

Heritage News

Fall 2014

Volume 27 Issue 4

The Newsletter of Heritage Mississauga



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Did You Know?



Significant Dates

2014 is a milestone, of sorts, for a few of the major challenges and changes that Mississauga has faced. 60 years ago, on October 15th, 1954, Hurricane Hazel (the storm) made landfall, with tremendous damage and flooding; 55 years ago, on February 20th, 1959, the AVRO Arrow was cancelled and ultimately destroyed; 45 years ago, on October 25th, 1969, a natural gas pipeline in Malton exploded at the intersection of Derry Road and Airport Road, with significant local damage and casualties; 40 years ago, on January 1st, 1974, the Town of Mississauga became the City of Mississauga, with the first Mayor of the City being Dr. Martin Dobkin; 35 years ago, on November 10th, 1979, a freight train derailed at the Mavis Road crossing, causing mass evacuations, and became known as the Mississauga Miracle. All mark significant chapters in the story of Mississauga.

Contributors in this issue



Greg Carraro



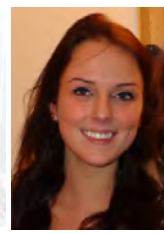
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HERITAGE NEWS is a publication of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc. The Foundation (est. 1960) is a not-for-profit organization which identifies, researches, interprets, promotes, and encourages awareness of the diverse heritage resources relating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

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Holiday Reflections *by Barbara O'Neil, President, Heritage Mississauga*

By now, regular readers of our Heritage Newsletter may have just made it through our beautifully designed, full color, 32 page, WWI-themed edition. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and guest contributors, **our content-rich specialty publication** is evolving into a magazine, with all the enhanced opportunities for increasing heritage awareness this implies.

Elsewhere in this issue, you will read about numerous recent HM events, including October's Haunted Mississauga and November's official (and long-awaited!) **unveiling of the Sacred Garden**. It was my pleasure to participate in the unveiling, as HM was instrumental in making the Sacred Garden a reality, with Director Don Hancock, a professional landscape architect, working closely with Director Faith Rivers and the Mississaugas of the New Credit to design a garden that will become an increasingly beautiful tribute to our First Nation Ancestors. Many people helped see this project to completion – please see the article on page 4 for more details.

I strongly recommend a field trip to this site. While the fresh native plantings will soon be blanketed in snow, the interpretive panels tell the fascinating history of the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Credit Mission Village (E side of Mississauga Road, just N of the QEW exit, by the Mississauga Golf Club).

As is our tradition, HM **participated in Remembrance Day memorial services across the City** this year. On a windy day, at a moving Civic Centre ceremony, I laid a wreath on behalf of Heritage Mississauga, commemorating local 1812 veterans. The crowd this year was noticeably larger than in recent years, with lots of school children and lots of wreaths laid.

In Port Credit, Director Kimberly Phinney, Executive Director Jayme Gaspar, and re-enactment soldiers Mark Pollard and Richard Collins participated in a parade and ceremony. In Streetsville, Director Luz del Rosario also walked in a parade and laid a wreath. At both events, the parade routes were lined with people.

The 2014 Credits (Heritage Mississauga's gala dinner honoring our local Heritage Heroes) was held in the north end of Mississauga. **Building on last year's very successful event, with attendance increasing to 340 guests.** The number of nominees and sponsors also increased substantially. For me, the highlight of the evening was having the privilege to present a Lifetime Achievement Award to our outgoing Mayor Hazel McCallion. This was a fitting time to mark the Mayor's support of our organization and our mutual goal to promote heritage celebration.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to **recognize the generous contributions of the following Credits sponsors:** Vandyk Group of Companies, Enersource, Fielding Chemicals, The Erin Mills Development Corporation, KPMG, Mississaugas

of the New Credit First Nation, Mazo de la Roche Society, Mississauga Central Lions Club, Kimberly Phinney Real Estate, Grand International Trading, Ontario Trillium Foundation, The Print Gurus, Park Inn by Radisson, and Rogers TV.



Barbara and Mayor McCallion at the Credits, 2014, HM

We thank our primary funders: the City of

Mississauga, Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Community Foundation of Mississauga, Service Canada and the Hazel McCallion Foundation.

Sincere thanks go to the Credits Committee, as well as its Chair and MC, Jake Dheer, who did an amazing job again this year in delivering a glittering event. Committee members include Directors Luz del Rosario, Winnie Fung, Anthony Dimech, Ram Dhanjal, and volunteers Caitlin MacDonald, Jennifer Skeath, Linda Zongaro, Judy Selics, staff Jane Watt Hilary Walker, Matthew Wilkinson, Jenny Walker and Jayme Gaspar. Look for our announcement of 2015's Credits date and location in early 2015.

With **municipal elections now complete, congratulations** go to all City Councillors, returning and new (Matt Mahoney, Karen Ras, Carolyn Parrish), and our new Mayor Bonnie Crombie, on their election wins. Mayor Crombie has been an enthusiastic supporter of HM and I look forward to meeting with her to discuss how heritage fits with her announced priorities for the City.

As I write this today, it was just announced **Councillor Frank Dale has been elected as Regional Chair**, succeeding Emil Kolb. As a result, there will be another by-election in early 2015 to replace him on Council.

The most immediate change impact for our organization is **the retirement of Councillor Katie Mahoney from our Board**. For 20 years Katie has been the City-appointed Director on HM's Board. We have been the fortunate beneficiary of her experience and wisdom during her years of service. She has been a loyal advocate for heritage matters. She recommended HM as the best-choice tenant for the Grange when the Boy Scouts' lease expired. And she was often able to suggest a contact or prudent approach to resolving a challenge. Katie will be missed by everyone who has worked with her, and as a Lifetime Member, we expect to continue to see her often. Thank you, Katie!

Cont'd pg. 15

From the Editor's Desk *By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director, Heritage Mississauga*

It has been a busy fall here at Heritage Mississauga. From opening gardens to honouring heritage heroes, we seem to find more and more to occupy the fall quarter each year.

We kicked off September with the Small Arms Society at their Doors Open event at the Small Arms Plant in Lakeview. Thompson's Company were on hand dazzling the crowd with musket drills and 1812 banter. There were also many military displays and demonstrations from the First World War, Second World War and today's military. We introduced our second comic in *The Grange* series at the event, focused on the arsenal lands of 1915. Our young lead characters stepped back in time to meet those who were involved on the homefront, and the Curtiss Aviation program.

It has taken five long years with many challenges but we are so proud to announce the official opening of Chi-twaa Tigaanes (Sacred Garden). This garden is dedicated to the memory of our First Nations Ancestors who once lived on what is now home to the Mississauga Golf & Country Club. Five interpretive panels tell the story of their life on the land from 1826 to 1847 and the important contributions they made to this community. We are excited to see the garden in spring when hundreds of indigenous plants will blossom and help to further tell the Mississaugas story. Visit the garden just north of the Golf Club entrance on Mississauga Road. Miigwetch (Thank you) to all who helped us build this garden, in particular Jennifer Simpson, a member of the City of Mississauga Parks Staff, who not only guided our vision but built the garden into a beautiful commemoration to our First Nations Ancestors. We appreciate the financial and in-kind support of the Community Foundation of Mississauga, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, TD Friends of the Environment Fund, the City of Mississauga and Erin Mills Development Corporation. Our thanks to the inaugural team for their vision of the possibilities made up of: Councillor Katie Mahoney, Donna McGlone, Don Hancock who designed the garden and Ian Scott from the Golf & Country Club. With special thanks also to Heritage Mississauga Aboriginal Programs Committee, Mississaugas of the New Credit Cultural Committee and Heritage staff: Historian Matthew Wilkinson who wrote the text, Outreach Coordinator, Hilary Walker who produced the creative design, Jenny Walker and her son James who helped dig and plant and Jane Watt, for all of her program support. We could not have done it without you.



Cutting the Ribbon at the Garden, HM

And finally, we said goodbye to one of our staff at the end of November. Outreach Coordinator Hilary Walker was a wonderful member of our team supporting the Cultural Heritage project. We wish her well

See you back here in January as we begin another exciting year, celebrating our unique shared heritage.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Looking Back at Genealogy 2014 Grange

By Jane Watt, Administrative Assistant, Heritage Mississauga

This year we hosted 3 genealogy workshops with our partner, the Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. The topics are varied and have been well attended and offered local genealogists the opportunity to speak with experts to break down their genealogical barriers and find the sources they need for their research. Halton Peel also hold general meetings throughout the year and they invite you to visit their website for a list of dates and speakers with topics: www.haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca



In February we had Ruth Blair who spoke on "Searching for First World War Ancestors". April's topic had Ruth speak on "Getting your Genealogy Organized" and finally in June she spoke on "Researching your Ancestors in England and Wales"

In 2015 we are planning 4 Saturday workshops in February, April, June and October. If you have any topics you would like covered, please let us know.

All workshops are held at the Historic Robinson-Adamson House, The Grange, 1921 Dundas Street West in Mississauga from 10am-3pm. The fee is \$25.00 per person. Space is limited and it must be prepaid to reserve your spot. For more info call 905-828-8411 Ext. 0.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Haunted Mississauga 2014

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

The 13th annual "Haunted Mississauga" evening took place on Friday, October 23rd at Benares Historic House.

Our story was set in October of 1914, during the early stages of the First World War, and two recruiters from the Canadian Expeditionary Force were trying to rally support and encourage, or coerce, new recruits to enlist.

A fun evening was had by all; the remarkable actors and volunteers, the support staff, and visitors.

Heritage Mississauga would like to thank our event partners: the staff and volunteers at the Museums of Mississauga. Also, thank you to our "Spirit Team": Heather Boden, Phil Booker Sr., Phil Booker Jr., Greg Carraro, Richard Collins, Lindsay Doren, Elaine Eigl, Merri Fergusson, Meaghan FitzGibbon, Evan Gaspar, Jayme Gaspar, Les Gaspar, Eric Gibson, Fran Goddu, Annemarie Hagan, Jeremy Harvey, Sandra Hendrickson, Bryan Ho, Bertram Jagoda, Max Jagoda, Olga Kalynowysch, Denise Mahoney, Nicole Mair, Arlene Manning, Peter Monahan, Christian Pariente, Rebecca Rusk, Rob Stanczyk, Eileen Walker, Jenny Walker, Jane Watt, Hope Wickett, Matthew Wilkinson, Mavis Wilson, and Joe Zammit. See you in October 2015 for the 14th Annual "Spirit Tour"!



Cast & Crew, 2014, HM

Thompson's Company 2014

"Fiat Justitia"

By Greg Carraro, Vice President, Heritage Mississauga

Thompson's Company (2nd Regiment of York Militia Re-enactment Company), Heritage Mississauga's War of 1812 re-enactment company, enjoyed a very busy 2014!

Thompson's Company participated in numerous events this year, including the Museums of Mississauga Starlight Gala, Carassauga, Paint the Town Red Canada Day Parade in Port Credit (1st place ribbon!), and Doors Open, amongst other events. Outside of Mississauga, Thompson's Company also participated in several community events at historic Fort York, including the commemoration of the Battle of York and Frost Fair.



Thompson's Company at the Battle of Chippewa, HM

A highlight of 2014 was our participation in a number of battle re-enactments for the first time, participating in the 200th anniversary re-enactments of the battles of Chippawa, Lundy's Lane and Fort Erie. We also took part in the annual battle at Fanshawe Pioneer Village and were honored participants at "Op Century", the Royal Highland Fusiliers celebration of the military heritage of Cambridge. It was thrilling to see the months of commitment, drilling and education come together so magnificently in the field!

Heritage Mississauga, on behalf of the Company Captain and HM Vice President, Greg Carraro, would like to thank the volunteer company members of Thompson's Company for their commitment, passion and support.

None of our activities would be possible without the continual support of the Board of Directors of Heritage Mississauga whose confidence in Thompson's Company is steadily expanding the membership by attracting history conscious recruits who like us, have a passion for interpreting a bygone era and paying tribute to the memory of the men whose service and courage helped shape Canada. We look forward to next year as we continue to grow and learn our craft. Please contact Heritage Mississauga if you would like to learn more about the Company, if you are interested in joining, or interested in booking Thompson's Company for your event.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/2nd-Regiment-of-York-Militia-Thompsons-Company/138994486266850
905-828-8411 ext.29

Air Son ar Duthchais: A History of the Lorne Scots, Part 2

In Part I of the history of the Lorne Scots, we learned about the development of this area's sedentary militia units and their lack of preparedness when confronted with the Mackenzie rebellion. This section begins not with rebellion, but with a separatist movement... in Halton.

In 1851, as the residents in what is now Halton Region prepared to form their own county out of part of The Gore (which included Hamilton), sedentary militia regiments were reassigned into a larger number of smaller battalions, just as York (which included historic Mississauga) had done in 1846. Divisions with the new Halton Militia were:

- *1st Battalion*: Trafalgar Township, under Col. George Chisholm, who had raised the 8th Gore Battalion in 1822,
- *2nd Battalion*: Nelson Township, under Lt. Col. Hiram Smith,
- *4th Battalion*: Esquesing Township – Concessions VIII to XI only, under Lt. Col. William Clay,
- *5th Battalion*: Nassageweya Township under Lt. Col. Alexander McNaughton, and
- *6th Battalion*: Esquesing Twp – Concessions I to VII only, under Lt. Col. Adam Sproat.

Two years later, following Halton's lead, residents in the western part of York requested to form a separate county. Formal separation did not take place until 1856, but in the meantime the York regiments which were to be part of the new county were reformed into battalions of the new *Peel Militia*.

The *1st Battalion* consisted of men in Toronto Township, but only those west of Hurontario Street. This unit remained under the venerable command of Col. William Thompson, who had been at the helm in what is now Mississauga since 1808. When he died in 1860, Lt. Col. James Paterson took command until 1863 when he was succeeded by Lt. Col. Duncan Merigold. The territory of modern-day Mississauga east of Hurontario Street was under the *2nd Battalion*. This unit also included all of Chinguacousy, up to 1855. The 2nd was under the command of Lt. Col. William Birdsall.

The other battalions in the Peel Militia were organized as follows:

- *3rd Battalion*: Toronto Gore, under Lt. Col. Samuel Price,
- *4th Battalion*: Caledon, under Lt. Col. Daniel Switzer, and
- *5th Battalion*: Albion, which remained under the command of York Militia officer Lt. Col. Charles Mitchell



Colonel Samuel Price, HM

from the eastern half of Toronto township and was itself divided into two battalions. The *6th Battalion, Peel Militia* served Brampton and the south half of Chinguacousy, under Lt. Col. John Lynch; while the *7th Battalion* was assigned to the north half of Chinguacousy, with Col. Francis Campbell in command.

A change in the military came that same year. The new "army" of Canada was to be much smaller now – about 5,000 men – but those who remained in service were to be paid. The former militiamen were relieved of any further reserve obligations, but many who were not brought into the new army formed or joined volunteer militia companies which could be called to duty at the request of the army. In this manner the sedentary militia continued after 1855, but was now manned only by those willing to volunteer.

Over the next decade, seven infantry and rifle companies were formed in Peel by retired officers of the former militias or by local businessmen who were willing to supply a local militia company. Loyalty to the Empire was a motivating factor in supporting a company of volunteer soldiers.

Captain George Wright, who had just recently helped form the *6th Battalion, Peel Militia* from the Brampton and Chinguacousy men of the 2nd Battalion, raised the *Volunteer Militia Rifle Company of Brampton* in April 1856. This company was formed from volunteers of the disbanded *6th Battalion, Peel Militia* and remained the only volunteer militia in Peel for six years. In late 1862 and early 1863, six more infantry companies followed:

- *Orangeville Infantry Company*, raised by Cpt. Thomas Buckham,
- a *Brampton Infantry Company* (as opposed to the Wright's "rifle" company), raised by Cpt. Christopher Stork,
- *Albion Infantry Company*, raised by Cpt. George Evans,
- *Derry West Infantry Company* raised by Cpt. Thomas Grafton (comprised of men from today's Mississauga),
- *Alton Infantry Company* under the command of Cpt. John Knight Riddall, and
- *Grahamsville Infantry Company*, raised by Cpt. Thomas Graham.



Captain Thomas Grafton,
PAMA

In Halton, at least six volunteer infantry companies were formed. The first of these was the *1st Volunteer Militia Rifle*

Cont'd pg. 15

the Credits

HERITAGE MISSISSAUGA AWARDS

2014 Honouring Community Heritage Heroes

By Jenny Walker, Program Developer Heritage Mississauga

We did it again, thanks so much to all our sponsors, volunteers and supporters; we just couldn't do it without you!

As 2014 winds down, the glitz and glamour of the Heritage Mississauga awards *The Credits* once again brought recognition to those who have worked tirelessly to preserve and communicate their heritage and improve the quality of life for everyone in the city. Throughout the evening, 340 guests were enthralled and entertained as young people from local groups took the stage to showcase various elements of their unique cultural heritage.

Jake Dheer, Chair of the Event and Senior Operations Manager for Rogers TV was delighted to see so much cultural heritage in one place. "Mississauga has such a diverse cultural base it's great to see each unique heritage celebrated and showcased in the wider community. Our diverse heritage is one of Mississauga's best strengths; it contributes so much to the City's great quality of life. Congratulations to all nominees and winners, thanks for all that you contribute to our community".

The event would not have been possible without generous support from our sponsors. Award sponsors include: Enersource, Erin Mills Development Corp., Fielding Chemical Technologies Inc., KPMG, the Mazo de la Roche Society, Mississauga Central Lions, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Kimberly Phinney and the Vandyk Group who each had the opportunity to present an award at the event. Event sponsors were the Grand International Trading Company, Ontario Trillium Foundation, The Print Gurus, Rogers TV, and the Park Inn by Radisson.



We were also grateful to our many silent auction partners who donated fabulous gifts that contributed to the evening's success, these include: Air Combat Zone, Barefoot Wine, Booster Juice (Jeff Stephens), Cagney's Streetsville, Canadian National Sportsman Show, Chapters Indigo, Colliers International, Cuchulainn's Irish Pub, Enersource, Erin Mills Town Centre, Fielding Chemical Technologies Inc., Iris Power Engineering, Kimberley Phinney, KPMG, Lifetime Athletic, Margaret Jedlewska, Mastermind Toys (Central), Mastermind Toys (Erin Mills Parkway), Mazo de la Roche Society, Meadowvale Theatre, Mississauga Central Lions, Ocean's Fresh Food Market, Paintball Nation (Mississauga), Salmon Express, Steam Whistle Brewery, Streetsville Treasures, The Keg Steakhouse & Bar, The Erin Mills Development Corporation, The Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation and Tree of Life.

Lastly but not least, our thanks go to the 2014 *Credits* Gala Committee, the HM Board and Staff and our fantastic volunteers, thanks so much, your efforts made the event a fantastic success once again. Enjoy the holidays, get some rest and we'll see you all again in January so we can start planning an even bigger and better event for 2015.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

Jenny



The Grand Victorian Convention Centre, HM



The Credit designed by Kelly Lowe, artist in residence at the LAC, HM

Congratulations. . .



Heritage Business Leader,
John Cassan
sponsored by Enersource



Natural Heritage Award
The Riverwood Conservancy
sponsored by Fielding Chemical
Technologies inc.



Youth Heritage Award
Morning Star Middle School
sponsored by Mississauga Central Lions Club



Heritage Champion Award
Russ Pooley
presented by Heritage Mississauga
Director Douglass Hancock



**Community Heritage Award
Group**
Friends of the Museums of Mississauga
sponsored by Kimberly Phinney,
Director Heritage Mississauga



**Community Heritage Award
Individual**
Johnny Bozzo
sponsored by Andrew Forbes,
KPMP, Director Heritage
Mississauga



**Mississaugas of the New Credit Cultural &
Heritage Award**
Alexandra Kaske
sponsored by Mississaugas of the New Credit
First Nation



Modern Heritage Award
Colonial Youth & Mentors Film Project
Sponsored by The Erin Mills Development Corporation



Architectural Heritage Award
Leslie Log House Steering Committee,
sponsored by Vandyk Group of Companies



Special Lifetime Achievement Award
presented to Mayor Hazel McCallion, by
Barbara O'Neil, President Heritage
Mississauga

Regional Chair Emil Kolb, was also
honoured with a Special Lifetime
Achievement Award but was unable
to attend the event.



*Betty Ross Volunteer Award,
presented to Yvonne Carraro,
sponsored by Mazo de la Roche
Society. Presented by Fran Goddu*



*Lifetime Achievement Award
presented to Fran Goddu, by
Heritage Mississauga Director
Anthony Dimech*



*Members' Choice Award
presented to Ron Lenyk by
Heritage Mississauga Vice-
President Greg Carraro*

Celebrating Milestone Anniversaries



**Community Living
Mississauga: 60 Years**

Presenting Certificates of
Congratulations are Heritage
Mississauga Directors Luz del
Rosario, Ram Dhanjal, and Winnie
Fung with help from Her Worship
Mayor Hazel McCallion



**Carassauga Festival of Cultures:
30 Years**



Culture Philippines: 30 Years



Peel Regional Police: 40 Years

The Entertainers



**i-Guzheng Grou of Canada
YuanYin Music**



Carswell Choristers



Sanskriti Arts

A Year in Review: The Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage Project

by Hilary Walker, Outreach Coordinator

As the year draws to a close, it seems only fitting to review the achievements and successes of the *Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage* project. Generously funded by a three-year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the project works to build awareness of our city's diverse cultural heritage. During the first year of the grant, we produced two short vignettes for the Heritage Film Series, published three resource booklets, and forged a new community partnership.

Heritage Vignette Series



Producer Gabriella Bank films Faith Rivers at the unveiling of the Sacred Garden, HM

The Heritage Film Series is a collection of two-minute vignettes and 30-minute videos that examine different components of Mississauga's cultural heritage. As the official producer for the entire series, Gabriella Bank of Sanborg Productions was instrumental in bringing our ideas and stories to life. With Gabriella's assistance, we put together two vignettes that highlight the diversity of Mississauga's cultural heritage and the history of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation in our community.

The "Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage" video focuses on the beat of the city, taking a closer look at the unique dances and music that can be found in Mississauga.

Using footage from Carassauga's many pavilions, as well as scenes from the Mississauga Waterfront Festival, Rebel 2014, Italfest, Mosaic, Paint the Town Red, and Viva Pan Am Mississauga One-Year Countdown Celebration, we put together a video full of colour and rhythm.

Following the first video, the "Honouring the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation" video examines two recent Heritage Mississauga initiatives that celebrate the heritage and history of the Mississaugas. The video covers the unveiling ceremonies for our commemorative plaque in Port Credit and our Sacred Garden on Mississauga Road, and stresses the importance of recognizing the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation – past, present, and future. The YouTube links for both videos can be found in the Cultural Diversity section on our website.

Resource Booklets

Over the course of several months in 2014, we developed three resource booklets – "Flying into History: Remembering the Avro Arrow", "Tested by Fire: Remembering the Mississauga Train



New resource booklets for the "Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage" project.

Derailment", and "Mississauga Remembers: The First World War". Published with our grant partners The Print Gurus, these eight-page resource booklets are currently available to all visitors at the Grange; we will also be distributing the booklets at historical presentations and other events. Keep an eye out for online versions of the booklets – they will soon be available on our website!

In the Community with ITALFEST



Yvonne Carraro discusses her childhood at the Cooksville Brickyard with visitors at ITALFEST

We were thrilled when ITALFEST organizers asked us to be a part of their community festival at Celebration Square this summer. On a Saturday afternoon in August, staff members and our exceptional volunteer Yvonne Carraro, recent winner of the Betty Ross Memorial Volunteer Award at The Credits, set up a fantastic Heritage Mississauga display with photos and stories of Italian heritage in Mississauga. Yvonne brought the stories to life as she met festival-goers and shared her photos and experiences of growing up in the Cooksville Brickyard. This ongoing ITALFEST partnership pairs perfectly with the focus of the *Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage* project, and we cannot wait to develop more new and exciting partnerships in 2015!

Hilary

Erin Mills Town Centre – A Planned Community for the 21st century

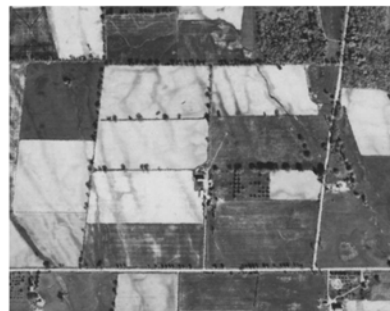
By Jenny Walker, Program Developer, Heritage Mississauga

As Mississauga reaches its 40th anniversary, it's interesting to look at the changes that have occurred; the City has grown from a collection of farms and villages to the sixth largest city in Canada. The 2011 census quoted a population figure well in excess of 713,000 and the local demographics include people from all nationalities, brought here by an international airport that, despite its name, is actually in Mississauga.

The growth of the city is no accident. People have followed jobs created by international companies who were attracted by good rents and incentives; services and infrastructure inevitably followed. Erin Mills Town Centre was built to service this local population, and after 25 years is now being revamped. As one of our supporting partners we take a brief look at its history in Mississauga and its plans for its future.



Erin Mills Town Centre gets its sphere, 2014, EMTC



The Erin Mills Lands, c1954, HM

In 1955 almost 20 years prior to the city's inauguration, land was acquired by the highly successful Don Mills Development Limited. A plan was drawn up in 1969 for the Erin Mills New Town, a purpose built community that included shopping centres, schools, entertainment centres and

places of worship. The area was expected to develop over 20 years, and in 1989 the "jewel in the crown," Erin Mills Town Centre, was completed.

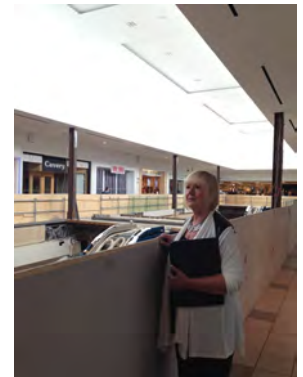


Aerial View of Erin Mills town Centre, 2014, HM

The centre was owned and operated by Cadillac Fairview until it was bought by the Ontario Pension Board in 2010 for \$370 million; the property is now managed by 20 VIC Management Inc. and the landscape is very different as the whole area continues to develop.

In 2013, a \$100 million redevelopment was announced to celebrate the centre's 25th anniversary. The renovation is now well underway, as the iconic clock tower has been replaced by a unique, giant glass sphere 283ft in circumference that can be seen from a great distance.

The proposed modernization is both ambitious and impressive. Throughout the whole process, the centre remains open for business. Vice President Nance MacDonald said, "It's important to keep things as pleasant as possible throughout the renovations. The Centre is an important part of the community throughout the year, and this is especially true at Christmas. We want to keep the public informed at all times as we move forward with this exciting phase in our development; we look forward to the next 25 years in the Erin Mills community."



*Vice President
Nance MacDonald
monitors renovations,
EMTC*

The redevelopment is expected to be completed by summer 2015, providing an enhanced shopping experience for over 500,000 customers; almost three times more than the centre's original target audience. Its position in the community is well documented. Councillor for Ward 9 Pat Saito has said, "Erin Mills Town Centre was built early in the development of the community well before most of the homes were constructed. It quickly became the focal point for the new residents and has continued to support and welcome the residents it serves. It is not only a retail centre providing many jobs to our citizens but a strong supporter of many community organizations and programs."

It is this policy of community involvement that sets Erin Mills Town Centre apart, it has always been a big part of the community and this will continue well into the 21st century.

"I will cut down the first man that ceases firing"

During the final months of the War of 1812-14 the British and Canadian forces defending the country faced an American adversary that was far better trained, equipped and led than anything Brock and his forces had faced at the start of the war.

At the same time, over two years of fighting and training had brought the various militia units, both permanent and part-time, to a level of training and professionalism not seen when they first converged on the frontier. It was also a time for the militia officers who showed the promise of leadership to shine.



Titus Geer Simons, www

One such officer was Titus Geer Simons, originally of the 2nd York militia. The primary recruiting base for this regiment was the area stretching from present-day Mississauga to Hamilton. Shortly after the start of the war Simons transferred to the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada and distinguished himself on the Niagara frontier in 1813.

The Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada was a permanent militia unit authorized by the Assembly of Upper Canada. Its mobilization helped make up for the serious lack of trained manpower that plagued the British and Canadian forces for much of the war. Many of the officers and men who joined the new Canadian regiment, like Simons, had served with local militia units. At the same time many of the local militia units, such as the 2nd York, operated by forming "flank companies" which consisted of officers and men mobilized as a group for several weeks and months at a time.

Until the early months of 1814 divisions of the Incorporated Militia of Upper Canada were deployed in Prescott, Kingston, York, and Niagara. By 1814 they had experienced battle in the Niagara campaign of 1813, during the Battle of York, as well as in the lead up to Chrysler's Farm.

In January 1814 the decision was made to consolidate, re-equip, and collectively train the battalions of the Incorporated Militia at Fort York. In response the Niagara detachment, under the command of Major Simons, began their overland march from Niagara to York with their wives and children in tow.

For all the organizational advantages that came with consolidating the regiment in a single location, the re-training of the unit in the bitter winter months of 1814 was a frustrating experience for Simons and his men. First and foremost was the fact that severe food shortages, which continued throughout 1814, prompted the Lieutenant-Governor and military

commander, Gordon Drummond, to order the women and children of the soldiers evacuated downriver to Montreal. According to historian Richard Feltoe there were 83 wives and 255 children living in garrison and dependent on members of the regiment.

To add to the frustration of Simons and his men was the fact that the demand to expand and quicken the pace of training did not seem to lessen the ongoing demand for militia to engage in physically taxing local construction projects, such as the rebuilding of Fort York, and the long distance transport, in rough weather and rugged terrain, of military material.

The unreasonable demands placed on permanent Canadian militia training at Fort York to act as construction crews and transport parties prompted the Incorporated Militia's regular army commander, Colonel William Robinson to complain in April that:

"I have made but small progress in training the militia ... hardly men enough remain to allow of the instructions of the officers in Battalion exercise."

But the fact that this permanent regiment of Canadian militia was able to endure these trials is testament to the cohesion, stamina and professionalism of the Incorporated Militia soldiers and stands in sharp contrast to the widely held assumption that Canadian militia during the War of 1812 were of questionable quality, commitment, and reliability.

Yet it was during the collective training for the Incorporated Militia at Fort York that Major Simons was involved in an altercation that would result in him being sent back to the 2nd York.

The altercation took place at Fort York during a mess dinner on Saturday evening June 4th, 1814 held by the officers of the Incorporated Militia. Initially the altercation involved the President of the Officer's Mess (essentially the host) and a junior officer who attempted to leave the function without permission. Though Major Simons initially attempted to break up the fight it appears that a taunt or challenge from one of the junior officers involved prompted Simons to challenge him to a fight where Simons struck the junior officer. Even more damning to Simons professional reputation was the fact that after the altercation he rode his horse out of Fort York without permission and could not be contacted for over a week.

Though Simons did not initiate the fight it was equally clear that, though he initially tried to diffuse the situation, he nonetheless lost his cool at some point and joined in the fight. As the senior officer present it was expected that he would take the high road and not make the situation worse. It is entirely plausible that the enormous workload, stress and trepidation (not to mention family separation) that the regiment

was enduring in the spring of 1814 may have helped to fuel tempers among both the officers and the men. At any rate the fact that Simons allowed himself to get involved, struck a junior officer, and went AWOL was enough to result in a court martial.

However, in recognition of his distinguished service, Simons was given the choice of either a court martial or resignation from the Incorporated Militia and return to 2nd York. With the bloodiest campaign season of the war set to start, the Incorporated Militia's loss became the 2nd York's gain.

A month later Simons was back in the Niagara area with the flank companies of 2nd York which now was part of the 1st Militia Brigade under Lieutenant Colonel Love Parry. On the offensive, much to the surprise of the British commanders, was a revitalized, trained and better equipped American army. More so than in 1812 the American army of 1814 was in a position to both defeat the British and Canadian Forces in the region and to stand in occupation of the land until the end of the war.

After their defeat at Chippewa on July 5 the British army fell back along the Niagara river to their fortified positions at forts George, Niagara and Mississauga. During the next two weeks through the farms and woodlands near the Niagara escarpment, Major Simons and his 2nd York, together with the other militia regiments, embarked on a hit and run skirmishing campaign against the occupying American troops. The aim of the skirmishing campaign was to keep the American army occupied, weaken its morale, and prevent it from moving freely in the countryside to collect food and supplies. Writing about the skirmishing campaign, Major Daniel McFarland of the 23rd American Infantry wrote: "Not a foraging party but is fired on, and not infrequently returns with missing numbers."

In a desperate act of retaliation against the defending militia the American army burned the village of St David's near Queenston on July 18th, 1814.

On Friday July 22nd, when The American commander General Brown decided to fall back on Queenston Heights after a failed attempt to move against the British forts at the mouth of the Niagara River, he was surprised to find that the 2nd York and other militia regiments had occupied his former positions at Queenston Heights. In a series of gun fights that lasted an entire day the 2nd York and the other militia units were forced off the Heights.

Ironically the 2nd York's most feared enemy during the skirmishing campaign were not the regular American troops but the irregular American army unit known as the Canadian Volunteers. Commanded by Joseph Willcocks, a former member of the Upper Canada Legislature, the Canadian Volunteers were local inhabitants who decided to fight for the United States. During those days, in the shadow of the Niagara Escarpment, the campaign had begun to take on the

appearance of a civil war.

However it was in the Battle of Lundy's Lane, fought on the evening of July 25-26, 1814 that Simons and his 2nd York were to see their largest single battle of the war. As part of the 1st Militia Brigade the 2nd York were fighting alongside another Canadian unit, the Glengarry Light Infantry on the British right flank.



Battle of Lundy's Lane, CW Jeffrey

Ordered to advance in support of the Glengarries by the 1st Militia Brigade commander, Lieutenant Colonel Love Parry, the 2nd York were temporarily stalled by their own commanding officer, Colonel Richard Beasley, who suddenly countermanded the order to advance and fire.

Enraged Major Simons was reported to have blurted out to the men of the 2nd York "I will cut down the first man that ceases firing" and the advance against the American lines continued. In the exchange that followed the 2nd York's Commanding Officer appears to have lost his nerve and retired from the action leaving Major Simons, the second in command, in charge of the regiment. Yet Simons was soon to be out of the fighting as the vicious exchange of musket fire in the ensuing battle was to leave him with three musket balls in his arm and chest.

Simons survived the injuries he sustained at Lundy's Lane, thanks in no small measure to his wife who frantically made her own way, baby in hand, from their home in Flamborough to tend to her husband. Although Simons remained on active service until 1815 his injuries at Lundy's Lane had cost him the use of his right arm.

With the end of the war and his active service, Simons returned to Flamborough where he was granted a disability pension of 200 pounds per annum. He also received a 670 acre land grant in recognition of his services. By the time he died on August 19th, 1829 he had successfully operated a sawmill and gristmill, had served as Sheriff of Gore, and was Colonel in the local militia.

Editor's note: although Major Titus Geer Simons did not have personal connections to historic Mississauga, many militia volunteers from our community did serve under his command. For example, at the Battle of Lundy's Lane, serving with the 2nd York under Simons were Captain William Thompson, Ensign Philip Cody, Sergeant Aaron Silverthorn, Private James Davidson, Private Daniel Greeniaus, Private Alphews Hemphill, Private Aaron London and Private Daniel Wilcox, all of whom lived in historic Mississauga.



The Murder of Rex Hylton

By Alexandra Rayner

In 1947 the Workmen's Compensation Hospital was built in Malton as a rehabilitation centre. It was specifically targeted to help workers regain the abilities they had lost in accidents, or train workers for a job that would suit their new limitations. This facility was located between what is now Terminals One and Three of Pearson International Airport. The hospital began as an experimental facility but ended up starting a new era in medical treatment. It was one of the most advanced rehabilitation centres of its era. Unfortunately, beneath the worldwide praises of this facility, the Workmen's Compensation Hospital was also the site of a stone cold murder.

Rex Hylton, a 57 year old doctor, was fatally shot with a .32 Winchester rifle on November 25th, 1955. Hylton was an Australian who was educated at the universities of Melbourne and Adelaide, but chose to live in Malton to be a part of this advanced facility. Hylton had worked at the facility for 6 years, and was well respected in the medical community. He was recognized outside of Canada for his extensive knowledge in the field of artificial limbs, and was a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. He had even served as a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps in both Africa and Holland.

Robert Martin, a 48 year old with severe mental instability, the murderer, was Dr. Hylton's patient. He had been in the Ontario Hospital for the Criminally Insane at Penetanguishene from 1940 until 1949. Upon his release he began carrying a sabre on his person for protection. The records from Penetanguishene reveal that Martin had gone to the United States to join the air force so that he could drop a bomb and kill all the people who were laughing at him. Robert Martin does not appear to have been of sound mind.

Martin was admitted to the Workmen's Compensation Hospital on September 2nd, 1955 with a broken elbow. Mr. Doyle, another patient at the facility, explained that Martin had been sensitive the week prior to the murder. He said that Martin had gotten overly upset when he had lost a game of checkers. The day before Hylton was killed he was assessing Martin's condition for dismissal from the rehabilitation centre. Hylton believed that the patient could return to work, but Martin disagreed with this assessment. Martin immediately made an appointment with Hylton for the next day at 2:00 pm. Martin arrived at the office the next day wearing a long trench coat. Before waiting for his appointment time, Martin ran into Hylton's office while the doctor was meeting with Joseph Houghton. Houghton explains how a "shot blasted past my



Newspaper Heading, *The Mirror*, Nov 26 1955

head over my right shoulder. I turned and saw the man levering a second cartridge and I grabbed the gun and pushed it and him against the wall". Had the shell not jammed in the breech of the gun Robert Martin may have killed more than one person. By the time a secretary called for medical help Hylton was already dead. Martin was found with 120 gun cartridges, 79 varying pills, and wooden spoons in his pockets. This was a strange assortment of objects, and points towards his deranged state.

Police investigators wondered why Martin was able to keep a loaded rifle in his locker. He had only bought the rifle days before the murder from Harry Murray who was the store manager at a Young Street sporting goods store. Murray described Martin as, "shy and unassuming and didn't engage in conversation". He explained that he had turned to his staff after he had left the store saying that he was, "one quiet nice gentleman".

Robert Martin committed this murder, but the question became whether or not he was fit to stand trial. For the defence, Dr. Arthur Doyle explained that Martin was a schizophrenic who had experienced vivid delusions leading up to the crime. For instance, he believed that staff and other patients at the facility were "laughing and sneering at him". Many described him as hard to get along with, but no one had suspected he would commit such a violent act. In our day it seems obvious that a man with a history of violence should be denied the right to purchase a firearm; unfortunately the gun licensing process was different in 1955. Inadequate laws allowed dangerous individuals to buy lethal weapons. It was not until 1977 that the gun licensing process included a criminal background check. The scene of the murder has since been destroyed by the construction of the Pearson International Airport. Sadly it was not just the medical community that was affected by Dr. Rex Hylton's murder; he also left behind a wife and three sons.

We were unable to find the sentencing outcomes of Robert Martin's trial. If anyone has information pertaining to this case, contact Heritage Mississauga.

Richard's Ramblings cont'd...

Company of Oakville, raised in 1861 by Captain George King Chisholm. The other militia companies in Halton were formed from 1863 to 1866. These were:

- *Stewarttown Infantry Company*, raised by Cpt. John Murray,
- *Georgetown Infantry Company*, raised by Cpt. James Young,
- *Norval Infantry Company*, raised by Cpt. Joseph Kyle,
- *Nelson Infantry Company*
- *Milton Infantry Company*, raised by Cpt. Gilbert T. Bastedo.

It appears that a marine company was also formed sometime in the early 1860s by Captain Duncan Chisholm, who was a shipbuilder in Oakville.

There are few detailed records of a volunteer militia company being formed in the early to mid-1860s in Acton, but the man who raised this company, William Allan, would later play an important role in the development of today's Lorne Scots.

With respect to the descendants of the men who served, the above volunteer companies that were formed in Halton and Peel, and across Canada West at this time, were really little more than gun clubs. Officers mustered troops infrequently, financial supporters often neglected ongoing commitment as their initial enthusiasm waned, and many soldiers left the company when fears of an invasion from the south grew ever more likely during the early days of the American Civil War.

Just before reorganization into unified county regiments in 1866, only four of the seven infantry companies in Peel (Alton, Brampton Rifle, Derry West and Grahamsville), and only four of the six Halton companies (Georgetown, Norval, Oakville and Stewarttown) were still active. The disorganization of the Canada West militia at this time was made clear in 1868 during an invasion, of sorts, was staged by Irish Americans. Militia companies that were still in place on paper when the "Fenians" invaded the Niagara Peninsula had all but vanished in function for lack of consistent support. Such was the nature of a "voluntary" militia. Battalions that still had men made arrangements to get to the Niagara peninsula by their own means, and showed up for duty in such sporadic chaos that any men with a rifle in hand were regrouped into new battalions at the battle field.

Fortunately for our side, the Fenians were even less organized and were quickly put down, but the politicians in Ottawa who were preparing Canada for its first baby steps towards independence came to the quick conclusion that the new nation's army needed a complete tear down and rebuild.

I'll save that story for next time.

President's Message cont'd...

As the year draws to a close, we're looking forward to the final 2 events of the season: **Carolling at the Grange on December 14th** beginning at 6PM and, for the Board, our annual holiday dinner/board meeting. This year the torch has been passed from hostess extraordinaire Kimberly Phinney to myself. I'll try my best to come close to her festive standards!

With Best Wishes for Happy
Holidays and a Merry
Christmas to All.....



Medical Miracles: Early Doctors and Medicine in Historic Mississauga

Part Six By Katie Hemingway

During the 1830s more and more doctors were licensed in Toronto Township to accommodate the growing community. In addition to Dr. Barnhart William Poole Crewe and John Beatty established their practises. William Poole Crewe was born in Staffordshire, England in 1797 and he received his education in London. He left England in 1833 during a cholera epidemic only to find himself in the midst of one upon his arrival in Canada. While on the ship from England he found that passengers were contracting the disease despite the use of cholera belts, red flannel soaked in turpentine and wrapped around the waist. He arrived in Upper Canada in 1834 but he was not licensed to practice until 1837. Once licensed he opened his practice in Cooksville. Over the years he acted as a surgeon for the militia and a justice of the peace. Dr. Crewe was known as the township's first surgeon and was the first to have an operating theatre in his home. Dr. Crewe's career was not as long as some of his colleagues. Sadly he died in 1861 after only twenty years in the area.

The other doctor to receive a license in Toronto township during the 1830s was Dr. John Beatty. Beatty was born in 1810 and was part of a group of United Empire Loyalists who emigrated from New York in 1819. His family cleared the land that would become Meadowvale. He attended Wesleyan Academy in New York in 1825, where he received his medical degree from the college of physicians and surgeons. He returned to Toronto Township with his medical degree and was licensed by the board in 1833. That same year he opened his practice in Cobourg. Also in 1833 he became a professor of Chemistry and Natural Science at Victoria College at the University of Toronto and held the post for eight years. He practised in Cobourg until coming back to Toronto Township in 1835 where he remained until the fall of 1844. He then returned to Cobourg and practised until retiring in 1868.

Heritage Matters

Heritage Mississauga Exhibits

Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre

Nov. 4- Jan. 23 Pat Hertzberg Exhibit

Lower Exhibit Hall

Oct. 14-Feb 17 ALFEW "Aggregation 17"

Heritage In The Community

Art Gallery of Mississauga

www.artgalleryofmississauga.com

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

Jan 11 - Sir John A. MacDonald's 200th Birthday. Celebrate this special birthday of Canada's first Prime Minister on the actual day. Learn about his life. Make a Sir John A. bookmark.

Feb 8 - Celebrating Canada's Flag. Our famous red and white flag, known throughout the world, will be 50 years old this month. Learn about its history as well as that of the Union Jack which flew at the schoolhouse. Take home a Canadian flag of your own.

Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society

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

Jan. 25 2-4 Meeting at Brampton Four Corners Library- speaker will be Kyle Neill Reference Archivist at Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives.

Mississauga Arts Council

mac@mississaugaartsCouncil.com

Mississauga South Historical Society

Meeting Dates for 2015 January 20, March 17, July 2, 1September 15, and November 17

For more information please visit our website at

<http://www.clients.teksavvy.com/~chessie/>

Mississauga Sports Council and the Sports Hall of Fame

5600 Rose Cherry Place - Suite 101,(Concourse Lobby - near the elevator), Sports Complex - Hershey SportZone, Mississauga, Ontario L4Z 4B6 Contact:

info@mississaugasportscouncil.org Tel: 905-267-3536

www.sportsmississauga.com.

Museums of Mississauga

Guided Tours at the Museums available every Sunday 1 to 4

Streetsville Historical Society

905-814-5958 mbyard@sympatico.ca

General meetings are the 2nd Thur. of the month (Feb, Apr, Oct, and Dec) 7:30 pm at our NEW venue, in the Fellowship Lounge at Streetsville United Church, 274 Queen Street South.

The archives are open on Sundays and Wednesdays from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm. Tours are available.

Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

Feb 24 7-9 Annual General Meeting and speaker

Visual Arts Mississauga

www.visualartsmississauga.com

For more Heritage Matters please contact Jane Watt at 905-828-8411 ext "0" or at info@heritagemississauga.org

Winter Nostalgia

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

Christmas – that magic blanket that wraps itself about us, that something so intangible that it is like a fragrance. It may weave a spell of nostalgia. Christmas may be a day of feasting, or of prayer, but always it will be a day of remembrance – a day in which we think of everything we have ever loved.

By Augusta Rundel

With the first deep snow of the year there is a magic in the air. At least I like to think so. There is stillness, and quiet and introspective peacefulness that falls over the natural and manmade environment alike. Each winter I look forward to that moment, when all is buried under a white blanket of snow for the first time. To me, it also speaks of renewal, hope, youth, optimism, and of the turning of the seasons. I have, over the years, wandered through Meadowvale Village, Erindale, and Old Malton after such a snowfall, enjoying the ambience and nostalgia, and making a modern photographic record.

In looking through archival images from historic Mississauga for winter scenes, it would seem that not everyone has shared my enthusiasm for photographic wanderings in the snow over time. Still, some images provide snapshots in time. I am drawn to images of young people skating outdoors, whether it is on the frozen Credit River in Port Credit, the St. Lawrence Starch Company's outdoor ice rink, on the frozen millpond in Meadowvale or at Forrester's Rink in Cooksville.



Father Christmas at The Grange, 2007, HM

Outdoor winter fun can also be seen in images of annual sleighing parties and excursions along Dundas Street, and in images of tobogganing in Streetsville and Cooksville from years ago. Also heartwarming and nostalgic are a few early pictures of Christmas-time family gatherings, Christmas tree decorating, and Christmas carol-singing.

May the beauty and spirit of the season, whether it be wandering in the first snow of the year, the gathering of family around the Christmas tree, or reflecting on the spirit of the season, the Board and Staff of Heritage Mississauga wish you, and the City we call home, a very Merry Christmas, and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.