hybrids 'bluenose' and 'igloo' a reference to their colour but also a dedication to the doctor's adopted homeland.

Brueckner was born in Hungary. He was a medical biochemist by trade but rhododendrons were his passion. Case in point: It took Brueckner 17 years to perfect his first rhododendron hybrid.

Brueckner turned to Mars for encouragement. Not the planet, but a rhododendron species developed by a temperamental gardener in Finland who had destroyed most of his seeds in a fit of despair when they didn't grow as well as he had hoped. Having more patience than his finicky Finnish friend, Brueckner crossed dozens of Arctic breeds with the colourful Mars until he finally found success in 1969. 'Igloo' survived a number of consecutive seasons in Mississauga and is now a regular at the park.

Rhododendron Gardens is the only official name the park has ever had. Senator Godfrey called the area Cranberry Cove, but it was never official. In 1987, the Peel Multicultural Council urged the City to name the park in honour of the Hungarian-Canadian but according to a return letter to the PMC by councilor David Culham, the park “is not named for Bruckner [sic] because he declined.”

Brueckner preferred that the park be named after his gift and he didn't like the idea of it being called a “park”. Rhododendrons, he insisted, are a garden flower and the “park” should be named accordingly. But this only confused the parks department. The City had lots of “parks”, but no “gardens”. Culham recalls, “It took more than a year to break the rigidity of the Parks Department to call it Garden”.

Cranberry Cove, too has left its legacy. In the 1980s, Janis Alton helped form Peel Peacemakers to speak out against nuclear weapons. She is the founder of Port Credit Village Project which brings the community together to help maintain the town's village character. And she has recently become a founding member of Viva Port Credit an alliance of ratepayer and community groups with a common goal of making Port Credit a better place to live, work and play.

The park where she once resided may no longer be a place to live, but it is one of Mississauga's finest places to just sit back and smell the rhododendrons.



Ardmore, home of Senator Godfrey, City of Mississauga Historic Images Gallery

Harris' Corners cont'd.....

He was a Justice of the Peace for at least 44 years. His brothers, Frank Birdsall and Anthony Birdsall, also resided at Harris' Corners. Colonel Birdsall died in 1877 and was buried at the Trinity Anglican Church cemetery in Streetsville, along with his wife Rachel (Robinette) Birdsall and his brother Anthony Birdsall.

Later the corners came to be owned by the Croziers, and it was briefly known as Crozier's Corners. Thomas Crozier owned the lot on the southwest corner, Andrew Henry Crozier owned the lot on the southeast corner, and John Crozier owned the two north corners. John Crozier and his family came to Canada in 1886. John Crozier rented a farm from William Rutledge. He then purchased Manor Farm, the former Colonel William Birdsall estate, where one of his sons, Andrew Henry Crozier, would later reside.

Andrew Henry Crozier was a published poet. He composed a new National Anthem for the British Empire in 1901, and King George V sanctioned it. It was published by the Review-Herald Publishing house in Streetsville and sold for 25 cents a copy. Edgar Graham Shields, John Crozier's brother-in-law, kept bees and also had a silver fox farm on the northeast corner of Harris' Corners. The silver fox farm was the only one of its kind. His sister, Jane Ferris Shields, was married to John Crozier.

Harris' Corners never had its own permanent post office; however, there were quite a few establishments in Harris' Corners over the years. The hamlet had a general store. There was also Dean's foundry, located opposite the John R. Eakins' residence, which made ploughs, harrows and stoves. It had houses for the workers clustered around it. Edward Rutledge built a blacksmith and carriage works on the west corner of Harris' Corners. The land and business was later taken over by George Bell, followed by Alexander Sibbald. As well, there was Henry Schooley's wagon-making establishment and Rowe's gristmill. The gristmill then went to J. Deady, who renamed it Alpha Mills, and produced 200 barrels of flour per day during a time when many mills were going bankrupt. During the depression following the Crimean War, the late 1850s, the Gooderhams acquired the mill.

The school in Harris' Corners was a log schoolhouse located on the west corner of Colonel Birdsall's farm. There is speculation that the school came to exist around 1820. Mr. Freulton was the teacher there, and he taught over 60 students. Later on, the Grand Hotel replaced the school. Harris' Corners is mentioned during the period before the Rebellion of 1837. Reformers from Caledon gathered at Harris' Corners before heading to Streetsville to vote for Mackenzie. According to William Perkins Bull, a local historian, the reformers marched "to the polls beside their sleighs, bearing clubs to ward off attacks from the Town Line Blazers". Harris' Corners began to fade when a railroad from Brampton to Georgetown was put in, ruining the corners. By the mid 1930s, all that remained were a cluster of rose bushes marking the once busy corners.

Today, with the rerouting of Derry Road in the early 1990s, the intersection of Harris' Corners no longer exists. However, a few remnants remain. Still surviving from Harris' Corners is the McClure house on the DuPont Property, and the Leslie Log house, although it is no longer in its original location.



McClure-Lafferty House, HM

Today industrial parks and office buildings mark the place where the Grand Hotel and the old Birdsall homestead once stood. The buildings, such as the Grand Hotel, which made Harris' Corners the thriving community that it once was, may be long gone, but the essence of Harris' Corners' heritage need not be forgotten. The names of the families that made the small hamlet home can live on, those of Birdsall, Crozier, Eakins, Harris, Leslie, Mason, McClure, Rowe, and Rutledge to name a few. Please share your stories and memories of Harris' Corners with us.

Dundas Shale

Written and composed by:
Leonard Walsh

Ode to Stonehookers
September 15, 2007



The Harbour was dark, and the crews were a gathering
Morning begins, the sun would hail
Young and old worked, there's no lamenting
They hunted their quarry for "old Dundas Shale"

Chorus

*Dundas Shale, Dundas Shale
Toronto needed "old Dundas Shale"
Dundas Shale, Dundas Shale
Port Credit supplied "old Dundas Shale"*

With ships and stonehooks, the boys began raking
The bottom would yield its treasure by sail
Men stood strong and loaded their takings
The boats were filled with "old Dundas Shale"

Chorus

The sun began setting, the men needed feeding
They steered to Port Credit as if in a gale
It was at the harbour the ships they'd be leaving
With fifty more tons of "old Dundas Shale"

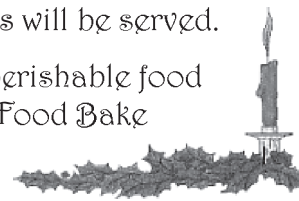
Chorus

Caroling at the Grange

Join us on Monday December 17th 6:30pm at the Grange for an old fashioned carolling round the fire. Hot refreshments will be served.

Please bring a nonperishable food donation to the Food Bake

See you there



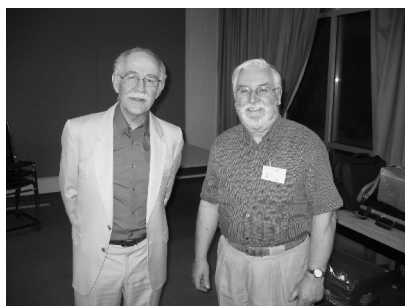
News from the Mississauga South Historical Society

By Eric Gibson, President, MSHS

It has been quite a while since the Society's last meeting back in May but now the time is fast approaching for the final fall season meeting. On September 18th we welcomed United Empire Loyalist John Warburton. A dynamic and entertaining speaker, he talked about his new research project the Loyalists who settled in Mississauga. We invite anyone with information about Mississauga Loyalists to contact John at: doctorzonk2003@yahoo.ca.

At our last meeting of 2007 on November 20th the Mississauga Heritage Foundation will present a talk entitled "Mississauga on the Home Front" which will discuss the many and varied war-related activities which went on in our city during WWII. I'm sure that, among many other things, we will be hearing about Lancaster production at Malton and about the Small Arms Plant at Lakeview.

The first meeting of the New Year 2008 will be held January 15th. This is our annual Show and Share meeting. Please bring your interesting gadgets and share their story with us as we welcome another year at Mississauga South Historical Society. At this meeting we will be renewing our memberships for another year.



Professor Thomas McIlwraith with Eric Gibson at the May meeting of MSHS, HM

Visitors are always welcome at MSHS meetings and further information can be obtained from Eric or Marian Gibson at 905-274-0927 or onaway@pathcom.com



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Streetsville Historical Society Happenings

By Jean Watt, Publicity Director, SHS

The Streetsville Historical Society meets on the second Thursday of every other month, beginning in February, at the Streetsville Village Hall, located at 280 Queen Street South in Streetsville, at 8pm.

The Streetsville Historical Society, which began in 1970, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and promoting interest in general history, with special reference to Streetsville. Meetings feature a wide variety of topics and guest speakers on local history and genealogy, as well as other fascinating subjects. SHS also participates each year in the Heritage Showcase during Heritage Week in February and at the annual Streetsville Bread and Honey Festival. The Streetsville Historical Society also maintains an active archival collection. For information on the Streetsville Historical Society, please contact: Jean Watt, Publicity Directory, at 905-826-1860, or Ann Holmes, Secretary, at 905-826-3183.

The next SHS meeting takes place on December 13th, 2007, and will feature local historians, Marian and Eric Gibson, giving a talk entitled "Strangers in Paradise". Their presentation recounts their early years in Canada after their arrival from England in 1964.



Marian & Eric Gibson, Gibson collection 1964.

Goodbye to a dear friend of Heritage

It is always sad to say goodbye to one of our staff here at Heritage Mississauga. Every year our summer students leave to carry on their studies and High School volunteers head back to school. However when one of our full time staff moves on it is particularly hard. On October 12th we officially said goodbye to our Administrative Assistant



Doreen Armstrong. Doreen has moved on to bigger and better things and we wish her all the best and success for the future.

But a true heritage friend is always just around the corner and so don't be surprised when you see Doreen at one of our heritage events. She will be back to help us as a volunteer. Many thanks to her for her 5 years of caring service. We will miss her.

Fading history cont'd.....

These six young ladies shared top billing with entertainers such as Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, Will Rogers, Jimmy Durante, Buster Keaton, Sophie Tucker, Red Skelton, and George Burns and Gracie Allen.

John O'Connor and his bride Johanna Murphy were Irish and found their way to Canada when famine and plague were exacting a terrible toll in their homeland in 1851.

John and Johanna arrived in Etobicoke near Horner Ave. and lived in a small log cabin. After about 20 years of hard work, they were able to purchase 200 acres extending from Brown's Line to west of the Etobicoke Creek. The family grew to seven children. The eldest son, John, married Ellen O'Leary. His parents, John and Johanna, purchased a stone home on the east side of the Etobicoke as a wedding present for the newly weds. John and Ellen produced 12 children, three died in infancy. The family was very musical and not a day would pass that music wasn't part of their routine. While John was an excellent violinist, his wife Ellen had been a noted singer since age five. The story was often told that Ellen would be taken to Port Credit with her parents to greet the incoming sailors from the U.K. She would be hoisted above father's shoulders and would sing songs such as 'Rule Britannia' and 'The Wearin 'O' The Green' to the cheers of the visitors.

When John and Ellen's children grew to adults, six of the sisters started singing at many of the vaudeville theatres in Toronto. Soon they became professional and debuted at Buffalo's Shae's Theatre. From their debut, The Six Singing O'Connor Sisters became an instant hit with the public and were soon traveling across North America.

Other chapters in my new book, which will be released in 2008, include the history of the Workmen's Compensation Hospital (WCB), a hospital designed to treat those injured in the workplace. The hospital had a rehabilitation clinic as well. Tragedy struck the hospital just two years prior to its relocation to Downsview when Dr. Rex Hylton was shot and killed by a disgruntled patient. The murder rocked the medical community as Dr. Hylton was a pioneer in the development of prosthesis for hands and legs.

The WCB opened in 1947 when it moved into the vacated military base where the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP) was located during the war. The BCATP was the most ambitious military program ever put together by any country in the history of mankind. More than 231 military bases were opened across Canada at the start of the war. Canada is responsible for the training of more than 150,000 pilots from the British Commonwealth countries. The Malton base was first operated as the No. 1 Operational Training Base where pilots received their first 50 hours of training. Later it became a navigation-training base.

Soon after the war ended, the Government retained the services of a group of fishermen from the Kingston area. Port Credit's Lorne Joyce joined that crew and went 'fishing for bombs' on the bottom of Lakes Ontario and Erie. I describe this highly adventurous undertaking by Lorne and the crews who would drag the sandy bottoms of the lakes and literally walk the bottoms of the rocky sections.

There are also chapters on the start up and construction of the Lancaster Bomber and, following the war, the establishment of A.V. Roe Canada Limited by Sir Roy Dobson and Fred T. Smye. The A.V. Roe chapter deals with the development of the CF-100 fighter aircraft, the first North American passenger jetliner, and of

course, the CF-105 AVRO Arrow. I also highlight Jan Zurakowski, who was, without a doubt, Canada's greatest test pilot. For those who have read my last book, *From Frozen Ponds to Beehive Glory*, you will recall I wrote a little about the first Junior hockey team that made Dixie Arena its home. The Dixie Staffords were sponsored by Canada's chocolate king of the day, Jack Stafford. While Jack was a shrewd businessman, he was also a great sportsman. He became one of Canada's most successful thoroughbred owners. In this book, I write about his sponsorship of the Dixie Staffords and its first and only season.

Finally, we can't allow the history of the Trillium Hospital to escape us. I explain just how the hospital got its start with reference to some hand-written notes by one of the founding members of the South Peel Hospital.

Mississauga is rich with history and hopefully I have been able to touch on a few stories and events in my look at Mississauga's *Fading History* that otherwise might never have been told. I hope that I have been able to bring a "living history" approach to those readers who are interested in our recent past.

Congratulations on your 40th Anniversary Bradley Museum

By Marian M. Gibson

In 1967 volunteers such as Ros Vanderburgh, Margaret Lawrence, Betty Wilson Smith, Martha Innes, Mercia Harrison, Muriel Hare, Betty Joyce and so many others, (please tell us who you are) gathered together eagerly as volunteers, to prepare the newly restored and refurbished Bradley farmhouse, for a special Museum opening celebration. It had been a work-filled seven or more years, since Ken Armstrong bought the building for \$2 and donated the farmhouse to the community and the Township of Toronto Historical Foundation Inc. was formed officially, with Letters Patent and a provincial Charter.



Heritage Mississauga beginnings, HM

In 1977 its name was changed to The Mississauga Historical Foundation Inc. in recognition of the new City of Mississauga. Then in 1983 it became The Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc. So many other changes have been part of the history of the organisation. For now, let's just look at a summary of the early days.



Relocation of the Bradley House, HM

The moving of the Bradley farmhouse from its former location at the bottom of Southdown Road, to the corner of land on Orr Road donated by the British Petroleum Company, began the formidable work in the early 1960's of fixing and cleaning, scraping and painting, arranging and placing, that culminated in

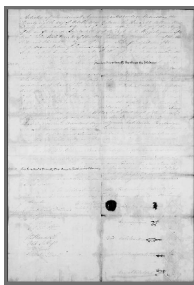
Searching for the Mississauga of the Credit River: Treaties

By Meaghan FitzGibbon

During this past school year I had the opportunity to participate in an internship at Heritage Mississauga through the Environment program at the University of Toronto Mississauga. My position as First Nations Treaty Researcher was envisioned by Historian Matthew Wilkinson and designed to expand on our knowledge and understanding of the Mississauga First Nations, who called this area home for over 200 years.

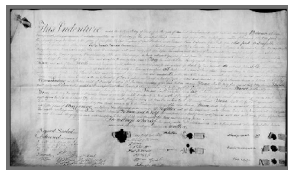
In 2005, Heritage Mississauga began an in-depth research project of the "First Purchase" or Treaty 13a in preparation for the 200th anniversary of this area being opened for settlement. The subsequent treaties (19, 22 and 23), however, had not been as thoroughly researched. The purpose of my study was to provide a greater historical understanding of these lesser documented treaties, as well as to determine their effect on the Mississauga Nation before their relocation in 1847. The intention being to provide a greater understanding of the historical development of the City of Mississauga, the Mississauga Nation at New Credit and modern treaty claims.

The first treaty I researched was Treaty 19. On October 28, 1818 the Mississauga First Nation ceded the land north of modern day Eglinton Avenue to the British Crown. This area became known as the "New Survey" in the Township of Toronto. This area included the villages of Streetsville, Meadowvale and Malton. The Mississauga Nation kept three portions of land on the Credit River (also known as the Credit Indian Reserve), and the Twelve Mile and Sixteen Mile Creeks, which the Mississauga First Nation had previously retained in Treaty 13a.



Treaty 19, National Archives

Two years later, the Government negotiated for these lands as well; new settlers in the area wanted access to the creeks and river to establish mills. On February 28th, 1820, Treaties 22 and 23 were signed. These treaties divided the land in a peculiar fashion. Treaty 22 surrendered all the land from the modern day Queensway to Lake Ontario, and from approximately the northern entrance of the University of Toronto Mississauga/ Harkiss Road to Eglinton Avenue (within the one mile on either side of the Credit River), as well as the lands at the Twelve and Sixteen Mile Creeks. Treaty 23, signed the same day, surrendered all the land between the portions surrendered in Treaty 22, this being the land on either side of Dundas Street. This left the Mississauga Nation with only two hundred acres on the east side of the Credit River.



Treaty 22, National Archives

One possible explanation for the nature of the division between Treaty 22 and 23, was provided by Donald B. Smith, an authority on the Mississauga Nation, who proposed that the middle portion was negotiated a year earlier in 1819. This suggests that the land was surrendered earlier but the treaty was not written and signed immediately. The importance of the middle section to the British is understandable because it would include Dundas Street a major Road even in the early 19th century.

The majority of the middle section was given to Major Thomas Racey to establish a village and mill. This section is still known as the Racey Tract within the City of Mississauga. This land was surveyed and settled almost immediately while the northern and southern sections were retained. Today the majority of the University of Toronto Mississauga is within the Racey Tract as well as the Grange (the office of Heritage Mississauga) and the village of Erindale.

The most intriguing aspect of the project was the connection between the structure of the treaties and the impact on the lives of the Mississauga at the Credit River including their decision to leave the area in 1847. It is generally believed that the Mississauga surrendered their land in three separate treaties over the course of the 15 years from 1805 to 1820 with the exception of the 200 acres they kept on the Credit River where they set up a village. It was discovered, however, that during this time period the land was actually surrendered in four treaties: Treaties 13a, 19, 22, and 23. Also, after 1820, the Mississauga were not living on the 200 acres they had retained, but on land they had already surrendered in Treaty 22. The Credit Mission village was on the opposite side of the River from the 200 acres they had retained. For years the government held the majority of the land on the Credit River and the Twelve and Sixteen Mile Creeks as Crown Reserves. Only a portion of the land on the Credit River, situated on either side of Dundas Street, was sold for the purpose of building a village for non-aboriginal settlers. This was a strange turn of events, considering the reason the government wanted the land was for the use of the river and creeks. These topics will be explored further in future issues of the Heritage News.

Editor's Note: This series of articles will continue in future issues of the Heritage News. Meaghan's complete research report is available at Heritage Mississauga's Resource Centre.

Congratulations to Meaghan FitzGibbon!

From Heritage Mississauga

Heritage Mississauga would like to extend our congratulations to our very own Meaghan FitzGibbon upon her new position, as Curator of the Erland Lee Museum in Stoney Creek. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to meet Meaghan, she came to our organization in the summer of 2005 as a summer student. Three summers and one University internship position later, Meaghan has cemented her reputation as a skilled and thorough researcher, writer and historian. Meaghan graduated from the University of Toronto at Mississauga in 2007. Heritage Mississauga greatly benefitted from her dedication, unwavering support, and historical expertise, and we will miss working with her! However, closer to her own home, we are sure that Meaghan will bring the same dedication and passion to her new position. Meaghan had been involved with the Erland Lee Museum since 2000, both as a student and as a volunteer. Returning to the Erland Lee Museum is like a homecoming, and we are eager to see how her career develops! Best wishes Meaghan! You have been one of Mississauga's "Heritage Warriors", and we thank you for all that you have brought to our organization over the past few years. Thank you! Visit the Erland Lee Museum at www.erlandlee.com or call 905-662-2691.



Matthew & Meaghan, HM

40th Anniversary of Huron Park

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

How many of us, growing up in Toronto Township and the City of Mississauga, have made use of the facilities at Huron Park over the years? I know that my family did, from hockey, to baseball, to swimming lessons, Huron Park was almost a second home at times!



*Opening Ceremonies, 1967,
City of Mississauga*

Huron Park Recreation Centre celebrated its 40th Anniversary this year. Huron Park officially opened on September 21st, 1967, and was Mississauga's (then known as Toronto Township) first multi-use recreational facility.

The idea for the multi-use Huron Park Recreation Centre was born in 1954, by the chairman of the Toronto Township Recreation Commission, Marsh Marshall, and a group of sport enthusiasts and parks and recreation staff. Their idea was to create a place where facilities for all types of recreation would be available at one location. According to the story, the first plan was sketched on the back of a scrap piece of paper. From 1956 to 1964, W.J. Hare, Commissioner for Recreation and Parks, pressed Toronto Township Council for such a facility. Approval was granted in 1964, following the acquisition of lands from the Callanan family in 1961. At first, the property was referred to as the Callanan Lands. We will look at the history of the Callanan family in a future issue of the Heritage News.

In 1965, construction began on the facility that would provide Toronto Township (Mississauga) residents with a multi-use recreational facility. The facility was completed in 1967, with the official opening taking place on September 21st, 1967. In attendance were Reeve Robert Speck, Deputy Reeve Chic Murray, Ontario Minister of Education William Davis, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks W.J. Hare, and the first Facility Manager, Marsh Marshall, amongst others. Huron Park was lauded as being the first facility of its kind and unparalleled elsewhere in Canada.

Happy 40th Anniversary to this remarkable facility, which has managed to grow and adapt to the changing needs of the citizens of Mississauga.

A Busy Heritage Autumn!

September and October have been busy months on the Heritage calendar: September 15th saw Doors Open come to Port Credit and Clarkson, and the moving of the annual Heritage Showcase from February to coincide with this annual event. Heritage Mississauga hosted the Showcase in Clarke Hall and we had in-costume tours of Old Port Credit Village. Special thanks to Richard Collins and Paula Wubbenhorst, and



Doors Open Tours, HM

all of our spirit team, for helping to bring the past to life! This fall also saw the celebration of the AVRO Arrow. The 50th Anniversary of the roll-out of the AVRO Arrow was commemorated at a special ceremony at Pearson Airport on October 4th. Special thanks to the City of Mississauga, Peel Heritage Complex, Mississauga South



Historical Society, GTAA, and the Toronto Aerospace Museum!

Councillor Eve Adams, Mayor Hazel McCallion, Clyde Sherwood, CEO Toronto Aerospace Museum, Irene Hawrylyshyn, GTAA Sr. Mgr and Eric Gibson, HM

Bradley Museum cont'd.....

achievement of the goal - to produce the first Museum open to the public for the City of Mississauga. Donations and loans of suitable furniture gave an air of completion to the project. The part time curator was selected and finally all was ready to open the Museum to the public.

All this fervent activity was going on, but the opening was considered a very special event and many of the volunteers, wanting to do it justice, made their own costumes for the occasion. A flurry of pattern collecting followed, just to be sure the period of the 1830's to be represented was accurate. Material was purchased, cut out, carefully fitted and stitched, in time for the special day in June 1967 when the outfit would be worn proudly for the first time.



Bradley House today, HM

Margaret Lawrence, asked to cater for the Bradley Museum opening, organised her crew. Dishes and tables were brought in, baking was arranged, everything needed was set, volunteers as staff for the event were trained and all last minute preparations were in place.

The excitement could be felt by everyone, so many had helped from the beginning, and a special camaraderie had linked them all together.

These volunteers were the forerunners of many more who followed in their footsteps, contributing diligently during the next forty years to the Museum's success.

The Bradley Museum has added much to what was begun so eagerly all those years ago. Heritage Mississauga salutes the present custodians of the Museum on this 40th Anniversary of its founding, in the knowledge that what has evolved from its beginning, is now being continued by another generation of enthusiasts. Happy Anniversary! to all Bradley Museum's volunteers and staff, from then through now. Each has played a very important part in ensuring this cultural gem has been nurtured with so much care. It has been a mammoth job, well done.

Congratulations to the Symphony Book Sale

Thank you to our supporters.
The 2007 Symphony book sale raised \$57,541.20.

We are now accepting donations for next years sale on
Tuesday's from 1pm-4pm and Thursday's from 9am-12pm
at the Sheridan Mall lower level
Call 647-866-7253 for information or to schedule a pickup.

Heritage Trails: Applewood Trail

By Matthew Wilkinson, *Historian*

Mississauga is home to a remarkable number of trailways and pathways. Several years ago, Heritage Mississauga partnered with the City of Mississauga to document the land history over which many of our trails travel. In this new column in the Heritage News, we will begin to share some of those stories. In addition, you may notice historical information appearing on trailhead signs along trail routes. It is hoped that this information will help to share a sense of place for the city we call home today.

The Applewood Trail runs from Eastgate Parkway to Burnhamthorpe Road. It is a 1.3 Kilometre (0.8 mile) trail which will eventually continue south to the Waterfront. The trail travels through Rathwood District Park and Applewood Hills Park, and is located in the corridor which collects stormwater from the surrounding community and protects the creek from pollutants and damage. From its first settlers in the early 1800's the area was well known for its many apple farms. When the first planned development was built in 1952 the area was named Applewood Acres.

The Little Etobicoke Creek is a tributary of the Etobicoke Creek (Etobicoke meaning "the place where the black alders grow"). There is little indication of an established native presence in the immediate area of the Applewood Trail. This area was among the land purchased by the Crown from the Mississauga Natives in 1818 and was immediately surveyed for settlement. For early Canadian pioneers, the creek provided a supply for building materials and fresh water, but was poor in terms of providing hydraulic power. There is no evidence of mills being constructed along the Little Etobicoke Creek, and early pioneers would have had to travel to either Dixie or Summerville for their milling needs.

The area that the Applewood Trail traverses is in close proximity to several historical villages and hamlets, although the trail does not directly intersect any of these almost-vanished communities. Close by the modern Applewood Trail were the villages of Cooksville and Dixie, and the small rural hamlet of Burnhamthorpe. Also located



Moore-Stanfield House, HM

a short distance away were the small crossroad hamlets of Puckey's Huddle and Hawkins' Corners. These small hamlets have virtually disappeared leaving behind only a few architectural traces of the important roles they once played in the lives of Applewood area pioneers. For example, the small Dixie United Church (currently the St. Apostle Andrew Romanian Orthodox Church), the small cemetery at the southeast



Copeland, HM

corner of Burnhamthorpe and Dixie Roads, the Moore-Stanfield house, a lone residence at Puckey Huddle (the Copeland House) and the Dixie Union Chapel and cemetery. Nothing remains of Hawkins' Corners.

These small historical pioneer communities are almost lost amidst the modern developments of Mississauga but they continue to tie modern Applewood to its pioneer roots.

The area around the Applewood Trail attracted early pioneer industries and businesses that provided vital services for the surrounding settlers. For example: Savage's blacksmith shop, Siddall's Waggon Factory and Gill's Groceteria at Burnhamthorpe; Hawkins' Blacksmith Shop and Carpenter Shop at Hawkins' Corners; the Hotel and Store at Puckey Huddle; and the Dixie Fruit Market. To meet the educational and spiritual needs of the early settlers, schools and churches were located at Burnhamthorpe, Dixie and Cooksville.

The planning behind the Applewood development first took place in 1951 when Harold Shipp bought his first parcel of land on his 25th birthday. Shipp named his new planned subdivision "Applewood" because most of the land was being used for apple orchards. The lands purchased for the original portion of Applewood Acres consisted of J.E. Whitehead's "Breezy Brae" farm, Stanley Josiak's farm and Walter Death's farm. The building of Applewood Acres in 1952 marked the beginning of professional urban planning in Mississauga. The subdivision eventually expanded into three parts: Applewood Acres, followed by Applewood Heights in 1959 and Applewood Hills in 1964. Applewood Hills was built on Thomas Laird Kennedy's orchard and Jim McCarthy's farm. The Applewood development set the standard for planned subdivisions and developments in Mississauga. Residentially, commercially and industrially, Applewood was to be Canada's largest single-family subdivision built by a single developer at the time.

City Launches Heritage Grant Program

By Paula Wubbenhorst, *Assistant Heritage Coordinator, City of Mississauga*

The City of Mississauga has launched a Heritage Grant program for property designated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The program provides matching grants from \$500 to \$5000 for the conservation, repair and/or restoration of heritage attributes. Funding is limited and allotted once per calendar year. The deadline for applications is in the spring. Projects must commence subsequent to the application submission and be complete by early fall.

Projects may include conservation, reconstruction or restoration of architectural elements, or restoration of structural soundness. Limited funds are available for architectural and engineering fees. Properties in heritage conservation districts are eligible; however, those that do not contribute to the cultural heritage value of a heritage conservation district, such as those categorized as "Other," are not eligible.

Visit www.mississauga.ca/heritage for more information and an application form.

Heritage Matters

Heritage Mississauga

Oct. 22nd, 7-9pm **Haunted Mississauga**-Springcreek Cemetery-Come and join the Spirit tour of our past! Members \$10.00, non-members \$15.00

Nov. 3rd, 6:30pm **Mississauga Heritage Ball** The Barber House-5515 Mississauga Road North-Dinner, Dancing and Live Entertainment, Silent Auction Tickets \$250.00

Nov. 15th, 10am- 7pm **Christmas Marketplace Craft Show** Civic Centre Great Hall

Dec. 6th, 7-9pm **Heritage Mississauga 47th Birthday** and Exhibit opening

Dec. 17th, 6:30-8:30pm **Carolling at the Grange**-Carolling around an open campfire, hot chocolate and FREE fun for the

Art Gallery of Mississauga

Oct. 25-Dec. 7th, Viktor Tinkl: Making Things-Curated By Robert Freeman & Linda Jansma. Presented in collaboration with the Robert McLaughlin Gallery, Oshawa

Opening Reception: Oct. 25th, 6pm Viktor Tinkle has spent a lifetime making things from just about anything. Sculptures from his property in Sunderland, many of them large scale. A color catalogue with interview by Linda Jansma and essay by Duncan Farnan accompanies this exhibition. Events associated with the exhibition include a Curator's talk and tour of the artist's property.

Oct. 25th, Movement Movement 8K Run-Last day for early Bird Registration. \$30.00

Oct. 28th, Art Gallery of Mississauga 20th Birthday Party continues with Family Day

Oct. 31st, 1-2:30pm, Mississauga Film Series- AMC Courtney Park 16, 110 Courtney Park Drive

Nov. 3rd, 9am Movement, Movement Ontario Art Marathon

Nov. 17th, 18th, 9:30amnoon Photographing Your Artwork Workshop

Nov. 22nd, FREE Noon Hour Concert Series-Bond Trio-Presented by the Chamber Music Society of Mississauga

Nov. 28th, 1-2:30pm Mississauga Film Series-AMC Courtney Park 16, 110 Courtney Park Drive

Dec. 8th, 10:00am to Noon Drop off of entries for Visual Arts Mississauga Juried Show- *Entry forms must have been received by Visual Arts Mississauga by Friday November 30th-Contact Visual Arts Mississauga at 905-277-4113 for more info.

Dec. 13th, 6pm Opening Reception for Visual Arts Mississauga 30th Annual Juried Show of Fine Arts.

Dec. 20th, FREE Noon Hour Concert Series-Melville/Savage Recorder Quartet-Presented by the Chamber Music Society of Mississauga

For more information about exhibitions and events contact Art Gallery of Mississauga, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga Civic Centre, Ground floor, South East corner, Phone: 905-896-5088 Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, Saturday & Sunday, Noon to 4 pm - call to confirm hours..

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

Nov. 15th, 16th, 10:30am-3pm Christmas Sale-Atrium of the H.J.A. Brown Education Centre, Hurontario Street at Matheson Blvd. Lots of unique wooden toys and other items especially chosen for Christmas giving.

Dec. 2nd, 1-4pm Christmas Open House and Sale at the Old Britannia Schoolhouse-Visit the Schoolhouse decorated for Christmas with a fragrant tree, evergreen swags and paper chains, enjoy Christmas goodies and mulled cider as you browse through our unique items for sale.

Nov. 11th, Dec. 9th, 1-4pm Sunday Open Houses-Volunteers will be there to answer questions about the artifacts, the schoolhouse and the programme.

Parking in the H.J.A. Brown Education Centre Visitors' parking off Matheson Blvd

Halton Peel O.G.S.

Oct. 28th, 2-4pm Speaker Jane MacNamara, Toronto Branch OGS- What's in the Archives of Ontario and how do I find it? Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy Street, Oakville. Call Jane Watt 905-281-1701 or jwatt@ica.net for more information.

Nov. 25th, 2-4pm Speaker J. Brian Gilchrist- Topic Understanding the Basics of Vital Statistics versus Civil Registration Chinguacousy Branch Library, 150 Central Park Drive, Brampton, For more info: call Jane Watt 905-281-1701 or jwatt@ica.net

Late Breaking News: In December 2007 the Chinguacousy Public Library and our Halton-Peel Branch, OGS Library Collection is moving to the Four Corners Branch(near Peel Archives). As a result Halton-Peel meeting will be held at Four Corners Branch beginning January 27th 2008. Four Corners Branch is located at 65 Queen Street East Brampton, L6W 3L6; Phone 905-793-INFO(4636) www.bramptonlibrary.ca; (email:info@bramlib.on.ca)

Mississauga Arts Council

New juried show at the Novotel. Drop by and see this great new work and then relax in the charming Café Nicole. Pieces by Peter Mulcair, Rosemary Delehanty-Scholl, Christine van Driel, Vishal Misra, Gail Backus, Parveen Kaur, Erdmute Gottschling, George Robertson, Ron Sypher and Lisa Husar.

At Royal LePage in Clarkson: Photography by Dan Guerin and Lisa Marie Husar. Go and see two young photographers who will wow you with their images. Beautiful and haunting.

URBANICA at the RE/MAX office in Meadowvale. Nineteen powerful paintings by Marilena Isacescu-Carlea at the Re/Max offices, 6850 Millcreek Drive.

Oct. 22nd, Mississauga Arts Awards "The Best of the Best"- Tickets now on sale for \$79.00 through the Stage West Box Office at 905-238-0042. Gather your family and friends for a fabulous dinner and show, as you celebrate the best that Mississauga has to offer. For more information contact the Arts Council at 905-615-4278.

Mississauga Garden Council

October 25th 7:30-8:30 Plants for Small Gardens - Chris Graham - members \$10, non-members \$15

November 22nd 7:30-8:30 Outdoor Winter Container - Paul Zammit - members \$80, non-members \$90

Workshops held at MacEwan Field Station. Register for three and receive a discount.

Walks & Talks

Saturday September 2nd2 Fall Blooms -Dr. Nina Barabas 9am

Saturday September 29th Walk and Spy on Mice -Dr. Monika Havelka 7pm

Saturday October 6th 9am Climate change and the Credit Watershed Fisheries

Mississauga South Historical Society

Tuesday November 20 7:30pm Texaco Room, Port Credit Library. Speaker Matthew Wilkinson - Mississauga On the Homefront.

Contact President Eric Gibson for meeting information 905-274-0927

Museums of Mississauga

Oct. 28th, 1-4pm, Benares Historic House, 12th Annual "Tricks or Treats: Historic Halloween Fun"

Costumes are encouraged for all ages. Costume contest, Reptilia shows, spooky tours of the historic house, kid's crafts, a "Screamfest", and more.

Dec. 16th, 1-4pm, Home for the Holidays- Bradley Museum and Benares welcome you to step back in time and experience a Christmas in the backwoods. Enjoy the sights, sounds and smell of an early 19th Century home and learn how these early settlers prepared for the season.

Wednesdays and Sundays 1-5pm. Guided Tours for Drop-In Visitors Admission to both Museums: Adults \$5; Students/Seniors \$3; Children \$1.50; Family \$12 Changing Exhibits in the Anchorage at Bradley Museum and Benares Visitor Centre

Free, Monday to Friday 10am 4pm.

Check out our web site for more information www.museumsofmississauga.com or 905-615-4860

Bradley House Museum, 1620 Orr Road, Mississauga

Benares Historic House, 1507 Clarkson Road North, Mississauga

Streetville Historical Society

Dec. 13th, 8:00 pm Guest Speakers Eric and Marian Gibson- well known Mississauga historians, the Village Hall, 280 Queen Street South.

Feb. 14th, 8:00 pm Speaker Brian Gilchrist, Reference Archivist for Peel Heritage speaking at the Village Hall, 280 Queen Street South. New members are always welcomed, call Jean Watt 905-826-1860

**For more Heritage Matters information please call
905-828-8411 ext "0"**