



# Heritage News

*Serving the Community for over 50 Years*

Summer 2011  
Vol. 24/Issue 3

## Inside...

President's Message	~ 2
The Editor's Desk	~ 3
The Darker Side	~ 4
War of 1812	~ 5
Mississauga's Name	~ 6
New Hire at Heritage	~ 7
City Events	~ 8
Heritage Updates	~ 9
Veterans Memorial	~10
Historical Societies	~11
Museum News	~12
In Memorium	~13
Heritage Matters	~16

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Grangestock  
Music & Art Festival  
Sunday August 21st  
11am-5pm at "The  
Grange"**

**Meadowvale Village  
175th Anniversary  
Saturday  
September 17th  
10am-4pm**

**Doors Open  
Saturday October 1st  
10am-4pm**

**Haunted Mississauga  
Friday October 21st  
7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30**

## Meadowvale Village: A Question of Dates and Founding the Village

*By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga*

*Meadowvale Village marks its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2011, acknowledging 1836 as the "founding" of the village. Our first story in this series looked at the arrival of John Beatty and the first wave of settlers in the early 1820s to the arrival of John Simpson in 1837. This story looks to the founding of the village proper, and the early growth of the community. Led by Meadowvale Village residents today, Meadowvale Village will celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available through our website closer to the event.*



Many stories and published articles on the history of Meadowvale Village suggest an establishment date for the village of 1836. The modern (albeit heritage-inspired) signs that welcome you to the Meadowvale Village Heritage Conservation District also proclaim the founding date of 1836. The origins for the date appear as early as 1904 in a publication entitled "A Souvenir of the Village of Meadowvale-on-the-Credit" by Harry Spiers. Another publication, written in 1922 for the "Meadowvale Old Home Rally" by the Meadowvale Women's Institute, also referenced the 1836 date. However, neither clarify its singular importance.

The "founders" of Meadowvale Village are largely agreed upon to be John Beatty, James Crawford, John Simpson and Francis Silverthorn, with Simpson often being referred to in local narratives as the "father" of the village proper as he was not only a prominent land owner and mill-owner, but he also donated land for the Methodist Church and schoolhouse at the corner of Second Line West and Old Derry Road.

Between 1833 and 1841, "Squire" John Beatty's large land holdings were purchased by James Crawford, who in turn sold these properties to Aaron and Francis Silverthorn between 1845 and 1852. It was Crawford, followed by Silverthorn, who established the strong milling traditions of Meadowvale Village, and laid the framework for the village that would begin to emerge after 1836.

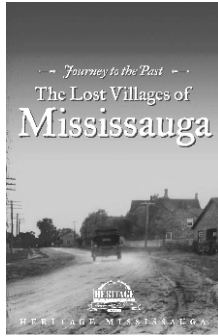
The village streets and lots were surveyed for subdivision under Silverthorn's ownership on July 1st, 1856 by Bristow and Company from Toronto. In this sense, 1856 marks the physical establishment of the village proper with residential building lots. However, there are surviving houses in the village that predate this time period, with the earliest surviving dwelling believed to be at 1125 Willow Lane, and is believed to have been built by Beatty circa 1825. Several other buildings are believed to date to the early 1840s, supporting the understanding that a village was in process of establishment prior to the formal survey of 1856.

## President's Message

By Barbara O'Neil, President

### Heritage In The Summer, In The City

Summer is a perfect time to explore the city with a couple of Heritage Mississauga's walking tour brochures in hand. Or, if the sidewalks get "hotter than a match head", it's a perfect time to find some shade and relax in a Muskoka chair with a cold drink and a copy of *The Lost Villages Of Mississauga*.



Since our last newsletter, Heritage Mississauga organized a sold out bus tour in April, and due to popular demand, a second tour in June. Many thanks to our expert historian, Matthew Wilkinson, for leading both tours to different heritage attractions across our city.

In May, we held our 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting. This was an opportunity to look back on the significant successes of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year: the Maanjidowin Festival that attracted 10,000 visitors last July, the record amount of grant and donor money received from multiple sources, and the growing number of participants who attended our community events throughout the year. Members also approved a number of changes to our Constitution & By-laws at the AGM, including a provision for an aboriginal Board director, to be appointed by the Mississaugas Of the New Credit First Nation.

### Departing & New Directors

As we welcome several new directors on to our board, I want to acknowledge the contributions of 3 directors who are departing: Arthur Dias, Scott Mair and Josip Milcic, who have served for 3 years, 6 years and 3 years, respectively. Arthur, a local heritage buff and writer, has served several terms with HM. Scott has been our Treasurer, an enthusiastic volunteer at many events, and a co-chair (and sometimes guitarist) of Grangestock. Josip is a practicing local architect and acted as a committee judge to assess nominations for the Cultural Heritage Property Award, presented at the Heritage Awards Evening each year. Thank you and best wishes to Arthur, Scott and Josip!

### Joining the board are the following new directors:

**Ram Dhanjal:** Ram holds a Bachelors of Commerce and works with the Royal Bank in Regulations & Compliance. A past Zonta member, Woodlands High School parent council co-chair, and co-chair of Mississauga's Diversity & Immigration Task Force, she speaks four languages. Ram and her family are long-time residents of Mississauga.

**Magno (Mani) Faustino:** Mani has his BSc Arch MRAIC, is an Intern Architect OAA and works with Graziani & Corazza Architects. He has both Canadian and

international experience in architecture, including lecturing in architectural design history. Mani is a proficient desktop designer, and volunteered with HM to write architectural style descriptions of proposed heritage houses in the West Mineola neighbourhood.

**Leslie Fernandes:** Leslie is a Certified Management Accountant and holds a LOMA-FLMI US designation. Currently a manager with Sun Life Financial, Leslie has international experience in finance and a keen interest in history and genealogy.

**Kim Phinney:** a licenced sales representative with Royal LePage, Kim is part of Canada's #1 real estate brokerage in 2010, The Phinney Team. Her career in real estate followed 14 years in Human Resources with a major public utility. Kim studied Social Science at York University, and holds various business certifications. A devotee, renovator and past owner of heritage homes, Kim assists many local charities and sports teams.

### What Did The Mayor Say?

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Heritage Luncheon, with Mayor Hazel McCallion as our guest speaker. Her Worship made it to the Glen Erin Inn, from a morning conference in Niagara Falls, to share her thoughts on the city's heritage with an audience of business and community leaders.

*Cont'd pg. 12*

#### Board of Directors 2010-2011

Barbara O'Neil, **President** Greg Carraro, **Vice President**  
Meriel Simpson, **Secretary**

Luz del Rosario, Ram Dhanjal, Jake Dheer, Magno Faustino,  
Leslie Fernandes, Don Hancock, Douglas Hancock, Kimberly  
Phinney, Stace LaForme, Councillor Katie Mahoney

**STAFF** Jayme Gaspar - **Executive Director**,  
Jenny Walker - **Program Developer**, Jane Watt - **Administrative**  
**Assistant**, Matthew Wilkinson - **Historian**

**HERITAGE NEWS** is a publication of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc. The Foundation (est. 1960) is a not-for-profit organization which identifies, researches, interprets, promotes, and encourages awareness of the diverse heritage resources relating to the city of Mississauga. The Foundation acknowledges, with thanks, the financial assistance of the City of Mississauga, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Department of Canadian Heritage - The Heritage Canada Foundation, Community Foundation of Mississauga, Canada Summer Jobs, the Ministry of Culture, Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, Peel School Board and Career Essentials which, together with its members, donors, sponsors, and volunteers, help to preserve Mississauga's heritage in its many aspects. Articles, contributions, comments, advertisements, and letters to the Editor are welcome. Please contact us at: Mississauga Heritage Foundation, 1921 Dundas St. W., Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1R2, phone: (905) 828-8411 or fax: (905) 828-8176, or E Mail: [info@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:info@heritagemississauga.org). You can also visit us on our Web page: [www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com) **NEXT DEADLINE: AUGUST 31, 2011**

Editor: Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director  
Content: Matthew Wilkinson  
Layout & Typesetting: Jayme Gaspar

**Contributors:** Richard Collins, Jayme Gaspar, Milan Gocmanac, Zofia Krivdova, Nicole Mair, Stephanie Meeuwse, Mississauga Library System, Stephanie Myhal, Barbara O'Neil, Paola Poletto, Jenny Walker, Jane Watt, Jean Watt, Matthew Wilkinson  
**Photography:** Culture Division (COM), Heritage Mississauga, Museums of Mississauga, Toronto Star, www  
**Printing:** Briers Design & Print Inc.

## From the Editor's Desk

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

Communicating Mississauga's heritage is an ongoing part of the work that Heritage Mississauga does. We publish books on our heritage, have exhibits at events and in community centres as well as the Heritage Hallway at the Civic Centre, and support tourism with walking tour brochures. In an effort to reach more of the community we felt that a heritage guide would be an effective tool to tell Mississauga's incredible heritage story. In March, Heritage Mississauga applied to the Community Foundation of Mississauga's Pendle Fund to help us publish a pocket guide titled "Discovering Mississauga's Heritage". Not only a useful guide for long-time residents who want to know the facts about our city but for newcomers this guide will be invaluable, helping to give them a sense of place, a connection to their new home.

The Mississauga heritage guide is a small pocket book approximately 40 pages, that will give the user a map of the city with descriptive pages on each of the original villages. It will also include major milestones that have shaped Mississauga into the 6th largest city in Canada. Events like the Mississauga Train Derailment, industry growth including: mills along the Credit River, fishing, stone hooking, farming and shipping. It will inform the reader how Mississauga became a City and who its leaders have been.

Heritage Mississauga gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the **Pendle Fund at the Community Foundation of Mississauga**, a registered charitable public foundation serving the people of Mississauga.



The Community Foundation of Mississauga has been matching acts of caring with community needs since 2001. Working with donors and the broader community, the Foundation invests in building strong and resilient places to live, work and play. By providing effective and efficient endowment options for donors, the Foundation is creating a lasting legacy of community vitality. To find out more about the Community Foundation of Mississauga, visit the web site at [www.CFofM.org](http://www.CFofM.org)

### Trivia Question:

*Do you know about the elephant bones buried in Mississauga?*



*Answer page 15*



**Sunday  
August  
21st  
11am-  
5pm**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**  
**Old time rock and blues of THE JERRY STIFF BAND**  
**PIZZA PIZZA BOUNCY CASTLE & children's activities**  
**Arts & Crafts Show & Sale**  
**Enjoy BBQ & Beer from the Old Credit Brewery Co.**  
**AT THE GRANGE 1921 DUNDAS ST. W.**  
**(CORNER OF SIR JOHN'S HOMESTEAD AND DUNDAS ST. W.)**

## FREE ADMISSION!

**In Our Next Issue.....**

**Memories Of A  
Library Bouncer:  
Celebrating Central  
Branch's 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary**



Don Mills, Chief Librarian of the Mississauga Library System, began his career as a "library bouncer" with the Vancouver Public Library. Two decades ago, he moved his young family to Mississauga to oversee the growing library system and the creation of the city's new Central Library, which officially celebrates its **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Among other upgrades, recent visitors may have noticed the addition of a glass pavilion which connects the library to the City's newly-completed Celebration Square and its busy schedule of activities. In our fall issue read about the story behind the growth of one of the busiest library systems in North America, and the library that annually loaned more books than any other library in Canada!



# The Darker Side: The Streetsville Laundry Murder

By Nicole Mair

On the evening of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1910, Miss Mabel Graydon left her home in Streetsville to walk Max, the family's setter dog. As she passed by the laundry shop recently acquired by Joe Cong (alt. Chong, Gong), a Chinese man who moved to Streetsville from Toronto three months prior, she was unsettled. Lounging there outside the shop she saw two unfamiliar men. When she was returning from the walk around thirty minutes later, the men were not immediately visible. The dog, supposedly sensing danger, began to run and bark at the shop, attracting the attention of the strangers once again. Fearful of the attention, Miss Mable Graydon rushed back to her home, directly across from the shop, bolted the door and closed the blinds.

Later that evening, Mabel, still concerned over the safety of herself and her neighbour checked once again on the laundry shop. At that time she saw that the door of Cong's house had been left wide open. Not long afterwards she heard his door slammed shut and bolted closed from within. She heard a scream, she saw the lights go out, and there were sounds of a scuffle and struggle from within the house across the way.

Her fear peaked once again, Mabel and one of her sisters (likely either Miss Hattie Graydon or Miss Mysia Graydon) each ran to one of the homes of their neighbours, Mr. James Kee and Mr. O.R. Church, and waking them from their beds, insisted they go inspect Mr. Cong's house.

Both Church and Kee agreed to the requests of the Graydon sisters and went over to the laundry shop to investigate. Kee walked around the house a few times, seeing nothing out of the ordinary. After awhile he went up to the window and glancing in saw a man with a Christy hat and a dark complexion, who he took to be Cong. Church also walked around the house, but his view through the window was obscured by a red curtain and he could see nothing. Kee and Church seeing each other there agreed they could neither hear nor see any signs of an altercation. So they left not wishing to disturb their neighbour any further.

The next morning, the Graydon sisters still suspicious from the events of the previous night, were keeping watch on Cong's laundry shop. They did not see a fire lit from within their neighbour's house, and another villager noticed that

the shop had not opened at its usual hour. The Graydons immediately went to report what they had seen and heard to the reeve of Streetsville, Mr. W. Morgan. Morgan and the constable, William Sexsmith, went to go investigate the house. They found it in much the same state as Church and Kee had seen it the night previous. All the doors were locked and everything appeared normal, aside from the shop still remaining closed. On further inspection, however, they found that a window at the back of the house, though closed, had not been locked. This would later lead them to believe it was used by the perpetrators to escape the scene.

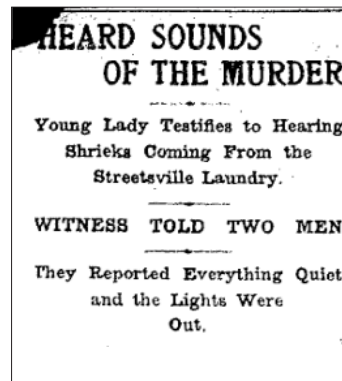
Inside the house the investigators found the sight of the scuffle that the Graydon sisters had heard the night before. There was blood pooled on the floor, bloody fingerprints on the walls, the furniture had been upturned and left in disarray and in the center Joe Cong lay huddled and bleeding with a wound on the back of his head. On the floor nearby were two ordinary looking sticks, later discovered to be the two missing rungs from a ladder at the back of Cong's house. Cong who had lay wounded for twelve hours was still alive when Morgan and Sexsmith arrived, although in shock and unable to move or speak.

There was \$100 believed to have been found missing from the store, however, a small stash of \$42 was found undisturbed. This led the investigators to believe that Cong had been beaten and left for dead because he would not tell the intruders where his savings were hidden.

As the day wore on, more stories about the two mysterious strangers began to surface. James Bailey, the butcher, told the authorities he had seen the two men the day before. The pair had been lounging outside his butcher shop on Wednesday and Thursday morning, the day of the crime. On Thursday the two men had followed one of Bailey's regular customers into the shop. The customer had ordered a specific cut of veal and came to pick it up. Bailey went into the fridge to get it. After the customer had left, the two men requested the same cut. Bailey, already suspicious of the men, refused to get it for them, fearing they meant to shut him in the fridge and rob his shop. Eventually the men purchased a different cut of meat and left without incident.

Bailey offered a detailed description of the two men, declaring he would recognize them in an instant. The first man was short and stout, with a black coat and vest, odd trousers, a black moustache and a black Christy hat. The second man was tall and wearing a suit of light clothes.

Another witness, Joe Thomas, an eight-year old Streetsville resident, saw the two men hanging around the village while he was walking home the same day. He told the authorities, "One of the men asked where the laundry was. I did not let on I heard him and passed on." The men were also seen at Kumph's hotel, at the library, and they even sold three razors to the village barber for one dollar.



Toronto Star Headline, June 14, 1910

Cont'd pg. 15

# Fighting For the Frontier: The War of 1812 Remembered: Militia Mustered

By Milan Gocmanac

Individuals from Toronto Township had assembled in a militia that would see service across Upper Canada. The majority of those individuals were farmers, and therefore had minimal military training. Toronto Township members were spread out throughout the war, however there were two notable battles that they were present in. The first was the battle of Queenston Heights, which saw the death of Brock; the second was the Battle of Lundy's Lane. Through land records from Toronto Township the names of individuals that owned land from 1806 to 1812 became available. That list was cross referenced with muster rolls, land grants, service awards, militia pay rolls and the list of individuals that were involved in the war became clear. In total there were 6 casualties, some due to battle others due to illness, and 2 deserters. One of which deserted to the enemy, there was no such information on the other deserter. The names of the militiamen that served in the War of 1812 from Toronto Township are available on the Heritage Mississauga Webpage. The names in italics are individuals that died either in battle or of disease, or cold related to the war. In bold is an individual that had deserted to the enemy.

It is evident that the average desertion rate of the Upper Canadian militia was not at all consistent with the desertion rate of individuals from Toronto Township. The fact that so few had deserted suggests that individuals from Toronto Township had a greater sense of loyalty to the Crown than individuals in other regions of Southern Ontario. Furthermore many of the surnames are the same in this list, this is because the war effort involved families. It was often the case that family members served together during times of battle, this was to boost morale and to avoid desertions. It must also be noted that many of the militiamen from Toronto Township served multiple times throughout the war. It was Brock's philosophy that only the most able-bodied, and loyal men were to fight. It can therefore be inferred that the capability of the Toronto Township militiamen was not just up to par, but rather exceeded expectations.

The battle of Queenston Heights was fought on October 13, 1812 and consisted of approximately 1,300 British Regular troops and Militiamen. Isaac Brock commanded the British contingent; it was the first major battle of the war. The Toronto Township militia was present at this battle, in fact one of the casualties Cornelius Oliver Thompson had died during this period (historical records indicate October of 1812), from illness sustained while on duty. After this battle one of the individuals that served from Toronto



Milan Gocmanac

Township had deserted Henry Gable Senior, however he was an older individual that fought on the British side during the American Revolutionary war. He deserted after the battle yet his son Henry Gable Junior, remained with the military. Gable Sr.'s desertion was unlike a typical desertion because of his age, he did not desert to the enemy, instead he just stopped showing up for service. This was likely due to his age and not his loyalty to the Crown, there is also no evidence to suggest that any reprimand was given for this action. Although this does classify as a desertion one cannot put Gable Sr. in the same category as those that had deserted to the enemy. A total of seven militiamen from Toronto Township have been verified to have been involved in the battle of Queenston Heights.

Frederick Starr Jarvis, William Marckle, Timothy Street, Thomas Robbinet, Ryer Reynolds, Amos Willcox and Henry Gable Senior were those individuals. Jarvis received an award for his bravery and service, while the others had not. Through family history records it has been confirmed that Jarvis was promoted to

Captain for this battle because the actual Captain was ill; he was just 17 years old at that time. Queenston Heights was the first major battle of the war and it can be argued that it had set the tone for the war. This was not a situation where neither side suffered significant damage, instead there were great casualties including Sir Isaac Brock. It has been suggested that Brock had led a rather fool-hearty charge while on horseback and was shot in the chest. Historical records have indicated that Jarvis was near Brock at that time. There were numerous individuals, however, that had claimed to be near Brock as well, those are very difficult to verify.

Queenston Heights saw the deployment of the militia, however it was not a complete deployment. Some individuals had been called up for service before the battle and had been sent home just before fighting had broken out. The five militiamen mentioned above are the ones that have been confirmed to have been present through muster rolls, and the pay rolls of militiamen. The battle was a strategic victory for the British forces, but it also caused a heightened sense of awareness that this was a genuine war. Prior to the outbreak of the war many individuals, militiamen included, were rather indifferent to being governed by the United States or Great Britain; however because of the casualties inflicted, the mood had started to change. This was furthered by reports that American soldiers were galvanized by the prospect that they could loot villages that had been captured.



War of 1812 re-enactment, [www](http://www.warof1812.com)

Cont'd pg. 10

# How Mississauga Got Its Name

## Part 7 of 8: "Anything but "Mississauga"

By Richard Collins

The name "Mississauga" was overwhelmingly popular on the streets; and it was overwhelmingly unpopular in the council chambers.



Richard Collins, HM

In 1965, the people of Toronto Township were invited to offer their opinions on what to name the future town. Council finally narrowed the public's list of 889 ideas down to four – "Malton", "Mississauga", "Peel" and "Sheridan". Of these, Councillor Chic Murray liked Sheridan. Reeve Robert Speck liked Malton. Nobody liked Peel. Past reeve Mary Fix still liked "Toronto".

As for "Mississauga", Councillors saw it as old . . . outdated . . . from the past. During the discussion over "Mississauga", an unnamed (fortunately for him or her) Councillor urged fellow councilors to reject "Mississauga" opining that, *"the Indian tribe of that name which had lived in the area has contributed least to it"*; one of the more regrettable moments in Mississauga's political history.

So "Mississauga" appeared to be out. But what about those that were in?

Sheridan Park was the site of a modern research centre presently under construction in the southwest end of the township. The 18th-century playwright aside, "Sheridan" represented innovation . . . progress . . . and potential tax dollars from high-tech companies. Speck had just recently returned from Europe on a mission to sell the soon-to-be town as the place to set up a Canadian branch office. Sheridan was "all business" and that's just what the pro-development council was looking for.

On this point, one Councillor declared, *"Sheridan Research Centre [sic] would become known around the world"*.

This councilor also noted that *"Malton is already known worldwide"*, although one could easily challenge his claim that any '60s jetsetters even knew they were landing in Malton when their plane touched down at a place called "Toronto International Airport".

At the March 22, 1966 council meeting to prepare for the upcoming meeting with the Ontario Municipal Board, Councillors agreed to ignore the results of the public poll and go ahead with the plan to present "Malton" (ranked 32nd in the public poll) and "Sheridan" (ranked 12) as the slickest and most internationally recognizable possibilities.

But council set themselves up for a fight with their own constituents.

Councillor Cam Pickell insisted that *"we [the Councillors, not the public at this stage] should have the opportunity to vote on more than two names"*, eliciting the resulting non sequitur from Councillor Murray; *"Why don't we start all over again with 800-odd names"*.

The rift in council spilled out onto the streets and into the newspapers. Elmer Wright, who had previously expressed his disappointment over the requirement that "Port Credit" not be submitted, let his emotions get the better of his logic over the ongoing debate on who should decide the future town's new name. *"Should we just call ourselves "Q", Ontario and keep the world guessing what THAT means!"*.

In this vein, an obviously frustrated Cooksville resident, Fred Snyder exclaimed, *"Disneyland would attract tourists."* (Someday, I'll have to go through the library's microfiche files of township council records to see if "Q" and "Disneyland" were among the 889 suggestions.)

The name battle was even fought out in the schools. Teachers at Whiteoaks Public School in Clarkson asked students for their opinions on "Mississauga".

Student, Mary Jean Duncan insisted, *"the best name is Mississauga because the Mississauga Indians were the first inhabitants"*. But Ted Bryant challenged his classmate's youthful romanticism, noting that *"nowadays people look toward the future, not the past"*.

At least everyone in the class agreed on Bryant's concluding statement. *"We hope that Toronto Township does get a new name . . . and a good one."*

And as far as good names go, "Mississauga" was so far ahead of its closest competition in the public submission stage, that there was never any doubt about the winner, democratically. The problem with democracy, in this case, was that it didn't meet the council's own agenda, which favoured "Malton" and "Sheridan".

Displaying the kind of distant attitude citizens have come to expect from politicians, Councillor Bob Harrison announced that the public submission process, *"was never intended to be a popularity contest. We did not indicate that the most popular name would be accepted"*.

Of course, this response leads directly to the logical question: If it wasn't a popularity contest then why did the township bother to invite public opinion in the first place?

"Mississauga" supporter, Ben Turner so disliked the name "Sheridan" and its connection to the pro-American British playwright that he took his opposition to the streets of his Clarkson neighborhood. Ben and three friends formed the "Committee for Mississauga". Their movement caught momentum and in the weeks leading up to the December 9,

*Cont'd pg 15*



## Joining Heritage Mississauga Team

*By Jenny Walker, Program Developer*

It was after what seemed like an eternity that I finally started work at Heritage Mississauga in the midst of preparations for both the AGM and Carassauga; the office was a hive of activity as we prepared for both events in addition to the normal day to day activities. However, despite the extra pressure, Jayme, Matthew and Jane all made me feel so welcome and this was extended by members and the Board who joined us for the AGM; it was so nice to meet everyone. So now that I am installed as the Program Developer, I thought I'd introduce myself and give you a little insight into my interesting days at work.



*Jenny Walker, HM*

My heritage is British, and to break it down even further I am descended from German Pork Butchers who were economic migrants to the North East of England in the middle of the 19th century. My family and I, (that's my husband, three teenagers and a cat) immigrated to Mississauga 5 years ago after we came on holiday and bought a house. It was taking forever for the government to let us in so I transferred my degree to UTM and came in as an international student in 2006. To cut a long story short, we became landed immigrants and I graduated in June 2010 with a History specialist degree and finally I got back to work.

For the best part of a year that entailed working for TD Bank which had been my profession in England in my previous life. While I was happy working at the bank, it wasn't making good use of my degree and it appeared that all that time, effort and money had been in vain. So when Jayme started to mention just what the job entailed I became more excited with just how I could make it my own and all of the interesting projects that were in the pipeline. The position was advertised on the web which attracted widespread attention from as far away as Islamabad, but it was mentioned that perhaps that was just a little too far to commute!

This is my sixth week at Heritage and I absolutely love it. We are a small tight-knit group who each has their own particular area of expertise, but we all pull together when it's needed. My days are amazingly varied; from helping to organize the Mayoral lunch to folding leaflets for Carassauga and helping to organize storage areas. Indeed sometimes my days appear to take on a life of their own and I get carried along for the ride; it honestly makes for an interesting life.

So what exactly is a Program Developer I hear you ask? One area of focus is to bring local immigrant history to the fore and to really celebrate those stories that until now have

remained strictly within the family. For many years Canadian history has traditionally included Native, French and English, but the reality is that since the mid-20th century immigrants have been a vital part of that history; and this is especially true in Mississauga. Whilst we all know of the families that immigrated to work at the Cooksville Brickyard or the Leaver mushroom farm, I would like to hear from more immigrant communities whose stories are not so well known.

Another focus is to develop working relationships with community and corporate groups to offer programs that will interest both and which will raise the profile of Heritage Mississauga as the "go to" source for all things heritage in the city. I am particularly interested in involving minority groups and making Heritage Mississauga the centre of a vibrant community which values its heritage and celebrates the rich diversity that is Mississauga. So drop by The Grange anytime and tell me your story; there's always a warm welcome and the coffee is always on, I look forward to meeting you all!

---

## Mississauga Library System Writing Contest for Youth

The Mississauga Library System is launching an annual writing contest for local young people. The contest is intended to encourage youth of the City to read and also write about Mississauga's heritage and history.



The Library's writing contest will honour Kathleen Hicks, local historian and researcher who has written a number of books about Mississauga's past. The annual writing contest will encourage youth to submit entries which focus on a real person, event or place related to the history of Mississauga and may be presented as fact or fiction. Entries will be judged on their content and style. Entries will be a maximum of 1000 words (with no illustrations or graphics) and will be judged by University of Toronto at Mississauga Professor Jan Noel and Heritage Mississauga Historian Matthew Wilkinson.

Entrants must be between 14 and 19 years of age and reside in, or go to school in, Mississauga. Entries must be electronically submitted to:

history.library@mississauga.ca  
beginning May 1, 2011.

The deadline for entries is August 15, 2011.

This year's award will be presented at Central Library's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at Central Library. Look for more details and contest rules at <http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/libraryprograms>.

Be a part of our history!

## From "The Cinderella Township" To "Canada's Sixth Largest City"

By Paola Poletto, Supervisor, Arts and Culture Programs, Culture Division, City of Mississauga and Coordinator, Doors Open Mississauga

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, Doors Open Mississauga brings a refreshed city-wide approach, focusing on buildings that represent Mississauga's economic and industrial heritage, tackling the issue of Mississauga's vast landscape, 2011 will use the 1957 promotional film "The Cinderella Township" as a point of departure for the event. This 13 minute film was created by the Township of Toronto (now Mississauga) to attract new industries and residents to the area. Today, the film stands as both an idyllic and starkly telling document of the great period of infrastructure and industrial development that Mississauga has undergone in the past fifty year. The Culture Division is coordinating a re-mastering of this film together with some key partners. Heritage Mississauga has identified 24 sites noted in the film and local filmmaker, Marco Veltri, will provide a current site context; his photographs will provide a newer contemporary view of the City. Metalworks, one of over 30 sites participating in Doors Open this year, has updated the sound of this archival film and Marco will re-master the film for screenings at Mississauga Celebration Square. This new version of the film will offer an example of how far the City of Mississauga has come to develop into Canada's sixth largest city. The project is presented by the City's Arts and Culture Programs, Culture Division. Additional partners in this initiative are the Central Library and Canadiana Room, the Museums of Mississauga, the City's Film and Heritage offices, Heritage Mississauga, Metalworks and Marco Veltri.



Test Shot 365 Lakeshore Road, Culture Division

For the first time, Doors Open plans to critically review and celebrate the city's transformation in the modern period, and place it within the context of 2011, focusing on industry, heritage, and infrastructure redevelopment. The new "Cinderella Township" will become an excellent vehicle for telling our city's recent history. The official launch screening of this film will be October 1, 2011 as part of Doors Open Mississauga and our local Culture Days celebrations. For a complete list of Doors Open Mississauga sites and tour times, visit [www.doorsopenontario.ca](http://www.doorsopenontario.ca). To register your own events as part of Culture Days celebrations, visit [www.culturedays.ca](http://www.culturedays.ca).

## Salmon Run Project: The Exhibition: Summer 2011, Streetsville and Port Credit

From Stephanie Myhal, Culture Division

Please join the Culture Division in celebrating Mississauga's precious salmon and beautiful Credit River.



The premiere event featured during the Salmon Run Project is the **E x h i b i t i o n** - a collaboration between the Culture Division and the Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM). A Call for Submissions was done in January and the twenty four artists that responded to that call have each created a unique piece of art using the form of a salmon. From June 14 to October 1, see the sculptures on display in businesses located along the Credit River at various locations in Port Credit and Streetsville. Pick up a brochure/ map to visit all the salmon art locations this summer and fall.

In addition to the Exhibition, the Culture Division invites you and your family to participate in the various events and activities celebrating the salmon and Credit River this summer. More than 80 organizations, businesses and individuals featured in the brochure/map are excited to be a part of the celebration. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the history and importance of our local salmon and the Credit River habitat in Mississauga. For more information visit [www.artgalleryofmississauga.com](http://www.artgalleryofmississauga.com) or [www.mississauga.ca/culture](http://www.mississauga.ca/culture) or contact Stephanie Myhal, Culture Division, [stephanie.myhal@mississauga.ca](mailto:stephanie.myhal@mississauga.ca)

JOHN B. BRIERS



3457 Sunlight Street  
Mississauga, ON L5M 7M8  
Tel: 905-858-3493 • Email: [briersdesign@rogers.com](mailto:briersdesign@rogers.com)



## Exhibits at The Grange

By Zofia Krivdova

It is an exciting time at the Grange for art and history lovers. Summer and Fall of 2011 bring a showcase of new exhibits at the Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre and Gallery, as well as in our Lower Meeting Hall.



*Stefan Krivda and family, HM*

In the Discovery Centre and Gallery, from June 14<sup>th</sup> until July 29<sup>th</sup>, we present Mississauga-based artist Stefan Krivda with his exhibit "My Inspiration". Throughout the years, Stefan always had a passion for art, and never gave up making art. After he came to Canada in 2004, he became fascinated by the rich culture of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, and he started attending Pow Wows

frequently. He became captivated by the beauty of the dancers' painted faces. Special thanks to Zofia Krivdova for organizing the exhibit.

From Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> to Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we present an art exhibition by local artist Beata Goik. In Beata's own words, "light in her work speaks about spiritual aspects of our existence and about a divine and mysterious presence. The textured and organic emergence of the surfaces relates to our earthly physicality and symbolizes our human struggle with life circumstances and with ourselves". From Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are featuring an exhibition by Pat Hertzberg.

In our Lower Meeting Hall at The Grange, we are delighted that ALFEW (Artists Looking For Empty Walls) will continue to exhibit their collective works. Ongoing is "Aggregation 5" which opened on June 7<sup>th</sup>, and will be on display until July 29<sup>th</sup>. Featured in this exhibition are the works of Mississauga artists Ray Bechard, John Carvalho, Olivia Cugliari, David Hook, Julie Lo Tauro, Seth Mukumal, Camille Muller, Louise Peacock, Bruce Teel, Bruce Walker, Jay Ward and Diane Zarembo.

The Grange and ALFEW are also featuring an art contest entitled "Celebrating the Grange: Capturing Mississauga's Heritage". For information about the contest, contact Zofia Krivdova, the Exhibit Coordinator for Heritage Mississauga, at 905-828-8411 ext.26.

"Aggregation 6", the next in ALFEW's series of exhibitions at The Grange, will open on October 11<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to Louise Peacock for organizing these exhibits. For more information on ALFEW please visit: [www.alfew.com](http://www.alfew.com)



*Sun, Stefan Krivda, HM*



*Fiord by Camille Muller, HM*

## Heritage Update

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga



We are in the midst of a very busy summer at the Heritage Resource Centre at The Grange. We have three students working with us this summer: Nicole Mair returns as our Assistant Historian and is focusing largely on website content, article publications, and social media; Zofia Krivdova has also returned for another summer, this time as our Exhibit Coordinator, where she is focusing on producing a series of new heritage-themed exhibits, installation and organization of incoming art exhibits at The Grange, as well as developing several new community exhibits; lastly Milan Gocmanac, who worked with us in connection to the University of Toronto Mississauga Historical Studies Internship Program is continuing his research on the involvement of Militiamen from Toronto Township (Mississauga) during the War of 1812. Additionally, in connection with the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, summer student Kayla Demers is also working at The Grange. Lastly, special thanks in particular to volunteers Evelyn Dodds for her incredible hard work in reorganizing our library and catalogue, and to John Eigl for his continuing research for our Darker Side article series.

We have made strong efforts to post new content and update information on our website, and we invite any history or heritage related group or organization to share your contact information with us and become part of our Heritage Network. At the same time we are expanding our involvement with Social Media with Facebook, which has received some very strong and encouraging feedback (we invite you to join us!). We have also begun to utilize Twitter, so look for a stronger social media presence from Heritage Mississauga in the weeks and months to come.

Our Oral History Program is also continuing, in particular thanks to volunteers Audrey Campbell, Jan Duff, Diane Nelson and Marian Gardiner.

We continue to work on the development of our self-guided Heritage Tour Brochures, as well as being in the early stages of a research project looking into the early history of Old Malton, amongst many other ongoing research projects. We are also in the beginning stages of developing a heritage-themed program for Rogers TV, and work has also begun on the development of a new Mississauga Heritage Guide. Lastly, as always, public inquiries and outreach presentations remain a focal point of our work, and we have never been busier!

## War of 1812 Con'td.....

The militiamen from Toronto Township were involved in another major campaign, the Battle of Lundy's Lane. This battle saw an enormous amount of casualties and was remembered to have been one of the most bloody, and gruesome, battles fought during this war. On the 25th



War of 1812 Re-enactment Militia, [www](http://www)

of July in 1814 seven militiamen from Toronto Township were engaged in this battle. Philip Cody, Henry Gable Junior, Thomas Merrigold, John Marlatt, William Thompson, Aaron Silverthorne, and William Smith. Of those six individuals one had died as a direct result from battle, this was John Marlatt. Those records have been confirmed through muster rolls and also the documentation for payments for the militiamen.

The battle was one of the bloodiest ever fought on Canadian soil, and it was indecisive. It was a strategic victory for the British forces but no great gains were made. It was fought on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls. Similar to the battle of Queenston Heights there were a number of individuals that were called to duty before the outbreak of this battle; they were also sent home before the battle broke. Lundy's Lane involved approximately 3 500 British forces, and sustained almost 900 casualties. The casualty number includes the dead, wounded, captured, and missing. The United States suffered similar casualties.

The involvement for the militiamen from Toronto Township continued past the battle of Lundy's Lane, notably with a border skirmish. The date of the skirmish cannot be verified however historians believe it was before the battle of Lundy's Lane. This skirmish was especially interesting because it saw the capture of two individuals from Toronto Township. William Thompson, and Augustus(ine) Thompson were both captured in 1814 by American forces. They were later released in 1815 when the war had come to an end.

The capture of those two individuals brought to mind the conditions of enemy capture. There were no jails for captured enemy soldiers and thusly they were contained in local towns. The captured individuals had promised not to attempt escape or sabotage and instead were left as temporary inhabitants of any given town. This would explain the absence of these two individuals from Lundy's Lane. Historical evidence, that is currently available, has been able to place 11 of the 47 individuals from Toronto Township in specific battles at specific dates. Furthermore land grant records have been able to show that some individuals were given awards like F.S. Jarvis received for

bravery in service. However there is still some information that has not come to light. Although one is able to verify the death of certain individuals through family records and military records, how and when they died is still unavailable.

Evidence has confirmed that the Toronto Township militia had been involved in some of the bloodiest battles of the War of 1812, both at the start (Queenston Heights) and nearing the conclusion (Lundy's Lane). Yet the desertion rate among Toronto Township individuals was drastically lower than in many other militia regiments. In fact, of the 47 individuals confirmed just one had deserted to the enemy, while an additional one had not shown up for duty likely because of his age and physical ability (he was at least 50 years old at the start of the war). However the individual that deserted due to physical ability still had fought at Queenston Heights for the entire battle. He failed to show up for duty at a later date, and his son continued to fight in later battles. Therefore one can reasonably assume that of the 47 individuals just one had deserted, one had been too old to contribute and a total of six had died.

Visit [www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com) for the more articles, and look for a continuation of this article series in future editions of *The Heritage News* and on our Special Interest section on our website.

## New Veteran's Memorial

The City of Mississauga celebrated the official dedication of the new City of Mississauga Veteran's Memorial and the arrival of the Memorial Cup on Thursday, May 19th, 2011. The Memorial Committee, which worked collaboratively on the design for the new Veteran's Memorial, included veterans from several branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, ANAF, and Veteran's associations, as well as City staff and Heritage Mississauga.



Images, HM



## Mississauga South Historical Society Happenings

by Richard Collins, President,  
www3.sympatico.ca/chessie217



As usual, things at Mississauga South Historical Society will slow down over the next few months as our members enjoy other summer activities, but we did kick off the summer with an enjoyable field trip. Seventeen members and guests joined in for an eventful, educational, entertaining and (mostly) sunny day, this past May 28.

We didn't travel too far from home this year, but we packed a lot into the day as we took in the historical character of our own neighbourhood. The field trip took us to the Bradley Museum in Clarkson, Sovereign House in Bronte and the Erchless Estate in Oakville.



We also had a surprise visit from the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum's Lancaster bomber which flew over the Sovereign House, and then passed us again at Erchless on its way home.

For lunch we had some delicious pub fare at the Coach and Four Restaurant in historic Bronte.

Thanks to collections director, Elaine Eigl for taking photos throughout the day. Visit our website at [www3.sympatico.ca/chessie217](http://www3.sympatico.ca/chessie217) to see more. And thanks once again to our program director, Jayme Gaspar for planning the whole event.

When the summer is over we'll meet again at the Regency Retirement Residence in Port Credit for our next meeting, on September 20th at 7:30 p.m.

You may recall from our January "Show and Tell" night that member Gord Hatten wowed us with a huge collection of original St. Lawrence Starch paper labels donated to him by the Gray family. These are just a small part of Gord's even larger collection of local historical books, photos, maps, hockey jerseys and various artifacts from Port Credit's past. In September, Gord will have the stage to himself as he shows us more of the items he has been collecting since he was a youngster. I'm looking forward to taking a peek into Gord's extensive treasure chest of local history.

I hope to see a big crowd for our meeting at 29 Mississauga Road North. You don't have to be a member to come out all you need is an interest in local history.

## Streetsville Historical Society Happenings

By Jean Watt, Publicity Director



Many members and friends of the Streetsville Historical Society enjoyed the Annual Spring Tour on May 28th with a visit to Ruthven Park National Historical Site on the banks on the Grand River near Cayuga, Ontario. A delicious lunch followed at the Old School Restaurant.



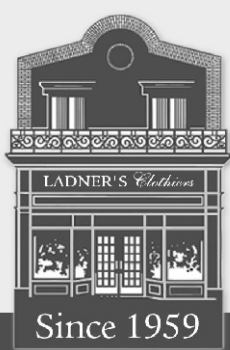
The Leslie Clan, MOM

Another special date for the SHS was May 14th with the official opening of the Leslie Log House on Mississauga Road. While the weather did not cooperate, the festivities carried on as planned, albeit under tents! Guests included Councillors Mahoney, Carlson and Starr, and other

representatives from the City. Vera and Harold Leslie, together with other Leslie descendants, were also in attendance. The Clan Leslie International awarded the SHS with its Bennachie Award in recognition of the promotion of the Leslie name and the protection of Leslie properties. This award has been presented only three times, previously in Scotland and Ireland. The award is in the form of a plaque with the Leslie family crest.

SHS has moved our archives into the upper level of the Leslie Log House, and is continuing with the Wednesday workshops cataloguing new acquisitions. If you are interested in becoming part of this group, please call our archivist, Anne Byard, at 905-814-5958.

The next meeting of SHS will take place on Thursday, October 13th, 2011, at Specialty Care Mississauga Road (4350 Mississauga Road), across the street from the Leslie Log House. At this time the guest speaker has not been determined. For more information on the activities of the Streetsville Historical Society, please contact Jean Watt, SHS Program and Publicity Director, at 905-826-1860.



**LADNER'S Clothiers**

220 Queen Street South  
Streetsville ON L5M 1L5  
Tel 905-826-2344  
Fax 905-821-1771  
[todd@ladnersclothiers.com](mailto:todd@ladnersclothiers.com)  
[www.ladnersclothiers.com](http://www.ladnersclothiers.com)

**Todd Ladner**



# What's Happening at the Museums of Mississauga

*By Stephanie Meeuwse, Collections and Exhibit Coordinator, Museums of Mississauga*



The Museums of Mississauga have an exciting and timely exhibition opening on July 2nd, 2011 entitled Celebrating Friendship: An Exhibit Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning of Mississauga and Kariya, Japan. This exhibit will feature images and artifacts collected over the last 30 years from the Mississauga Friendship Association and the City of Mississauga. The highlight will be several kimonos presented to the City of Mississauga on the occasion of the opening of the Living Arts Centre in 1997. Presented in partnership with the Mississauga Friendship Association and the Museums of Mississauga, this display will run through until December 21st, 2011 at the Bradley Museum located at 1620 Orr Road.



Kariya and Mississauga established a sister city relationship on July 7, 1981. The twinning concept was introduced in the 1950s

as a way to develop networks between the cities of the world with the goal of reducing misunderstandings between nations. Friendship is only one of the benefits of sister city relationships. Since the official twinning, both cities have enjoyed a growing exchange of cultural and educational opportunities, and Mississauga now boasts over 80 Japanese companies contributing to our local economy.

You can view this exhibit free of charge in the Anchorage at the Bradley Museum, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. As well, guided tours of Bradley Museum are offered Wednesday to Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. (July & August) or Wednesday and Sunday year round.

Also happening this summer the Friends of the Museums will once again be hosting the Summer Concert Series 'On the Verandah' every Friday evening. Please check out our website for a list of performances.

Other events to mark in your calendar are: Saturday July 2, the Bradley Museum hosts 'Tedfest' a BMW Car show. Driftwood Theatre group is at Bradley Museum on July 15 and 16, and will also be performing at the Leslie Log House on Friday August 12. The ever-popular Teddy Bear's Picnic will be held on Sunday July 24 from 12 pm to 4 pm at Benares Historic House. The Museums Hands-on History Day Camp for 7 - 12 year olds will be at Bradley Museum this coming summer. Camp weeks start on July 4, with the final week beginning August 29. During the camp children learn about history in a fun hands-on way with theme days and

activities such as cooking in the historic house, gardening, First Nations lore and crafts, a hike to Rattray Marsh and children's games and crafts. Clarkson Community Centre will be offering an additional two camps at Bradley Museum and one at Benares. For more information about the Museums, please go to or call 905-615-4860.

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

Her speech was vintage McCallion, with comments ranging on how she and Council are guiding the city's vision to become "a place where people choose to be", to comment on key successes and concerns?, to complementing our organization and its members for our sometimes-unrecognized hard work in promoting and celebrating heritage.

In the past weeks you may have crossed paths with us (staff, volunteers and directors) at the Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse Strawberry Social, at the Canadian Pavillion? at Carassauga, or at any number of other events around the city. On August 21<sup>st</sup> we throw our annual party on the lawn of the Grange with delicious BBQ, beer, wine, live rock-and-roll music, crafts and other entertainment for all age groups. See you at Grangestock!

## Heritage Speakers Series 2011

~ADMISSION IS FREE~

Mississauga's Heritage Partners (the Heritage Advisory Committee, Heritage Mississauga, Mississauga Library System and the Museums of Mississauga) present a collaborative Speakers Series through 2011. For more information please call 905-615-4860 ext.2113. All lectures start promptly at 7:00pm. Admission is free.

### Lecture 3

When: Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 7-8pm

Where: Burnhamthorpe Branch Library (3650 Dixie Road) Speaker: Ken Weber, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto

Title: "The War of 1812: Why Canada is Not a U.S. State"

### Lecture 4

When: Thursday, November 3rd, 2011, 7-8pm

Where: Burnhamthorpe Branch Library (3650 Dixie Road)

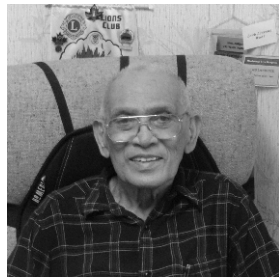
Speaker: Alan Skeoch, Author and Historian

Topic: Japanese Internment during WWII and Mississauga

## In Memorium

### Lewis Lawrence

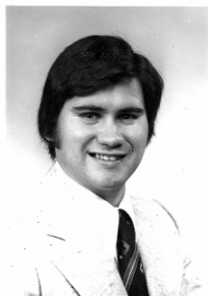
Former Mississauga Citizen of the Year, Lewis Lawrence, passed away on June 3, 2011, at the age of 87. He leaves behind his wife of 62 years, Sophie, and a large family. Lewis was a retired engineer and businessman who moved to Canada from India in 1980. He was a volunteer and leader for the Lions Club for over 50 years. He served two terms as president of the Mississauga Central Lions Club, where he led many of the club's fundraising initiatives over the past 30 years. Lewis was dedicated to his community, and contributed greatly to the establishment and success of the Square One Farmers Market, the Square One Older Adult Centre, and the Police Community Liaison Committee, amongst many other endeavours. Heritage Mississauga had an opportunity to speak with Lewis as part of our Oral History Program in late 2010 and early 2011, and recorded many of his memories relating to his activities as a passionate and dedicated community leader in the City of Mississauga. Square One Older Adult Centre has established an endowment fund in Lawrence's name. Donations can be made through the Community Foundation of Mississauga: 905-897-8880.



*Lewis Lawrence, HM*

### Larry Taylor

Former Mississauga City Councillor, Larry Taylor, passed away at Hospice Simcoe in Barrie, Ontario, on June 21, 2011 at age 62 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He leaves behind his wife Anne, and many family and friends. Larry was the youngest politician to be elected in the history of Mississauga when he first took office in 1976 at the age of 27. Larry served as a Councillor for the City of Mississauga from 1976 until 1988, during which time he was involved in the emergency response during the Mississauga Train Derailment in 1979, the development of SOTA (Save Our Trees and Streams), the first Mississauga multicultural festival, and the development of the Mississauga Valleys Community Centre. He is remembered as a champion of the environment, a proponent for social housing, and an advocate for inclusive municipal planning policies.



*Larry Taylor, MOM*

### Rosamund Moate Vanderburgh

It is with a profound sense of sadness that we, at Heritage Mississauga, learned of the passing of Rosamund Vanderburgh on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. She leaves behind her husband of 57 years, Albert, two children and several grandchildren. Rosamund was a founding member of the faculty

of Erindale College (now the University of Toronto Mississauga), where she served as a Professor of Anthropology and had a distinguished record of research and writing on the changing rolls of women of Southern Ojibwa communities in Ontario. Rosamund was also the last surviving member of the founding Board of Directors of Heritage Mississauga (then known as the Township of Toronto Historical Foundation) in 1960. Rosamund was strongly involved with the establishment of the Bradley Museum, and she served on Heritage Mississauga's Board of Directors for a remarkable 20 years, including two terms as President in 1983 and 1984. Rosamund was honoured with a Lifetime Membership Award from Heritage Mississauga in 1996.



*Rosamund Vanderburgh, HM*

## Mississauga Celebration Square

The newly renovated Mississauga Celebration Square was officially opened during an outdoor Council Meeting on Wednesday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. This summer take a tour of the new pool and enjoy some of the exciting programming the City has scheduled.



For more information on this exciting public space, please visit: [www.mississauga.ca/portals/celebrationsquare](http://www.mississauga.ca/portals/celebrationsquare)



### STREETSVILLE LAW OFFICE Lawyer, Notary

**Ayoub A. Ali**  
Barrister & Solicitor, Notary Public

12 Thomas Street  
Mississauga, Ontario L5M 1Y5  
ph: 905.826.3421  
fax: 905.826.5053  
[aa@streetsvilleglaw.com](mailto:aa@streetsvilleglaw.com)

[www.streetsvilleglaw.com](http://www.streetsvilleglaw.com)



## Trivia Answer:

There may be a forgotten story buried in a park in Mississauga. There is a simple note in a file that alludes to the remarkable story of Miles Park Farm, near Erindale.

A.W. Miles, a Toronto undertaker, established a country home and private zoo in Mimico, beginning in 1912. In 1936, due to pressure from Mimico Council, Miles sold his property and purchased over 200 acres in Toronto Township (northwest of the intersection of Fifth Line West and Dundas Street, just west of Erindale Village). By 1938, Miles Park Farm (sometimes called Miles Farm Park) had become one of the most popular recreational and social destinations in Toronto Township. The park animals delighted many visitors; they included llamas, donkeys (favourites were named Jenny and Dolly), bears (named Bruno, Master Bear and Jimmy), peacocks, two camels, and monkeys. By far the most popular tenant at the farm was Tootsie the elephant who originally came from Burma, and was very tame. Sadly, fire struck Miles Park Farm on Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1943, and 70 animals were lost, including Tootsie. But back to the note in the file: it recalls that Tootsie's bones were buried on the property, and her "funeral" was attended by many saddened children from the area. Miles Park Farm remained in operation into the early 1950s, when it was closed and the property later sold for development. Although we do not know where for certain, somewhere on the property the bones of Tootsie the elephant lie buried, possibly in modern Brookmeade Park which is located on part of what was Miles Park Farm. Modern Dunwin Drive, as it leads north from Dundas Street, follows part of the former Miles Park Farm laneway.



*Tootsie the Elephant at Miles Park,  
HM*

## Meadowvale Village cont'd....

If we turn to John Simpson, who by local records seems to have had one of the most individual influences on the early development of Meadowvale Village, he purchased 200 acres on the south side of Old Derry Road on December 1st, 1837 (Lot 10, Concession 3, WHS) from the Matthew Dawson estate. According to local traditions, however, Simpson was possibly "on the ground" in Meadowvale in 1836. A 1975 publication entitled "Meadowvale & Churchville" by William Cook, which formed much of the background content for the Meadowvale Village Heritage Conservation District Plan in 1980, also gave the founding date of 1836, and listed that John Simpson "obtained possession" of his property in 1836.

By the mid-1840s it is estimated that around 250 people lived within the bounds of the village. Milling continued as the lifeblood of the community for many years, and the burgeoning village's prosperity was directly linked to the success of the mills.

Meadowvale also began to add other essential pioneer services. In 1848, James Johnson opened a blacksmith and wagon shop while a Mr. Robinson is credited with building the first general store in the village. The village soon added a second store, operated by James Ward. Ward later sold his store to another early and prominent resident of the community, Matthew Laidlaw. In 1852 Hugh and Horatio Johnson built a small foundry in the village for making farm implements. This foundry is believed to have been the first of its kind in Ontario.

Meadowvale's first post office opened in 1857 in Francis Silverthorn's store, where Luther Cheyne became the first postmaster. James Gooderham became postmaster in 1862, followed by his brother, C.H. ("Holly") Gooderham, in 1865. He was followed by Charles Switzer in 1882 and J.H. Whitlam in 1890. The old store and post office burned in 1907, and the position of postmaster was taken over by William Lambe.

By the 1860s, Meadowvale boasted a shoemaker, two blacksmiths, a carriage and harness maker, wagon shop, cooperage, carpenter, minister, justice of the peace, postmaster, schoolmaster, two sawmills, a chopping mill, and the large grist mill. Meadowvale was also home to a far-famed musical band and, for many years, to an annual Meadowvale Band Garden Party, featuring classical music of Caruso and the poetry of Tennyson. The village also became known for its literary and debating society, known as "The Fortnightly Club", they edited a small community paper called the "Meadowvale Mirror".

The first hotel in Meadowvale was established by a local blacksmith, George Bell, in 1844; Matthew Laidlaw added a second hotel in 1852. *Our look at Meadowvale Village continues in the next issue of The Heritage News.*

### Dr. J. Eric Selnes BA, BPHE, DDS, Msc, D. Ortho, FRCD (C)

1556 Dundas St. West, Mississauga, ON L5C 1E4  
905.615.0353

103-83 Mill Street, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 5E9  
905.873.1066  
drselnes@heritageorthodontics.com  
www.heritageorthodontics.com



## The Darker Side cont'd .....

Two of Cong's brothers arrived in Streetsville to take him to Toronto General Hospital by train. Although it was reported that he began to recover, Cong was never well enough to speak. Then on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1910, Joe Cong passed away in the hospital, escalating the crime to murder. The doctors determined that his death was due to pressure of a clot on the brain caused by the blows.

The authorities immediately sent out a bulletin all over the country warning of the two men on the loose. It described one man as 26 years old, 5'7" and of medium build, with a fair complexion and clean shaven, wearing a dark grey check suit and a stiff black hat. The second man was described as about 29 years old, 5'6" and about 150lbs, with a dark moustache, a dark suit and a soft felt hat.

Immediately following the murder a number of pairs of men were arrested and questioned. None, however, were held for long, when the stories they produced were deemed likely enough. In Milton, two men were spotted fitting the description the morning after the murder, however, the constable failed to act and they got away.

It seemed that the murderers had truly escaped and the case of Joe Cong's laundry shop murder would remain a mystery. Or perhaps not?

On October 23, 1910, a break was finally made in the case. Two men by the names of Walter John Bell and Charles Gordon Jones were arrested while in the act of robbing the Eglinton Hardware Company in Toronto. The two men were wanted in connection with nine additional charges of burglary, five of which involved assaulting and robbing Chinese laundries. The two were to be held until they could either be transported to Streetsville or the witnesses could be brought to Toronto in order to identify them. Due to their robbery trials in Toronto, however, Bell and Jones were held up until November, when the Toronto Star reported that they would be sent back to Streetsville for identification.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1910, Walter John Bell and Charles Gordon Jones were found guilty of eight out of the nine charges of burglary. Strangely, many of the items that the two men were guilty of stealing were deemed to be of little value. For example, some of the items taken by the men included an overcoat, a pair of gloves, 12 postcards and a jackknife. For their crimes, Bell and Jones were sentenced to eighteen months in prison.



*Toronto Star Headline, Oct. 25, 1910*

Circumstances, however, quickly changed. Walter John Bell's lawyer entered a plea of insanity. It was reported that Bell had already previously resided in an asylum. It is possible that Charles Gordon Jones also pleaded the same. This new plea had a huge impact of the Cong murder case. As The Globe reported on November 11, 1910 in response to the pleas of insanity, "it is now considered unlikely that the charge held against them by the police of Peel county in connection with the Streetsville murder will be pressed." Walter Bell at least was indeed found to be insane. In the 1911 census of Canada there is a record of a Walter Bell residing at the Mimico Insane Asylum. Unfortunately, no similar record can be found of Charles Jones in an asylum or otherwise.

Joe Cong had owned and operated a laundry shop in Toronto for three years at 109 Berkeley Street before coming to Streetsville. For three months he set up a small business and established a reputation as a quiet, respected resident of the Streetsville community before his life was brutally cut short. At this time it is unknown what happened to Joe Cong after he passed away. There is no current record of his burial anywhere in the Streetsville area. It is possible he was taken back to Toronto by his brothers. Additionally, although Walter John Bell and Charles Gordon Jones were the most likely suspects, we may never know for sure if they were the culprits, or if the real murderers did indeed get away.

---

## How Mississauga Got its Name, cont'd ..

1967 municipal election, Ben arranged to have members in Cooksville and Erindale canvass the streets to encourage people to reject "Sheridan" and to have council put "Mississauga" back into its next OMB presentation.

In April 1967, the Ontario Municipal Board said it would not make a decision on Toronto Township's application for town status until firmer arrangements were made in regard to more mundane matters, like the sharing of tax revenue with Streetsville and Port Credit which had chosen not to amalgamate with Toronto Township at this time. The OMB's decision to delay approval of town status gave the public more time to demand that council put the runaway favourite, "Mississauga", back on the ballot.

On October 16, 1967 council declared that it was not possible to have another name added to the voters' list. The plebiscite on election day was going ahead with "Sheridan" and "Malton", and that was that.

But of course "that wasn't that", and that's our story for next time.

# Heritage Matters

## Heritage Mississauga

### Events

**August 21, 11am-5pm** Grangestock Music & Art Festival at the Robinson-Adamson House "The Grange"

**September 17, 10am-4pm** Meadowvale Village 175th Anniversary celebration Old Derry Road and Second Line

**October 1, 10-4pm** Doors Open Mississauga

**October 21 starting 7pm** Haunted Mississauga

Exhibits: Debbie Hatch Discover Centre and Lower Hall Gallery

**June 7 to July 29** ALFEW: Artists Looking For Empty Walls "Aggregation 5" in the Lower Meeting Hall at the Grange

**June 14 to July 29** Art Exhibit with Stefan Krivda

**Aug 9-Sept 2** Art Exhibit with Beata Goik

**Sept 27-Dec 3** Art Exhibit with Pat Hertzberg

### Art Gallery of Mississauga

**June 11 – Sept 30** Salmon Run Project: The Exhibition

**Mississauga Arts Council**

For

current listings visit please visit the website

[www.mississaugaartscouncil.com](http://www.mississaugaartscouncil.com) or call (905) 615 4278

### Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

**Aug. 14** - Savour our summer vegetables. Tomatoes and cucumbers taste best freshly picked. Make a sunbonnet. **For more information visit: [www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)**

**Fri.-Sun. Sept. 16,17,18** Brampton Fall Fair

Come and see the Friends display at the Brampton Fall Fair on Heart Lake Rd. Brampton. Please call Ruth Taylor (905 457-8804) for further information.

**Sundays August 14, September 11, October 9 and November 13, 2011**

Drop into The Old Britannia Schoolhouse the second Sunday of the month. Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about the artifacts and the schoolhouse programme. Check the web site for special activities on those Sundays.

[www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org)

### Halton Peel O.G.S.

For more info contact Jane Watt [jwatt@ica.net](mailto:jwatt@ica.net) 905-281-1701

**Sept 25 2pm**-Oakville Library-"In Search of William Halton" Speaker John Mc Donald, local historian and author explores the life and times of William Halton, who gave the original Halton County its name.

**Oct 23 2pm**-Oakville Library-"The New Family Search" Gwen Armstrong explains how to access the new databases, images and research tools available at FamilySearch.org

**Nov 27 2pm**-Brampton Library-Annual General Meeting Brian Gilchrist Region of Peel Archives, topic to be announced

### Mississauga Arts Council

Please visit the website [www.mississaugaartscouncil.com](http://www.mississaugaartscouncil.com) or call (905) 615 4278

### Mississauga South Historical Society

**Sept. 20 7:30pm** at the Regency Retirement Residence, 29 Mississauga Road

Speaker: Gordon Hatten will speak on his collection of rare Port Credit memorabilia

**Nov 15 7:30pm:** Speaker and topic to be announced.

### Museums of Mississauga

**July & August**, Friday evenings: On the Verandah Summer Concert Series at Benares Historic House 1507 Clarkson Road North, Admission: Pay-What-You-Can

Guided Tours: Wed to Sun 1 pm to 5 pm (July & August)

**July 24 12 pm to 4 pm** 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Teddy Bear's Picnic

Benares Historic House, 1507 Clarkson Road North, Mississauga

Admission: \$13.74 (+tax) per family

Driftwood Theatre presents "Shakespeare under the Stars"

**August 12 7:30 PM**-Macbeth, Leslie Log House, 4415 Mississauga Road, Mississauga, Admission: Pay-What-You-Can (Suggested \$15/person)

**September 17**, 10 am to 4 pm Fall Fair, Bradley Museum, 1620 Orr Road, Mississauga, Admission: Free with the donation of a non-perishable food item for the local food bank, or a suggested \$2 donation

**October 1**, 10 am to 4 pm, Doors Open Mississauga & Culture Days, Leslie Log House, 4415 Mississauga Road, Mississauga Admission: Free

**October 30**, 12 pm to 4 pm, Historic Hallowe'en Fun

Benares Historic House, 1507 Clarkson Road North, Mississauga Admission: \$13.74 (+tax) per family

### Streetsville Historical Society

**Oct. 13th 7:30pm** at Specialty Care 4350 Mississauga Road Guest Speaker: TBA For more information call Jean Watt, 905-826-1860

### Trafalgar Township Historical Society

For more info contact Jane Watt [jwatt@ica.net](mailto:jwatt@ica.net) 905-281-1701

**Sept 24 10am-4pm**-Trafalgar Heritage Fair/Doors Open

At the Palermo Schoolhouse 2431 Dundas Street West in Oakville, book sale, heritage displays, activities and BBQ

**October 14th 2011** -1:30-3:30 Open House, Archives Research, Reminisce

## Join Heritage Mississauga

**Membership Prices:** Individual \$30, Family \$50, Senior \$10, Student 16+ \$10, Schools/Non profit groups \$35, Small Business \$50

Your membership and donations help us to continue the work we do to encourage awareness of Mississauga's history. For information, please contact me at: 905-828-8411 Ext. 0 or by email at [info@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:info@heritagemississauga.org)

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