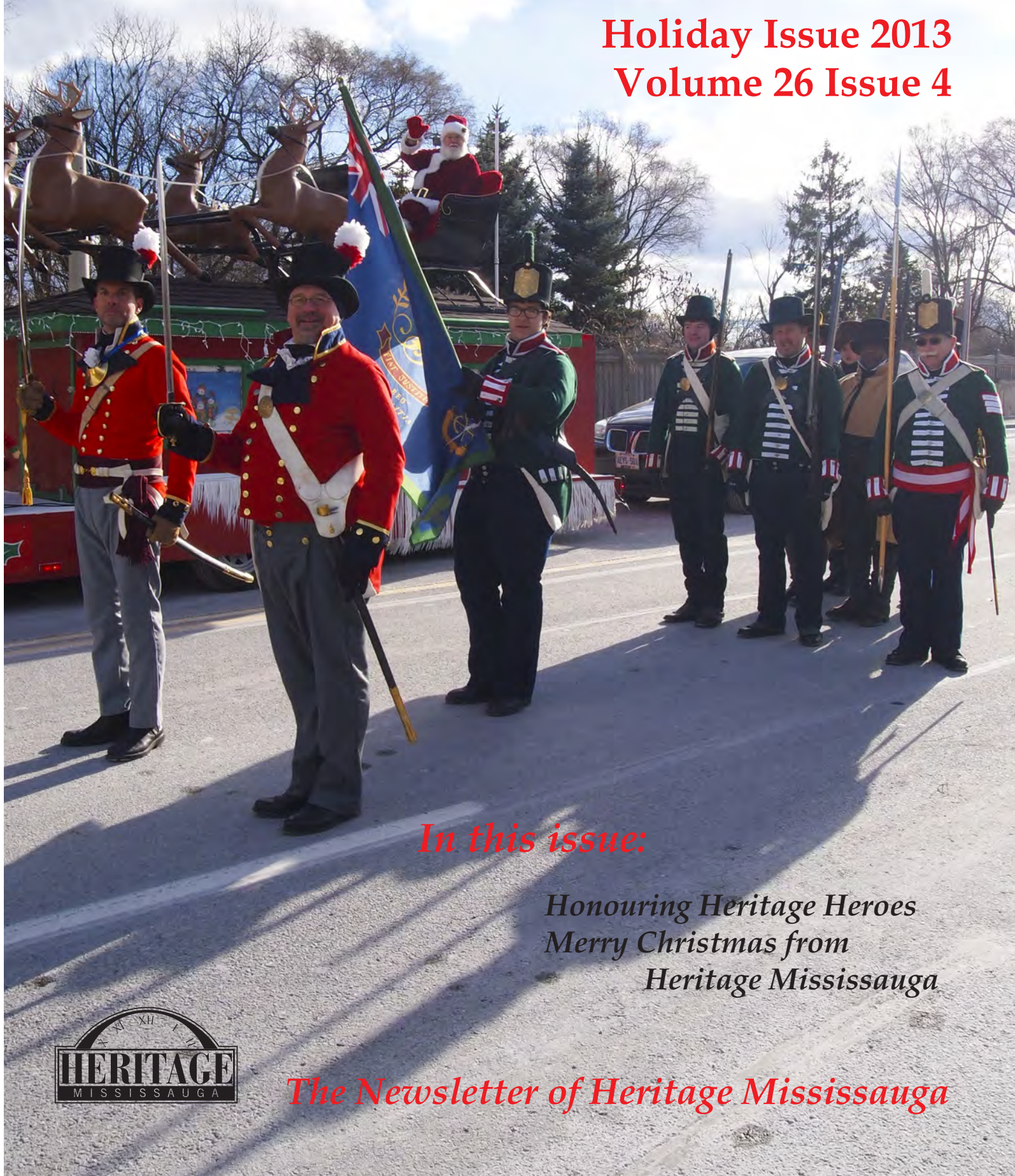


Heritage News

Holiday Issue 2013

Volume 26 Issue 4



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*Honouring Heritage Heroes
Merry Christmas from
Heritage Mississauga*



The Newsletter of Heritage Mississauga

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Cover Photo

Thompson's Company on parade with Old Saint Nick at the 2013 Streetsville Santa Claus Parade. Many thanks to the organizers of the Parade for including our War of 1812 company.

A Christmas Wish

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga



Walking into The Grange today, I have the distinct feeling of walking in the footsteps of past occupants. If only these walls could talk! Decorating for Christmas leads me to reflect and wonder about Christmases past. What must Christmas at The Grange have been like for

young Harriet, Richard and Wolston Dixie? Were stockings hung with glee on the mantle, while they gathered around the roaring fire to listen to their father's Christmas tales of St. Nicholas?

It seems most likely that the first family to observe Christmas here at The Grange was that of Dr. Beaumont Wilson Bowen Dixie, who owned the building between 1843 and 1850. Standing in our Discovery Centre Gallery today, you can almost imagine Dr. Dixie, together with his wife Anna and their young children, gathered in the parlour in 1850 with their Victorian Christmas tree on the parlour table, homespun decorations, and the glowing in the hearth, oblivious to the tragedy that would strike this young family in 1854.

You can also imagine John and Bridget McConnell, Irish Catholic immigrants from Armagh, Ireland, settling here at The Grange in 1870, and observing their first Christmas in their new home. Their older children may all have been on their own by 1870, but the Christmas gathering in 1870 would likely have still included the younger children: James, John, Patrick, Francis, and their youngest, 13 year-old Margaret.

One can also imagine the family Christmas of the Adamson family, with Henry Harvie and Olive Adamson, together with their daughter Dorothy. One delightful family picture from the Adamsons shows young Dorothy, in 1914, sitting with a teddy bear outside of The Grange. Perhaps it is fanciful, but I like to imagine that the little beloved bear was a Christmas present for baby Dorothy.

As I write this at my desk here at The Grange, the world seems quiet for a moment. No fire warms the hearth, but there are deep memories here. You can feel them. Perhaps images only in my mind; echoes from the not-so-distant past. But I cannot help but send a Merry Christmas wish to all of the past owners and their families, who have gathered here at The Grange over the past 185 years, and yes, even to "Sam".

Lastly, from us at Heritage Mississauga and The Grange today, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year wishes to all of our members, readers, families and friends, and to the city we call home today: may the childhood wonder, magic, and optimism of the Christmas Season be yours!



President's Message

by Barbara O'Neil, President, Heritage Mississauga

As I write this column, Heritage Mississauga is feeling pretty happy with the great success we enjoyed at our re-formatted annual awards celebration, "**The**

Credits", that took place November 21st at the Mississauga Grand Banquet Hall & Convention Centre. A lot of work on the part of staff (Jayme, Matthew, Jenny and Jane), Director Jake Dheer (our energetic Committee Chair and charismatic MC), and Directors, Volunteers and Sponsors too numerous to name here, resulted in a sparkling, entertaining, much-complimented and profitable evening. Please see Jenny Walker's article in this issue for all the details.

By the time you read our year-end newsletter, we will have just hosted our annual **Carolling At The Grange** the evening of December 8th. (With indoor carolling as well as outdoor singing, those of us who find huddling around the bonfire a bit chilly stayed cosy in front of our indoor fireplace with hot cider!)

2013 has been a wonderful year for Heritage Mississauga – financially, in terms of our heightened reach and community profile, and from a new programs standpoint. We are again ending the year in a strong financial position, topped off by the latest announcement this week that we have received a very significant grant from the Trillium Foundation (\$215,000 over 2014-2016 for an Outreach Coordinator and projects will include a film series, and a Cultural Heritage Guide).

Our active and fully engaged board is introducing us to a wider community audience with truly exciting new heritage initiatives which offer broad appeal. For example, **our re-enactment group, Thompson's Company 2nd Regiment York Militia**, which was founded this past winter, has been attracting a growing number of volunteers with their impressive visible presence at many local events such as the Bread & Honey Festival, Carassauga, Doors Open Culture Days, various Remembrance Day ceremonies, Streetsville Santa Claus Parade, and several formal dress events.

In 2014, we will continue to build on our annual activities including Genealogy Workshops, the Equinox Ceremony, Haunted Mississauga and community partner events. We'll also be focusing on **First World War themed activities and remembrance**, honouring the contributions of our local citizens and communicating their history to another generation of Mississaugans.

With the continued presence of Faith Rivers, Board Director representing the Mississaugas of The New Credit

First Nation and Chair of the Aboriginal Programs Committee, we are fortunate that we can look forward to a multitude of aboriginal programs in 2014 and beyond, made possible with the much-appreciated involvement and support of the Band Council and members of the native community.

You will notice this newsletter is our holiday "card" to you, our Members and Community Partners. On behalf of the Board and our Staff, I'd like personally add our very **Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday with your friends and family, and a Prosperous New Year! Every time you mark an important date or celebrate an event (whether it's Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, etc.), you're creating your own family's**

Mississauga history.

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, 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

NEXT DEADLINE: January 17, 2014

Editor: Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

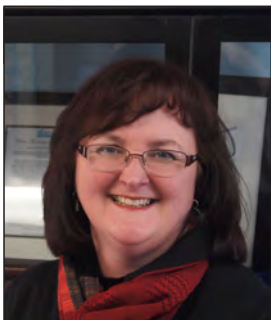
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From the Editor's Desk

by Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director, Heritage Mississauga

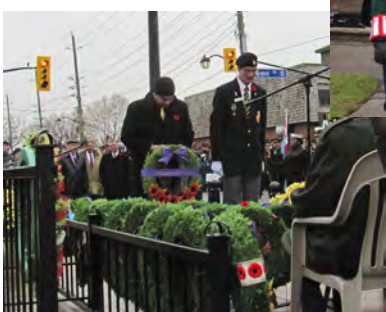
Where has the time gone? It is December and as I look back on the past year I am amazed at the work we have accomplished in such a short 365 days. This was a busy year that saw us at 189 events and programs, connecting with over 70,000 residents and visitors. My thanks to our dedicated staff of Matthew, Jane and Jenny, a supportive and creative Board of Directors, and numerous wonderful volunteers, all who have worked tirelessly to help us achieve our goals.

An extraordinary evening was had by all, as we gave credit where credit was due. If you were there you know what I am referring to, if you were not able to join us you missed a wonderful tribute to Mississauga, its residents and its heritage. *The Credits, Heritage Mississauga Awards* honoured eleven of its own in a first of its kind celebration. To all the nominees, congratulations on being chosen by your peers, friends and family to be recognized for the contributions you have made in the community. To our sponsors we are grateful to you for your partnership and belief in our vision. To our Chair Jake Dheer, committee members and our Board of Directors thank you for believing. The evening was magical, a true heritage gala and milestone for our history books. We look forward to 2014 as we recognize and honour more of our amazing community.

Over the past few years the *Mississauga Remembers* project has become an important focus of our yearly program.



Dedicated to honouring those who have participated in wartime,



their families and the important work done on the home front. Last year we placed wreaths at local cenotaphs on Remembrance Day for

the Veterans of the War of 1812. This year we participated in four ceremonies in the city. Starting on Sunday November

10th, at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 582, Thompson's Company were on hand, marching in the parade lending support to our Board Treasurer Andrew Forbes as he placed a wreath at the cenotaph. Then on November 11th, Board Director Douglas Hancock placed a wreath at the Civic Centre Ceremonies, Board Secretary Kimberly Phinney at the Port Credit Cenotaph, and Board Director Jake Dheer at the Streetsville Cenotaph. Thompson's Company were participated at all ceremonies. Our thanks to our Legions for including us in their commemoration ceremonies and honouring our Veterans of the War of 1812.

We have received confirmation of a generous three year grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation that will support a new project; **Celebrating Mississauga's Cultural Heritage**. The grant provides funding for an Outreach Coordinator, development of a film series, and vignettes, will produce resource materials and a Cultural Heritage Guide. Most importantly it will develop a communications network to connect our city's cultural community while celebrating its heritage. Heritage Mississauga gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation for this important new project.



Heritage Mississauga has reached many milestones over its 53 years and along the way we have had many heroes in our midst who have paved the way through hard work and determination, and providing opportunities to be creative with programming. They are the heritage pioneers who have supported opportunities to reach outside the box and try new and innovative projects, develop partnerships and encourage forward thinking. It is these early heritage pioneers that shaped our path, helping us to become **Mississauga's Heritage Source** and encouraged the development of programs like the Credits, Thompson's Company, a WWI Virtual Cenotaph and celebration of our cultural heritage. This year we lost three who have left there stamp firmly on the organization and we are grateful to them; Marian Gibson, Lorne Joyce and Ben Madill. There have been so many supporters over the years and we are truly honoured to have known all of them and are blessed every day for their vision, dedication and guidance. Thank you to all those who have supported Heritage Mississauga over the years, participated in our projects, programs and events and guided us over the speedbumps. Your support has meant so much.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and the best of the Season, to you and your family. Best wishes from all of us for a safe and happy holiday and a prosperous new year.



Programs Plus by Jenny Walker, Program Developer, Heritage Mississauga

Wow, What a night!

What an amazing night! Thank you so much to the many people who made it happen, we couldn't have done it without you. When we first discussed the idea of revamping our awards ceremony over a year ago, we never imagined in our wildest dreams that we would have such a spectacular night. And while there have been many challenges along the way, our team has dealt with them all. From sourcing sponsors; selling tables; organizing the entertainment and gathering silent auction items, to finding an artist to produce our unique awards and making over thirty floral arrangements for the table centerpieces; I now have a healthy respect for event planners!



Thompson's Company and Barefoot Wines, HM

Yet the event would not have been possible without our amazing sponsors; Barefoot Wines; Dr. Victoria Santiago; Enersource; Erin Mills Development Corporation; Kimberly Phinney; Mississauga Cooksville Lions; Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation; Pallett Valo LLP; Rogers; The Phinney Team; and The Print Gurus, thank you all.


We also had over eighty donated items from local businesses which translated into almost forty silent auction packages which raised thousands of dollars for our organization. Items were generously donated by: Acupuncture Shiatsu Clinic; Alioli; Andrew Forbes; Bed Bath & Beyond; Booster Juice; Canadian National Sportsmen's Show; Chelsea Restaurant; Debbie Bruce; Erin Mills Town Centre; Flavios Hair Design; Franklin House; Future Shop; Gears Bike Shop; Jane Watt; Kimberly Phinney; Living Arts Centre; Lifetime Athletic; Loblaw's; Longo's; Michael-Angelo's; Mississauga Sports Council; Oceans Fresh Food Market; Oneida; Piatto; Radisson Plaza Mississauga; Reflections of Aniko; Rogers; Sail Etobicoke; Sienna Boutique; Stanley Black & Decker; Streetsville Treasures; The Keg; Turtle Creek Books; Wine Rack and Winnie Fung. Again our thanks go out to all of you.



So as the awards fade into the background, we look forward to programs in 2014. Plans are in hand to extend the membership benefits program to include other areas of the city. Regular events like our Genealogy Days, Doors Open and Haunted later in the year will all focus on Mississauga and stories from First World War; there'll also be a brand new outreach presentation. It seems that as Canada comes of age and begins to celebrate important milestones like the bicentennial of the War of 1812, Canadians relish the opportunity to get involved. I anticipate that 2014 will be even more exciting as the world gathers to commemorate the Great War. In this respect we would love to hear from you; bring us your local stories and artifacts and we will do our best to find more information and to put them all into the context of the war. We'd especially like to discover how the city was affected by the war; who left for the front and how families coped that were left behind. How industry developed and how this was shaped by the demands of war? Who worked there? How women's roles changed and how local society was altered by the times. There's so much to learn and the centennial celebration of the First World War is an exciting opportunity for Heritage Mississauga to grow once again and support the local community in recording and celebrating their local heritage.

*Happy Christmas everyone
and have a safe, healthy and
happy New Year*

Jenny



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Todd Ladner



Remembering in Mississauga

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

Conflict, albeit often far from home, has shaped many generations of people who have lived in what is now the City of Mississauga. From the first settlers of Toronto Township to the present citizens of Mississauga, many have answered the call and served their country and Crown, both at home and abroad. Many also never returned home.

Some of our earliest settlers were veterans of, or children of veterans of, the American Revolution (1775-83), and settled in historic Mississauga as United Empire Loyalists and refugees. Within a few short years of settlement, their world was once again darkened by the clouds of war with the outbreak of the War of 1812 (1812-14). Many able-bodied men from historic Mississauga volunteered to serve with the Militia during the conflict, defending what would become Canada from American invasion.

Although armed conflict has never breached the borders of Mississauga, our citizens have been drawn to service in various theatres of war over time, including the Rebellion of 1837 (1837-38), the Fenian Raids (1866-71), the North-West Rebellion (1885), the Second Boer War (1899-1902), First World War (1914-18), Second World War (1939-45), the Korean War (1950-53), the Gulf War (1990-91), Kosovo (1998-99), Afghanistan, and countless other conflicts and peacekeeping initiatives since the 1950s.

Many of our fallen citizens, beginning with those who served in the First World War, are remembered and commemorated at the many cenotaphs, honour rolls, and cemeteries located throughout Mississauga. Many places of religious and community assembly in our city are also home to honour rolls, tributes and symbols of remembrance. In November each year, residents of our city join countless others around the world in observing and remembering the sacrifice of those who served, those who fell, and those who were left behind.

When thinking of “those who were left behind”, it is sometimes hard to come to terms with moments of tremendous upheaval and turmoil, when countries went to war and the “old order” of security and peace was shattered. At times of remembrance, we often find ourselves focusing, and rightly so, on those who volunteered, served their country in a variety of capacities during times of conflict, and those who paid the supreme sacrifice. But I often find myself thinking of life and times of those who lived through such moments of upheaval and turmoil, when the world around them changed forever. 2014 marks the centennial of the beginning of the Great War, the War to end all wars, the

First World War. But that is next year.

One wonders what life was like in Port Credit and Lakeview and their environs 100 years ago this year, in 1913. Although, in hindsight, there were dire warnings that would, in August of 1914, erupt in conflict overseas, we can now view the events leading up to war with the benefit of hindsight. In 1913 Port Credit, how many young men in the community truly understood the gravity of approaching war? Surely they could not have known, in less than a year's time, many of the community's youth would be lined up at enlistment centres eager to support the British Crown and sign up for military service.

The recruitment posters sought to entice young men to sign up, and local agencies and volunteer groups like the Red Cross, women's aid auxiliaries, and the local women's institutes would all come to mobilize their efforts in support of the war effort once war had been declared. But coming back to 1913 – surely the upheaval, the turmoil, the heartrending losses, and the erection of a cenotaph to commemorate the fallen – these things were likely not even in the mindset of the people of historic Mississauga in 1913.



The Square & Port Credit Band Stand, Stavebank Rd. looking south, c1910 location of Port Credit Cenotaph after 1925, HM

It might be romanticizing to suggest that they were blithely unaware of the rising global tensions that lead to war in 1914, but they could not have foreseen the enormous cost of the war, both in terms of financial impact and on lives lost, and as such the world that awoke on Armistice Day (November 11th, 1918) was forever changed from the world that was in 1913, before the war had begun. And there could be no going back. As we gather to observe Remembrance services in southern Mississauga, at the Port Credit Cenotaph, the Lakeview Cenotaph, or many other locations throughout

Cont'd pg 11



Richard's Ramblings

by Richard Collins

I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Richard Collins

Mississauga's First Mayor Set the Course for the Future

As far as founding fathers go, he'll never be as well known as Sir John A. Macdonald, but there are similarities between Martin Dobkin and Canada's first prime minister that may not, at first be apparent.

The difficult political situation that both men faced is the bond. Much like Confederation in 1867, the union of the formerly independent Towns of Mississauga, Port Credit and Streetsville into the City of Mississauga in 1974 was not a happy union. Voters in Port Credit and Streetsville had no desire to be part of this new Mississauga, and many of the voters who already lived in the Town of Mississauga didn't like the direction the town was going. In an election campaign where anger, disappointment and protest prevailed, candidates with no political past had a decisive advantage.

Dr. Dobkin was one of those candidates. Other than in his duties as Peel County coroner, Dobkin had no experience in municipal affairs when he ran for Mississauga's highest office in the October 1973 election. The only other real challenger for mayor was Charles Murray. "Chic" was a veteran of Township of Toronto councils and was loyal reeve to Robert Speck, who was the Town of Mississauga's only mayor – from 1968 to until his death, in office, in 1972. Speck was fighting a losing battle with heart disease over most this term, ultimately leaving Murray in charge. Deserved or not, Murray's political experience placed him in the thick of the controversy over the birth of the City of Mississauga.

The heart of the problem for Murray was legislation he had nothing to do with. Bill 138 was a proposal put forward by Queen's Park in 1972 to reform the local governments of Ontario's most populous counties. In an attempt to make the local level of government more efficient, the dozens of cities, towns and villages that made up Peel County were to be reformed into three lower-tier municipalities. The bill proposed that Port Credit and Streetsville – for the moment proudly independent – be amalgamated with the Town of Mississauga.

The counties making up today's "905" – Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Lincoln, Welland and Peel – were each formed into a "regional municipality" between 1972 and 1974. Politicians from Port Colborne to Port Perry protested the province's actions. In all counties, except in Peel, the province accepted the recommendations of county representatives on how to reform local political boundaries. Milton, for example, strongly opposed the province's proposal to amalgamate it with Oakville. Today it is a separate town within Halton Region. Burlington today remains in Halton, as the public demanded, despite the province's initial plan that it be amalgamated into a Greater Hamilton Area.

Not so in Peel. Streetsville mayor Hazel McCallion insisted that the county should be divided into four lower-tier units – Caledon, Brampton, Streetsville and Mississauga – with Eglinton Avenue roughly forming the division between the proposed City of Streetsville and a half-sized version of today's City of Mississauga. Divided this way, all four new units would be of about equal size. The Streetsville mayor's sound reasoning was rejected by the province.



Doctor Dobkin, HM

Supporting McCallion (and, no doubt, lobbying for his own position in the upcoming provincial election) the NDP candidate Michael Cassidy suggested that Tory premier "Bill Davis was influenced by his developer friends" and that amalgamation was being forced on Streetsville by "the fast buck artists of [the Town of] Mississauga". Desmond Morton, associate professor at UTM (still *Erindale College*, at the time) considered Murray, "chief custodian of Davis' impressive Peel County machine". Murray was guilty by association. When election day arrived on October 1, Murray didn't stand a chance at the polling stations in Port Credit and Streetsville.

Taxi driver Douglas Campbell and author Eberhard Matuschke were not factors in the mayoral race, but considering Dobkin's complete lack of political experience, he too should have been nothing more than an also-ran. Surely the good doctor's patients alone weren't enough votes to propel him to the mayor's office. What made this unknown candidate so popular?

Cont'd pg. 15

the Credits

HERITAGE MISSISSAUGA AWARDS

Message from the Chair - Jake Dheer

From the first notes of the Guzheng Chinese Harp to the final applause, **the Credits, Heritage Mississauga Awards** was a magical evening that honoured members of the Mississauga community for their contributions and achievements in celebration of our unique shared community heritage. The event had only the highest praise from those in attendance and as one guest noted "they were proud to call Mississauga home". Heritage Mississauga and its dedicated committee brought together the community in this first of its kind event to bring awareness of the importance of heritage preservation and to support the important work the organization does in the community. We appreciate the support of sponsors, donors, judges, attendees, nominators, volunteers and the contributions our nominees give continually to making this city we call home the best place to be in Canada. I encourage everyone to fill in a nomination form for **the Credits** in 2014. We look forward to seeing you next year. Have a wonderful holiday season, and a safe and Happy New Year.



Jake Dheer

the Venue

The elegance of the Mississauga Grand Banquet and Convention Centre was the perfect backdrop for **the Credits**.



the Award

Designed by Kelly Lowe, Living Arts Centre Resident Artist, incorporates the swirling waters of the Credit in a one of a kind piece of art.



the Entertainers

Our thanks to the support of sponsor Dr Victoria Santiago, and to the talents of our young entertainers: Mississauga Chinese Arts Organization, I Rock with THE ONE, Garry Sault, Iju Vudu Dance International, and Kim Wheatly.



With thanks to our Sponsors



Dr. Victoria Santiago

Kimberly Phinney



the Credits Album



and the Credit goes to

1. **Bernice Cunningham**, Lifetime Achievement Award, (not present) Sponsor Pallett Valo LLP, presented by Sponsor rep Ray Mikkola and Heritage Mississauga President Barbara O'Neil
2. **Mayor Hazel McCallion**, Modern Heritage Award, presented by Ginni Sethi, Radisson Hotel, Heritage Mississauga VP Greg Carraro and President Barbara O'Neil
3. **Margaret & Gord Hughes**, Members' Choice Award, presented by Heritage Mississauga Greg Carraro
4. **Holcim Waterfront Estate**, Cultural Heritage Property awards presented by Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee member David Dodaro and Heritage Mississauga Secretary Kimberly Phinney
5. **Kyle LaForme**, Mississaugas of the New Credit Cultural and Heritage Award, presented by Clynt King, Faith Rivers, Kim Wheatley and Carolyn King, Sponsor Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation
6. **Canadian Federation of University Women, Mississauga**, Community Heritage Award, Sponsor "The Loretta Phinney Team", presented by Loretta Phinney
7. **Mississauga Chinese Centre** Business Leader Award Sponsor Enersource presented by Steve Scott, Enersource
8. **EcoSource** Natural Heritage Award, presented by Heritage Mississauga Treasurer Andrew Forbes
9. **Councillor Pat Mullin**, Heritage Champion Award, presented by Heritage Mississauga Director Douglas Hancock
10. **Jenny Dale**, Betty Ross Memorial Award, presented by Museums of Mississauga Manager Annemarie Hagan
11. **Justin del Rosario & Yvon LaForteza**, Heritage Youth Award, Sponsored and presented by Mississauga Cooksville Lions

The first educated doctor to arrive in the region was William Warren Baldwin. Born in Scotland in 1775 he immigrated to Upper Canada in 1800 just as the century turned. He received his medical education in Edinburgh and upon his arrival in the province he began to practice. A year after he arrived in Upper Canada he was admitted to the Law Society of Upper Canada, he would go on to become a prominent member. Despite the fact that he opted for a career in law he never refused calls for medical help and there are numerous reports of him being summoned from the court room to go and treat a patient. There was one instance upon Dr. Baldwin's return from one of these calls that the judge enquired as to the status of his patient and Dr. Baldwin replied "I have much pleasure in informing your Lordship that a man-child has been born in to the world during my absence, and that both he and his mother are doing well." The fact that Baldwin was often pulled from the court room and the fact that he often made calls outside York and into Toronto Township demonstrates the scarcity of trained medical professionals in those early years.

It is no wonder then that people were easy prey for charlatans and quackery. There were those waiting to take advantage of people in need. Many of these were "Yankee Quacks" who came up from the United States. According to the letters of Reverend John Strachan as published in the Kingston Gazette and quoted by William Perkins Bull the quacks that plagued Upper Canada had two remedies which acted as cure-alls, opium and calomel. Calomel was already widely used by home practitioners and was one of the more toxic medicines. Opium was equally as dangerous. Both opium and calomel were used by educated physicians, however if John Strachan is to be believed those masquerading as qualified doctors used both with wild abandon in any situation whether they were necessary or not. He gives one example in his letters of coming into the sick room and seeing the "physician" give the girl a dose "as would have killed two ploughman." With a lack of qualified medical help available people became susceptible to those pretenders at great risk to their health.

There was one man in the region however who although uneducated in the field was seen as a great benefactor of the community. James Robinson Shaw, resided in Port Credit for all of his 97 years. James Robinson Shaw was a jack of all trades. Over his lifetime he had careers as a blacksmith and a grocer. His two loves however were his

community and his church. He considered himself a healer and as such took on the role of caring for the community in light of unavailability of qualified medical services. As a blacksmith he was able to forge his own tools. With these he did basic procedures such as tooth extraction and bleeding. His fee was twenty-five cents per tooth and it was probably the same for bleeding. Bleeding was a common remedy for

many ailments in the early nineteenth century. Shaw's love for his community was surpassed only by his love for his church. All of the money that he made performing these simple procedures he turned over to the Methodist church to help with repairs and pay the minister's salary.



*James Robinson Shaw,
Mississauga Library System*

Although Shaw practiced in the community long into the century, new laws were bringing about the end of unqualified medicine. In 1815 the government of Upper Canada passed a law requiring physicians and surgeons to have some form of credentials. Most often these were certificates from recognized institutions in the old world. This was determined to be inadequate and in 1818 new legislation was passed. The 1818 act established that the person administering the government had the power to appoint "five or more persons legally authorized to practice physic, surgery and midwifery in this province to be a board... to hear and examine all persons desirous to apply for a license." In addition to establishing the board the act also stated that no persons "who shall or may hereafter come into this province shall be permitted to prescribe for sick persons, or practice physic, for profit, until such person or persons shall be duly examined and approved by a board of surgeons."

Dr. J. Eric Selnes

BA, BPOE, DDS, MSc, D. Ortho, FRCD(C)

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Push on Brave York Volunteers! *By Greg Carraro, Vice President, Heritage Mississauga*

Thompson's Company, Heritage Mississauga's War of 1812 re-enactment unit, enjoyed a fruitful inaugural year in 2013!



Lt. Rob Smol, Pt. Ryan Dollimore, Captain Greg Carraro, HM

We have been very busy involving ourselves in numerous events. The Museums of Mississauga asked us to participate at their Starlight Gala, escorting dignitaries and other guests to and from. The Streetsville Bread and Honey Festival insisted we march in their parade. Afterwards we gave drill demonstrations and talked with visitors about our role reenacting the life of a Toronto Township militia from the War of 1812. We were present at the Battle of York Bicentennial commemoration and paid tribute to our local War of 1812 veterans at a plaque unveiling at Dixie Union cemetery during Doors Open Mississauga. We honoured our fallen soldiers at several Remembrance Day events throughout the city including a memorial at City Hall and in Port Credit as well as a parade and ceremony at the Cooksville Legion. At each ceremony, a wreath was laid for the veterans of 1812. Thompson's Company also participated in Haunted Mississauga, the Credits Heritage Awards and the Santa Claus Parade. The year will end with our participation in Fort York's Frost Fair in which we will be drilling in front of the public among other things.

The Ontario English Teachers Association published an article in their member's magazine profiling several of its members who are re-enactors in Thompson's Company. The magazine enjoys a circulation in excess of forty-thousand and is distributed throughout Ontario.

As the commanding officer, I would like to thank the members of Thompson's Company for their passion and commitment. They have been asked to attend not just the aforementioned events but have also been busy drilling on a monthly basis at Fort York in anticipation of participating in the Bicentennial re-enactment of the Battle of Lundy's Lane next year.

Thanks also to the staff at Fort York in particular Ewan Wardle, Anton DeGiusti and Kevin Hebib who have shown

great generosity and patience in transforming a rag-tag bunch of 21st century city boys into 19th century militiamen!

None of our activities would be possible without the continual support of the Board of Directors of Heritage Mississauga whose confidence in our Thompson's Company is steadily expanding its membership as it attracts 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 to 2014 with great anticipation. Thompson's Company has been asked to return by many of this year's event organizers and this is in addition to our regular Heritage Mississauga programming and War of 1812 re-enactments.

Huzzah, and Happy Christmas
from Thompson's Company

Remembering in Mississauga cont'd...

our city, we remember the approximately 40 young men from the Port Credit and Lakeview areas who heard the call for service during the First World War and never came home, we remember the service of their friends and comrades who did return, albeit to a place that was forever changed.

In 1925, like many other communities, Port Credit opted to remove its band shell from the town square on Stavebank Road and commissioned local resident and master craftsman Louis Temporale to design the iconic cenotaph. Temporale designed the cenotaph we see today, albeit with an idea that "The Great War" would not be the last.

Inscribed on the cenotaph in 1925 were the names of battles from the First World War and the names of those individuals who are known to have fallen from Port Credit and surrounding area. But several panels were blank, and over time these have been inscribed with the names and battles connected to the Second World War and the Korean War, and sadly, there is still space for more.

As we gather, I recall the image of the old band shell that stood on the site of the Port Credit Cenotaph prior to and during the First World War. The town square and band shell were a place of gathering, frivolity and music prior to war. During the war, it was a different place of gathering – newspaper notices of the fallen were posted here, and music was no longer played. The mood of the square must have been sombre, to say the least. With that in mind, it must have been the logical choice of location for the town to place their cenotaph, and a place for the residents of Port Credit to gather and remember – something which we continue to do today.



Genealogy Workshops at the Grange

By Jane Watt, Administrative Assistant, Heritage Mississauga

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Jane

Each year we host four genealogy workshops with our partner, the Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society. Topics are varied and have been well attended offering local genealogists the opportunity to speak with experts, helping to break down barriers and find sources. Halton Peel OGS also host speakers throughout the year and invite you to visit their website for a list of dates and topics: www.haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca.

In February we brought in Fawne Stratford-Devai to speak on "Land Records" and "Researching a Time and Place". April welcomed Ruth Blair who spoke on Irish research; "Taking Your Irish Ancestors Back Over The Pond" and "Research Your Irish Family History From A Far". In June we hosted another workshop with Fawne Stratford-Devai. She spoke on "Modern Sources: Researching The Last 100 Years" and "Ontario Land Registry Office Records". Lastly in October Ruth Blair was back with us speaking on "Scottish Research From A Far" and "Researching A Time and Place".

In 2014 we are planning 4 more Saturday workshops in February, April, June and October. The first one on February 8th will be on Researching Your WW1 Ancestors. If you have any topics which 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 for the day. Space is limited and it must be prepaid to reserve your spot. For more information call 905-828-8411 Ext. 0.

Fire strikes at the heart of "Old Cooksville"



The remnants of historic Cooksville are disappearing from our landscape. In the early morning hours of November 28th, 2013, fire broke out in a commercial building near the southeast corner of Dundas and Hurontario streets, in the heart of historic Cooksville. The row of older commercial structures along the south side of Dundas Street just east of Hurontario Street mark some of the last visible remnants of this historic village, highlighted by the 1852 former Copeland General Store building located at 14 Dundas Street East.

The building where the fire started (28 Dundas Street East) appears to have sustained the brunt of the damage and may be unsalvageable. The building was built circa 1950 and served initially as a grocery store. The fire also spread to buildings on either side, impacting the circa 1925 building at 32 Dundas Street East (a former house, later a garage, and more recently a commercial establishment), and to the building at 24-26 Dundas Street East, which is the remnant of

the circa 1869 Schiller Hotel (which had suffered a major fire of its own on February of 2004).

As of this writing, it is unknown what the fate of these buildings may be, but it appears to be another blow to the vanishing heritage landscape of historic Cooksville. Although the adjacent former Copeland General Store, built in 1852 and Cooksville's oldest surviving building (now the Min-A-Mart located at 14 Dundas Street East), was not affected, it appears that "old Cooksville" is disappearing, bit by bit, from our modern landscape.

Become a Member Membership has its benefits

Support Heritage Mississauga, call today to learn more about our benefits program.
905-828-8411 ext "0" or visit our website
www.heritagemississauga.com

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By Suzanna Elmazi

A Dubious Distinction: The Train Robbery of 1874

Nothing like this had ever happened in Canada before. On the evening of Friday, November 13th, 1874, the American Express Special, a train travelling along the Great Western Railway, left the Hamilton Railway Station at 5 o'clock in the evening, and arrived, on time, at Port Credit. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary, until the train arrived at Union Station missing some \$150,000 worth of money and valuables, and with two employees gagged and bound.

The perpetrators had worn carefully crafted disguises; white smocks drawn over the entirety of their bodies and holes cut out for their eyes mirrored the dressings of the Klu Klux Klan. One man, presumably the guard, came from the rear door of the baggage and express car. His role was to allow for no escape from the baggage and express car, either forward to the engine or to the rear and the passenger cars. Four other men arrived simultaneously through the front door of the baggage and express car. Two men seized the baggage-man Montgomery; he was gagged, tied and thrown to the ground. The other two men swiftly attacked

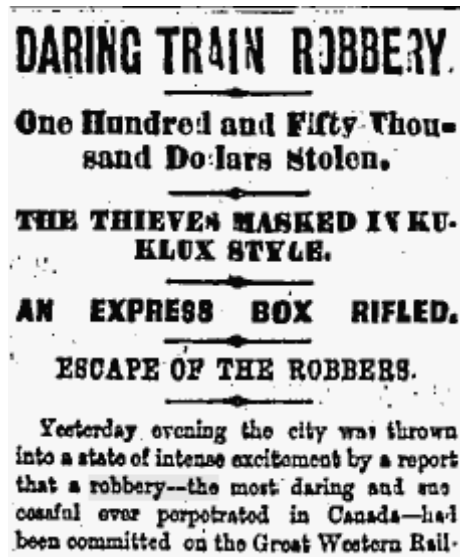
According to newspaper accounts, the thieves “took everything to their liking”.

The investigation commenced immediately, but with few clues. The baggage porter stated that he saw some men standing by the train upon its arrival at Port Credit, but had not seen them upon departure. When the train was inspected, it was discovered that the bell rope between the engine and the baggage and express car had been deliberately severed. It was suspected that one of the culprits cut the line before the train was en route, either at Hamilton or at Port Credit. As a result, no alarm could have been triggered.

Montgomery, the baggage man, and Dundon, the express manager, each had a slightly different version of the culprit's escape; Montgomery relayed that the culprits had jumped from the train as it slowed down on the outskirts of Toronto near the crossing of the Etobicoke Creek, while Dundon indicated that they jumped from the train near the Stanley Barracks (CNE grounds).

Despite a vigorous investigation, the perpetrators were never caught. The events created “more than usual excitement” amongst the public and even inspired many “heroic” citizens to aid in the search.

Toronto police detectives and Toronto Township (historic Mississauga) constables attempted, in vain, for several weeks to track down the thieves, without success, and indeed without any leads. It was believed that one man may have cut the bell rope alarm while the train was stopped in Hamilton, and that the robbers had entered the train, hidden and unseen, when the train had stopped in Port Credit, and then exited the train as it passed through the Lakeview area of historic Mississauga. The culprits were never caught, and the money and valuables were never found. The question remains: who undertook this brazen heist, the first such train robbery in Canada, and were they residents of historic Mississauga? In part and in a fashion, Mississauga has the dubious distinction of being home to the first train robbery in Canada.



Headline from *The Daily Globe*, November 14, 1873

Notice. AMERICAN EXPRESS ROBBERY.

If the Two Gentlemen who got off the last car of the Great Western Railway Train that was robbed at or near the Emigration Sheds on Friday Evening last will call at the Chief Constable's Office it will be to their advantage.

From *The Daily Globe*, November 17, 1873

the express messenger, Dundon, who was an employee of the American Express Company. Dundon had not noticed their entry into the car as he was occupied “counting his money and making up his accounts.” Dundon tried to resist but was quickly “knocked senseless”, bound and gagged, before he could retrieve his revolver. The perpetrators then seized the keys from Dundon's pocket and opened the iron safe.

Celebrating 50 Years *By Richard Collins*

The Mississauga South Historical Society made history of its own on November 14, 2013 with a party at historic Clarke Hall in Port Credit. Members, friends and guests were there to celebrate 50 years of promoting and preserving history in our city. Mississauga South MP, Stella Ambler attended. She congratulated MSHS on 50 years, and even joined as a new member.



50th Anniversary meeting at Clarke Hall, HM

For half a century, one of the main missions of MSHS has been to let people know that history doesn't have to be boring. Our events are always fun, and this meeting especially so. We recognized our past presidents. One of those past presidents, Alan Skeoch told some lively stories of MSHS long ago, with a special tribute to Pauline Duinker, Marian Gibson and Lorne Joyce, who passed away in 2013. Lorne was also a past president and Marian was our newsletter editor of over 20 years. Past president Mary Finley made a special cake for the special occasion. The evening ended with a Jeopardy-style trivia game.

Special thanks goes out to member and long-time Port Credit resident Dave Clarke, who set up a large display of historic items that he has collected over the years from across Mississauga South. We also appreciate the support of our giveaway sponsors: Derrydale Golf Club, Heritage Mississauga,

Port Credit BIA, Snug Harbour, Museums of Mississauga and Nancy Bradley.

We'll return to Lorne Park library for our January meeting. It's our AGM,

our annual Show and Tell, so bring an interesting item and a story to go with it. Bring a friend, too.



Past Presidents and relatives pose for picture, HM

Passing of a Heritage Champion Marian M. Gibson (1937-2013)

Heritage Mississauga was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Marian M. Gibson, a past president of our organization. Born in 1937 in Wales and a resident of Port Credit, Marian passed away on November 8th, 2013.



To those who knew her and shared her love of history, Marian was many things: a former teacher, for whom a passion for learning and sharing knowledge was evident to all who knew her; a free-lance writer keenly interested in local history; and a passionate volunteer extraordinaire. She was a valuable contributor to, and champion of, history and heritage in Mississauga.

Marian was an active volunteer with Heritage Mississauga since 1986, and with the Mississauga South Historical Society (she served on the MSHS executive as Newsletter Editor from 1988 to 2008). Marian was a frequent contributor (and proof-reader) to Heritage Mississauga quarterly publication, the Heritage News.

Marian contributed to her husband Eric's book, *Mississauga Moments*, sponsored by MSHS. Marian contributed the chapter on the history of Port Credit to Heritage Mississauga landmark publication, *Mississauga: The First 10,000 Years*. Marian also wrote and edited Heritage Mississauga's book *In the Footsteps of the Mississaugas*. Along with her husband, Marian gave many talks on local history and other topics to numerous groups in Mississauga and beyond.



Marian joined the Board of Directors of Heritage Mississauga in 1989, serving as President from 1992-1994 and 2002-2007. Marian worked with the Maanjiidowin Committee to bring an aboriginal celebration to Saddington

Park in Port Credit in 2005, and was a member of the Mississauga Arts and Heritage Plan Steering Committee and the inaugural Doors Open Mississauga Committee, amongst many, many other activities.

Mississauga's First Mayor cont'd....

The unpopularity of Bill 138 had certainly worked in Dobkin's favour, but it was the quick and determined position that Dobkin took on urban growth that gained him early and ardent support from voters in Mississauga, Port Credit and Streetsville alike.

Controlling Urban Development

Chic Murray had one sure vote on election day, and that was Bruce McLaughlin. McLaughlin was currently developing Square One and Mississauga Valleys, all the while dreaming of a Mississauga with one million people someday, expanding in time to a downtown core alone of one million people. He made his ambitions known in a book he could afford to self-publish on Mississauga's future as a metropolis.

McLaughlin's *100 Million Canadians* was intended to be a blueprint for urban growth, but the zeal he imparted ended up making it a play book for the anti-development campaign lead by Dobkin. It was not necessarily the fear that Mississauga would be turned into a Stonehenge of 50-storey buildings that turned Mississauga's voters against future development. Dobkin understood the public's greater concern. The heart of the matter was control of that growth. Elected politicians should dictate how a city develops, not private developers. And that's where Dobkin stood nose-to-nose against his experienced opponent.

Remembered today as Mississauga "nice mayor", who was not noted for crude political slandering, Dobkin couldn't resist using Murray's cozy relationship with sod diggers against him during the October 1973 election. In asking about Murray's campaign finances, Dobkin asked Murray at a public debate, "How much is McLaughlin giving you?"

It was a close race (18,179 to 15,209) but Murray's support in Mississauga was not enough to overwhelm the anger against Mississauga in Port Credit and Streetsville. Having a land developer and the despised premiere (from, of all places, Brampton) as supporters didn't help Murray's chances either.

Dobkin's two-year term as the first mayor of the City of Mississauga was beset with challenges. The doctor was not the only novice at the new "city" hall. Like Dobkin, councilors Dave Culham, Mary Helen Spence and Hubert Wolf were first timers. There were too many people with their own ideas on how to reform Mississauga, and the plans that each of these held didn't always align with Dobkin's plan to put urban growth under tighter scrutiny. Well-meaning but stubborn neophytes were too inflexible to let their new reformist mayor take the lead to find compromise solutions.

Still, Mayor Dobkin achieved a great deal. There are a number of peaceful, scenic reminders today of his fight to keep developers from entirely paving the city over. Mississauga acquired more parkland, spread out over a wider area, during Dobkin's one term than during the terms of any other reeve before, or mayor since. The fight to protect the Rattray Marsh, Rhododendron Gardens and the Cawthra Woodlot were amongst the most difficult to achieve of Dobkin's green legacies.

Still, Dobkin's contribution to the Mississauga of today might be best measured by the things you don't see in Mississauga today. Lost parkland and two-hour commutes would likely be the norm today if the 1973 election had put the city's future in charge of politicians cooperative, or at least complicit with developers.

The mayor from Cooksville also held fast the early bonds of Confederation forced upon all Mississaugans by Bill 138. He gained the confidence of residents in Port Credit and Streetsville. Dobkin took on the challenges of being the first mayor of a city born of contention, and managed to make the new city a better place.



Christmas Gathering, Graham Family, Meadowvale c1915, HM

Heritage Mississauga

Exhibits

Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre: Until Jan. 10, 2014

"Stories" a solo art show by Sheena Currie

Lower Exhibit Hall: Until Feb. 28 2014 ALFEW-Aggregation 13

Events

Feb. 8 10-3 Genealogy Workshop speaker will be Ruth Blair, topic is Researching your WW1 Ancestor

Community Matters

Art Gallery of Mississauga

www.artgalleryofmississauga.com

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

Jan. 12 1-4 Sir John A. MacDonald! Come and learn about Canada's First Prime Minister. Help to celebrate his birthday January 11!

Feb. 9 1-4 Valentine's Day! Learn about the history of Valentine's Day, read and listen to some Valentine stories, then make a card for your special Valentine!

Mar. 9 1-4 Think Green! Celebrate everything Green from Shamrocks to the green grass sprouting (we hope!) Do you have a green thumb?

Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society

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

Jan. 26 2-4 Brampton Four Corners Library, Marian Press "Googling for Genealogy"

Feb. 23 2-4 Oakville Public Library, Sandra Joyce "The Street Arab-The Story of a British Home Child"

Mar. 23 2-4 Brampton Four Corners Library, James Thomson-"New Developments in English Genealogy"

Mississauga Arts Council

www.mississaugaartscouncil.com

Mississauga South Historical Society

Jan. 21 7-9 Lorne Park Library, Annual General Meeting and Show and Tell

Mississauga Sports Council www.sportsmississauga.org

Museums of Mississauga

Feb. 17 1-4 Family Day at the Museums.

Mar. 8-16 Maple Magic: Maple Syrup Festival
Weekdays 12-4, Weekends 10-4

Streetsville Historical Society

905-814-5958 mbyard@sympatico.ca

Trafalgar Township Historical Society

Feb. 25 7-9 Annual General Meeting and speaker to be announced.

Visual Arts Mississauga www.visualartsmississauga.com

Did You Know? The Sound of Sleigh Bells along Dundas Street



Winter sleigh rides along Dundas Street, in our not-so-distant past, used to be a favourite recreational activity in our villages and towns of yesteryear. In February of 1896, a Sunday School sleighing party from St. Peter's Anglican Church travelled down the Springbank Road (Mississauga Road) to Port Credit and then along the Lakeshore Road to Mimico and back. In 1898, another sleighing party took a merry group of young people along Dundas Street to Summerville. In 1901 there is a record of a group of young people who travelled to the newly opened Eldorado park grounds (in Brampton). In 1907 a group of young people from the Methodist Church in Cooksville



Sleighing Party crossing Dundas Street Bridge over Credit River, Erindale, c1908, HM

travelled by a sleighing party to attend a Christmas pageant in Streetsville. In 1915 the Annual Sleigh-riding Party of St. Peter's Anglican Church took five sleighs of young people to a Christmas play in Port Credit by way of Cooksville, where they stopped for refreshments at the old Cooksville House Hotel. Not to be outdone, young people from the Erindale Methodist Church took annual winter sleigh trips to Oakville and back. As author Verna Mae Weeks' recounts in her book *Erindale: the Pretty Little Village*, "It was said that, with everyone singing, the sleigh bells ringing, the girls all giggling and screaming, and the rest all thumping their feet on the bottom of the sleigh, the ride would be sure to be a most enjoyable one." After 1915 mention of sleigh-riding parties fades from the newspapers. One can only surmise that the First World War may have played a roll in the diminishing of these events of social gathering and merriment, but in the years following the war the mass arrival of the automobile no doubt play a significant role in the decline of this historic pass-time.