



# Heritage News

*Serving the Community for over 50 Years*

Winter 2011  
Vol. 24/Issue 1

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## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Heritage Awards

Thurs. Feb. 17th  
Lakeview Golf Course  
6:30pm-9:00pm

### Discover Your Roots

Sat. Feb. 26th  
The Grange  
1pm-4pm

### Heritage Bus Tour

Sun. April 17th  
Leaving from The Grange  
1pm-6pm

### Annual General Meeting

Wed. May 25th  
The Grange  
6:30pm

## Honouring those who have given so much!

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

"Thank You": the universal words of appreciation that validate a job well done, kindness given, support received or just for being part of a team.

Throughout our 50 year history Heritage Mississauga has been blessed to work with an army of individuals and organizations who have supported our work, gone above and beyond the call of "duty" promoting awareness of our community's unique heritage and ensuring that our heritage is preserved for future generations. We look upon these members of the heritage community as our heritage heroes.

For the last 14 years each February during "Heritage Month", Heritage Mississauga has had the privilege of honouring our heroes at the Annual Awards Ceremony. To date 148 members of our community have been recognized. This year we add to that total another list of individuals and organizations who deserve recognition for the contributions they have made to the preservation of heritage.

Each year the Board of Directors presents three awards: Lifetime Membership Award, MHF Heritage Award and Special Recognition Awards. As well they invite the Membership to nominate individuals or groups who they feel should be recognized for their particular contributions. In partnership with the Heritage Advisory Committee a special group of awards are presented which focus on architectural heritage recognizing excellence in restoration and preservation: *The Cultural Heritage Property Awards*. For the first time last year a volunteer recognition award was presented: *The Betty Ross Memorial Volunteer Award*. This award is presented by the staff of Heritage Mississauga and The Museums of Mississauga recognizing the significant contributions made by a volunteer. Congratulations to the following recipients of the Heritage Mississauga awards this year:

**Lifetime Membership Award:** Alan Skeoch

**MHF Heritage Award:** Leslie Log House Project

(Museums of Mississauga, Streetsville Historical Society, City of Mississauga)

**Special Recognition:** Erindale Presbyterian Church, Heritage House Dental, Nicole Mair, Trafalgar Township Historical Society

**Betty Ross Memorial Award:** Penny McKean

**Member's Choice Award:** Kathy Baker, Carolyn King, Faith Rivers, Leonard Walsh, Mavis Wilson

Thank you for your time, talents, expertise and dedication.



*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. ~Winston Churchill*

## President's Message

By Barbara O'Neil, President

2011, the Year of the Rabbit in the Chinese calendar, is believed to be an auspicious year for diplomacy, negotiations and good fortune. As 2011 is also a year for planning (part of our 3 year cycle), and forging new relationships for Heritage Mississauga, I take the Rabbit symbol as a very positive sign!



Year of the Rabbit symbol,  
www



Barbara O'Neil, Mayor McCallion  
and Bob Crawford cutting the  
birthday cake, HM

It was a pleasure to close out 2010 at the Grange and speak with so many of you directly at our December Open House, Book Launch, Carolling celebration. For those of you who haven't seen our latest video on You Tube, just search: *Heritage Mississauga 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary And Book Launch*, for a clip of the event. (Many thanks to Louise Peacock of ALFEW for videoing and posting.)

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, we will be making final preparations for a **presentation to City Council on February 9<sup>th</sup>**. At least once a year, and usually more often, our organization takes the opportunity to update our elected representatives on our activities, successes, goals and current issues. In addition to having the experience and knowledge of Councillor Katie Mahoney on our board, such regular communication encourages the active involvement and support of heritage by councillors and city staff.



Alan Skeoch, Lifetime Member  
2011, HM

Also on the horizon this month is the Heritage Awards Evening, on Thursday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, at the newly renovated Lakeview Golf Course. You can check our website for the nominees for the Cultural Heritage Property Award, which we jointly evaluate with city personnel. Winners will be announced at the evening event. Of course, Heritage Mississauga presents five other awards the same evening: Lifetime Membership, MHF Heritage Award, Special Recognition Certificates, the Betty Ross Memorial Volunteer Award and Member's Choice Awards. **Make February 17<sup>th</sup> your first heritage outing of the new year. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling the Heritage office at 905-828-8411 and speaking with Jane at ext. "0".** Being Heritage Month, there are numerous activities we will be undertaking at the Grange and across the city in February, which are covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

And here's a taste of *some* of the activities planned for 2011:

- March:** Equinox Sunrise Ceremony;
- April:** Heritage Bus Tour; Planning Updates
- May:** Jane's Walk; Summer Student Projects; Annual General Meeting
- June:** Aboriginal Month; Fundraiser Lunch
- July:** Volunteer Programming
- August:** Grangestock; Membership & Communications Campaign
- September:** Donor Program Launch, Meadowvale Village 175th Anniversary
- October:** Doors Open; Haunted Mississauga
- November:** Volunteer Appreciation; Legacy Pilot Launch
- December:** Carolling At The Grange; Member Appreciation Event.

One final exciting piece of news concerns 3 recently-filled board positions.

Cont'd pg. 13

### Trivia Question:

Do you know how the lost village of Lisgar got its name?



Answer page 10

### Board of Directors 2010-2011

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

Luz del Rosario, Jake Dheer, Arthur Dias, Don Hancock,  
Douglas Hancock, Stace LaForme, Councillor Katie  
Mahoney, Josip Milcic, Adam Sault

**STAFF** Jayme Gaspar - **Executive Director**, 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: April 8, 2011**

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

**Contributors:** Richard Collins, Jayme Gaspar, Milan Gocmanac, Richard A. Jarrell, Deanna Natalizio, Barbara O'Neil, Jane Watt, Jean Watt, Matthew Wilkinson

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## From the Editor's Desk

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director



Hooray its February! Now I know what you are saying – she's crazy, February 2011 is shaping up to be blustery, snowy and extremely cold with temperatures that we haven't experienced in a few years. Yes, agreed, but for the heritage community this month is something to celebrate –it's Heritage Month.

Throughout the City there are events and programs for everyone to enjoy and we have a holiday right in the middle. Take a moment, bundle up and visit one of the many events offered to you this February. Heritage Mississauga hosts our Annual Heritage Awards on Thursday February 17th, on Saturday February 26th the Halton-Peel OGS is offering an exciting workshop on genealogy and tips on Ancestry.ca at the Grange and it's FREE and there are two exhibits at the Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre (see page 8). Check the back of this newsletter for a list of our partner's programs and contact them to learn more. Celebrate heritage during this very special month of the year.

Are you looking for an interesting book to read during this blustery cold month? We have the perfect one for you. *Journey to the Past: The Lost Villages of Mississauga* is the newest publication by Heritage Mississauga. Only \$20.00, it is 256 pages of stories of the first hamlets and villages that dotted the landscape of Mississauga. This book would not have been made possible without a generous publishing grant from the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. We appreciate their support on this 50th anniversary project.



Halton-Peel Branch OGS  
Executive Members Kathy Baker,  
Bernie Bradner, Bob Crawford  
and Jane Watt, HM



Martin Scott, Kathy Scott, Lorne  
Scott and Diane Scott, close  
friends of the late Hugh  
Manning, HM

As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we unveiled a dedication to our "Distinguished Patrons". We appreciate the support of Arthur Grant Clarkson, Ben and Marjorie Madill and Hugh Manning. Their generosity helps us continue to do the work we do. When you visit The Grange please make a point of stopping at our dedication wall.

We have another interesting issue of the Heritage News for you this quarter, along with our regulars, we welcome a few new authors Richard Jarrell writes about Clair House in

Cooksville, Deanna Natalizio writes the next chapter in our *Murder and Mayhem in Mississauga* series, and on page 5 you will find the first in a series of articles on the War of 1812 by Milan Gocmanac, our UTM Intern. Now I know what you're thinking: the war of 1812 and Mississauga? What you might not realize is, the men in this community were called up and went to fight, leaving their families behind in an interesting and very important time in our history.

Don't miss the centre spread with Matthew's update on "Heritage Issues" in the community. There are so many projects on the go. Follow us on FACEBOOK and TWITTER as well as our website for up to the minute breaking news on these and other heritage issues.

Celebrate spring and join us for the annual **Equinox Sunrise Ceremony** at the Grange. Hosted by Joseph Paquette our Métis Elder, this ceremony is traditional and very moving. Continental Breakfast is provided after the ceremony. All are welcome to join in.

January 28th was the first meeting of the **Heritage Multi-Cultural Seniors Club** held at The Grange. This club will meet every Friday from 2pm-4pm and they have already planned an interesting program. Come on out and meet new people and enjoy some social time in your community.

For those of you who missed the 2010 **April Bus Tour** we will be hosting this annual event on Sun. April. 17th. Matthew Wilkinson is your tour guide, very knowledgeable about Mississauga and its history, this tour will be different from last years tour so if you want to see Mississauga from a different angle please join us. Only \$19.50 this is a great way to explore our unique community.

Looking forward to meeting you at the many events hosted throughout the year and hope that you will stop by and visit with us at The Grange, see the latest exhibit, do a little research, or maybe volunteer a little of your time to preserving our heritage. The coffee and tea are always on, the fireplace warm and inviting and the conversation is always interesting. Hope to see you soon.



### 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

drselses@heritageorthodontics.com  
www.heritageorthodontics.com

# The Darker Side: The Murder of Noah Eaton, Part One

By Deanna Natalizio



Deanna Natalizio

On the night of February 20th, 1847, Noah Eaton was murdered in his cabin in Toronto Township (now Mississauga) at the age of 65. His cabin, located on Lot 8, Concession 3, EHS, lay in close proximity to the modern day intersection of Derry and Tomken roads. Surviving literature of the crime has implicated James Hamilton as the merciless wielder of the axe that took Eaton's life. Hamilton was eventually convicted of the murder and sentenced to execution. An unofficial confession of guilt (not on record) was said to have been made by the accused. It is suggested that Eaton and Hamilton were embroiled in a land dispute involving property ownership and money lending.

Noah Eaton was a man of means, as indicated by land records showing him to have granted two mortgages the same year, one of which was to the accused James Hamilton, on Lot 4, Concession 5 in Chinguacousy Township (Brampton). Land abstracts show that Eaton granted a second mortgage in 1831 to a Robert Hamilton, on Lot 9, Concession 5, EHS, property bordering the Etobicoke Creek. There is proof that rent dues collected from property belonging to James Hamilton, often times went directly into the hands of Noah Eaton, establishing a relationship of debtor and lender between victim and accused. James Hamilton's farm in Chinguacousy, the property upon which Eaton had lent a mortgage, was also the subject of a chancery suit between the two; it is unclear as to who played plaintiff and defendant in this land dispute.

HOME DISTRICT ASSIZES  
(Reported for the Globe.)  
FEBRUARY, May 21, 1847.  
**The Queen vs. James Hamilton.**  
JAMES HAMILTON was placed upon his trial, charged with the murder of Noah Eaton, in the Township of Toronto, on the 20th of February last.—The Attorney General for prosecution, Hon. R. B. Sullivan, opened for the defence.  
The ATTORNEY GENERAL opened for the Crown. He said: We shall not attempt to give any part of his address, as all the points are brought out in the following evidence. The first witness called was—

Newspaper headline, May 1847, *The Globe*

Eaton's murder and the extent of Hamilton's involvement have been largely recounted in court proceedings from a primary source, the May 22, 1847 edition of *The Globe* and *Mail*. The first witness to take the stand was John Brown. He seemed to have been a close acquaintance

of Hamilton's. He spent a great deal of the night the murder took place with him and was possibly Hamilton's greatest hope for an alibi. Brown revealed that he and Hamilton had been at Eaton's house the night of the murder. Brown did not discuss what matter it was that had brought them there. He and Hamilton had got twenty yards from the house when Hamilton said he wished to speak to the old man again; he did not tell Brown to either stop or go on; Brown said from

where he stood in relation to the cabin, he would have heard any sign of an altercation, but heard nothing. In less than 10 minutes from when he had first turned back, Hamilton returned with an appearance unchanged.

Brown said that Hamilton complained of a headache the day after the murder and had been awake throughout the night trying to fight its effects. This may have been construed as a guilty conscious by the jury. Brown said they first heard of Eaton's death the next day at Montgomery's Inn in Etobicoke, a popular meeting place of the time for the local community and boarding house for travelers. Brown entered after Hamilton had already been informed of Eaton's death by Thomas Montgomery, the tavern's owner.

Brown said Hamilton was first made aware of Eaton's murder at the toll gate of the Humber River. Brown remarked to Hamilton that it was strange the old man had been murdered, and they having been there the night before. Hamilton never answered; he contended he was ill with a headache and muffled up. He muttered something Brown did not understand. Brown afterwards pressed him several times, but Hamilton gave no intelligible answer.

Patrick Lappin was the first person to find Eaton's slain body. He was a neighbour of Eaton's and testified to living on the same lot. Lappin walked across to Eaton's house on Sunday at about noon and found Eaton lying with his head to the door and feet pointed towards the middle of the floor. A knife lay on the floor to the right of the body; Lappin pulled the door shut and called other neighbours.

David Peregrine, another neighbour of Eaton's, was called by Lappin at about one o'clock on Sunday to attend at the crime scene. After finding Eaton on the floor, Lappin made a search to check for missing fortune. There was a trunk unlocked, with the key still in it. He found several denominations of money, as well as some gold and silver. He saw a frying pan lying on the sticks; on the fire was a black log not burnt through. Lappin, who had visited Eaton prior to the murder, testified that he was preparing a fire on the hearth with the intention of roasting potatoes. Eaton's corpse was frozen stiff and cold. The murder weapon was four feet from body: Eaton's own axe. Peregrine then testified that the perpetrator inflicted multiple blows to the head; a deep cut across jaw, and one more behind his ear more than two inches deep. The furniture was not upset; clothes in the trunk were not disturbed, the cabin was virtually untouched. A common table knife (which may have been used in self-defence) was dropped on Eaton's frock coat (a common component of daytime dress).

Duggan, esq., Coroner of Canada West, corroborated the injuries sustained to Eaton's body. Peregrine's testimony illuminated money transactions between the deceased and the accused. It lends itself to reasonable cause for murder; could this have been a simple case of a business deal gone

*Cont'd pg. 15*



# Fighting For the Frontier: The War of 1812 Remembered

## Lead Up To War

By Milan Gocmanac

*Milan is a fourth year student at the University of Toronto Mississauga, enrolled in the Historical Studies internship program. His placement for the 2010-11 academic year is with Heritage Mississauga where he is undertaking a research project on the War of 1812 documenting militiamen from Toronto Township (Mississauga).*



Milan Gocmanac

The War of 1812 was a conflict that had its direct origins in Europe, however, it was also played out in the North American theatre with forces from the United States of America attacking the British colonial forces of modern-day Canada. The reasoning for the war revolved largely around the imperial blockade of The United States, and impressments: the British practice of declaring American naval workers as former British deserters. War was declared by the United States of America in 1812. It was believed, by the American leadership, that victory over the British Colonies of Canada would be a “mere matter of marching”, however, this was certainly not the case.

The war of 1812 involved not only two belligerent countries, but also dragged in individuals. Although wars are fought by countries, they are paid for by individuals. The individuals that fought in this war were not all trained professional soldiers, but rather many of them were militiamen fighting for the first time. Additionally, it was widely believed that Great Britain had been funding, or supplying Native warriors with munitions in order to continue frontier attacks against the United States. There was a greater divide growing between America and the British Empire, and this manifested itself in the War of 1812.

By 1812 approximately 80% of the inhabitants in Upper Canada had origins that traced back to United Empire Loyalists. A United Empire Loyalist is defined as individuals that were living in the British colonies that had declared their independence in the United States in 1776; who had fought on the British side during the American Revolution; had later fled to the colonies that had remained British. This means that those individuals had ancestors, and family ties, to the United States of America. This was one of the reasons the militia was believed to be unreliable. The militia of Toronto Township, modern day Mississauga, fought in three major battles of the war, Queenston Heights, Lundy's Lane, and also at the battle of Detroit. Those militiamen were a branch of the York Militia, specifically the

Second and Third regiment of the York Militia and consisted of approximately 273 individuals, and of those 273 approximately 35-40 of them were from Toronto Township (now the City of Mississauga).

The War of 1812 was both destructive and constructive. It was destructive in that it took the lives of many young men, that it destroyed infrastructure and created an environment of death and destruction, particularly on battlefields. However, it was constructive in that the British colony of Canada had defended itself, repelled attackers and perhaps started to develop their own ideology (a proto-nationalism). The War of 1812 saw the deployment of the militia, a previously untrained and certainly not battle-ready, group of individuals that were willing to fight for the Empire. However, not all individuals were so determined as to which side they were fighting for. It was noted that the mood among inhabitants of Upper Canada was somewhat nonchalant as to who they wanted to win the war. Many Upper-Canadians did not consider themselves drastically different from their neighbours to the south. To those individuals, whether the flag that waved above them was that of a Union Jack or the Stars and Stripes, their lives would largely go unchanged.

The psychological effects that the soldiers faced were great, especially since the militiamen were not regulars in the military, they previously had not witnessed the killing and destruction of war, they were not desensitised to the concept of battle. An examination of the Jarvis



Battle of Queenston Heights, www

family history suggests that there were some psychological effects on soldiers before and after the battles. After the war, many topics of discussion had largely been stated as before the war, or after the war. This clearly suggests that the war had such an enormous impact that there was a distinction of life before the events of the war, and of those after. The mood had largely changed because of this war. Although some historians suggest that there was a clear winner of this war, one can suggest that each side, the United States and Canada had their own victory. The former had reasserted its independence, while the latter had just discovered its own nationalism. It is through the major battles that one can analyze the role of the militiamen, and how those men added to the war effort.

This research project will introduce major concepts of the War of 1812 and offer a background of the conditions that the militiamen had faced. From there an understanding of

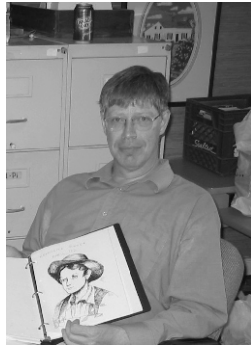
*Cont'd pg. 14*

# How Mississauga Got Its Name

## Part 5 of 8: The Runaway Favourite

By Richard Collins

From early on in the race for a new name for our new town, "Mississauga" remained consistently the front runner. In the final count of public submissions sent to Toronto Township council's naming committee, "Mississauga" tallied 513 votes – nearly five times as many votes as second-place "Cooksville".



Richard Collins, HM

What's surprising is why "Mississauga" was so far ahead of its contenders with the general public, especially when people of Ojibway heritage accounted for less than one percent of the township's population and even Kenneth Armstrong – who hailed the name so proudly – clearly lacked any real understanding of the Mississauga culture. His newspaper's logo featured a profile of a man with a multi-feathered headdress and wearing "war paint". These are symbols of the aboriginal nations of southwestern U.S.A.

Such was the misunderstanding that prevailed in the 1960s within the predominantly white population of Toronto Township in regard to "the Indians". Yet the people of Toronto Township strongly favoured naming their new town in honour of this aboriginal culture, without fully understanding just how rich their culture is.

I have one possible explanation. "Mississauga" appears to have appealed to young Canadians and to new Canadians. The name "Mississauga" may have had a sense of antiquity to it, but it was also decidedly non-British and that fit well into the increasingly-colourful cultural quilt that Canada was becoming.

A year before submissions for Toronto Township's new name were called, Canada had officially replaced its old "Red Ensign" with a new national flag that replaced the symbols of a dying empire with a distinctly Canadian symbol – the maple leaf. The name "Mississauga" fit that sense of identity renewal perfectly.

### "Mississauga" Before Mississauga

The name "Mississauga" continued to endure in this area long after the Credit Mississaugas left their reserve north of Port Credit in 1847, and these may have influenced residents when the time came to offer suggestions on a new name for their new town.

The earliest placename to adopt the word "Mississauga" is the Mississaugua Golf and Country Club, in 1906. The golf course was built on the site of the Credit Mississauga reserve

and it is from this historical connection that the golf course adopted the name. In its December 13, 1967 newspaper – the first edition after the election that chose the name "Mississauga" – publisher Kenneth Armstrong credited the golf course as his inspirations when he adopted the name "Mississauga News". Armstrong observed, "*Mississauga would have been doomed to survive only in the pages of history texts if it hadn't been borrowed by the Mississaugua Golf and Country Club*".

The 9th Toronto Light Horse Regiment began recruiting for a militia cavalry unit in 1903, but was renamed in 1907 as the 9th Mississauga Horse Regiment. It's now the Governor General's Horse Guard. Their official website does not explain the reason for adopting the name "Mississauga", but it was almost certainly derived from the aboriginal nation. Geographically the regiment was not associated with the area that would someday be called "Mississauga". The unit's recruitment office was on Adelaide Street in Toronto,

Formed in 1915, the Mississauga Lodge #524 was established long before the town ever adopted the name officially. Their website confirms that the lodge derived its name from the Credit Mississaugas whose members once attended church in the same building used by the Masons.

At its website, the Mississauga Canoe Club states its name was derived from the aboriginal nation that once traveled by canoe on the same river where young athletes now train.

Originally called John Holland Motors (after its owner, and future Port Credit councillor), the Studebaker car dealership's name was changed to Mississauga Motors Limited in November 1958. It is the first example of a business adopting the word "Mississauga". I asked John about the name of his dealership. John knew of the Mississauga Indians but said he selected the name mostly because the dealership was close to the intersection of Lakeshore Road and Mississauga Road.

Except for local references to residents on Mississauga Road, the first evidence I have uncovered where "Mississauga" was used as a general geographic reference prior to its becoming official in 1967, is from the June 20, 1960 edition of the Toronto Star.

It pertains to a story of a proposed hotel, described initially as being "east of Oakville". (A sign of the time, the story was about the fact that this new hotel, on Highway 122, was to have its own fallout shelter.) Since this hotel, on Royal Windsor Drive was considered to be neither Clarkson nor Oakville by the reporter but somewhere in between, the word "Mississauga" was substituted.

Thomas J. Plunker may have been the inspiration for putting the name "Mississauga" back into the news at about the time the public was given the chance to suggest names. This urban planner adopted the name when he undertook his

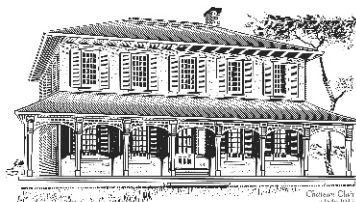
Cont'd pg. 15



# Clair House, Cooksville and the Beginnings of the Ontario Wine Industry

by Richard A. Jarrell

A point of pride in Mississauga history is the fact that the Ontario (indeed, the Canadian) wine industry began in Cooksville in the 1860s. In an article in *Ontario History* (Vol 103, no. 1, Spring 2011, 81-104), I have argued that the industry was largely the creation of one man, Justin McCarthy De Courtenay (1820-71). Research on his activities turned up a number of intriguing facets of the Cooksville connection. The early part of the story is riddled with myths, while the later part is almost wholly unknown. In this part, I would like to focus mostly on the early days of the Cooksville operation.



Chateau Claire, artists rendition, COM 2008

## Johann Schiller, Founder of the Wine Industry?

There are several versions of this story but the gist is that Corporal Johann Schiller founded the Ontario wine industry. A Rheinlander serving for the British army, he received a land grant in Toronto Township in 1806. The land grants and subsequent sales are documented. According to the story, while hunting along the Credit River in 1811 he found wild *Vitis Labrusca* grapes growing and planted cuttings on his property – Lot 17 NDS – just west of what would become the centre of Cooksville. In one version, “his vineyard eventually became one of magnitude and flourished with Clinton Grapes of plumpness and fine flavour.” Supposedly using his knowledge from the old country, he was able to make wine that was saleable. There are quite a number of problems with this story:



Johann Schiller, Artists rendition, Chateau Claire, Mississauga Central Library

- There is *no* documentary evidence from the time supporting any part of this story.
- No one writing on the Canadian wine industry during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century ever mentioned Schiller. Henry Parker, who *did* plant a vineyard on Lot 17, never mentioned Schiller, either.
- The wild grapes that grew in the Cooksville area are typically *Vitis Riparia*, which makes a very acidic wine. Schiller, who was dead by 1816, could not

have grown Clinton grapes, which were not even recognized until 1830.

- Wild grapes produce so little natural sugar that one would have to add sugar during fermentation, which De Courtenay recognized from the first. This would increase the cost of production.
- According to the documentary evidence, Schiller was a shoemaker and was essentially a mercenary soldier. How would he know how to train and prune vines and to make wine?

Recent work by Professor Alun Hughes at Brock University and by Professor Rod Phillips at Carleton University suggests that the Schiller story has no basis. I believe we can classify it as an urban legend (well, at least a rural legend). It likely began, perhaps in the mid-1930s, when some newspaper writer confused the Parker-De Courtenay story with Schiller's earlier ownership of the land.

But what if we were to give Schiller the benefit of doubt and assume he did grow some grapes, make some wine and even sold some of it. Was he the founder of the Canadian wine industry? Certainly not. Other farmers might have done the same. There was *no* Canadian wine industry when, in 1859, De Courtenay proposed to establish one. He, and all his contemporaries involved in creating the industry knew they were starting from scratch and said so. You might think that old-timers in the Cooksville area who remembered Schiller might have set the record straight with Parker and De Courtenay, but clearly no one did. The passage of nearly a half-century with no activity is *not* a sustained industry.

## Henry Parker, Unlikely Vintner

We are on solid ground when we find vines growing on Lot 17 in 1859. By that time, the Parker family owned the old Schiller property. Rear-Admiral Sir William George Parker, Bart had purchased it in 1841 and built Clair House as a base for his three youngest sons, Henry, Melville and Albert. It was Henry who planted vines, possibly in 1858, in hopes of making wine and inducing his neighbours to take up vine growing. Having grown up in England, Parker is unlikely to have had any horticultural experience; he appears to have desired to be a cut above the average farmer. He needed to hire Italian *vignerons* to tend the vines. His venture was going nowhere when he learned about Justin De Courtenay's proposal to the Provincial government to establish vineyards and to produce wine commercially. Parker and De Courtenay soon became friends and collaborators. With Montreal investors secured by the early 1860s, they proposed a joint stock company, the



Sir Melville Parker, 1877 Peel Atlas

Cont'd pg. 15

## Heritage Update

By Matthew Wilkinson,  
Historian

### After 90 Years, a Landmark Returns

Heritage Mississauga would like to congratulate the congregation at Erindale Presbyterian Church on the installation of their new spire. This historic church, a designated heritage building in Mississauga, was originally built in 1877 as the Springfield Methodist Church. In 1921, the original spire was lost, and for over 89 years the church stood without a spire. The church was purchased in 1962 by the Presbyterian congregation, and several years ago a committee was organized to tackle the project of putting a spire back on the church, led by Erindale Village resident Jim Kellhammer. As a result of a tremendous fundraising effort and a Heritage Grant from the City of Mississauga, the new spire was installed on Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The spire was manufactured in Campbellsville, Kentucky by Campbellsville Industries, a firm which specializes in church towers. It is made of aluminum and steel, and was designed to resemble the original spire (which was made of timber), based on surviving historic photographs. B.B. & R. Architects was responsible for the design and management of the project, while C.H.I. Construction prepared the existing tower for the spire placement.



Erindale Presbyterian Spire,  
HM

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Lost Villages Book Launch

Heritage Mississauga celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at The Grange. Highlighting the event was the launch of our newest book, *Journey to the Past: The Lost Villages of Mississauga*, and a special presentation of a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plaque by Mayor Hazel McCallion. Thank you to everyone who attended our Anniversary, and we apologize to those who may not have received their invitations in time due to delays with Canada Post. The Lost Villages book is available for sale through Heritage Mississauga at The Grange for \$20.



Authors Zofia Krivdova,  
Meaghan FitzGibbon and  
Matthew Wilkinson, HM



Mayor McCallion and Barbara  
O'Neil, HM

## Heritage Exhibits at The Grange

A host of new exhibits will be showcased at The Grange in the early months of 2011. In the Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre and Gallery, from January 21st until February 14th, we welcome photographer Natalie Goik with her exhibit "Moments In Time". Special thanks to Beata Goik for organizing the exhibit. From February 22nd until March 25th, we welcome back the Association of African Canadian Artists for Black History Month, with "Colourblind 2011: From The Soul", curated by Joan Butterfield. For more information on this exhibit, please visit: [www.colour-blind.ca](http://www.colour-blind.ca).



Natalie Goik, HM

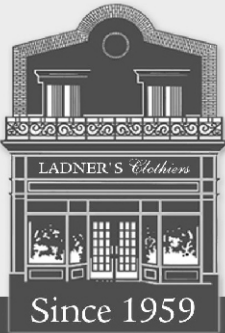


From April 5th to May 6th, we welcome back senior art students from Rick Hansen Secondary School.



**Artists Looking  
for Empty Walls**

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 3", featuring the work of Mississauga artists and photographers Edith Citrullo, Olivia Cugliari, John Doherty, Elli Jonuschies, Heidi Jonuschies, Louise Peacock, Dan Sutton, Jeffrey Tye and Bruce Walker. "Aggregation 4", the next in ALFEW's series of exhibitions at The Grange will run from March 8th until May 27th, with an opening reception on Tuesday, March 8th, from 6:30-8:30pm. Special thanks to Louise Peacock for organizing these exhibits. For more information on ALFEW please visit: [www.wezel.com/art/alfew.htm](http://www.wezel.com/art/alfew.htm).



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## Britannia Farm Update

In a very difficult decision, the Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee approved plans to relocate three historically significant buildings on the Britannia Farm Property to allow for the development of a portion of the property by the Peel District School Board. Proceeds from the land lease will go into programming on the remaining property to the benefit of school children in Peel. The affected buildings are the Gardner-Dunton House, which was previously relocated to the property in 1990, the Conover Barn, also previously relocated to the property in 1990 and which replaced the original barn, and the Britannia Farmhouse, built circa 1852, the original surviving building on the property. The Gardner-Dunton House and the Britannia Farmhouse are designated under the terms of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.



Britannia Farmhouse, HM



Gardner-Dunton House, HM

Adjacent to the buildings, but not being relocated, is the Old Britannia Schoolhouse. The move of the three structures will place them in closer proximity to the Schoolhouse, and it is hoped will allow for the greater usage of the buildings and property for programming.

In 2008, the Peel District School Board, which owns the 200-acre farm, signed a 99-year lease with Osmington Inc. that allows for development on 32 acres of land along Hurontario Street. Many options were discussed and explored, including leaving the buildings in situ, but ultimately a decision was reached to allow for the relocation, rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the buildings slightly to the North of their present location.

For more information on the proposed relocation, please visit: [www.miranet.ca/docs/Britannia\\_Farm\\_Land\\_Proposal\\_June\\_5\\_2009.pdf](http://www.miranet.ca/docs/Britannia_Farm_Land_Proposal_June_5_2009.pdf)

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**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)

## Dowling House Update

The owners of the Dowling House, located at 2285 Britannia Road West, came before the Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee in December. The building suffered significant damage in mid-2010, as documented in previous issues of *The Heritage News*.



Dowling House 2010, HM

The owners have agreed to work with the City of Mississauga's heritage staff to develop a conservation plan for the rehabilitation and reuse of the structure. The building, built circa 1883, is designated under the terms of the *Ontario Heritage Act* and was the home of Streetsville's first mayor, Frank Dowling.

## Historic Meadowvale Village: 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

2011 marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of Mississauga's true heritage gems: Meadowvale Village. Founded in 1836, Meadowvale Village became Ontario's first Heritage Conservation District in 1980. Residents



HM

of Meadowvale Village are planning to celebrate its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. *The Heritage News* will look at different aspects of Meadowvale Villages unique history, including the "founding" of the village by the "Two Johns" (John Beatty who lead a caravan of Irish settlers from New York State circa 1820 to settle in the Meadowvale area, and John Simpson, a prominent settler and land-owner whom many



HM

consider the "father" of Meadowvale and who arrived in 1837), and James Crawford, who purchased Beatty's land holdings in 1833 and established the first mill in the village. The stories will also look to the arrival, boom and bust of Francis Silverthorn, the survey of the Village in 1856, the Gooderham years, the arrival of the railways, the slow decline during the Temperance years, the setting for artists and a literary society, and the reemergence as a protected and celebrated heritage district. We look forward to celebrating (and exploring) Meadowvale Village's remarkable history and heritage in 2011.

# A Family's Fine Record of Service: The Kennedy Family Part Four

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

Our continuing look at the Kennedy family offers a brief look at "The Kennedy Kids", a popular Depression-era radio program written and produced by Evelyn Kennedy, and featuring her children.

Following the untimely passing of Evelyn's husband, John ("Jack") Kennedy Jr., in 1931, Evelyn was pressed to secure income for her large family. One of the routes she found was in radio programming. Beginning in late 1931, "The Kennedy Kids" was a radio drama show that Evelyn wrote, marketed, and in which her children starred.

The program was quite unique at the time, and focused on the daily life of the children, family and the community of Dixie. The program was sponsored initially by Doctor Jackson Foods Limited, and the Kennedy family portrayed the image of a fun-loving, hard working family with traditional values. The children were cast as themselves, and the show was initially aired on CBC radio, and later on CFRB, CRCT and CKEY. Later sponsors included Pembers Hairdressing.

Beginning in 1931 and running through 1935, advertisements in the Toronto Daily Star listed "Listen to the Kennedy Kids on CRCT every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:15pm." Audiences were said to find the radio show hilarious, and full of "boys' mischief", including failed attempts at making cider, playing in the creek (and routinely losing their rubber boots), misadventures with fireworks, and "playing" with fire. It was broadcast in markets across Canada and in the northeastern United States, which was remarkable for radio programming in the early years of the Depression.

The well-received show was lauded for highlighting the positives of community life and focusing on family and laughter in a time of great turmoil and social stresses. The program ceased in 1935 due, reportedly, to Evelyn's lack of time to write and prepare the scripts and that the children were growing, attending school, and the older ones beginning to look for jobs themselves. Evelyn Kennedy was recognized as a pioneer in children's programming in Canada by ACTRA (Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists).

For more information on the life of times of Evelyn Kennedy and the "Kennedy Kids", we recommend *When Lightning Strikes* by Joyce Beaton. The next article in this series will look at the emerging political careers and community involvement of several of the sons of John and Evelyn Kennedy.

## Join Heritage Mississauga

By Jane Watt, Administrative Assistant

I frequently get calls into the office asking when the next issue of Heritage News will be produced. Members receive the Heritage News fresh off the press. If you don't want to miss an issue, please consider taking out a membership.



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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 email [info@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:info@heritagemississauga.org)

## Trivia Answer:

Modern residents of northwest Mississauga may know the name of Lisgar in the context of modern planning and a modern street name, but have you ever wondered where the



name came from? Lisgar was a name of a "lost village" in Mississauga. Located around what is now the intersection of modern Winston Churchill Boulevard and Derry Road West, the settling community came, at first, to be known as Switzer's Corners, after several members of the Switzer family who settled nearby. Switzer's Corners officially became Lisgar when its post office opened in 1871 under Postmaster Samuel Alexander. The name was chosen in honour of John Young, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron of Lisgar, who served as the second Governor General of Canada from 1869 to 1872. One of the few reminders of this historic hamlet on our



John Young, 1st  
Baron of Lisgar,  
*www*

modern landscape is the pioneer Eden Cemetery located at the corner of Derry Road West and Shelter Bay. To learn more about the history of this historic community, see Heritage Mississauga's newest publication: *Journey to the Past: The Lost Villages of Mississauga*.



## Mississauga South Historical Society Happenings

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



A new year and a good start for Mississauga South Historical Society. Despite the freezing rain and slush we had a good turnout for our first meeting of 2011. Thank you to Margaret Barnstaple, Judy Hare Feeley, Ray and Jean Hatton, Arthur Kennedy and Matthew Wilkinson for "showing and telling". New member (but long-time Port Credit resident) Gord Hatten brought in dozens of original paper labels from early St. Lawrence Starch packaging. Gord has a complete collection of BeeHive syrup hockey cards of the Toronto Maple Leafs and BeeHive calendars of the Dionne Quintuplets. Gord's show-and-tell items were just a small part of a huge collection of items that he has compiled over many decades. I've asked Gord to be a guest speaker later this year, so stay tuned for more rare items of South Mississauga history.

In March, our normal "third Tuesday" meeting date falls during the March school break, so we've moved this year's March meeting to the fourth Tuesday. That'll be March 22, at Regency Retirement Residence, 29 Mississauga Road in Port Credit. The time is 7:30 as usual.

Thanks to Jayme Gaspar for making arrangement for our field trip in May. We've had success in recent years with trips that are closer to home, so we're planning to visit the Sovereign House in Bronte, the Erchless Estate in Oakville and then finish off at the Bradley Museum to see the Hancock Nursery exhibit.

It's early in the year so we're still planning our list of guest speakers for 2011. We'll have more details in an upcoming MSHS newsletter. Or keep checking up on us online.

Speaking of online, I'd like to put the call out for old letters, pictures, stories or anything else of historical interest that you think others will find interesting. I'd like to add these and other items of historical interest on our website. Kind of like a digital version of our Show and Tell. I will be adding some interesting pictures and stories from Marg Naish soon. (Thanks to our collections co-ordinator, Elaine Eigl, for organizing Marg's extensive collection.) Hope you can help out.

**Interested in Advertising in  
Heritage News????**

**Give us a call 905-828-8411 ext.0**

## Streetsville Historical Society Happenings

By Jean Watt, Publicity  
Director



The Streetsville Historical Society will meet on Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 7:30pm at Specialty Care Mississauga Road at 4359 Mississauga Road in the Multi Purpose Room. The guest speaker will be well-known writer, author and historian, Alan Skeoch. His topic will be "The Women Who Won The War", focusing on the women who worked at Small Arms Limited in Lakeview during World War Two. This topic will be of great interest to many local people who had family and friends working there during the war. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please contact Jean Watt, Publicity Director, at 905-826-1860.

## Port Credit Post Office

The future of the Port Credit Post Office building, a significant heritage landmark in Port Credit, is starting to become a little clearer. After attempting to sell the building for some time, Canada Post sold the former Post Office and Customs and Excise House to Centre City



*Port Credit Post Office, circa 1932, City of  
Toronto Archives*

Capital Limited, a local development company with strong ties to Port Credit and the Port Credit Community, and who own and operate the adjacent Waterside Inn. The sale went through on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The main building, at the southwest corner of Stavebank Road and Lakeshore Road, was built in 1931 and served as a Post Office, Customs House and Armoury. Additions to the building were made in 1953-54 and 1966 respectively. Now with the transfer of ownership from the federal government to a private owner, it is possible for the City of Mississauga to look towards formal Designation of the building under the terms of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. A report recommending designation of the building came before the City of Mississauga's Heritage Advisory Committee on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011, but the matter was deferred to allow the new owner time to prepare plans for the property. The new owner and community representatives both presented to the committee, and expressed excitement about the possibilities for the adaptive reuse of the significant heritage building in Port Credit. We will provide updates in future issues of the *Heritage News*.

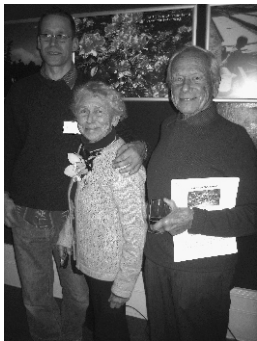
# Lots Happening at the Museums of Mississauga

By Stephanie Meeuwse, Collections & Exhibit Coordinator

The Museums of Mississauga are always busy with a number of exhibits, events and programs to interest a wide variety of visitors.



Starting in January, the Museums will be hosting a photographic exhibition entitled *"Woodland Nurseries: A Retrospective"* Originally owned by the Hancock Family, Woodland Nursery was recently purchased by the City of Mississauga for use as a public park. UTM intern, Stephanie Bellissimo, worked extensively with Marjorie Hancock to organize, document and scan over 70 years of the nursery's history. These photographs and Marjorie's reminiscences will be the basis of this fascinating display. The exhibit will be open to the public at the Anchorage, Bradley Museum from January 17th through until June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Also on display will be *"Home Child Quilt: A Patchwork of Memories"* at Benares Visitor Centre until February 27th, 2011. Between 1869 and 1948, it is estimated that 100,000 children were brought to Canada by



Hancock family at the opening, MOM

British charities seeking ways to alleviate the poverty in England's urban centres. Fifty-six of these Home Children's stories will be told through this quilt made by Gail Collins to commemorate 2010 Canada's Year of the British Home Child.

The Museums of Mississauga at Bradley Museum and Benares Historic House will also host a special family day, on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, from 1-5pm: purchase a Family Day Pass for \$7 and enjoy a variety of drop-in activities. Activities include guided tours, historic demonstrations, crafts and more! Purchase a Family Day Pass and enjoy a variety of drop-in activities across the City of Mississauga.

Maple Magic also returns to the Museums in 2011, from March 12<sup>th</sup> to March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, weekdays 12-4 pm & Weekends 10am-4pm at the Bradley Museum. The sweet smell of maple syrup will fill the air around Bradley Museum during the March Break as that marks the return of the annual maple syrup season and Mississauga's own maple syrup festival — *Maple Magic!* Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides and pancakes served daily in our log cabin, along with guided tours, kids' crafts, free samples and more. On the weekends delight in toe-tapping folk music,

soar up into the air in a Forestry Division bucket truck — all this in addition to learning about maple syrup production the old and new ways. Don't miss the Sweet Water Camp, a recreated First Nations campsite where you can learn about the lore and legends surrounding the first discovery of this marvellous water that oozes out of maple trees.

For more information on the Museums of Mississauga please call 905-615-4860 or see our website at [www.museumsofmississauga.com](http://www.museumsofmississauga.com).

## Leslie Log House Project Update

Work continues at the Leslie Log House at 4415 Mississauga Road, and the building will open to the public on **May 14th, 2011** as the new home of the Streetsville Historical Society, in partnership with the Museums of Mississauga, City of Mississauga. The Leslie Log House will join Bradley Museum and Benares Historic House as the third Museums of Mississauga site. The building will house the Streetsville Historical Society's rich archival and artefact collection in appropriate museum-quality storage upstairs. The main floor will feature exhibits of the Streetsville Historical Society collection, educational programming by the Museums of Mississauga, and include a lovely meeting room available for meetings and social occasions.



Leslie Log House, HM

For more information, please visit: [www.museumsofmississauga.com](http://www.museumsofmississauga.com)

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of one of the heritage communities dear friends Betty Wilson-Smith. A Life-time member of Heritage Mississauga since 1999 we lost Betty December 7th, 2010. Betty supported so many heritage groups in Mississauga, including the Mississauga South Historical Society. She was a member of their Executive for many years and as Secretary always read the past meetings minutes with humour and wit. She will be missed.

We also express our deepest sympathies to Life-time member Mary Finley on the loss of her husband John in November of last year. A wonderful supporter of all that Mary did in the community, John will be greatly missed.



## 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 and an up-to-date list of speakers, times, topics, dates and locations, please visit: [www.mississauga.ca/heritagefour](http://www.mississauga.ca/heritagefour) or call 905-615-4860 ext.2113. All lectures start promptly at 7:00pm.

### Lecture 1

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

Where: Malton Victory Hall (3091 Victory Crescent)

Speaker: Keith R. Hyde, Aviation Historian

Title: The AVRO Lancaster



Lancaster Bomber roll-out, Malton, www

### Lecture 2

When: Thursday, May 5th, 2011, 7-8pm

Where: Cawthra Community Centre, Petrescue Hall 1

Speaker: Professor Richard Jarrell, York University

Title: The Clair House Winery and the Founding of the Canadian Wine Industry in Cooksville

### Lecture 3

Program and venue TBA

### Lecture 4

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

Where: Cawthra Community Centre, Petrescue Hall 1

Speaker & Topic: TBA

## Presidents Message cont'd.....

Luz del Rosario, a recipient of Mississauga's Citizen Of The Year Award, whose past work as a trustee with the English Separate School Board, Chair of Carassauga Festival Inc., and President of Culture Philippines of Ontario, to name a few of her many interests, is well known, was welcomed to the Board at our January meeting. Ms. del Rosario hopes to contribute her volunteer and professional background in Commerce and Human Resources to increase awareness of our organization. We're thrilled she has joined us!

As well, we are delighted to have Stace LaForme and Adam Sault both Directors of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation Band Council, on our board as of January. As a result of the success of last year's Maanjidowin event, and in recognition of the importance of building ongoing relationships with our aboriginal peoples, Heritage Mississauga requested the Band Council to nominate a candidate/s for a role on our board. Both gentlemen will be sharing a non-voting advisory board director role until the May AGM. At that time, the membership will be asked to vote on a change to our Constitution & Bylaws which will allow for an aboriginal director who lives/works outside the city boundaries to have voting rights on the board.

Just in time for Heritage Month, we welcome to our Board of Directors Jake Dheer, Station Manager of Rogers Cable Television, a former Citizen of the Year and Past Chairman of the Mississauga Board of Trade. A strong community activist he has held and continues to hold leadership roles on boards of several other organizations including United United Way of Peel, Credit Valley Hospital Foundation and Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Peel.

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## *The War of 1812 Remembered cont'd. . . .*

the role of the militia, specifically the individuals from Toronto Township (Mississauga) will be brought to light. From the histories of those families one will be able to deduce the historical significance of the War of 1812. The concept of psychological pressures, desertion, morality, and a newly formed proto-nationalism after the war will all be examined. First, however, one must understand the formation and organization of the militia in order to grasp their importance.

Management of the war effort was directly for the Imperial government in London, England. The government, however, was represented through officers and officials in Canada. The civil authorities of Upper Canada had the duty to maintain the militia. This government was also in charge of maintaining law and order – within the context of wartime this was to ensure there were punishments for disloyalty. Additionally the governments, through Provinces were able to reward loyal servers with land following the completion of the war. Our story will focus on the militia's involvement, and perspective of the battle at Queenston Heights, Lundy's Lane, and Detroit. But before one can understand the nature of the war itself, and delve into specifics relating to the militia, there is a certain amount of background information that is necessary to lay the groundwork for this narrative.

The Canadian military was commanded by Sir Isaac Brock, a man that some historians have regarded as the saviour of Upper Canada. Brock was an army officer and an army administrator; he was assigned to Canada in 1802. Although he faced many desertions and mutinies Brock had believed that war with the United States was coming. He thusly prepared his soldiers ahead of time. This paid off as a strategy because his troops were ready once the war was declared. Although he was readying the army and militia he was not impressed with the quality of the Upper Canadian militia as a whole. In fact he was worried about the potential for desertion, and mutiny when the fighting broke out. He was also unimpressed at the physical shape of many of the individuals that were a part of the militia. Brock was promoted to Colonel on October 29th, 1805. By 1806 the United States was becoming increasingly hostile to the British Empire, and relations between the two nations continued to deteriorate until war finally broke out in 1812.

The hostilities between the United States and the British Empire stemmed from economic and military issues. Economically, the British had put blockades on French Ports, this included any American ships that had come for the purpose of trade. The British effectively created a blockade against the United States as France was a major trading partner of America. Secondly, there was the issue of impressments. The British military boarded and detained American sailors, Britain maintained that they were former British deserters due to the Revolutionary War. Thirdly, it

was widely believed that the United Kingdom was financing, and supplying the Native warriors in the United States with munitions in order for them to continue attacks along the western front of the United States. And fourthly, the notion of Manifest Destiny played a significant role. The idea that the United States would be able to expand its power by simply forcing its way into portions of the British colonies, particularly because the colonies were poorly defended, and often had porous borders, played a large role.

Sir Isaac Brock had been in a situation that he felt was almost certain to end in war, yet many other officials thought that war would be averted. However, grumblings of economic uncertainty and illegal treatment of the United States by the British Empire led many American officials to consider the notion of invading the British Colonies. George Washington had considered an invasion of Canada a “mere matter of marching” and Brock responded to this by bolstering Canadian defences.

*Look for a continuation of this story in upcoming issues of The Heritage News. If you have information for individuals from Toronto Township who were involved in the war of 1812 please contact Heritage Mississauga.*



## **Mississauga Sports Council Heritage Month Celebrations**

Mark your calendars for Sports Week 2011 - being held February 21 - 28th. It's an action-packed week full of events, displays, demonstrations and workshops celebrating sport and active living for the whole family. An annual Sports Week highlight is the Sports Hall of Fame Physical Education Program providing an opportunity for students through to older adults to visit our Sports Hall of Fame, hear the experiences of one of our amazing Sports Hall of Famers, and then get active in the gym - lots of fun for everyone. The **Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame** is under development outside the Sports Council office, in the lobby of the Sports Complex (Hershey SportZone). It is free to public and currently provides a variety of exhibits in display cabinets and graphical depictions of our Hall of Famers. Open 7 days a week, it's free to visit and check out the Sports Complex at the same time. Visit often and watch the Hall of Fame grow. Anyone having any stories or Mississauga sports memorabilia they would like to donate for community display is welcome to contact the Sports Council at [info@sportsmississauga.org](mailto:info@sportsmississauga.org)



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

wrong? In his testimony, Peregrine said he rented a piece of property from Hamilton. He was often times told by James Hamilton to pay his rent fees to Eaton instead, suggesting that Hamilton owed Eaton money and was willing to give up his rent collection to him. Peregrine was given strict orders by Hamilton to not pay Eaton directly any longer after the 1st of January, 1847.

A Mr. Trotier testified to Hamilton commenting days after the murder that the chancery suit the two were involved in would now stop. A Mr. Platt testified to Hamilton boarding at his house two weeks prior to Eaton's murder. He said Hamilton received money from Peregrine in the amount of 20 pounds and he placed it in Platt's care to give to Eaton. Hamilton told Platt with disappointment that one of his farms had been sold. Platt heard him say he could live comfortably if Eaton were dead. Hamilton spoke of plans to go into the country on Friday night; Platt lent him money, and Hamilton said he knew where to get more (from Old Man Eaton).

When James Hamilton finally took the stand, he testified to Eaton lending him some money on a mortgage upon the farm in Chinguacousy. Old Eaton was to come into town on the following Thursday to conclude the business. This was the topic of an hour discussion the night of the murder when Hamilton had visited Eaton's cabin. Hamilton said all of this was discussed in front of Brown and contrary to Brown's testimony, he never returned to the cabin to speak to Eaton privately. After leaving Eaton's on Saturday, he went out to Halliday's in Trafalgar Township, Halton County. He had some business there as there was a man named John Wilson, who owed him a dollar and a half from 6 years previous. This may be further evidence of Hamilton being in financial straits to be collecting on past due amounts from 6 years prior. On their way home on Monday, Thomas Montgomery told Hamilton that Eaton was murdered, which was the first he heard of it. Hamilton asked Montgomery to borrow one of the horses to go out to the inquest and attend the funeral.

*Look for the second part of this story in the Spring Issue of the Heritage News.*

---

## ***Clair House cont'd.....***

Canada Vine Growers Association (CVGA) to own and operate Parker's vineyard. By 1864, De Courtenay was in charge and expansion began. Henry Parker moved out of Clair House and moved in with his brother-in-law, lawyer John Hector, on Simcoe Street in Toronto. Melville Parker moved to a property north-east of the vineyard (now Parker Hill). The Parker brothers, the Hectors and Cooksville and Niagara-area farmers were at various times shareholders in the CVGA. At the height of production in the mid-1860s, Clair House produced as much as 50,000 gallons of wine and a considerable amount of brandy.

## ***Count De Courtenay, the French Aristocrat and his Palatial Mansion***

It is most curious how Justin McCarthy De Courtenay, an Englishman, was transmogrified into an aristocratic French count who built the wine vaults in Cooksville like those of his palatial French estate. His wife Blanche *was* French – they had met when he worked in the vineyards of Périgord – but the family was staunchly Anglican. He was reasonably well off but not a wealthy man. While a branch of the De Courtenays were aristocrats in mediaeval France, the English and Irish descendants were not, save for the Earls of Devon, to whom Justin was unrelated. In his time in Canada, De Courtenay was always referred to as “Mr De Courtenay.” It is not clear where the mythology came from but the reality was much more prosaic.

While Henry Parker was an amateur, De Courtenay was a professional, with experience in France, Switzerland and Italy. Clair House winery (it was never called Château Clair when De Courtenay operated it) was, without a doubt, the first commercial vineyard and winery in Canada, and its example inspired others to follow. For De Courtenay, however, dealings with government, despite his friendship with John A. Macdonald, were often rocky and after a few years De Courtenay moved on. The CVGA's holdings in Cooksville were sold to Solomon White, a Windsor lawyer, in 1868. De Courtenay moved to Amherstburg in an unsuccessful bid to grow grapes and then moved his family home to a Dorsetshire village, where he died in 1871.

Henry Parker ceased to have a role, whether because he felt shunted aside or whether he lost interest, we do not know. The mortgage on Clair House had never been paid and Parker sued the CVGA in 1875. He died two years later never seeing the money.

*Look for the second part of this story in the Spring Issue of the Heritage News.*

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## ***Mississauga's name cont'd.....***

report for the province on improving the 115 year old system by which municipal governments in Ontario functioned.

A key theme in Plunker's plan was consolidation. He proposed to merge Ontario's countless small townships into fewer, larger cities. One of these new super-cities was an amalgamation of Toronto, Trafalgar and Nelson townships into one big city he called “Mississauga”.

Plunker's Report was the first to suggest the word “Mississauga” as a suitable name for a possible incorporated community although he was cautious to note in his report that “The Urban County of Mississauga” was only an interim name adopted for use in his report.

Interim to Plunkett, but it turned out to be a name that will live on forever. More on that as our saga continues, next time.

# Heritage Matters

## Heritage Mississauga

**Heritage Awards Thurs. Feb. 17, 2011 6:30pm Lakeview Golf Course 1190 Dixie Rd. Tickets \$25.00**

**Discover Your Roots Workshop Sat. Feb. 26th 1pm-4pm "The Grange" FREE**

**Equinox Sunrise Ceremony Sun. Mar. 20th 6:30am**

**Heritage Bus Tour Sun. Apr. 17 1pm-6pm \$19.50**

**Annual General Meeting Wed. May 25th 6:30pm "The Grange"**

## Art Gallery of Mississauga

**SALMON RUN PROJECT: THE EXHIBITION** A collaborate undertaking with the Culture Division, City of Mississauga. As a part of this project the Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM) is looking for artists from Mississauga and the surrounding area to create a unique piece of art using a cast of an Atlantic salmon. Participating artists are requested to decorate these salmon forms in original ways. Political, environmental, social or merely aesthetic interpretations are all encouraged. A variety of media may be used paint, collage, assemblage or a combination medium may be used. The more creative the better. Applicants should be practicing professional artists. Proposals are requested and will be juried by three qualified judges. **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: FEBRUARY 18, 2011 BY 5 PM**

Send your applications to: Salmon Run Project: The Exhibition Art Gallery of Mississauga 300 City Centre Drive Mississauga, Ontario L5B 3C1 For more information please call 905-896-5088 or email robert.freeman@mississauga.ca **For the most current listings please visit [www.artgalleryofmississauga.com](http://www.artgalleryofmississauga.com)**

## Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

**February 12th** Friends of The Old Britannia Schoolhouse will be participating in Heritage Brampton at the Bramalea City Centre during mall hours. Come and enjoy the displays celebrating The Old Britannia Schoolhouse as well as other historical sites in the north part of Peel County.

**February 13** - Celebrate Valentine's Day like the Victorians. See a display of Victorian era valentines and other vintage greetings cards then make a simple card for your favourite person

**March 13** - Family Games Day. We'll get out all the old traditional games for you to try. Play a game of skittles or marbles with your children.

**April 10** - Play with Victorian toys and make a pinwheel.

## Halton Peel O.G.S.

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

**February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**-Oakville Library-Ruth Burkholder, "What's on Ancestry?" An introduction to Canadian and other content available at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

**March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011**-Brampton Library-Janice Nickerson-"Crime and Punishment in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ontario" Learn about our early judicial system and the records it generated.

## Mississauga Arts Council

**MARTY Nominations Now Open!** The time to celebrate the city's top artists is quickly approaching! The Mississauga Arts Council (MAC) is thrilled to announce it is now accepting nominations for the 2011 MARTY awards. Talented artists are encouraged to submit nominations for the chance to win a MARTY award and be recognized by the community. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the MARTY awards celebrate the artistic achievement of established artists while encouraging and supporting emerging artistic talent So don't hesitate! Nominate yourself (with a letter of support) or a deserving artist today! Please visit the website [www.mississaugaartscouncil.com](http://www.mississaugaartscouncil.com) or call 905-615-4278 for additional information.

## Mississauga South Historical Society

**Tuesday March 22**, at Regency Retirement Residence, 29 Mississauga Road in Port Credit. The time is 7:30 as usual. For program information check website [www3.sympatico.ca/chessie217](http://www3.sympatico.ca/chessie217)

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

## Mississauga Sports Council

Sports Week February 21-28, Sports Hall of Fame Sports Complex - Hershey SportZone, for more information visit 5600 Rose Cherry Place - Suite 101, 905-267-3536, [www.sportsmississauga.org](http://www.sportsmississauga.org)

## Museums of Mississauga

**Family Day at the Museums of Mississauga**

**February 21, 2011; 1 pm to 5 pm**

Bradley Museum, 1620 Orr Road/Benares Historic House, 1507 Clarkson Road North

Visit: [www.museumsofmississauga.com](http://www.museumsofmississauga.com) or call 905-615-4860, ext. 2110

**Admission:** \$7/Family Pass.

**Maple Magic: Maple Syrup Festival at the Bradley Museum**

**March 12 to 20, 2011** March Break Week

Weekdays 12 pm to 4 pm and Weekends 10 am to 4 pm Bradley Museum, 1620 Orr Road

**Admission:** \$16.75 (+ tax) per family

**Woodland Nurseries: A Retrospective 1930 to 2009:** On display until June 2011, Bradley Museum, 1620 Orr Road

A visual record of Woodland Nurseries located on Camilla Road in Mississauga. This award winning nursery has influenced the growing of Rhododendrons across the globe. This exhibit will look at historic and modern images of the nursery and tell some of the many interesting stories which make this property unique. The Woodlands Nursery property is now owned by the City of Mississauga and plans are underway for the development of it as a park.

**British Home Children Remembered:** On display until February 2011 Benares Historic House, 1507 Clarkson Road N.

Carrie Furze, a servant at Benares Historic House during WWI was a British Home Child. This exhibit will highlight her story and will also feature a memorial quilt which tells the story of 56 of other children brought to Canada from 1871-1941. This quilt has been touring Canada and helps to educate the public about Home Children and their stories.

**What's New in Old Stuff: Recent Donations:** On display March to August 2011, Benares Historic House, 1507 Clarkson Road N.

A perennial favourite display, the Museums of Mississauga showcases a number of their newest donations and stories for 2009-2010. This display recognizes those who support the Museums and help to preserve Mississauga's rich history. This eclectic collection always has something of interest for everyone!

## Streetsville Historical Society

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 7:30at Specialty Care Facility, 4359 Mississauga Rd.

Writer, historian and author, Alan Skeoch: "The Women Who Won the War: the women who worked at the small arms plant in Lakeview during the war. Everyone is welcome.

Apr. 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:33-David Nattress: The Country Heritage Park formerly known as the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

## Trafalgar Historical Society/Doors Open

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

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 7pm** Richard Collins: Lighthouses of Lake Ontario

**April 26th 2011 7pm**, Oakville Museums: Topic TBA

## Toronto Branch United Empire Loyalists

**Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2011.** Monthly meetings are held at the branch office at 40 Scollard Street, Suite 300 and begin at 8 p.m. Scollard Street is three short blocks north on Yonge Street from Bloor. You are welcome to come early for refreshments and to browse in the library before the formal meeting starts. To mark Black History Month, Karolyn Smardz Frost will be our guest speaker. Her topic will be "Blacks and the History of Old Town Toronto."