

Autumn 2005

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Celebrating Over 200 Years of History

The Newsletter of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc.

Development of a Heritage Resource Centre at The Grange

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

L ooking back at the past owners of The Grange, we see what is an impressive list of learned individuals: Chief Justice Sir John Beverley Robinson, Colonel William Thompson, Dr. Beaumont Dixie, and Weymouth Schreiber to name but a few. One can imagine a room in the house that must have contained numerous books on a vast array of subjects. What lined the shelves of Sir John's office? Did Colonel Thompson have a library? What books of knowledge did Dr. Dixie consult in his medical practice? It causes one to pause and ponder whether the development of a new resource centre at The Grange is a new idea



"The Grange" -MHF

at all for this building. Perhaps The Grange was built originally as a type of "resource centre" for the pioneer community. After all, it was here that early settlers would have land transactions registered, potential disputes settled, and consult with the Chief Justice should the need arise. So, perhaps, developing a resource centre at The Grange is merely what was fated to be, following in the footsteps of the past as it were.

Regardless of my historical ponderings, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation has big plans for The Grange! The first year in our new home has seen the creation and development of the Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre, which features heritage-themed exhibits. In addition, thanks in part to a large

Mississauga the First 10,000 Years



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material and artefact donation from the Greeniaus family, we have begun to develop an archival storage facility. Our focus, in the coming months and years, will be the implementation and continued development of our comprehensive Heritage Resource Centre.

"Resource" itself is an interesting word. It's meaning ranges from: "to rise again", "a source of wealth", "a source of aid or support that may be drawn upon when needed", and "something that can be used for support or help". The Heritage Resource Centre at The Grange intends to encompass and expand on all of these base definitions in connection to

local heritage and history. The foundation of the Resource Centre will be the heritage library, which specializes in Mississauga, Peel, Ontario and Canadian history, as well as our extensive newspaper files. Our resources include assembled publications relating to local community histories, architecture, heritage policy and planning, and geneaology pertaining to families in Mississauga. The Resource Centre also contains an extensive photograph and slide collection, countless digital images, and developed educational outreach kits. The Resource Centre is open to the public, where you can peruse and access our collection for your own research needs. The Resource Centre is intended to act as a guide or starting point to research in our City, and as such our resources and services will compliment, and connect you with, the many different information repositories for local history available in our community. These include the Canadiana Room at the Mississauga Central Library, the Region of Peel Archives, Land Registry Office, and the Halton Peel OGS Library, amongst many others. It is our intent to provide the best possible service to the residents of Mississauga who are interested in learning about and researching the history, heritage and roots of our City. The development of the Resource Centre will be an ever-ongoing project for MHF. We will always be seeking ways to provide better services and access to historical information. Somehow, in some fashion, the development of a Heritage Resource Centre seems in keeping with the history of "The Grange".

President's Message

By Marian M. Gibson, MHF President

I thas indeed been a very busy year, full of memorable activities. The Mississauga Heritage Showcase in February brought together a record crowd of participants as well as visitors. This showcase affords an opportunity for all the many heritage groups in the city to tell about their exhibits and something of what they each do as an organisation.

Once again the MHF Kite Fly on Father's Day drew a colourful assembly of enthusiastic Mississaugans and others attending from the GTA. Yet others came from St Catherine's, Peterborough, and Kingston we learned - and maybe from even further afield.

Canada Day was full of fun and music enjoyed by another large crowd at the Civic Centre and at Port Credit's waterfront for the fireworks.

The Maaniidowin Feast on the anniversary date of August 2nd and the Family Day and PowWow was a truly memorable way to celebrate the signing of Treaty 13a between the Native Mississaugas and the British. These two special events brought together the Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Credit Valley Metis and two Senators from the Ontario Metis Council based in Ottawa, as well as a great number of people from Mississauga and the surrounding communities. Everyone joined in the very colourful PowWow dancing, and reports both direct



Katherine and Marian at the Maanjidowin Feast -MHF

Oscar Peterson Honoured

Mississauga Heritage Foundation's honourary patron, Mississauga resident and jazz legend, Oscar Peterson, officially opened a new school named in his honour in September 2005. Oscar Peterson Public School, is located at 3240 Erin Centre Boulevard. "We're delighted to have a school named for jazz legend Oscar Peterson. It's appropriate that



Photo courtesy - Harry E. Palmer

the first school anywhere in the world to be named in his honour is located in his hometown of Mississauga," said Jim Grieve, director of education for the Peel District School Board. "I must tell you that this is a most unexpected and moving tribute to me," Peterson says of the school board's decision to name a school after him. Oscar Peterson was named the honourary patron of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation in 1999. A resident of Mississauga, Dr. Peterson is considered a national treasure and a jazz musician with a long-standing and extraordinary international reputation. The Mississauga Heritage Foundation extends our congratulations to Dr. Peterson on this honour. and overheard say that it was the most fun of all the many pow wows that they have attended throughout the year. Mayor McCallion at the signing of a Friendship Treaty with Chief Bryan Laforme of the New Credit Mississaugas and MHF, part of the Family Day, said that we should "do this every year" and the other participants agreed enthusiastically. As bicentennials only occur every two hundred years, we'll find another reason to bring together the many new aboriginal and other friends we made at this year's Maanjidowin.

Doors Open Mississauga in September was an opportunity to visit sites often not open to the public. Youngsters and adults alike told of how much they enjoyed being able to see inside places they had often wondered about. As part of the very successful Doors Open

Ontario, the weekend was acclaimed another fun day organised by MHF.

We look forward to our Haunted Mississauga at Britannia United Church and hope you will join us for this latest of MHF events in Bicentennial Year 2005. Britannia is one of Mississauga's Lost Villages and the area holds many spirits from our past. Come and meet some of them and enjoy the fun. As well, we will be holding our annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction later this year, so join us for that event too.



Marian Gibson, Mayor McCallion and Chief Bryan LaForme sign the Friendship Treaty-MHF

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, Human Resources Development Canada, the Ministry of Culture 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, 1921Dundas St. W., Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1R2, phone: (905) 828-8411 or fax: (905) 828-8176, or E Mail: info@heritagemississauga.org. You can also visit us on our Web page: www.heritagemississauga.com

NEXT DEADLINE: December 16, 2005

Editor: Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

Editorial Advisor: Marian M. Gibson, President

Typesetting: Jayme Gaspar

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Whikinson Photography: 1877 Atlas, Eric Gibson, MHF Photo Archives, Harry E. Palmer, Matthew Wilkinson, World-Wide Web

Printing: City of Mississauga Print Shop

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HERITAGE NEWS

Ohhh...What a Maanjidowin!!!! Miigwich to all!!!

By Katherine Gutierrez, Program Developer

C aturday, August 6th, 2005, Over 200 people encircled a flame ... **D** a flame to symbolize sunrise, a welcoming of the day, a start to a new relationship, a beginning. The sacred

sunrise ceremony began at 6:30 a.m. where Native Elder Walter Cook led a congregation of community members all curious and wanting to know more about the Mississauga history, their culture, and their heritage.

From sunrise to 5pm, the "Maanjidowin" took over Mississauga. "Maanjidowin" is the Ojibwa word for the "gathering". This free, fun-filled, family event took over J.C. Saddington Park in Port Credit, just south of the lighthouse, on Saturday, August 6^{th} , 2005. This historical, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, celebrated Over 200 Years of History in Mississauga with which the whole community participated in.



Marketplace Display - MHF

In terms of entertainment, the Métis Fiddler Quartet amazed the audience with their talent and soulful grace, capturing the audiences' attention from the very first note played. At noon, 1860s re-enactors recreated the atmosphere through their march across the park and following, firing their rifles onto the air. The Mississaugas of the New Credit,



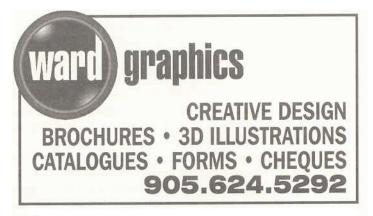
Chief LaForme and Mayor McCallion -MHF

At 10:00 a.m. that day, the "Marketplace" opened for the public where unique arts and crafts vendors, as well as exhibitors from the Mississauga community, enriched and inspired the lives of all. New and exciting designs in the form of jewellery, clothing, and wooden crafts were available for everyone to see and purchase.



Leading the Pow Wow -MHF

the City of Mississauga and the Mississauga Heritage Foundation signed a new Friendship Treaty. Following this re-enactment on the main stage, the pow wow Grand Entry began at approximately



12:30 p.m. on the main stage. Led by Chief Bryan LaForme and Mayor Hazel McCallion, the pow wow featured festive singing, traditional drumming, and skilled dancing by the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation.

The "Maanjidowin" would not have been possible without the support of the following



AmyJacques & Matthew Wilkinson -MHF



Children's Centre -MHF

created. Learning more about one's heritage was truly established this day. The "coming together" of cultures, the "gathering" of



1860's Re-enactors -MHF





Pow Wow Dancers -MHF

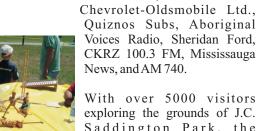
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sponsors: Mississauga Heritage Foundation, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations, Métis Nation of Ontario, City of Mississauga, Ontario Trillium

Foundation, Ministry of Culture, Port Credit BIA, Lush Concepts, Long & McQuade, Old Britannia The Booster, LaVilla Bakery, Timothy's World Coffee, Derrydale Golf Course, Mississauga Sports Council, Television,



Saddington Park, the Maanjidowin turned out to be a truly wonderful event where new relationships were formed and unforgettable memories

individuals, the "Maanjidowin" of the people...Such phrases come to mind as the events of August 6th, 2005 are recalled.

> Miigwich to *all!!!*

Support Your Heritage Resource!

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

F or the past 10 months we have woken each day concerned for the world we live in. First we experienced the earthquake and tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean in December last year, then Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and now devastating earthquakes in Guatemala and India, flooding, mudslides and the enormous loss of lives, is overwhelming.

The need is so great for aid, supplies, and hope. We end each day asking for relief for the world and the chance to rest, hoping for a good news story.

For the future the loss is far greater. Records, artefacts, family history and many traditions have been lost in such a short period of time. Elder family members have been lost and with them the stories of their youth and the family story.

For many years the Foundation has focused its efforts on the community's history. "What's Your Story" was a campaign launched to guide people to think about their family tree and the stories that make up their heritage. With all of the devastation that is going on in the world today it is even more important for us to

ensure that we do not lose the links to the past. Recording and passing on to the next generation the details unique to each family, is a task usually given to the elders in the family. Those Grandparents, Great Aunts and Uncles, members who have the seasoned experience and remember the names, places, and events that have shaped who we are today.



Amy and Matthew at the Grange - MHF

In many families this history is lengthy

and usually not complete, with facts missing and generations hiding in the woodwork. The dedication of precious hours to research the material is for many not available and even if the interest is there, the sources for research are unattainable. The Foundation has opened a resource centre to the community in the Robinson-Adamson Grange that will be a welcoming refuge for those working through their research. For more details on this please see page one and the story by MHF Historian Matthew Wilkinson.

For the past 45 years the Foundation has worked in the community helping to research, record and promote the preservation and conservation of our community heritage.

As a not-for-profit charity the Foundation has relied on assistance from the Municipal and Federal goverment and the generosity of the community through donations, memberships and fundraising ticket sales to continue operations, and serve the community.

Over the past 10 months however the precious dollars that we and other charities like us rely on has been needed elsewhere. They call it donor fatigue in the news, everyone so tapped out that there is very little left. For those of us that rely on community assistance this is devastating. The importance of the work that we do, does not go away just because there is no funding to support it. The need is still great right here in our own community to ensure that our history and heritage is safely recorded for future generations.

I ask you to consider us when you look to support the community.

Can you give of your time, energy or resources? The Foundation

needs your help to sustain itself and support the needs of the community. Every dollar helps to carry on the work of generations before us.

For over 45 years we have been there for the community - first, Toronto Township and now Mississauga. Now we need your help. Join our organization-take out a membership, send a donation of dollars or in-kind services, support our events, purchase a ticket and enjoy what we have to offer. It doesn't cost a lot to support an organization like ours, but the loss of our history and heritage can never be recovered.



Consider us, we desperately need your help.

Doreen welcomes visitors to the Grange - MHF

Haunted Mississauga Lecture and Spirit Tour

"His presence haunts this room tonight A form of mingled mist and light

From that far coast Welcome beneath this roof of mine! Welcome! This vacant chair is thine, Dear guest and ghost!"

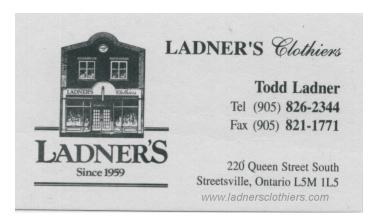
(From "Ultima Thule" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)



Britannia United Church -MHF

Join us for the 4th Annual "Haunted

Mississauga" evening. On October 25th, 2005, at 7pm, please join us at the Britannia United Church and Cemetery, at the intersection of Hurontario Street and Britannia Road, just south of Highway 401. Ghost hunter, author, historian and television host of "Creepy Canada" Terry Boyle will once again visit Mississauga and share his stories and experiences with us. Terry has researched and collected stories of hauntings from across Ontario, and has authored 10 popular books. Following Terry's talk, please step into the graveyard with us for a guided "spirit tour" around the Britannia United Cemetery, and meet many of the spirits that called Britannia home. Please contact Heritage Mississauga for ticket information at 905-828-8411.



Doors Open Mississauga a Huge Success!

By Katherine Gutierrez, Program Developer

Doors Open 2005 transformed Mississauga on September 17th and September 18th!!! Doors Open Mississauga received over 6,000 visitors to heritage sites within the community, some rarely open to the public.

Doors Open Mississauga enabled people to learn a little more about their community's, history, culture, and heritage. This is a great way to gather people together in celebration of our city's rich architectural and historical roots, as it asserts Mississauga's own self-



Doreen welcomes visitors - MHF

identity. Mississauga opened it doors to many hidden treasures throughout the city. There were fifteen sites featured in this event. They included: The Robinson-Adamson Grange, Blackwood



Liv Babra carving at Bradley House- MHF

Gallery at the University of Toronto Mississauga Campus, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cemetery and Museum in Erindale, Mississauga Garden Park at Riverwood, the Old Britannia School House, the Living Arts Centre, Mississauga Civic Centre, Benares Historic House, Bradley House Museum, the Royal Conservatory of Music at the Adamson Estate, Meadowvale Village Heritage Conservation

District, Port Credit Fire Hall, Port Credit Heritage Conservation District, the Streetsville Gallery, and the Streetsville Cemetery.

Doors Open originated from Glasgow, Scotland in 1990 and quickly expanded nationwide, later evolving into Scotland's contribution towards European Heritage Days (launched in 1991 as part of initiatives led by the Council of Europe). By 1998, Doors Open spread to over 40 countries, with over 19 million people visiting over 28,000 sites. In 2000, the City of Toronto participated for the first time, launching the first



MHF Director Greg Carraro at Adamson Estate- MHF

North America Doors Open event. The idea spread throughout Ontario, and in 2002 the Ontario Heritage Foundation launched Doors Open Ontario. Mississauga participated in 2003 and this year hosted its second event.



Volunteers at Bradley House -MHF

Doors Open Mississauga is proud of its sponsors: the Hazel McCallion Charity Fund, Rogers Television, the Booster, Laidlaw, Old Britannia Schoolhouse, Living Arts Centre, University of Toronto Mississauga, the Royal Conservatory of Music, Museums of Mississauga, Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services, Port Credit Heritage Conservation District, Gallery Streestville, Cemeteris of Mississauga, Mississauga Garden Council, Riverwood, St. Peter's Erindale, Meadowvale Village Conservation District, Program Partners, Doors Open Ontario, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation, the Mississauga News, the City of Mississauga, and

the Mississauga Arts Council. They are all gratefully acknowledged for their contributions.

Doors Open Mississauga is about the community celebrating its roots and history through its built heritage.

This event enabled the entire community not only to enjoy but also to understand its local architectural and historical landscapes, and at the same time, creating community awareness about our city's heritage.



The Gutierrez family volunteering at Benares Historic House -MHF

Remember: Open Doors Open Minds ...

Hidden Treasure Revealed!

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

Wild strawberries, apple trees and sumac grew in abundance along the shore of Lake Ontario, a welcome treat for early visitors to Toronto Township. Most of the Mississauga waterfront has been developed and manicured with very little left of the early landscape. However one small parcel located just west of J.C. Saddington Park, on the Imperial Oil Ltd. lands (formerly Texaco) which has been closed to the public for many years, was opened on October 3rd.

This new trail is an extension of the Waterfront Trail that spans 740km from Niagara on the Lake to Brockville. This small extension of about 800 metres opens up a section of the Lake that very few have had the privilege to see. Heritage staff were invited in September to see the "before" construction area. The beautiful view of Toronto, and west to Hamilton is what delighted me



Richard Roberts and Matthew on the trail- MHF

the most. That and the enormous spray of water that crashed 6feet above my head as the waves hit the retaining wall.

Richard Roberts, Project Coordinator, Engineering, Stefan Szczepnski, Project Manager and Randy Sefanka, Maintance Contract Coordinator were given the enormous task of designing and completing this trail extension in only a few short weeks. Together with City staff and contractors, they were successful and on October 3rd MHF was once again invited to tour the newest trail in our very large trail system. What a difference from the first visit! The trail is stunning, well laid out and as we walked through the morning fog we met residents who were thrilled to have this new path connecting J.C. Saddington Park and Ben Machree Park. While we were there we walked out on the pier and met up with a Loon, many Geese and a few Swans. Congratulations to Richard, Stefan and Randy and your team, for creating another beautiful addition to the already spectacular trail system in Mississauga.

Canada's "Far East"

By Eric Gibson

For a few minutes this past summer I was in a unique location in North America. I found a suitable rock on which to sit and contemplate on the fact that I was further east than any other person on the whole of the continent. Not that this is meaningful in any important or useful way, but it does give me a trivial, but interesting

(to me anyway) talking point. A glance at an atlas and the knowledge that Marian and I spent a vacation in Newfoundland and Labrador in the early summer should give the necessary clue to my location.



We were on our very first coach tour, a trip which we enjoyed immensely, largely

Cape Spear photo courtesy - Eric Gibson

because we found that visits to historic and heritage related sites were a feature of the tour. Highlights were: visits to the paleo-Indian site at Porte-au-Choix, the Basque whaling station and North America's first industrial site at Red Bay, Labrador, and the Norse settlement at L'Anse-aux-Meadows. We also spent a little time at the "Newfie Bullet" museum in Corner Brook and walked through the complete, preserved train. Then there was the Beothuk Interpretation Centre at Boyd's Cove and several historic sites at nearby Twillingate. At Heart's Content we spent some time exploring the historic cable station where the transatlantic telegraph cable was brought ashore in 1866.

Our trip ended in St John's. One of our outings from there was along the coast to Witless Bay for a bird and whale watching cruise. On the return journey the coach detoured to the delightful fishing village of Petty Harbour and then to Cape Spear, the easternmost point in Canada.

At Petty Harbour, because it was the last day of our holiday, I purchased a bottle of Newfoundland "Screech" to bring home. I later found that I could have bought the same in Mississauga where the price was 5ϕ cheaper!

At c there is a boardwalk to a lookout point at the end of the cape overlooking the coastal rocks. Almost all of the visitors take this easy and convenient route. However, one is not obliged to use the boardwalk, though it would be advisable on a stormy day. Fortunately at the time of our visit to Cape Spear the weather was not typical of Newfoundland. It was warm and sunny, with just a light breeze, and also close to low tide. I decided therefore to avoid the boardwalk and found that I could easily clamber down to the rocks below the lookout. I sat for a few minutes thinking that no one in North America was closer to Europe than I was at that moment! In fact, I was closer to Ireland (3000 Km) than to Winnipeg (3100Km.)

One final fact about Newfoundland, although the island has an area of more than 112,000 Km², its population is just over half a million less than that of Mississauga!

"Loyal She Began, Loyal She Remains"

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

You might notice a subtle change as you drive along Dundas Street outside of our home, the Robinson-Adamson House, also known as "The Grange". Curious? Need a clue? Look at the flag pole: you will see three flags flying. They appear obvious: the Canada Flag, the Mississauga Flag, and the "Union Jack". But look closer. Something is different about this "Union Jack". Can you spot it?

From September 1st to November 11th, "The Grange" is home to the exhibit "From Powderhorn to Plow". It is the third of four annual exhibits in the Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre. This exhibit focused on the United Empire Loyalists and the Soldier-Settlers of Mississauga. The exhibit features



Exhibit at "The Grange"-MHF

artefacts from the Greeniaus Family Collection, the Toronto Branch of the United Empire Loyalists of Canada, Black Creek Pioneer Village, Old Fort York, and the Mississauga Heritage Foundation.

The exhibit examines who the loyalists were and the impact their arrival had in the historical annals of the place we call home today. Many of our earliest settlers, those that helped to carve our modern city from the pioneer landscape, were Loyalists. We invite you to visit the exhibit to learn more about these remarkable yet ordinary men and women who helped to lay the foundation of the city, the



John Warburton, Heritage Showcase - MHF

province and the nation we live in today.

A highlight of the exhibit was a special talk presented by John Warburton, UEL, of the Toronto Branch of the United Empire Loyalists of Canada. On Wednesday, October 12th, enthusiastic and interested guests gathered at "The Grange" to share in the story of early Loyalists and of the ongoing research by the Toronto Branch. We were all thoroughly intrigued and entertained by John. So, on behalf of those who attended,

thank you John, not only for your special talk, but also for your assistance in piecing together the exhibit. A highlight of John's talk was the presentation of a Union Flag to MHF president Marian M. Gibson. It is this flag that now flies outside of "The Grange". It is the Union Flag of 1783, the flag that flew during the era of the Loyalists and the British flag during the American Revolution. The flag's presence shows the connection of "The Grange" to our Loyalist roots: the first owner, Chief Justice Sir John Beverley Robinson, was the son of a Loyalist. In addition, one of the more intriguing pieces of information explored in this exhibit is the connection between the creation of the Province of Ontario and the United Empire Loyalists. Ontario's motto is, after all, "Ut incepit Fidelis sic permanent", or "Loyal She Began, Loyal She Remains."

The "Lost Village" of Britannia

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

Have you ever visited the little one-room schoolhouse on Hurontario Street or perhaps tapped maple syrup at the old Britannia Farm? Have you ever wondered about the lonely brick church and cemetery at the corner of Hurontario Street and Britannia Road? These scattered remnants are among the last reminders of the pioneer



Britannia Schoolhouse- MHI

hamlet of Britannia, originally known as Gardner's Clearing.

Our continuing effort to collect the stories of Mississauga's "Lost Villages" brings us to the hamlet of Britannia and looks at some of the early pioneers who called this area home. The first settlers in this area began to arrive immediately following the "Second Purchase" (known as the Credit Treaty) of 1818. This treaty ceded most of the remaining land of the Native Mississaugas to the British Crown. In terms of modern geography, it opened up all lands north of Eglinton Avenue. The survey for these lands was completed in 1819 and 1820, under the direction and financial backing of Timothy Street (after whom Streetsville is named). The survey was conducted by Richard Bristol, who oversaw several survey teams. One of those teams was led by Thomas Grafton, who later settled nearby Britannia and helped to establish the crossroads community of Palestine. Centre Road, originally designated by Richard Bristol as "Street Road" but officially named "Hurontario Street", was surveyed through Toronto Township in 1818.

Some of the earliest grants of land in the vicinity of what would become the village of Britannia were registered in 1821. Among the many pioneers who took up land around this time were the families of Samuel Armstrong, Joseph Gardner, William Oliver, Jacob Price, William Reeve, Alexander Thompson and Edward Wright. One of the earliest references to Britannia comes from the account of a travelling Methodist minister in 1821, when he happened upon a church-raising taking place in what he referred to as "Gardner's Clearing". The first service was preached by Cornelius Flummerfelt in the spring of 1821. The burgeoning pioneer crossroads soon added, in addition to the first log church, a small log schoolhouse. This schoolhouse also served as a local meeting place.

By 1830, many more families had begun to settle around the crossroads of Centre Road and what would become known as Britannia Road, at one time referred to as the Elmbank Sideroad. It was in that year that Joseph Gardner donated the land for the establishment of a permanent Methodist church and graveyard. The first recorded burial took place in 1837, while the surviving brick church was built in 1843.

Gardner's Clearing soon boasted a wagon shop, carpenter shop, a general store and a blacksmith shop. An early blacksmith was George Harris while Thomas Sibbald is named as a carpenter and cabinet-maker. When the first post office opened in 1863, the community officially adopted the name "Britannia", in honour of British imperial rule. The first post master was Joseph Muir, followed by Joseph Gardner, Arthur Greenius and W. Sawdon. The Britannia post office closed in 1915 when rural mail delivery began. Among the early prominent settlers in the vicinity was Joseph Gardner. Joseph became a prosperous farmer who raised sheep, pigs, cows, horses, fowl and wheat. He also maintained a large McIntosh apple orchard. Joseph was a staunch Wesleyan Methodist and was instrumental in establishing the Britannia Methodist (now United) Church in 1843. He also served as a Justice of the Peace and his home became known as "Prospect House". Many of the settlers in the Britannia area were Methodists and supporters of the reform movement in the 1830s. During the Rebellion of 1837, many Britannia families showed strong solidarity with William Lyon Mackenzie, and Robert Johnston was believed to have sheltered Mackenzie during his escape. Interestingly, it was the Britannia Militia, under Amos Wilcox, that was originally dispatched to try and retrieve Mackenzie from Navy Island. Amos' 1850 home also survives as the Barbizon Restaurant today, at the corner of Eglinton Avenue and Hurontario Street.

A familiar sight is the one-room Britannia Schoolhouse on the west side of Hurontario Street, just north of Eglinton Avenue. The original log schoolhouse was replaced in 1852 by the surviving brick school. The school was built on land set aside by King William IV for the children of Peel County. The school closed in 1959, and after sitting derelict until 1982, it was restored by the Peel Board of Education and today is lovingly cared for by the

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	lap of Britann tesy - 1877 Pe

"Friends of the Schoolhouse". Also located on the farm property surrounding the school is a storey-anda-half farmhouse, typical of the early Peel landscape, and original to the property. Beside it is a larger Georgian-style house, known as the Gardner-Dunton House, which is believed to have been built in 1840 and was relocated to the current property in 1989. The house originally stood at the Southwest corner of Britannia Road and Hurontario Street. Also clearly visible along Hurontario Street are the Conover Barn (at the Britannia Farm) and the Madill Barn (located just north of Highway 401). These structures help to root our community

memory to a not-so-distant agricultural and rural past.

Atlas

These are but a few physical remnants of Britannia that survive amidst the modern suburbia and industry of Mississauga. More valuable still are the rich memories and stories of the community that survive, in no small thanks due to the efforts of Britannia residents Marjorie and Ben Madill. In an effort to stir a collective memory, we can look at the names from the historical maps that show Britannia, to help stir a collective memory of this lost village; names like Carberry, Docherty, Dunton, Gardner, Johnston, Leary, Little, Lougheed, Madill, Might, Sibbald, Treanor, Waite and Wright, amongst many others. Please share your stories and pictures of Britannia with us.

Membership in the MHF		
Individual	\$20	
Family	\$30	
Senior	\$10	
Schools/Students(ages 16+)	\$10	
Non-profit groups	\$25	
Small-Business	\$35	
School Program Sponsor	\$450	
Corporate	\$500	

Book Launch! "Cooksville: from Country to City"

The book launch for book four in Kathleen Hick's local history series took place on Sunday, October 16 at Mississauga City Hall. Entitled "Cooksville: from Country to City", the book reveals Cooksville's past, from the arrival of the Harris family in 1807, through the



Kathleen Hicks - MHF

Jacob Cook years, to present day stories including the longest married couple and the oldest person still living in Cooksville. This special heritage project is sponsored by the Friends of the Mississauga Library System. The Mississauga Heritage Foundation extends our congratulations and thanks to Kathleen Hicks for her tireless and enthusiastic efforts in preserving and commemorating our shared heritage.

Heritage Books for Christmas and the Holiday Season?

Heritage Books by Kathleen Hicks and other authors can be purchased at the MHF Offices at the Robinson-Adamson Grange, located at 1921 Dundas St. W. Call For more information call 905-828-8411 ext "0".

"Seek Thee Thine Ancestors"

Find your roots with genealogical speaker

Bernie Bradner Sunday November 6th, 2005 1:00pm - 3:00pm Robinson-Adamson Grange

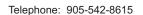
This lecture is hosted by the Mississauga Heritage Foundation and the Halton-Peel Genealogical Society

Tickets \$5.00 -please call 905-828-8411 ext "0"

Step back into Mississauga's history with....

<u>Cooksville: Village of the Past</u> <u>Erindale: The Pretty Little Village</u>

Verna Mae Weeks Author





"The Man Behind The Plow" By Thomas P. Westendorf

From Strange & Co. Music Publishers & Importers, Toronto, 1883 to 1895



I'm not so much at singin' as these

"hy falutin" chaps, My voice it may be husky and a little loud perhaps; For I have been a ploughing with a lazy team you see, They kept me pretty busy with my "Git up," "Whoe-haw," "Gee."

But if you pay attention I have just a word to say, About a great mistake you make and do it every day; In dealing out your praises, and I want to tell you now, Too often you forget the man that walks behind the plow.

You talk about your learned men, your wit and wisdom rare, Your poets and your painters they get praises everywhere; They're well enough to make a show, but will you tell me how The world would ever do without the man behind the plow?

'Tis very nice to go to school and learn to read and write, 'Tis nicer still to dress up fine and sport around at night; Your music, painting, poetry, may all be hard to beat, But tell me what you're going to do for something good to eat? You say my boots are muddy and my clothing is too coarse, I make a good companion for the oxen or the horse; My face is red, my hand is hard, 'tis true I will allow, But don't you be too quick to spurn the man behind the plow.

You talk about your learned men, your wit and wisdom rare, Your poets and your painters they get praises everywhere; They're well enough to make a show, but will you tell me how The world would ever do without the man behind the plow?

I like your great inventions, and I'm glad you're gittin smart, I like to hear your music for it kinda stirs my heart; But 'twill never touch the stomach of a real hungry man, And so I will call attention to a kind o' thing that can. Then boys don't be too anxious for to leave the good old farm, Your father's strength is failing, soon he'll need your youthful arm:

If you're honest in your purpose at your feet the world must bow, For the greatest of the great men is the man behind the plow.

You talk about your learned men, your wit and wisdom rare, Your poets and your painters they get praises everywhere; They're well enough to make a show, but will you tell me how The world would ever do without the man behind the plow?



Celebrating the Holiday Season with Heritage

By Katherine Gutierrez, Program Developer

"Spirits of the Season" Savour....Taste....Experience

Mississauga Heritage Foundation Hosts Its 15th **Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction**

C imply divine! Are you an avid wine taster? Or do you simply Denjoy the finer tastes in life? Do you have an ear for jazz? Listen to the amazing sound of the saxophone. Come out to experience this great opportunity to join us in celebrating our 15th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction. On Sunday, December 4th, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., come celebrate the finer things in life!!!

Have you ever wanted to step through the doors of the Cawthra Elliot Estate? Well this is the time to do so! Take a sip of some of the world's best wines, courtesy of Charton-Hobbs. Charton-Hobbs is an ambassador of premium brands, offering a variety of the world's finest wines, spirits and beers. Established in 1988 following the merger of Herdt & Charton Inc. (founded in 1923) and Basil D. Hobbs Inc. (founded in 1925). It is now one of the most respected and well-known distributors of fine wine, spirits, and beers within North America.

While enjoying the different wines, test your bidding abilities at our silent auction. Items on the auction block include theatre tickets, dinner certificates, and a variety of special items that may entice and peak your interest, just in time for the holiday season. All proceeds raised through this fundraiser will support programs conducted by the Mississauga Heritage Foundation.

Tickets are only \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. Admission includes a souvenir wine glass as a keepsake courtesy of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation. For tickets, please call (905) 828-8411 or come visit us at "The Grange" - 1921 Dundas Street West, Mississauga.

Indulge in a little taste of heaven through fine wines from Charton-Hobbs. Take advantage of the silent auction and support a great cause. Come and experience the finer things in life through the 15th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction, hosted by the Mississauga Heritage Foundation. Enjoy the "Spirits of the Season".



The Sound of Music at the Grange

Listen for the sounds of jingle bells....Wrap yourself up in a scarf and mittens....Sip some hot cocoa or hot apple cider...Join in the carolling at the "Grange". On Sunday, December 18th, 2005 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation will be hosting its first "Carolling at the Grange" event. Join us in celebrating the festive season by singing along to traditional Christmas carols, sipping a hot cup of cocoa or apple cider, and gathering together to wish one another a happy holiday season.



Admission is free but we ask all those who attend to please bring canned goods that will be donated to the local food bank. Come out and experience the magic of the holiday season. Let us come together during this time of the year and cherish our neighbours, our friends, and our heritage.

For more information on this event, please contact Katherine at (905) 828-8411 ext 24. We look forward to seeing you at the Grange this upcoming holiday season. Let us come together and celebrate the festive season through songs and some hot cocoa...



For irregular sizes, customized artwork, or other questions regarding advertising, please calls 905 828-8411.

\$MHF Members \$400, Non Members \$ 520

*10% Discount for ads in 4 consecutive issues. *GST not included in above rate

Full page

What's In A Name? "Parkerhill Road"

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

Have you ever been intrigued by a street or park name from our past? Here is a chance to explore some of our "people and places of the past" through association with modern place names.

Parkerhill Road in Cooksville was a laneway the once led to Chateau Clair and the first commercial winery in Canada. Retired German Army Corporal Johann Schiller arrived in the Cooksville area in 1811 and initially experimented with growing Clinton and Lambrusca grapes from the banks of the Credit River to make enough wine. He



Sir Melville Parker Photo courtesy -1877 Peel Atlas

domesticated the grape vines and eventually his work led to the creation of the colony's first commercial winery.

Sir William Parker purchased Johann Schiller's property in 1841. Sons Albert, Henry and Melville all had local commercial interests as well, and the family prospered. The family built an extensive mansion in 1864, which they dubbed "Chateau Clair". The Parker family was also instrumental in the formation of the Canadian Vinegrowers Association, as first in Canada. Of the Parker sons, it was Melville who shone the brightest. He served as reeve of Toronto Township, director of the Credit Valley Railway, Justice Of The Peace, and a personal friend of Sir John A. MacDonald.

Under the direction of J.M. DeCourtenay, the Vinegrowers Association was organized in 1864 and obtained a charter by a Special Act of Parliament in 1866. The company grew and maintained thirty acres of grapes from which they manufactured 50,000 gallons of wine each year. Local legend suggests that Chateau Clair was used as a rebel fortress during the Fenian Raids of 1866 while "Count" DeCourtenay continued to operate a legitimate business.

The Vineyards remained in production until 1929 when the house and property were purchased by Alfred de Lautels, who operated the "Elmwood Rabbit Ranch" on the property. The house burned down in 1932 and the property was subdivided into lots. The only evidence remaining is the old laneway that led to Chateau Clair, now called Parkerhill Road.

Eden United Cemetery Dedication Ceremony

On October 23, Eden United Church held a special dedication service at the historic Eden Cemetery, also known as Switzer's Cemetery. The pioneer cemetery is located at the corner of Derry Road West and Shelter Bay Road. In 1824, John Switzer sold a portion of his land to the new Wesleyan Methodist Congregation for the establishment of a church and burying ground.



Eden Cemetery - MHF

The congregation proceeded to build a small frame church just to the rear of the surviving cemetery. This small church was replaced by a larger structure on the same sight. Edgerton Ryerson officially opened this second frame church on December 13th, 1840. The church was unofficially dubbed "Switzer's Church" because it was on John Switzer's farm and five Switzer families attended the church.

The growing community was also nicknamed "Switzer's Corners". When the store added a post office on August 1, 1871, the community became officially named "Lisgar" in honour of Sir John Young Lisgar, the Governor General of Canada in 1869. A third church was built immediately north of the cemetery, on the north side of Derry Road, in 1868. Renamed "Eden", the church celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1968. It was demolished in 1980. The new Eden United Church, at Winston Churchill Boulevard and Battleford Road, was opened in 1987 and is home to one of the oldest congregations in our area. The cemetery is the resting place of many early families and pioneers from the surrounding area: family names include Anderson, Cantelon, Cook, Cordingley, Cowan, Dolmage, Justin, Mason, Miller, Orr, Rutledge, Sparling, Switzer and Waite, amongst many others.

In Memoriam

We are saddened at the passing of a true heritage friend, John Emerson. John's life was a magnificent journey that took him, wife Sandra and their three boys Bruce, Brian and Douglas to the far reaches of our country and beyond. Always finding the lesson in life John, the teacher, opened the world to those that he met, giving us all a different perspective on the simplest of things.



John at Heritage Showcase Streetsville Historical Society booth- MHF

For the heritage community John's passing is a loss that will be felt by many. His work with the Streetsville Historical Society as a writer, display designer, speaker and Executive member will be



House-MHF

missed. John also assisted Sandra in her work with the Britannia Schoolhouse. You would often find John playing the piano during singalong usually without the accompaniment of sheet music.

As a friend to Heritage Mississauga, John helped us in our research (focusing on the details), presentations and events. He worked with the Heritage Issues committee to help save the McLeod house and as a member of our Showcase Committee devoted many years to developing the event and hosting a truly educational and dynamic

booth. We appreciated John and Sandra's help in researching the Barberton interpretive exhibit, located on the Culham Trail at ADM Milling. We were proud to acknowledge his and Sandra's contribution to the heritage community by nominating them for the Ontario Heritage Foundation Certificate of Achievement, which they received in 2004. John was also awarded a Member's Choice Award for his outstanding contribution to the heritage community. Good bye John, we will miss you. God bless.

NEWLY OPENED



HERAT CARPET GALLERY Since1975

Tribal Carpets, Kilims, Textiles, Jewellery, and Furniture

Dear Friends;

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Our hometown, the beautiful city of Herat, is located in Western Afghanistan. When Marco Polo passed through Herat on his journey along the Silk Road in the thirteenth century, he found it to be home to a flourishing civilization of over 5000 years of development. Today, Herat is still a centre of poetry, philosophy, art, Sufism, education and fine craftsmanship: a living museum of civilization in itself.

Herat Carpets was first opened in Kabul, where we lovingly brought together a large and unique collection of tribal carpets, kilims, textiles and other arts and crafts, each item representing the true workmanship, talent, and creativity of the nomad way of life. When we opened our first store in Toronto in 1987, we brought along these beautiful finely hand-knotted carpets, woven kilims and silk embroidered textiles made in the villages of Afghanistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries. To this foundation collection, we have in the years since added many beautiful finds sought out in the corners, villages, and towns of Central Asia.

For the past seventeen years our store in Yorkville has been a place where collectors and novices alike have come not only to buy their rugs but also to learn about the way of life of the nomadic people of Central Asia and to learn about their own pieces. People bring us rugs they have inherited to take our advice and help in restoring and maintaining these pieces of the past. We are experts in repairing old rugs, and hand washing them in the old traditional ways to bring back colour and design to its former glory. Hundreds of our customers return again and again bringing family members and friends, to proudly explain to them what they have learned about this rich tradition and to show them what a salt bag is, explain what a sofra is used for, and introduce them to the wide variety of textile shape and colour that can be found in the nomad's tent.

Our store has become a centre of learning about this great variety of textiles nomads use to furnish their yurts and tents, about the way these items are made, the tools that are used and the sources for their materials, colours, and designs. We at Herat Carpets believe that the more you learn about your rug, the more you enjoy it. Our rugs not only cover the floors and walls of North American homes, but also introduce our Canadian friends to the rich tradition of rugs that become a member of the family.

We have recently opened a larger second location at 1555 Dundas Street West, just east of Mississauga Road. We would like to invite all members of our new community to come and visit us here, where you can sit and enjoy a cup of Afghan green tea with us in the luxury, comfort, and colour of our beautiful new home of rugs and textiles.

See you soon.

1555 Dundas Street West, Mississauga, Ontario, L5C 1E3, (905) 290-6969

9 Hazelton Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2E1, (416) 920-3680

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Heritage Matters

Mississauga Heritage Foundation

October 25 Haunted Mississauga Lecture and Spirit Tour -Britannia United Church and Cemetery 7pm Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00

November 6, 1-3pm Seek Thee Thine Ancestors Guest speaker Bernie Bardner of the Halton Peel Genealogical Society. \$5.00

December 4th, 1-5pm "Spirits of the Season" Wine Tasting and Silent Auction. To be held at the Cawthra Elliot Estate **Sunday December 18, 6-8pm "Carolling at the Grange"** Foodbank donations requested, no entrance fee. **Please call to join us at 905-828-8411 ext "0"**

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

Classical Candlelight Concert November 13, 2005 4-6pm *Nadina Mackey-Jackson*, bassoonist, will perform a selection of classical pieces in this hour long FREE concert at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse. Reservations recommended call 905-459-9158

Christmas Sale --H.J.A. Brown Centre - Thursday November 17, 2005 10am-3pm

Old fashioned toys, Christmas stocking stuffers and many more wares for sale in The Atrium. Parking off Matheson Blvd W., in the H.J.A. Brown Centre parking lot.

Christmas Open House - The Old Britannia Schoolhouse **Sunday December 4th 2005 1-4pm** See The Schoolhouse decorated in Victorian Style with a real fir tree and cedar boughs. Enjoy complimentary hot cider and Christmas goodies as you browse our unique range of antique toys and other items offered for sale. A great source of items for Christmas stockings. Free admissions. Parking off Matheson Blvd. W., in the H.J.A. Brown Centre parking lot.

Halton- Peel Branch Ontario Genealogical Society

Sunday October 23, 2005

Guest Speaker **Sharon Murphy** will be presenting *Timelines Research, on Preservation of Photographs & Documents.* *Oakville Public Library*

Sunday November 27, 2005

Guest Speaker J. Brian Gilchrist presents Searching with a Punch Suggestions for Effective Research Sunday January 22, 2006

Guest Speaker **Fraser Dunford Topic:** *The Municipal Goldmine: Municipal Records in Ontario* For more information please contact Jane Watt at 905-281-1701 or email:jwatt@ica.net.

Mississauga Garden Council

Tuesday November 8, 2005 7:30 pm Mississauga Astronomical Society TOPIC: Watching the Night Sky
Tuesday November 15, 2005 7:30 pm Steve Patterson TOPIC: Flying Squirrels
Nov. 8th and Nov. 15th talks will be held at the MacEwan Field Station at 1475 Burnamthorpe Road West Costs listed below
Tuesday November 29, 2005 7:30 pm Dr. Linda Kohn TOPIC: Fungi of Peel, presented at the Chappell House at 1447 Burnamthorpe Road West in the Mississauga Board of Trade room. Costs: MGC members \$10.00 each talk Non-MGC members: \$15.00 each talk

Mississauga South Historical Society

Tuesday November 15th 7:30pm Texaco Room, Port Credit Library. Speaker: David Beardsley Author.

Museums of Mississauga

October 30: "Trick or Treat:Historic Halloween Fun" at Benares, 12-4 pm. Reptile shows, music, spooky tours & more! **November 6**: Sunday Movie Matinee, 2:30 pm at Benares. "The Awful Truth", 1937, starring Cary Grant.

November 13: Historic Demonstrations at Bradley Museum, 1-4pm

November 20: Toying with the Past Games Day. Benares, 1-4:00 pm

November 27: Tea Room open at Bradley Museum, 1-4 pm **December 4**: Sunday Movie Matinee, 2:30 pm at Benares. "Blizzard" (2003) filmed in Port Credit and at Benares!

December 7, 14, 21: Museums open for extended hours. Come tour by candlelight. 7-9 pm

December 18: Home for the Holidays, at both Bradley Museum and Benares. Enjoy a Christmas in the backwoods with horse drawn wagon ride at Bradley, then meet with Santa and sing some carols around the player piano at Benares.

January 2-6: Winter Hands-On History Day Camp, at Benares. For kids ages 7 to 12. Call 905-615-4000 to pre-register. ON-GOING!

"Fore: Playing a round with the history of golf in Mississauga", on display at Bradley Museum til January 15 **"Burned Out -- Twice"**, a display about the losses endured by the Harris Family when their beloved home was ravaged by fire--twice!

COMING SOON!

"Sitting Pretty: A History of the Toilet". A nationally acclaimed travelling exhibit from the Guelph Civic Museums; at Benares from January 15 to February 28

Streetville Historical Society

Tuesday November 1st Executive meeting at the home of Anne & Mack Byard at 7:30 pm

Thursday December 8th Meeting and Speaker TBA

Heritage Happenings in 2006

*Heritage Showcase - February 17,18,19, 2006 *Heritage Awards- "*Heritage Day*" February 20, 2006

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HERITAGE NEWS