

# Heritage News

## Commemorative Issue



Fall 2012  
Vol. 25/Issue 3



### We Will Remember Them

*By Gregory Carraro, Vice President, Heritage Mississauga*

Canada's recent involvement in the war in Afghanistan has heightened our awareness of the contributions of the men and women in our Armed Forces. With 158 soldiers killed and many more who returned home injured, it has made recent Remembrance Day ceremonies in this country seem more immediate and personal. This year's tribute in Port Credit was no different.

I arrived at Canadian Legion Branch 82 early on November 11 to participate in the annual ceremony with some hesitation, unsure of how I, a civilian dressed in a military uniform, would be received by the real veterans. I parked across the street and made my way toward the legion hall past a group of O.P.P. officers who had started to form for the parade. "What's that around your neck?" asked one officer. I replied that it was a gorget, an ornamental part of my replica 1812 officers uniform and added that I was representing the men from the area who participated in that war as members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of York. "That's important" he replied. "You're looking good for such an old vet!" he added with a laugh.

Participating in the parade and ceremony were various emergency service organizations, police and fire departments as well as paramedics, community groups like the Masonic Temple and Knights of Columbus, girl guides and boy scouts, representatives from the various levels of government, members of the Toronto Scottish Regiment and of course, veterans. And then there was Evan and myself, feeling like fish out of water and depending on the mercy of the parade marshal and advice from a very helpful RCMP officer who gave us last minute guidance on drill procedures.

The tremendous honour of being able to take part in the event began to hit home as I watched the older veterans snap to attention, recalling how it was they who years ago volunteered, as men much younger than myself, to serve in Europe, Korea, the Suez, Cyprus and elsewhere. Now most of them are in their seventies and eighties. Still, each year they answer the call to honour their fallen comrades. Soon they too will be gone and their legacy left to us to recall.

Not all of the veterans present that day were seniors. As I mentioned, the war in Afghanistan has renewed Canada's investment in this day. Today, much younger veterans, in their twenties and thirties, now march in remembrance. No imagination is necessary to see these young people, still in uniform, still in active service being honoured on this day.

Following the laying of the wreaths at the cenotaph, while standing in line for refreshments in the legion hall, I introduced myself to one such individual, a corporal serving with the famed Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. Thanking him for his service I turned to my young son and remarked that here was a real soldier. In response, he thanked *me* for being part of the day. Surprised, I asked him why. "Because", he explained, "if you are making an effort to remember the veterans of a war fought 200 years ago, then I know that my memory is safe".

At that moment, I understood why I was there.



*Wreaths at Mississauga's Community Memorial, HM*

***Remembering Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812***

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**HERITAGE NEWS** is a publication of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc. The Foundation (est. 1960) is a not-for-profit organization which identifies, researches, interprets, promotes, and encourages awareness of the diverse heritage resources relating to the city of Mississauga. The Foundation acknowledges, with thanks, the financial assistance of the City of Mississauga, 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 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: January 11, 2013

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**Photography:** Canadian Federation of University Women, Maeve Doyle, Elaine Eigl, Fielding Chemical, Heritage Mississauga, CW Jefferys, Konrad Group, Métis Nation of Ontario, Mississauga Library System, Museums of Mississauga, Ontario Heritage Trust, Louise Peacock, J. Philip, James Spencer, The Print Guru's, Toronto Star, Mcpl Dany Veillete, Duncan Willock, www

**Printing:** The Print Guru's



## President's Message

*By Barbara O'Neil, President, Heritage Mississauga*

### The War Of 1812 (And 1813, And 1814)



*Barbara O'Neil and Matthew Wilkinson,  
Civic Centre Remembrance Day ceremony, HM*

Relaxing with a big coffee and the Saturday papers is my preferred pleasant way to launch into the weekend. This summer, my pleasure level doubled July 28<sup>th</sup> when I opened the Toronto Star to find a front page article on Heritage funding of 1812 commemorations, along with a colour photo of our historian, Matthew Wilkinson.

This coverage was a bit of a surprise – we hadn't approached the media on the funding issue - though we're fairly certain who the behind-the-scenes heritage supporter was! A call from the Toronto Star to a number of contacts such as Matthew for background information lead to a very supportive article, wherein the Department of Canadian Heritage stated its commitment to honouring the resting places of those who served in the War of 1812.

#### The Power Of The Press

This commitment was confirmed when funding was received by the Bread & Honey Festival to host a two day 1812 battle enactment with additional funds included in the application for special commemoration projects. As a result, Heritage Mississauga has been given sufficient money from these funds to produce and install interpretive panels in all local cemeteries where 1812 veterans are buried. Mississauga will now have a permanent, visible record honouring them at the Dixie Union, St. Peter's, Springcreek, Streetsville Anglican, Erindale Cosmopolitan and Streetsville Pioneer cemeteries.

Further good news: also as a result of the Star feature, we received numerous calls from members of the public asking how they can pass on information they have on 1812 veterans. As the Southern Georgian Bay War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee is planning on creating a

comprehensive database of these veterans, we were able to refer these callers to ensure as much historic information as possible is captured for posterity. And, there is still an opportunity to get funding for medals which would be affixed to the confirmed grave sites of 1812 veterans in Ontario.

#### 1812 Themed Events Throughout 2012

Of course, Heritage Mississauga has put a major focus on commemorating the War of 1812 this year. Much research on the part of summer and co-op students has enabled us to publish 5, 1812 themed "Gazettes", with 1 more edition due before year end and 1 planned for 2013. We've commemorated the War in several Heritage Newsletter articles. In addition to installing several 1812 exhibits around the City.

In May, at Carassauga, we arranged for re-enactors to present an 1812 encampment. At a June meeting of City Council, volunteers, summer students, myself, and our Vice President, Greg Carraro, in the role of Lt. Starr Jarvis, "mobbed" the meeting, re-enacting the reading of the Declaration of War. In August, our volunteers (in historically accurate reproduction garb) were involved in the Canadian Heritage cheque presentation with MP Brad Butt, Mayor McCallion, Councillor Carlson and members of the Bread & Honey Festival Committee.

September saw HM staff, volunteers and directors attending and assisting the Bread And Honey organizers with the crowd-pleasing Battle enactment. This event generated praise not only from thousands of attendees and media, but lead to multiple requests for Heritage Mississauga to organize another such event in 2013, which we've agreed to do.

#### Fall Wrap-up

For Doors Open on September 29<sup>th</sup>, Heritage Mississauga staged an encampment on the grounds of the Grange. Many thanks to Peter Twist and his Crown Forces re-enactors for their support during this event. Our October Haunted Mississauga event at Dixie Union Cemetery, which focussed on local 1812 soldiers, enjoyed a record turnout and the weather, thankfully, cooperated!

As this article goes to press, we are putting the finishing touches on our i-Phone App which provides fabulous content on Mississauga and 1812 veterans. The application will be launched December 1st and will be free. Future i-Phone updates are under consideration.

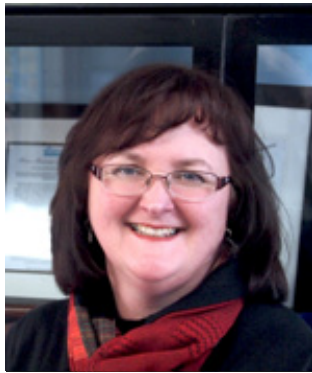
Heritage Mississauga played a key role in 3 major Remembrance Day ceremonies this year. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Civic Centre ceremony to represent our organization at the wreath-laying ceremony. On Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> Director Leslie Fernandes did the same in Streetsville, and Vice President Greg Carraro attended as a

*Cont'd pg. 6*

## From the Editor's Desk

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director, Heritage Mississauga

What an AWESOME year! I have heard this statement over and over, from volunteers, staff, friends and total strangers. Webster's defines 'awesome' as an expression of awe, inspiring, terrific, extraordinary, with synonyms that include astounding, marvelous, and staggering. There seems to be one definition missing, "**2012 heritage celebrations in Mississauga**". This year definitely is one for the record books. Heritage Mississauga participated in over 190 events and programs connecting with more than 61,500 residents and visitors and those were only the ones we could record. It is truly hard to find the words to adequately express our gratitude for the incredible support and enthusiastic participation celebrating heritage this year. Our thanks to each and every one of you who got involved, supported and participated in heritage programs this year.



Jayme Gaspar, HM

To our generous funders: City of Mississauga - Culture Division, Pendle Fund of the Community Foundation of Mississauga, Service Canada and Hazel McCallion Foundation for the Arts, Culture and Heritage, thank you for your financial support and belief in our projects, giving us the opportunity to bring the amazing Mississauga, War of 1812 story of sacrifice and significant contribution, to life for residents and visitors. Your support means so much and we are truly grateful. After the "Battle of the Credit" I met with one of the re-enactors and he spoke to me about his experience during the September weekend. He said that in all his experience participating in battles across Ontario, he had never come across a community that was so interested in their Canadian and local heritage. **Wow!** That says it all for me. There is an invigorated sense of pride in our midst, a connectedness to a time forgotten, that until now, we did not feel a part of, and with your support, Heritage Mississauga has made a difference. Thank you ALL!

I have often said in this column that there is so much of our city history that we collectively do not know about. I invite you to take a few moments and pick up a copy of our latest publication the "Mississauga Heritage Guide" and get acquainted with over 10,000 years of our heritage in a 64 page portable publication, and it is FREE! Mississauga is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest



city in Canada and with over 200 years of history there are so many unique and exciting milestones it has reached. 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, for their support to publish this guide. Copies can be found in libraries, community centres, neighbourhood centres and of course at our office. Visit us, the coffee is always on and we would love to hear about your "Mississauga" experiences.



In September during the opening of the Southside Shuffle, I was invited to join in on the launch of the *Mississauga Music Walk of Fame* in Port Credit honouring four, very special Mississaugan's. Congratulations to Rockin' Ronnie Hawkins, Triumph's Gil Moore, Opera singer Krisztina Szabo and the late great jazz pianist Oscar Peterson who were all honoured as the first stars in the Walk of fame. The walk of fame is located in Port Credit Memorial Park and when complete will include over 40 stars. Thanks to Councillor Jim Tovey for inviting Heritage Mississauga to be guests of the launch, helping us to keep Mississauga's milestone records in "tune".



Ronnie Hawkins and Gil Moore, HM

In this issue you will also hear about Heritage Mississauga's first iPhone app. This app is dedicated to telling our story of the War of 1812 and is all about Mississauga residents contributions. Read the full story on page 6. I hope you will download the app onto your Apple device and give us your feedback. We hope to do a second app on the contributions of Mississaugan's to WWI.

This *Commemorative Issue* is packed with lots to read and we have added a few new authors for you to meet. We will be back to our regular 4 issue year in 2013. Best wishes to everyone for a very happy holiday, filled with memories and laughter, time with family and friends and the joy of the season. See you next year!



# The War of 1812 comes to Mississauga!

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga



During the War of 1812 no battles were ever fought within the bounds of what is today the City of Mississauga. But on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, we welcomed over 100 re-enactors to the island in the Credit River in Streetsville Memorial Park who brought the War of 1812 to life in front of over 10,000 visitors. The event was marketed as “Mississauga IS 1812”, but was quickly dubbed by many as the “Battle of the Credit”. The two-day event saw three military battle re-enactments, encampments, period entertainment and sutlers, and was deemed an incredible success by organizers, visitors and re-enactors alike.

The highlight truly focused on the battle re-enactments, which saw British forces and Native allies arrayed against American forces in three skirmishes, complete with cannon fire. The sounds of war echoed up and down the Credit Valley. Saturday evening was capped off with a tremendous fireworks exhibit to the tune of the 1812 Overture.

Heritage Mississauga extends our congratulations to the organizers and participants, including the Chair of the organizing committee, Duncan Willock, Ward 11 Councillor George Carlson, MP Brad Butt, Department of Canadian

Heritage, Bread and Honey Festival, Heather Coupey, City of Mississauga, Robert Chestnut, Sandra Pitts, Anthony Shuttleworth, Christine Simundson, David Mosley, Chris Hobson, together with Peter Twist and 1812 Crown Forces North America, and others too numerous to mention. It was a wonderful event to be a part of, and it truly brought history to life!

## MP Brad Butt addressed the House of Commons on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012



Luz del Rosario, Greg Carraro, Councillor McFadden, MP Brad Butt, Councillor George Carlson, HM

*Mr. Speaker,*

*Last weekend, thousands of people attended a festival commemorating the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 in Streetsville Memorial Park. This fantastic event was a great partnership between the Streetsville Bread & Honey Festival Committee, Heritage Mississauga and the City of Mississauga and made possible through a grant from the Ministry of Canadian Heritage.*

*Attendees enjoyed three re-enactment events, many displays and activities and learned much more about the importance of this period in Canada's great history.*

*Although the event had many volunteers, I do want to express my personal thanks to Councillor George Carlson, Duncan Willock, Jayme Gaspar, Matthew Wilkinson, Heather Coupey, Robert Chestnut, Sandra Pitts, Anthony Shuttleworth, Christine Simundson, David Mosley and Chris Hobson, in particular.*

*Streetsville has once again shown its great pride in Canada! The War of 1812 was won!*

## Heritage Mississauga uses new technology to remember the War of 1812

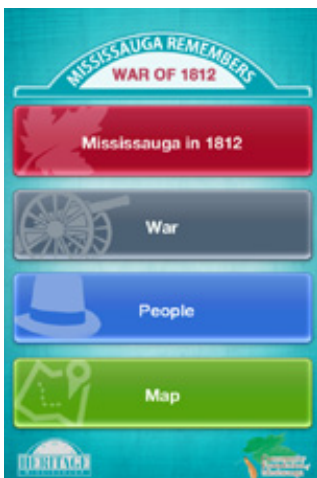
By Jenny Walker, Program Developer, Heritage Mississauga



Jenny Walker, HM

It was one day in spring when we got a call from the Community Foundation to advise us that we had been successful in our grant application to produce an iPhone app based on Mississauga's contribution to the War of 1812. We wanted to highlight the sacrifices made by the population of the time, and to make the war more relevant and personal to those of us who live here today.

After much deliberation we decided to develop an iPhone app which would appeal to a broader section of the community and make history more accessible for everyone; and so it began! How hard can it be we thought; especially as most of the primary research had already been done? Little did we know that this project would dominate our lives for almost 8 months! One problem was how to distil the vast amount of information down to 5 points per page; many battles ensued. So finally it's done and ready to launch; you can download it free from the Apple store.



The app has four main sections; Mississauga in 1812 deals with daily life at the time. We look at how the land was surveyed, the size of families and how they coped with running a farm when most of the able bodied men were away on duty. The war section gives context to the conflict, including the reasons why it happened when it did; information on uniforms, weapons, medicine in the war and major battles highlight those that involved men from Toronto Township, as

Mississauga was then known. The main body of our research concerns the "people" section where we have bios of 28 men who lived and farmed in the city including some information on those who fought, from the local Mississaugas First Nation. Our final section is an interactive map of cemeteries where veterans are buried and landmarks that still exist today and which can be visited by the public.

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. We would also like to thank our summer students Suzanna Elmazi and Mike Tran for their valuable contribution to this project. Developing the app has allowed us to bring the past to life using modern technology, in a



way which will allow the public to be educated and entertained while on the move; in short it removes history's dusty image and brings it kicking and screaming into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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

uniformed re-enactor ("Captain") in Port Credit, where Director Luz del Rosario presented a wreath.

### On Reflection....

Because the War of 1812 did not conclude until 1814, Heritage Mississauga will continue with commemorative activities next year. Beyond the planned local battle re-enactment, gazettes, and potential i-Phone update, we are looking forward to being a participant in Toronto's Fort York events planned for next April and June.

As another year draws to a close, I've been reflecting on how far Heritage Mississauga has come as an organization in the past decade. So many more Mississaugans are attending events we host and using our services. We are financially stable and strategically disciplined. We have a professional, hard-working staff and core of volunteers, an extremely diverse and well-connected Board, and an increasingly wide reach across various age and cultural groups. Most importantly, we are consulted and involved in *all* things cultural in Mississauga, from Culture Division programs, to PAMA, to Carassauga, to the Bread & Honey Festival, Legends Row, the Music Walk of Fame, etc. My thanks and Happy Holiday wishes to all who care so passionately about our local heritage.

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# Epic War of 1812 Battles Fought in Streetsville

By Councillor George Carlson, Ward 11, City of Mississauga



Councillor George Carlson, Duncan Willock and Greg Carraro at the Battle site, HM

This year marks the historic Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Two centuries ago, the United States was at war with Great Britain and our country was the battleground. As a colony of Great Britain, Canada was swept up in the War and was invaded numerous times by the Americans. The War of 1812 represents a significant chapter in the history of our country during which the Americans came very close to gaining control of Upper Canada (present day Province of Ontario) and all of the territory west of it.

The War of 1812 also holds special significance and importance in the history of present-day Mississauga. While the battles of the War of 1812 were primarily fought in the Niagara region, more than 20% of Mississauga's population left behind their farm homesteads and families to fight for their country. For instance, two flank companies for the 2nd regiment of the York Militia were made up entirely of volunteers from Toronto Township and Trafalgar Township (modern day Mississauga and Oakville) and consisted of 75 to 100 able bodied men from a total population of 300 to 500 people. Many First Nations groups, such as the Mississauga Ojibwas, also fought for the British, playing an integral role in defeating the Americans. The heroic efforts of these individuals helped establish our path toward becoming a free and independent country that is rich in the cultural and linguistic diversity that we enjoy and cherish today.

To celebrate and commemorate the historic bicentennial of the War of 1812, volunteer members of the Bread & Honey Festival group, with assistance from the City of Mississauga and the Government of Canada, organized a spectacular Mississauga is 1812 War of 1812 enactment community event on the island at Streetsville Memorial Park on September 15-16, 2012. The group was awarded a grant of \$64,500 from the federal government to commemorate this historic national milestone. This event featured exciting

live enactments of the battles fought between American, British, Militia, and Native forces. British and Native Canadian forces were encamped at the north end of the island, while the Americans inhabited the south. Tens of thousands of spectators witnessed the loud blasts of cannons and rifles during the live enactments.

Between the exciting battles, spectators were able to speak with the re-enactors, who explained what life was like in 1812. The event also featured period entertainment, such as brass bands, the York Regency Dancers, historical displays, presentations, a drum corps, a Sutler's Market, and vendors selling reproductions of goods from the era. The festivities concluded with a bang on Saturday at dusk with a stunning fireworks display. This event was a great success that will not be forgotten by all of those in attendance, and I would like to thank all of the event volunteers and participants for their hard work and dedication in organizing this event.

In addition, to pay tribute to all of the local veterans who fought in the War of 1812, I worked with Heritage Mississauga to organize a special **Bicentennial Of The War Of 1812 Commemorative Flag Raising Ceremony**, which took place on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at Streetsville Memorial Cemetery in front of the newly restored gravesite of Timothy Street. This

c o m m e m o r a t i v e ceremony featured 1812 re-enactors taking part in a special procession and Union Jack flag raising at the flag pole located at the Street gravesite. The a c t o r s w e r e accompanied by the Streetsville Cadet marching band and the

Streetsville Legion's colour party. MP Brad Butt, Mayor McCallion, and relatives of Timothy Street all attended the ceremony and a special Union Jack flag was presented to Street's relatives. After the ceremony, Heritage Mississauga provided an informative guided tour of the cemetery, with re-enactors telling the stories of the veterans who are buried there. It was truly an honor to be able to pay tribute to the c o u r a g e o u s l o c a l veterans who fought for our country in this war, and I would like to thank everyone who participated in this special ceremony.



Raising the Union Jack at ceremony honouring Timothy Street, Lindsay Parrish



Soldiers Evan Gaspar, Mike Tran, Greg Carraro, Andrew Carlson, Matthew Wilkinson, Richard Collins and Joe Zammit at the flag raising ceremony, HM

## Theatre of War "Battle of the Credit"

By Duncan Willock, 2012 Event Chairman



Sharon Willock and Chairman Duncan Willock, HM

On September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the War of 1812 was commemorated with a realistic live enactment of battles fought between American and British regulars and Militia. This event hosted by the City of Mississauga and Streetsville Founders' Bread & Honey Festival Committee afforded an opportunity to create a greater awareness and understanding of the war of 1812 and how the early settlers of Mississauga participated in the war. This event was made possible by a grant from the Federal Government.

The public observed how over 100 soldiers lived and fought during the war that was instrumental in forming Canada as a nation. The British forces encamped (some with their families) on the Northern and the Americans on the southern ends of the island in the Credit River (part of the Streetsville Memorial Park). The middle of the island provided a perfect scenario for its pristine condition to conduct an 1812 battle. Sutlers (camp-follower vendors) offered their period wares to the public as well.

Residents of Mississauga (at the time, Toronto Township) played an important role as militia during the war and albeit no battles were fought here, the representation enacted the many battles fought during the war, mainly in the Niagara region.

The events included historical displays, period entertainment, presentations and the actual enactments of battles narrated by the re-enactors' organizer, (General) Peter Twist, a foremost expert on the War of 1812. His explanation of the battles helped the thousands of spectators understand the reasoning behind battle movements between the opposing forces on both the Saturday and Sunday. Over 10,000 people attended over the weekend and

the Saturday night was topped off by a grand fireworks display to the sounds of the 1812 Overture.

The "re-enactors" come from many walks of life and have been kept very busy especially in this bicentennial year. Most are avid history buffs and do this as a hobby including some, who participated, came from as far away as Quebec.

## Did you know how Joseph Street got its name?



Mississauga Road South, south of Lakeshore Road in Port Credit, was originally named Joseph Street when the village was surveyed in 1835.

Joseph Street was named in honour of Mississauga chief Nawahjegezhegwabe (Sloping Sky), otherwise known as Joseph Sawyer. Born c1786 to Wahbanosay, a chief of the Mississaugas, in 1801 or 1802 a Methodist Minister baptized young Nawahjegezhegwabe and named him "Joseph Sawyer". He served as an ally of the British Crown during the War of 1812, and was present at the capture of Fort Detroit and at the battles of Queenston Heights (1812) and Lundy's Lane (1814). After the War of 1812, he moved to the Credit River, and in 1829 was elected as a chief of the Mississaugas. He was one of the principal chiefs during discussions to relocate, which culminated in the relocation of the Mississaugas from the Credit River to the New Credit Reserve in 1847. He died in 1863 at New Credit and is buried at the New Credit (Methodist) United Church.



Joseph Sawyer, painted by James Spencer, c1840



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## First Nations Mississaugas of the Credit River and the War of 1812

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga

Mississaugas from the Credit River (within what is today the City of Mississauga) also participated in the War of 1812 alongside their British allies. Traditions suggest that individuals may have served as messengers, carrying communications over long distances, while others participated in several of the conflicts, both individually and as part of larger groups. We have very little information on individuals who lived at the Credit River who served in the war, in part because individual names were often not recorded. Some petitions and pension lists include some names of Native Mississaugas in the years following the conflict, while other traditions, local history resources, and historic publications list other individuals. In cross-referencing these names with historic census records, we can confirm that several of these individuals were of the right age to have participated in the war. This is not a complete or authenticated list at this time and we look forward to hearing from anyone who might have more information to share. There were, undoubtedly, others who fought (and died) in the war, but those with known connections to the Mississaugas at the Credit River include: James Ajetance / "Captain Jim" (Ajetance), John Cameron (Wageezhegome), James Chechok (Manoonooding), George Henry (Pemiskishigon), Lawrence Herkimer (Negahnum), William Herkimer (Minowargewon), James Johnson, Joseph Sawyer (Nawahjegezhegwaby), John Secord, Thomas Smith (Pahoombwawinnung), John Sunday, John Tobeco (Tobeco), White John (killed during the Battle of Fort York, April 1813), and Kish-ki-wabik.

Canadian Forces War of 1812 Commemorative Banner and Commemorative War of 1812 Medal for Aboriginal Canadians, presented to 48 First Nations and Métis communities in honour of the sacrifices and accomplishments of their ancestors during the War of 1812.

Images from Prime Minister Harper's website



## Canadian Government recognizes First Nation and Métis War of 1812 Contributions

On October 25, 2012 a ceremony was held in Ottawa at Rideau Hall to commemorate the contributions made by First Nation and Métis ancestors to the War of 1812.

Medals and Banners were presented by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and His Excellency, Governor-General David Johnstone to representatives of 48 communities who had ties to the war. Over 10,000 participated in almost every battle during the three year war and without their help there may have been a different outcome.

Present at the ceremony to receive this honour were Chief Bryan LaForme of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, and Joseph Paquette, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council.



Prime Minister Harper, Chief LaForme Governor-General David Johnstone (Photo by MCpl Dany Veillette, Rideau Hall © Office of the Secretary to the Governor General (2012))



Prime Minister Harper, MNOVC President, Joseph Paquette, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, Governor-General David Johnstone, MNO

# Remembering the Battle of Queenston Heights

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga



*Fall of Brock, CW Jefferys, www*

One of the most famous battles from the War of 1812 was the Battle of Queenston Heights. It was both a triumph and a tragedy for the British and Canadian forces. The battle took place on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1812.

On the night of October 12<sup>th</sup>, American forces led by Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer launched its invasion across the treacherous Niagara River from Lewiston. The initial attempt to cross the river was poorly organized and soon aborted. Before dawn on October 13<sup>th</sup>, the crossing was repeated, and the British redan battery on Queenston Heights, and the batteries downriver at Brown's Point and Vrooman's Battery, together with the regular and militia forces stationed in the village of Queenston, organized to meet the threat. After a fierce fight with many casualties, an American detachment followed a hidden path to the top of the escarpment and the Americans were able to seize the redan battery and gain control of the heights. This allowed the American force to establish a foothold and allowed for reinforcements to be sent across the river.

Major-General Isaac Brock, commander of the British forces in Upper Canada and civil Administrator of the Province, was awakened at Fort George by the sound of guns on Vrooman's Battery. Mounting his horse, he rode quickly to Queenston, passing detachments of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> York militias along the way. Upon reaching Queenston and quickly assessing the situation, and knowing how vital the elevated grounds of the heights were, he regrouped the available force of regulars and militia and led a charge to regain the gun at the redan battery. With his sword drawn and at the head of a column of the 49<sup>th</sup>, Brock made an imposing and distinct target. An American rifleman singled him out and Brock was shot in the chest and died almost instantly.

A second charge against the Americans on the heights was led by Brock's Provincial aide-de-camp, Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell, who was mortally wounded in the attempt, resulting in a British retreat. Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe, Brock's second in command, arrived from Fort George with reinforcements, reorganized the British forces and led a counterattack by marching around the heights.

As the British reorganized, the American army was harassed by a small but effective group of Native warriors, led by John Norton, and the British Royal Artillery led by Captain William Holcroft firing from below, which together ensured that the American army could not entrench themselves. About the same time, American militiamen, who were intended to cross the river to reinforce the army on the heights largely refused to cross into Upper Canada. The lack of reinforcements and the Native warriors caused much panic, and the Americans were pinned down as Major-General Sheaffe and his large force of British regulars and militia arrived on the field.

Attacking from the rear, Sheaffe caught the American forces between his army and the escarpment. The American forces soon crumbled in the face of British volleys and a bayonet charge. American Lieutenant-Colonel Winfield Scott, taking command from the wounded commander Captain Wool, waved a white handkerchief to signal the American surrender. When the smoke had cleared, almost 1000 Americans were taken prisoner, with over 300 killed or wounded, while the British suffered some 28 killed and 77



*Cairn near where Brock died with monument in the background, Queenston Heights, HM*

wounded. Unfortunately, one of the losses was irreplaceable: Major-General Isaac Brock.

Detachments from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of York Militia, including the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Flank Companies and a company of Embodied Militia were on duty in a variety of capacities during the battle. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Flank Company was stationed in Queenston itself, and was likely involved in opposing the

*Cont'd pg. 13*



## Queenston Heights Re-enactment – October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012



October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 marked the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Queenston Heights. This bicentennial was marked with the signature event re-enacting this significant battle and equally significant moment in Canadian history. Over 1000 re-enactors assembled on the actual battlefield and for over 1 hour brought the battle to life, including the famed fall of Major-General Isaac Brock and the British victory.

The event began with the British encampment at Fort George near Niagara-on-the-Lake, followed by the British soldiers marching from Fort George to Queenston, much as they did in 1812. The day was full of commemorations, including guided tours of the battlefield, Brock's Monument, and the dedication of a cairn in Queenston to mark the long lost "Brock Dead House", where Isaac Brock's body rested after his death.

Following the re-enactment, a commemorative ceremony at Brock's Monument honoured those who fell in the battle, as well as re-creating the transportation of Brock's body back to Fort George by a horse and wagon.

Sunday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, marked the re-enactment of the funeral procession for Brock and his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Colonel John Macdonell, who also fell in battle at Queenston. Brock and Macdonell were originally buried in what became known as "Brock's Bastion" at Fort George, prior to being reburied at the first Brock Monument in 1824.

It was an incredible and memorable event, the largest of its kind, and the likes of which we may not see again for some time. Congratulations to the Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Council, Niagara Parks Commission, Parks Canada, Friends of Fort George, 1812 Crown Forces North America (special congratulations to Brigadier General Peter Twist and his groups), and to all of those who organized this significant commemoration.

## Remembering Our 1812 Heroes



In partnership with the Bread & Honey Festival, the City of Mississauga and Canadian Heritage, Heritage Mississauga will be producing interpretive panels to be installed in six historic cemeteries honouring the War of 1812 militia volunteers who are buried there. The cemeteries include Streetsville Memorial Cemetery, St. Peter's Anglican Cemetery, Dixie Union Cemetery, Springcreek Cemetery, Trinity Anglican Cemetery in Streetsville, and Erindale Cosmopolitan Cemetery.

The individual interpretive panels will recognize the known militia volunteers from the War of 1812 who are buried in each cemetery, and will feature a medal which they never received.

Several attempts were made to honour militia volunteers during their lifetimes for service during the War of 1812. The Military General Service Medal for the British Army was approved in 1847, but only recognized a few specific battles, and recipients had to be alive and apply for the medals. Unofficial commemorative medals were also minted to recognize specific battles, but were seldom widely distributed to militiamen. The Loyal and Patriotic Society of Upper Canada sought to recognize contributions during the war with the "Upper Canada Preserved" medal, but the medals were never presented and most were ultimately melted down. Few militia volunteers were ever formally recognized.

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## "Deeds Speak"

### Recreating the 3<sup>rd</sup> York Militia Flag

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, Heritage Mississauga



3<sup>rd</sup> York Flag, Richard Gerrard, Matthew Wilkinson, HM

George Sheppard, in his article "Deeds Speak: Militiamen, Medals, and the Invented Traditions of 1812" in *Ontario History*, Volume 82 (3), 1990 (*Journal of the Ontario Historical Society*) records:

"At one p.m. on March 23, 1813, the Third Regiment of York militia, under the command of Major William Allan, assembled in front of the tiny church in the capital of Upper Canada. The Reverend John Strachan ascended a makeshift stage, solemnly read from his prepared text, and then beckoned Anne Powell to join him. Powell, the daughter of a prominent jurist in the colony, was visibly nervous about addressing such a large audience, especially since she was "distracted after" John Beverley Robinson, an ambitious young lieutenant in the Third York Regiment. Nonetheless, an eyewitness later reported that she delivered a "short, but elegant" speech dealing with the banner that fluttered over the stage. The flag bore a depiction of a laurel wreath and the words "Deeds Speak." The young ladies of York had created the banner to honour those enrolled in the militia, and Anne Powell wanted the men to know that the "diviner sex" shared in the spirit of patriotism that burned "with so pure a flame through the Province." Before the meeting came to an end, John Strachan again addressed the militiamen, warning them not to consider the event an "unmeaning ceremony." Strachan, who had suggested the motto "Deeds Speak," said that Anne Powell and other members of "that tender and most amiable sex" were relying on the militia "to never abandon them" to the enemy."

Such is the story of the creation and presentation of flag, intended to honour the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment of the York Militia in the height of the War of 1812. Mere weeks later the American forces invaded and captured Fort York and the town itself, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> York flag was buried in the town to protect it from

capture. It likely never saw action. The 3<sup>rd</sup> York is believed to be the only York militia regiment to have received colours, either formally or informally.

Carl Benn, writing in the *Fire and Drum* newsletter of the Friends of Fort York in July 2007 described the flag as follows:

"As is typical for a stand of colours, those of the Third York consist of two objects, a "king's colour," which fundamentally is a Union Jack with a regimental crest at its centre, and a "regimental colour." Normally the regimental colour looks like an ensign (with a small Union Jack in the corner), but in the case of the Third York its design is distinctly unorthodox, having a plain background upon which are embroidered a number of symbols and words. At its centre is a crown, flanked by the initials "GR" for *Georgius Rex* (Latin for King George). At the left of the flag is a depiction of the arms of Upper Canada, and at the right is the white rose of York. Under the crown is a branch with leaves on it (presumably laurel), below which are the words "3<sup>rd</sup> Regt York Militia" and the motto "Deeds Speak" (chosen by the town's rector, the Revd John Strachan, in light of the glow of victory at Detroit). We do not know why the colour is so unusual. Presumably it spoke to the local, amateur effort of people who were unfamiliar with the niceties of correct military design."

The 3<sup>rd</sup> York flag was held in the archives of St. James Cathedral until 2007, when it was donated to Fort York and is now undergoing preservation. Together with Richard Gerrard, Historian, Bicentennial of the War of 1812 with Museum Services for the City of Toronto, Heritage Mississauga undertook a challenge: to recreate the 3<sup>rd</sup> York flag based on the dye degradation analysis of the original, in an attempt to bring the colours of the flag back to life. Special thanks to artistic design by Zofia Krivdova and graphic design by Mike Tran, both of whom were summer students with Heritage Mississauga in 2012. Two flags were printed, and one flag was given to the Richard Gerrard from the City of Toronto in October. The other flag is at The Grange, home of Heritage Mississauga. In a small way, this recreated flag honours those individuals connected to historic Mississauga who served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> York, including John Beverly Robinson (builder of The Grange), Charles Cameron, Henry Carpenter, Warren Clarkson and Samuel Mercer, amongst others.



"Battle of the Credit" parade, HM



## “Bloodhound” historians hunt for Mississauga's War of 1812 militia volunteers

by Maeve Doyle

“We are not British and we will not be American,” said Heritage Mississauga Historian Matthew Wilkinson when asked to explain the importance of the War of 1812. “This war shaped the identity of those who would become Canadians.”



Maeve Doyle

To a room packed with history buffs, Wilkinson delivered his lecture *A Call to Arms: Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812* about the volunteer militia who lived in historic Mississauga (then Toronto Township). Wilkinson spoke October 16, 2012 at the Lorne Park Library.

“We started with a list of 4 to 7 names,” said Wilkinson. He can now list 57 militia volunteers that lived or owned land in Historic Mississauga and identify 32 others who came following the war. Timothy Street and Warren Clarkson, although not connected to the area in 1812, were veterans of the War. Together, Wilkinson has 89 individuals not including any Native Mississaugas.

“We know many native warriors were involved,” said Wilkinson. “The challenge is that very few were recorded by name.” Wilkinson estimates that 85 to 90 percent of the research was devoted to the Native Mississaugas.

Known for their endurance, the Mississaugas were message carriers and runners for the British Crown and their native allies. Joseph Sawyer, who became Chief of the Mississaugas, can be placed at the Battle of Queenston Heights where Major General Isaac Brock died.

In anticipation of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War, Wilkinson began his research three years in advance. He documented Toronto Township property owners from 1812, cross-referenced names with payroll and muster records digitized by volunteer historian Fred Blair, and further cross-referenced with local genealogical records and historiographies which gave him access to even more research material.

A University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) History and Geography graduate, Wilkinson contacted Dr. Jan Noel, Director of UTM's History Internship Program for help.

“Students who sign up for a history internship usually have the bloodhound instinct of the true historian,” said

Associate Professor Noel. With the help of “bloodhound” historians Milan Gocmanoc in 2010 and Suzanna Elmazi in 2011, Wilkinson worked to find, recognize and honour Mississauga's War of 1812 militia volunteers. Both students worked full-time to research and create a database of information.

Modern day Mississaugans can be proud that when called upon, the people of Toronto Township volunteered. They were never forced to serve through a ballot system and desertion was negligible. The volunteer militia augmented the regular militia and manned the forts when the regulars were called into the field.

In recognition of militia volunteers' service, Heritage Mississauga will install interpretive plaques at six cemeteries in Mississauga where veterans are known to be buried. “At the end of 3 years, we have a pretty good handle on 1812,” said Wilkinson. “We're still working on 1813 and 1814.”

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## Remembering Queenston Heights cont'd.....

American landing, while the 1<sup>st</sup> Flank Company was en-route from Fort George, possibly at Vrooman's Battery, when the battle began and participated in the British counter-attack under Major-General Sheaffe. Several individuals from historic Mississauga, who were part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> York, were possibly present at the battle. They include: Sergeant George Marlatt, Sergeant Aaron Silverthorn, Sergeant Thomas Merigold, Private Cornelius Van Valkenburg, Private Ryer Reynolds, Private Aron Oliphant, Private Thomas Robinett (wounded), Private Daniel Greeniaus, Private Robert Copeland, Private Joseph Marlatt, Private Joshua Pollard, Private Aaron London, Private William Albertson, Private Amos Willcox, Private John Schiller, Private John Chambers, Private Henry Gable Sr. (deserted), Private John Gable (wounded), Private Thomas Silverthorn and Private William Lewis (deserted to the enemy).



Native Warrior at the “Battle of the Credit, HM

## Book Review - *The Silent Canoe*

By Sue Brettell

As a visitor to Canada, and potential new immigrant, I am particularly interested in the early history of Upper Canada. At the recent War of 1812 re-enactment day at Streetsville, I was therefore pleased to meet local author, Janis Fedorowick, who has successfully used a great deal of historical research to write an historic novel, under her pen name J. Philip, *The Silent Canoe*. Fedorowick, an associate member of CAHP, Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, is a landscape architect and urban planner by trade, and a history buff and writer by night.



The story is told from the perspective of Isaac Devins and his family; one of the first families from America who travelled by boat on the Niagara River to Upper Canada, in 1793. The author has based the majority of the characters on real people, to be as true to the history of Upper Canada as possible, and includes historic events such as the debate on slavery, the founding of Toronto, the first battles of the War of 1812, and the Battle of York. Fedorowick has worked on the book for five years, and more recently, has worked during all of her spare time to complete the book in time for the War of 1812 anniversary.

The author provides a fascinating insight into the early rich abundant landscape which greeted the new immigrants; the dense forests of towering maples, oaks, beeches and pine, alive with hummingbirds and flycatchers, and the lakes resonating with the eerie call of the loon. She offers an insight into the lives of men and women who dreamed of living a life of luxury but who struggled to live in ramshackle lean-to's and tents, prior to hastily building wooden cabins in order to survive the long, white winters.

Isaac Devins becomes the right-hand-man to Governor John Graves Simcoe, and assists in the work of cutting Dundas and Yonge Street through the dense forests, as the new capital city moves from Niagara. Fire Starter, the son of a Mississauga Chief, teaches Isaac how to build and paddle a canoe, and how to fish successfully. Isaac wrestles with his dreams of becoming one of the elite of Upper Canada, which conflicts with the solace he finds paddling his canoe on the Humber. Unlike history text books, the story touches upon the lives of both native women and the women settlers. Margaret, the wife of St John, who used hundreds of plants foraged from the forest, swamps and lakeshore, for use in

healing rituals, meditation and magic. Polly, the wife of Isaac, who journeys to the peninsula with the native Mississaugas to gather herbs, in the hope of saving the life of her newborn child; chanting and singing with Fire Starter at the foot of the Sassafras tree. The skills of the women who made soap, at the beginning of fall, with the ashes from the felled trees.

With an excellent blend of history and fiction, *The Silent Canoe* allows the reader to engage in the hopes, fears and passions of the early settlers of Toronto. It also allows us to relate to similar concerns that are experienced by new immigrants to Canada in 2012, over two hundred years later, as they struggle to acculturate in a strange new world. I was left with a feeling of sadness, in that the goal of the First Nations, to live in harmony with nature, seems to have been felled with the rich abundant forests. The early history of Upper Canada, images of the changing landscape, and natives and immigrants coming together for the first time, will remain with me, far more than reading a history text book alone. I would thoroughly recommend *The Silent Canoe* to Canadians, newcomers to the area, history buffs, and for students to read alongside history text books.

The book is available from the author's website [www.thesilentcanoe.com](http://www.thesilentcanoe.com). It can also be purchased at Nostalgia Books in Port Credit. **J. Philip, *The Silent Canoe***  
Published by Skitt Press, Toronto

## In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of a dear friend to Heritage Mississauga, Joan Reid. Joan was honoured by her family, friends and colleagues on September 23rd, 2012. We were grateful to have the opportunity to share in this celebration of her life. She contributed so much to Mississauga through her teaching at T.L Kennedy and Applewood Heights Secondary Schools, as a volunteer with the Friends of the Schoolhouse, her research and as a member of Heritage Mississauga.



Joan Reid, HM

You may remember some of her "one-room" schoolhouse stories in our past issues. We hope to be able to continue publishing these stories in the next issues of "Heritage News". Joan had almost completed a book about these early Peel Schools. The Friends of the Schoolhouse would like to publish this book. They are accepting donations to assist in this project in memory of Joan. Cheques to be made to: The Peel District School Board, write "Friends of the Schoolhouse" in the memo field and send to Friends of the Schoolhouse, 5576 Hurontario Street, Mississauga, ON, L5R 1B3.



## Haunted Mississauga 2012



*"Spirit Team", HM*

Heritage Mississauga's 11<sup>th</sup> annual "Haunted Mississauga" evening brought us to historic Dixie Union Chapel and Cemetery on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The story for this year's heritage tour was set in October of 1812 and visitors were able to meet "spirits" of the past who had connections to the War of 1812 and the famous Battle of Queenston Heights. Thank you to our incredible "spirit team" who brought the evening, and the stories from our past, to life! We could not have done it without them.



*"Spirit Team members Greg Carraro, Annemarie Hagan, Evan Gaspar, HM*

Thank you to: Heather Boden, Sue Brettell, Greg Carraro, Giuseppe Carraro, Nathan Northmore-Carraro, Yvonne Carraro, Richard Collins, Lindsay Doren, Elaine Eigl, John Eigl, Paul Eigl, Evan Gaspar, Jayme Gaspar, Les Gaspar, Sara-Jane Gloutnez, Annemarie Hagan, Bryan Ho, Olga Kalynowysch, Rose Langley, Nicole Mair, Scott Mair, Arlene Manning, Jenny Walker, Jane Watt, Amy Wilkinson, Matthew Wilkinson, Mavis Wilson, Joe Zammit, Heritage Mississauga, Museums of Mississauga, City of Mississauga & St. John's Anglican Church, Dixie.

## Doors Open/Culture Days 2012

Doors Open at The Grange on September 28<sup>th</sup> brought a number of Crown Forces re-enactors to the Robinson-Adamson House. The Fife & Drum could be heard all along the Dundas Highway as the militia drilled. The women and young ones helped supporting the front line camp which showed typical living arrangements during the War of 1812.



*Matthew Wilkinson, Greg Carraro and Crown Forces Militia, HM*



*Preparing Dinner at the Front, HM*



*You had to bring everything when you travelled to the front, HM*



# ~1812 Photo Album~



*Cheque Presentation, Mayor McCallion, Chair Duncan Willock, MPP Bob Delaney, MP Brad Butt and Heritage Mississauga Volunteer Soldiers, HM*



*Colour Parade, HM*



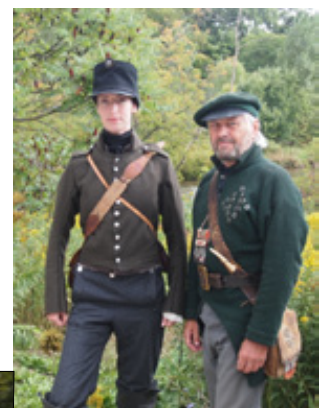
*Teaching the young about the cannon, Lindsay Parrish*



*Officers discuss strategy with General Peter Twist, HM*



*Marketplace Vendors, demonstrators, dancers and musicians entertained visitors, HM*



*Soldiers ready for battle, HM*



*Battle Camp, HM*





*British fire on the US, HM*



*US Returns fire on the British, HM*



*Cannons blasting, HM*



*Militia, HM*



*Last minute instructions and marching practice before battle, HM*



*Smoke of Musket fire, Lindsay Parrish*



*A moment of silence honouring those who died on the battlefield, HM*



*Fife & Drum were present at every battle, HM*



## Mississauga South Historical Society Happenings

by Richard Collins,  
President

The last meeting of 2012, and occasions like this get me thinking our the past and the future.

First, the past. This past year's schedule of meetings has been one our most successful for attendance. We've been packed to overcrowding for our meetings at the Regency Retirement Residence and the Lorne Park library.

Our November meeting was a wrap-up of our very successful War of 1812 bicentennial year at MSHS. Speakers so far this year have told us about the heroism of our military leaders and the bravery of our aboriginal allies. We've heard the rarely told tale of the enlisted men within and beyond Mississauga who fought to protect Canada 200 years ago. In November, Denise Harris told us about the contribution to the war made by residents of neighbouring Etobicoke. Denise knows Etobicoke well. She's lived in Etobicoke since she was a child and is the past president of the Etobicoke Historical Society. Denise has done extensive research on the war and has uncovered the story of 49 "Etobi-folk" who served during the War of 1812.

The future looks promising as well for heritage. This has been a busy year for public engagement meetings in Lakeview and Port Credit. Having attended many of these meetings on future plans for the waterfront of both villages, I'm pleased to see that people are committed to preserving the past as they look to future.

At a recent meeting to discuss plans for the west side of the river in Port Credit, the public is strongly in favour of keeping the "port" in Port Credit. People would like to see the riverfront made more accessible but they also want to protect public and charter boat fishing areas. People also want to see the old Canada Steamship Lines harbour in Port Credit opened up to the public while keeping the busy boat launch and dock facilities.

In Lakeview, the legacy project there is moving forward with its plans to put the "view" back into Lakeview. Plans are being discussed with the public to add new wetland areas at Lakeview's waterfront. Support is also increasing to put the former Small Arms administration building back to use for public heritage and arts events.



## Streetsville Historical Society Happenings

By Jean Watt, Publicity Director



Streetsville Historical Society has had a very busy and successful fall, beginning with Doors Open in October at the Leslie Log House. Euchre nights were held in October and November at the Leslie Log House and there is one more planned for January 9<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7 pm. Space is limited, please call Bernice at 905-826-7198 to register. Cost \$10.00, and there are great prizes and refreshments.

December 9<sup>th</sup>, from noon until 4 pm, "Home for the Holidays" with the Museums of Mississauga will take place at the Leslie Log House. Come and enjoy Christmas treats and hot apple cider. Register for the "festive mystery hunt" through the orchard to win prizes. Cost is a donation or cash to support our local food bank. The log house will be beautifully decorated for the Christmas season.

Our general meeting will take place on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at Specialty Care Mississauga Road (4350 Mississauga Road). Our guest speaker will be Heritage Mississauga Historian Matthew Wilkinson speaking on "A Call to Arms: Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812". This is a very appropriate subject since this year is the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the War.

SHS has a core of dedicated volunteers who work at the Leslie Log House on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. If you are interested please call Anne at 905-814-5958 for more information.

For further information regarding SHS please contact Jean at 905-826-1860.

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## Queens Elizabeth II Diamond Jubille Medals

This year also marked a very special anniversary for Queen Elizabeth II, her Diamond Jubilee. Congratulations to our Director Jake Dheer, our Lifetime Member and Métis Elder Joseph Paquette and Carolyn King of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations for being chosen to receive this medal of honour. If you know of any more of our membership who were honoured with this distinction please let us know at 905-828-8411 ext "0" or by email: [info@heritagemississauga.org](mailto:info@heritagemississauga.org).





# The Rebellion of 1837 Remembered Part Three of Four: Fighting Back

By Richard Collins

William Lyon Mackenzie may have been annoying, opinionated, crude and stubborn, but no one could accuse him of being lazy. In and out of political office, Mackenzie worked for the cause of the common people day and night. He never missed a day at the legislature – at least any day prior to one of his frequent expulsions.



Richard Collins, HM

Mack has also been characterized as a man whose rightful cause was deluded by his own ambition and suppressed by his impatience, but his abrasive demeanour hid an obvious intelligence. As fanatic as his tirades against the Family Compact appeared to be, his policies on political reform were consistent and coherent.



William Lyon Mackenzie, www

Mack was wise beyond his years, and his wisdom was, at times, ahead of its time. He once urged his readers to, “neither eat, drink nor wear anything that is not produce of your own farms”. This maxim urged readers to support the local farmers who were the backbone of the 19th-century economy, yet Mack's words bear a surprising resemblance to the 21st-century Green philosophy of the “hundred mile market.”

Mack was also a man of honest means. Some might say he was honest to a fault. Mack was fiercely loyal to the farmers who elected him. He was a commoner, himself – unsuited by heredity, and in manners, to the lifestyle of the Family Compact. Mack was willing to go to bat, and even to the gallows, for the rights of the common folk.

All the more reason for Mackenzie to feel betrayed by the people of York-2nd Riding (including the people of Mississauga) who turfed him out of office in the 1836 election. Mack had never lost an election before. He wasn't alone. Many of the more moderate reformers in the 1834 Assembly also failed to win their seat in 1836. Mack must

have sensed the growing lack of support for reform before election day. He campaigned in 1836 harder than he had done in any past election. That spring, Mack arrived to sway the good people of Streetsville into voting for his unique brand of reform; there to greet him, were the burly members of the local Protestant protection league.

## The Town Line Blazers

Half loaded, all Irish and as Orange as a row of traffic pylons, just about anything could spark the pugilistic passions of the Blazers – a band of farmers from the Sixth Line West with nothing better to do before the spring sowing season than defend the honour of the monarchy.

In town to keep the reform momentum flowing, Mackenzie spouted a few of his regular insults at the ruling oligarchy but when he bad-mouthed the sovereign, the Blazers cleared out the meeting hall with shillelaghs (clubs). According to one story, Harry Cole (the gang's master of maldecorum) brought a caddy along to one of Mack's meeting in Churchville later that spring, to carry his golf clubs just in case he felt the need to sink a few reformers.

Sadly, the Family Compact stood by and let the Town Line Blazer's mete out drunk-and-disorderly order in the Family's defense. Charles Magrath, coddled son of the Anglican reverend James Magrath of Erindale, supported the Blazers' actions despite the fact that, as a lieutenant in the Peel Militia, it was his responsibility to see that the June 1836 election was held fairly, and peacefully.

Politics in Upper Canada, as you can see, had already hit a low ebb well before Mackenzie lead his army of farmers against the political old guard in December 1837.



March of the Rebels in 1837, CW Jefferys, www

## The Rebellion

On a cold winter day in 1837, Mackenzie led the closest thing Canada has ever had to a real rebellion, to remove Victoria's appointed council by force. At Montgomery's Tavern his band of discontent malcontents confronted Her Majesty's well-trained soldiers. Mackenzie and his rebels dispersed in panic.

Cont'd pg. 31

# The Darker Side: Liberty for the Bank Robber

By Sue Brettell

**3 GUNMEN SHOOT FIRST, THEN GRAB \$4,000  
PORT CREDIT CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE HELD UP WHILE WOUNDED ACCOUNTANT LIES BLEEDING ON THE FLOOR**

*Headlines, Toronto Star, Dec 9<sup>th</sup>, 1938*



*Sue Brettell*

One December night, in a noisy tavern in downtown Toronto, three men discussed the idea of robbing a bank. At the time they had no particular bank in mind. The next morning, Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1938, John Shea reportedly drove Alex McDonald, aged 21 and Leo Gauthier, aged 33, to the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Port Credit in a truck stolen from Damon Stannach's radio store, where Shea was a manager. Just before noon, Shea parked the truck opposite the bank and the three men entered dressed in blue caps and overalls. Initial reports indicated that the men "walked into the bank and began shooting at once". Later reports from staff and the bank manager stated that only one shot was fired. One of the men stood at the door of the bank, the second man asked the teller for change for a \$5 bill, and the third man shot Ray Bryant, a 28 year old accountant, at point-blank range when he failed to respond fast enough to his demands to open the safe.



*John Shea, Toronto Daily Star, January 1st, 1939*

One customer, F.R. Clark, said that he had "... received the business end of a nickel-plated revolver in the stomach and was told to shut up and lie down on the floor" along with the manager, Mr. McDermott, and other customers and staff.

With a revolver pressed to his head and blood pouring from his arm, the terrified Ray Bryant told the gunman that he couldn't open the safe because he only had part of the combination. The agitated gunman eventually allowed him to call the teller, N.T.

Thacker, who also had part of the combination, so that they could open the safe together. Two of the gunman were said to have jumped over the counter to ransack the vaults before collecting all the loose change. Once they had scooped up all the cash they could find, the three men sped away. Despite the loudspeakers on top of the truck, and bearing the name "Rogers-Majestic Radio", they escaped the police who were combing the area. They escaped the police who were combing the area. The first newspaper reports indicated \$4,000 had been stolen, however later reports confirmed a cash haul totalling \$2,732.

One customer, a brave Miss Hilda Blower, reported that she had called at the bank to make a cash deposit for her employer, W.H. Thompson Lumber Company, when one of the men threatened her "Get down on the floor or I'll put a bullet through the back of your neck". She said that the men were "swearing and using all sorts of bad language". The gunmen did not find the money she was carrying.

Within one week of the robbery, police arrested Gauthier in a restaurant on College Street, and McDonald as he entered at Poplar Plains Road. Following the arrests, city detectives gathered up ten



*Alexander McDonald and Leo Gauthier, Toronto Daily Star, December 16th, 1938*

men from the streets of Toronto for a line-up, together with McDonald and Gauthier. McDonald was positively identified as the man who stood outside the bank just before the robbery, but Gauthier was not identified.

At Brampton court on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1938, Leo Gauthier and Alex McDonald were charged with armed robbery of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Port Credit and attempting to maim Ray Bryant. It was not until over a month later, on the night of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 1939, that a squad of detectives awakened John Shea from his sleep at gunpoint and arrested him. Once Shea had been arrested and had admitted to driving the truck in the Port Credit bank robbery, the trial could go ahead and the three alleged bank robbers could be brought to justice... or could they?

Shea and Alex McDonald were also facing charges relating to two other incidents. Shea faced charges of holding up John Smith, shoemaker, in his Queen Street East store, and stealing \$100. Shea, Alex McDonald, and his older brother, Donald "Mickey" McDonald, were implicated in the death of James Windsor, a bookie in North Toronto, who was murdered on the night of January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1939. At the murder trial, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1939 in a Toronto court, Shea testified against Alex and Mickey McDonald. Mickey was on trial for the second time; he had been convicted in the spring of 1939 but had won a new trial. Mickey accused Shea of framing him because he thought he had been double-crossed over the Port Credit hold-up.

The trail of Shea, McDonald and Gauthier in the Port Credit bank robbery continued at Brampton court on June 22nd,

*Cont'd pg. 24*



## Art Contest at The Grange 2012 Winners & 2013 Submissions

By Zofia Krivdova

On June 19, 2012, we announced the winner of our second annual art contest, "Capturing Mississauga's Heritage: 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rebellion of 1837". We received a lot of interesting submissions, but after a long debate between the judges, Julie Lo Tauro's oil painting, "Wintry Escape", was the winner. Irene Monique Salehi came in second place, Matthew Wilkinson in third and Stefan Krivda in fourth with an honourable mention. A special thank-you goes to our sponsors, CanClone, Mississauga Arts Council, and DeSerres.



Julie Lo Tauro, HM

With this year's contest entries still on display at The Grange until August 24, 2012, we did not waste any time and came up with an idea for the third annual art contest. We are inviting artists and photographers to capture an image along the Waterfront Trail in Mississauga. Interested artists are welcome to capture a scene along the trail in Mississauga, whether it is a modern streetscape, a scene from nature, a historic house or setting, or an inspiration from the past. This will be a juried art show and prizes will be awarded to the winning entries. All the artworks will be part of the ALFEW show "Along the Waterfront Trail", which will run from July 9, 2013 to August 23, 2013 at The Grange. All works must be framed and ready to be hanged, and a minimum 15x18 inches and no larger than 21x28.5 inches (framed).



For more information please visit [www.alfew.com/contests](http://www.alfew.com/contests). For information regarding the Waterfront trail, visit [www.waterfronttrail.org/trail-p-mississauga.html](http://www.waterfronttrail.org/trail-p-mississauga.html), and for other inquiries [www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com).



Artists Looking  
for Empty Walls

## Wood Window Restoration Workshop Event

By Elaine Eigl, Heritage  
Coordinator, City of  
Mississauga



Walter Furlan discussing finishing  
options, Elaine Eigl

"I have completely changed my mind about wood windows (I am amazed at how effective marketing is to create misinformation - I actually thought vinyl windows were superior...)" so said one of Saturday's wood window restoration workshop participants, which was held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Streetsville Kinsmen hall/ Senior Citizens' Center.

The event saw a group of wood window aficionados gathered to listen to, and to see in action, Walter Furlan, of Walter Furlan Heritage Building and Window Restoration. Walter's message, reiterated over the course of the workshop, is that a 100 year old wood window can easily enjoy a further 100 years of useful life with regular maintenance, and some repair techniques he demonstrated. Walter explained that jargon "maintenance free" can also be interpreted as "unable to be maintained when it comes to vinyl windows. Fortunately, today's consumers are a savvy bunch and need to know where the products they buy come from, where they end up, and what implications of this life cycle is on the environment.

Hosted by the city of Mississauga's Heritage Advisory Committee, the half day event was organized to provide participants with information about how to undertake minor repairs to their wood windows; to outline the benefits of restoring their windows versus replacing them; to demonstrate some simple, and some not so simple, repair techniques, as well as answer their questions.

Walter can be reached at [Heritage@Primus.ca](mailto:Heritage@Primus.ca) or in Hamilton at 905-383-3704.

### Membership has its Benefits!

Check our website in the New Year for a brand new membership benefits program.

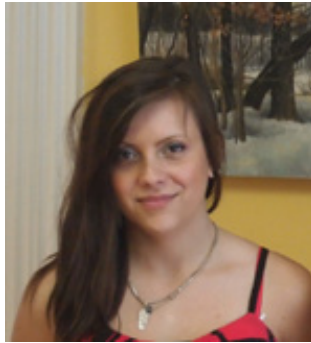
Heritage Mississauga members will have access to special discounts at a number of restaurants and shops.

*Heritage Mississauga your heritage source!*

## Local artist and Métis trade at The Grange

By Zofia Krivdova

An important relationship was established at The Grange as a local artist, Stefan Krivda, traded two of his artworks with a Métis elder Joseph Paquette in exchange for a Métis sash. Joe became very interested in Stefan's works and according to Aboriginal custom he wished to give something in return. The two works were a part of an art show at the Grange, titled "My Inspiration", exhibited from June 14 to July 29, 2011. The trade was an important moment – for local artists, Métis and First Nations people, and for Heritage Mississauga where it all took place.



Zofia Krivdova, HM

The Métis are one of the Aboriginal peoples in Canada who trace their descent to mixed First Nations and European heritage. Almost 400,000 people self-identify as Métis in Canada. The majority of Métis who self-identify today are the direct result of Métis intermarrying with other Métis. During the height of the North American fur trade in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, many British and French-Canadian fur traders married First Nations and Inuit women, mainly First Nations Cree, Ojibwa, or Saukteaux. The majority of these fur traders were Scottish and French. The Métis played a vital role in the success of the western fur trade. Métis understanding of both Aboriginal and European cultures and customs helped bridge cultural gaps, resulting in better trading relationships. Joe Paquette explained to Stefan Krivda that trade is still an important part of everyday life for many Métis people as he presented Stefan with a Métis sash in return for two pieces of his art.

Joe Paquette was born in Kapuskasing (Cree Territory) in Northern Ontario. From 2008 to 2010, he was a Councillor/Veteran with the Credit River Métis Council. Joe strives to establish good relations with local Heritage organizations, Aboriginal Veterans organizations and promotes the Métis way of life. Since 2009, Joe has served as secretary for the MNOVC (Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council). In 2011, Joe established the MNOVC website to better service the MNO Veterans throughout Ontario. ("Meet Your New Veterans Council at the 2012 AGA: Joseph Paquette". *Veterans Council MNOVC*. <http://metisvets.webs.com/yourcouncil.htm>)

Stefan Krivda was born in 1956 in Prešov in Slovakia. From a very young age, he loved drawing and painting. His uncle Ladislav was a painter, and he encouraged Stefan in

pursuing his passion for art. This influenced Stefan's interests, and he took art classes in elementary school, and later in high school as well. After high school, Stefan was accepted to the Academy of Visual Arts in Prague, where he studied two semesters.

Stefan had worked with different media such as drawing and painting, and later he developed an interest in ceramics. He started designing various objects from ceramics such as mugs and vases that were produced by Slovakian companies, and Stefan exported them to several Western-European countries.

Throughout the years, Stefan had 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, and he started attending Pow Wows frequently. He became captivated by the beauty of the dancers' painted faces, and thus he came up with the idea for his exhibition titled "My Inspiration". The exhibition included eleven ceramic painted 'masks' and six pastel drawings.



Joe and Stefan trading at The Grange, HM

When Joe Paquette came to see the show, he was fascinated by Stefan Krivda's artistic talent. He said one of the men portrayed in Stefan's drawing reminded him of a friend with whom he attended Pow Wows. The artist was thrilled with the interest, but according to Aboriginal custom Joe could not just accept the artworks, so he presented Stefan with a Métis sash. This trade thus strengthens the relationship to the many Aboriginal cultures and creates new opportunities for local artists and for Heritage Mississauga.

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# City to Acquire, Renovate, and Maintain Erindale Community Hall

By Councillor Nando Iannicca, Ward 7, City of Mississauga

## THE HEADLINE SAYS IT ALL!



It is with great pride and overwhelming joy that I am able to officially advise you that after many months of quiet deliberations and negotiations the Council of the City of Mississauga today endorsed my resolution to acquire, renovate, and maintain the Erindale Community Hall.

The sale was finalized on November 21st, 2012. The Agreement of Purchase and Sale states that the City will be investing up to \$225,000 to upgrade the facility immediately. Simply put, we have guaranteed the future of this historic landmark which will be refurbished and maintained by the City of Mississauga and will remain available to the Erindale Village Association and area residents for generations to come as a unique community asset.



*Community Hall Board with Councillor Iannicca, HM*

Words cannot express how grateful I am to the Mayor and Members of Council who supported my initiative to pursue this course of action. I have to particularly thank Brad Schneller and others in the Erindale Village for their ongoing support of the initiative and devotion and

stewardship of the Erindale Village Hall over the years. Many of you know that I am very proud of what I refer to as “legacy projects” which I have been able to achieve during my time as Councillor. These include the complete reconstruction of the Huron Park Community Centre, the new Celebration Square at City Hall, acquiring the Hancock Woodlands, and the Queensway Multi-use Trail. I am so proud to be able to add this magnificent historic structure to the list that will serve generations to come.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kathleen A. Hicks Historical Writing Award

Presented by the Mississauga Library System, the Kathleen A. Hicks Historical Writing Award recognizes young writers and encourages reading, exploring and writing about Mississauga heritage and history. Contest entrants had to be between 14 and 19 years of age, and their submitted story had to focus on a real person, place or event related to the history of Mississauga. The submitted articles were judged and the four winning entries will be published in the next issue of *The Heritage News*. The 2012 award winners are: Sugee Liyanage (1<sup>st</sup> place for “How Mississauga Got Its Name”), Hadeel Aziz (2<sup>nd</sup> place for “One Hundred and Ninety-One Years”) and a tie for third place was awarded to Shannan Mann (“Varanasi Comes From Benares”) and Monet Slinowsky (“Always Will”). Congratulations all of the entrants and to these talented award winners!



*Award Winners with Kathleen Hicks and Don Mills, Mississauga Library System*

## The Darker Side Cont'd....

1939, but only for one day. There was an uproar in court as the trial was abruptly halted when Attorney-General Conant stated that "the accused must be tried by jury". This impending direction indicated that the penalty for the accused could exceed more than five years. The trial did not resume again until October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1939.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, witnesses were called to testify regarding the shooting of Ray Bryant. There were no less than three different accounts surrounding who fired the shot. Although Bryant had been unable to describe his attacker immediately following the robbery, other than he was "short", he now believed Alex McDonald was the man who shot him. Shea stated that Gauthier was the man who had fired the shot that injured Bryant. However, Mr. Regan, defence council, said that "Shea had misled the Crown when he said that Gauthier did the shooting" and that he had information to say that, "smoke was issuing from the gun in Shea's hand after Bryant was shot". With an array of conflicting information, it seemed an impossible task to determine "who" shot Bryant.

Headlines in the Toronto Star on October 31<sup>st</sup> reported that because Shea "turned King's evidence" and testified against his alleged accomplices, McDonald and Gauthier, charges against him of armed robbery and wounding would be dropped. McDonald and Gauthier pled not guilty to the charges of armed robbery and attempting to maim Ray Bryant.

In Toronto, at the murder trial of James Windsor, on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1939, all charges against Donald "Mickey" McDonald were dropped due to the unreliability of evidence supplied by Shea. News from the Toronto court travelled quick to Brampton, where the trial for the Port Credit robbery continued; it was thought that charges against McDonald and Gauthier would also be dropped.

McDonald and Gauthier were reported to have walked into the dock at Brampton court with smiles on their faces. The smiles were short-lived however, when Shea, despite admitting being the driver in the Port Credit Bank robbery, walked from Brampton court a free man, whilst Alex McDonald and Leo Gauthier were each sentenced to serve a total of 20 years; 10 years for robbery while armed and 10 years for wounding Ray Bryant. Basil Essery, council for Gauthier, who found the situation regarding Shea "nauseating" exclaimed, "... never in thirty years of practice have I seen a self-confessed robber, thief and cheat lifted wholly out of responsibility in such a manner".

*For further details on this "Darker Side" story visit our website [www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com) under Heritage Resources.*

## Genealogy Workshops at The Grange

*By Jane Watt,  
Administrative  
Assistant, Heritage  
Mississauga*



*Jane Watt, HM*

In conjunction with Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Heritage Mississauga has held two very successful Genealogy Workshops at The Grange this fall. On September 8<sup>th</sup> Fawne Stratford-Devai, who was one of the co-stars of the television show "Ancestors in the Attic" presented 2 sessions, Ontario Birth, Marriages and Death Records pre 1869 and Leaving Ontario-Resources for Tracking Migrants. Fawne was back again on November 3<sup>rd</sup> along with Dorothy Kew and Jane Watt, Executive members of Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, with a total of over 80 years experience. This workshop was hands-on, helping registrants to break down the barriers and scale their brick walls in their research. Everyone was pleased with the results.

We thank our genealogy experts for their time, knowledge and willingness to share their expertise. Thank you to the Halton Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society for their sponsorship and partnership of this important heritage program.



*Genealogists at work in September with Fawne Stratford-Devai, HM*

Check the January issue of "Heritage News" for our schedule of Genealogy Workshops in 2013. If you have any topics of interest or speakers you would like to hear please let us know.



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phone at 905-828-8411 ext. "0" at the Heritage Mississauga office.



## “Extraordinary Lives: Inspiring Women of Peel” – written and published by The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Mississauga

On Monday September 10, CFUW (Canadian Federation of University Women) Mississauga celebrated a double milestone: the 60th anniversary of the club and the publication of “Extraordinary Lives: Inspiring Women of Peel”.

The book has been a multiple year project, researched and written by club members, and showcases the lives of thirty-six exceptional women of Peel County, past and present, who have made outstanding contributions to



*A number of the members who participated in the publication, CFUW*

the community over a 200 year period. The book is the brainchild of Gail Crawford, a past president of CFUW Mississauga and co-editor with Joan Barrett; fourteen additional members of the organization worked as scribes and researchers and many more were involved in fundraising for the project. The result is a book of thirty six illustrated biographies featuring a group of remarkable women who are all connected in the past or present to Peel County. The book is a tribute to some of the women who have had such a significant impact on the development and character of Peel and it is hoped that it will be an enduring historical record of Canadiana.

Present day Peel County encompasses Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon and it is possible to locate where many of the historical women featured in the book lived but some place names have changed and the landscape has been radically altered, particularly in Mississauga and Brampton, by urban development and growth. Researching some of these stories was an exercise in detection but, early in the project, a decision was made to not only include historical figures but also to showcase some of the very special women who are part of the contemporary landscape in Peel.

The book profiles are in chronological order by date of birth and the earliest entry is Eliza Field Jones, born in 1804, wife of a First Nations missionary, teacher at the Credit Mission School, and author, painter and diarist. The last entry is

Rabia Khedr, a human rights activist and consultant, who is an immigrant to Canada, a wife and mother of four, and a person who has lived with visual impairment since childhood. Some of the women featured in Extraordinary Lives attended the evening including Mayor McCallion who spoke to the group and was presented with a copy of the book.

CFUW Mississauga is an organization of more than 200 graduate women and is affiliated with the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Founded in 1919, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a national non-profit, non-governmental, non-partisan women's equality seeking organization of almost 10,000 women graduates, students and associate members in more than 100 clubs across Canada. CFUW has special consultative status at the United Nations and representation at the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission to UNESCO.



*Her Worship the Mayor with VP Nancy Rabbatt, CFUW*

CFUW Mississauga meets monthly from September to April at the Church of St. Bride, Clarkson Road North, and offers many activities and opportunities for fellowship. A major focus of CFUW is funding and awarding scholarships for women entering and continuing in higher education. All profits from “Extraordinary Lives: Inspiring Women of Peel” will be donated to the national scholarship fund which awards scholarships to women entering post-graduate programs.

The book may be ordered for \$29.95 through the website [www.cfuwmmississauga.ca](http://www.cfuwmmississauga.ca). It will also be showcased during the next year at various service clubs, libraries and community events.



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# Industrial Heritage – Building Business

*By Jenny Walker, Program Developer, Heritage Mississauga*

The term “industrial heritage” brings to mind a Victorian landscape of railways, coal mines and mills belching out smoke and pollutants into overcrowded industrial centres of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While this has never been Mississauga's heritage, the subject has largely been overlooked with the focus being more on people than place. As a heritage organization, we often get caught up in the history of Natives, pioneers and their descendants; however Mississauga's more recent growth and development is due largely to the presence of a vibrant corporate sector that has provided the jobs necessary to attract families and new immigrants, making Mississauga the 6<sup>th</sup> largest city in Canada. My focus therefore over the next few months will be to meet with some of the pillars of our corporate community to record their memories from a business perspective and to chronicle their contribution to the creation of the city as we know it today.

## Fielding Chemical Technologies Inc.-The Early Years

My first interview took place a few weeks ago with Ian & Ellen McGregor from Fielding. It was so interesting to discover the roots of the company which began in Toronto in 1894 under the leadership of Edward Fielding. Their father Jack McGregor joined the company in 1955 as a President at the request of the then owner Hugh Cameron Sr. He brought with him excellent leadership and problem solving skills from his time in the navy during WWII and his early years in the Great Depression.

In those first few years, Jack's passions both for the environment and for saving money became evident as he joined with an associate Ivor Kudernak in Montreal to launch two new sister companies, Anachemia Solvents and Anachemia Montreal; who worked with Fielding in the solvent recovery business. Jack's first customer was Ford Motors. This unique attitude should be seen in the context of the times when the commitment to recycling in the 1950's was not the focus that it is today. The company went from strength to strength as some customers paid to have

their chemical waste cleaned and returned to them while others just wanted the company to remove the product entirely in a responsible manner. The resulting waste was often cleaned and resold to others.

Unfortunately on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1963 events took a dramatic turn when there was a terrible fire at the original plant in which the owner's son, Hugh Cameron Jr. died. Hugh Jr. had been a brilliant doctor who was working late one night at the lab in an attempt to develop a better aesthetic; no one really knows what happened but the lab was destroyed by fire, leaving the main plant untouched. As a result of this incident, Hugh's father became disillusioned with the business and Jack was faced with the prospect of taking charge or closing up shop. As a father with a young family, unemployment was not an option and he began to look around for a site that was more suitable. From the beginning, Jack's focus was the safety and protection of his workforce, and when a friend suggested that he relocate to Mississauga, the deal was sealed and Fielding Chemical together with their whole workforce, moved to their present site on Mavis Road.



*Jack McGregor, Fielding Chemical*



*Fielding Chemical 1964, Fielding Chemical*

Mississauga in 1963 was a very different place from today; population figures for the city in 1961 were 74,875 compared with the current figure of 730,000. From 1950, the city made the transition from rural to urban as communication links were improved, businesses attracted and modern subdivisions like Applewood Acres were built. Indeed it is no coincidence that Jack McGregor and his young family were one of these early residents and that his home was only 10 minutes away from Fielding's new site. The creation of affordable housing and local jobs marks the beginning of Mississauga's expansion into the city that it is today as residents began to both live and work in this new urban area, rather than using the city purely as a base for commuting to Toronto.

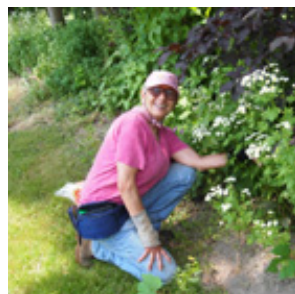
*Cont'd pg 30*



## Restoration of The Grange Gardens Part 4

By Louise Peacock (Louise is a Mississauga-based custom Landscape Designer and Horticulturist)

Starting Spring 2011, with the knowledge and support of Heritage Mississauga, I began the process of restoring and beautifying the Grange garden space immediately surrounding the building.



Louise Peacock, HM

We told you in Part 2, that this year we planned to start a new flower bed beside the driveway.

So, in July with the cooperation of park Gardener, Jennifer, a new bed was created at the side of the driveway. The fact that eco-friendly is at the top of our agenda is why we wanted to create this new bed the way we did.

Jen first dumped a sizeable load of wood chips in our target area, and she also left us a small amount of top soil. (The wood chips were from felled tree parts that have been chipped by the City and recycled.)

Next, I, along with my garden assistant Marze, raked that mound of chips into a garden bed shape. Once we had it looking more like a flower bed shape and less of a mound of wood chips, we began to make holes in the new chip bed, adding a small amount of soil to each hole and placing previously rooted ornamentals in the holes.

The plants that we used to fill the bed were donations from various individuals.



In keeping with the pioneer theme, we tried to stay with plants which they may have grown from seed. This location gets roughly 4 to 5 hours of sun from Spring through

Summer and somewhat less as the sun sinks further during the late Summer and Fall so we picked perennials and biennials that will thrive in the location.

We planted in the spirit of our ancestors: Shasta Daisy, Daylily, Creeping Geranium, Iris, Wild Rose, Daylily, Peony, Phlox, Clara Curtis mums, Purple Coneflower and Rudbeckia, which although not typical of the time, is one upon which we can rely to overwinter in our zone.

Although the odds were greatly against anything doing well this year, since we had incredible heat and practically no rain - everything did quite well.

We have noted with a great deal of disappointment, that since our initial planting in July, someone has been stealing plants from both this new bed and the Medicinal garden.

We have had some fun with Wasps who decided to make a large nest at one end of our new bed, in some rotten wood. Fortunately we avoided getting stung, but there were several close encounters, until they were doused with some anti-Wasp chemical!

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## Museums of Mississauga

The Museums of Mississauga offer a wide variety of programs, education and children's badge programming including Overnight Programs! Guided tours are available year round on Wednesday & Sunday afternoons, 1 to 5pm.

For Christmas activities, the Museums offer photos with Santa on December 2nd, 12 to 4pm at the Log Cabin at Bradley Museum, and the annual "Home for the Holidays" on December 9th, 12 to 4 pm at all three museum locations.



Cassidy Meeuwse at the Log Cabin, Museums of Mississauga

For more information about the Museums, please visit [www.museumsofmississauga.com](http://www.museumsofmississauga.com), call 905-615-4860 or e-mail: [museums.mississauga@mississauga.ca](mailto:museums.mississauga@mississauga.ca). Follow us on [Twitter.com/Saugaculture](https://twitter.com/Saugaculture) & 'Like' Mississauga Culture on Facebook.

Bradley Museum is located at 1620 Orr Road  
Benares Historic House is located at 1507 Clarkson Road North  
Leslie Log House is located at 4415 Mississauga Road

# Good Ship Ridgetown

By Alan Skeoch



*Alan Skeoch centre receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Lifetime Achievement February 2012 from Richard Moorehouse and Lt. Governor David Onley, OHT*

AH! The good ship Ridgetown has been slumbering at the mouth of Port Credit harbour for 38 years. Sleeping, rusting a little but not enough to change her appearance very much. She may as well sleep for she cannot move. Some persons filled her belly with stones. Sank her as a breakwater protecting the entrance to Port Credit Harbour on June 21, 1974.

At a lecture on public art early in May 2012, it was suggested the people of Port Credit look at their community closely. Find an identity. Find iconic features that make Port Credit distinct from other villages in Mississauga. Find icons that are worthy of public art.

No one mentioned the Ridgetown even though the ship has been in Port Credit longer than most of the residents. The Ridgetown is just taken for granted. Like an aged grandmother whose role has been assumed and forgotten.

Oh there were lots of ideas. Lots of icons that make Port Credit distinctive. The old Lighthouse for instance that once sat near where the Ridgetown now rests. It was an icon. It was also a good place to hide illegal liquor when bootlegging was big business in Port Credit back in the days of Prohibition. The lighthouse icon has been replicated in a beautiful, if fake, building on the west bank of the Credit River. Resplendant in red and white. Decorated at water level with public art.

Then there is Peter Jones and the Mississauga native people. Their role in Port Credit is romanticised more gloriously each year. Forgotten is the fact that they were abused and thrown out of Port Credit way back in the 1840's. No one romanticised them in those days. No one wanted them. The government thought they should go to Manitoulin Island. But, as one chief put it, "We cannot eat rocks!"

Fortunately the Six Nations people on the Grand River tract gave the Mississaugas a new home.

Icons? Fishermen, Starch makers, Fruit farmers, Steamships, Stonehookers...etc. Lots of icons.

Then why not the Ridgetown as well?

She has a fascinating history.

She was built in 1905 as a Bulk Freighter by the Chicago Shipbuilding Company at a cost of \$475,000. That was a lot of money in those days. Bread was less than 10 cents a loaf. Today bread is \$2 a loaf or more. So multiply by 20 if you want to know what the Ridgetown cost in today's dollars. \$9,500,000! I doubt she could be built for ten million today. So she has value.

But she had a different name for most of her life. When the champagne bottle was broken over her bow (if such really happened), she was named the WILLIAM E. COREY. That name can still be seen rather boldly on the black slabs of steel at the front and back of the ship. COREY is more obvious now in 2012 than it was back in 1974. She has risen from her ashes so to speak. COREY has emerged from behind the black paint. It's as if she wants to speak to us. To remind us of her glory days. Most of her active life she was THE COREY. She didn't become the Ridgetown until 1963 when she was sold to the Upper Lakes Shipping Company and switched from American to British registry.



*The Ridgetown today, HM*

Most of her active life she was the COREY so it is fitting that the old name is emerging from behind the peeling black paint.

And the Ridgetown/Corey active life was just that. Very active right from the get go. On her maiden voyage she powered her way out of Chicago on August 12, 1905 bound for Duluth to load iron ore. Her career as an iron bulk carrier was abruptly halted on November 28, 1905 when she confronted one of the worst storms to wreak havoc on the Great Lakes. Three days of blinding snow, 80 mile per hour winds and huge waves eventually drove her hard aground on the Gulf Island Reef in the Apostle Islands of western Lake Superior where the beating continued. Only worse. A salvage crew of 158 men, four steamships and two tugboats

*Cont'd pg. 31*



# Looking for Credit Grove

By Elaine Eigl

I can't count the number of times I have heard people say, 'If only these walls could talk.' Well recently they did!

A few months back I met a Credit Grove resident, Brenda, who approached me at one of our Mississauga South Historical Society meetings. Brenda brought with her a handful of documents gathered from the local Land Registry office. Like many of us she has a passion for uncovering the history of her property. Brenda asked if I could help her determine the age of her home. As I have a soft spot for a mystery, I happily agreed to review the documents she had to see what clues they could offer. A quick review indicated that the area of Port Credit in which she lives, known as Credit Grove, was developed in the very early nineteen-teens. However, like many Land Registry office documents there was no definitive proof of the date of construction of her home.

So I promised Brenda that the next time I found myself at the land registry office with a few moments to spare I would do some digging into these records. Initially, I didn't find much more than she had already provided me, a testament to her thorough research, but what did happen was I became hooked! On a subsequent visit, I did manage to locate an early subdivision plan from 1910 (Plan B10), which seems, for one reason or another, not to have been developed. I also found a plan of subdivision from 1912 (Plan F12), which shows the layout of the road pattern as it exists today. It is on this 1912 plan of subdivision that I was able to locate Brenda's property. Her street was originally part of the undeveloped area called Block B in the 1910 plan of subdivision, which in the 1912 Plan was extended to include her street. So now we have a rough date of construction, or at least an earliest date of construction.

Turning to the Toronto Star's *Pages of the Past*, (which, as a Mississauga resident, you can access for free if you have a library card), I logged onto the Library website at [www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/searchfromhome](http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/searchfromhome), found the pertinent page, and input "Credit Grove" with a defined date range of 1912 to 1915, and up popped a series of 1912 sales notices! This particular notice dates from June 1912. If you need help finding the *Pages of the Past*, (and you may), you can contact the Canadiana Room at the Central Library at 905-615-3200 ext. 3660 or via email at: [library.history@mississauga.ca](mailto:library.history@mississauga.ca).



Elaine Eigl, HM

Going back to the information found at the Land Registry Office, we were able to determine who owned the property before and after subdivision. John F. Schultz, Fruit Farmer, in Grimsby sold the land to The Port Credit Land Company, Limited in April 1912. Further research showed that in April 1916, The Port Credit Land Company sold lot 332 to Edward E. Farringer, who in all likelihood was the original owner of the house Brenda now calls home.

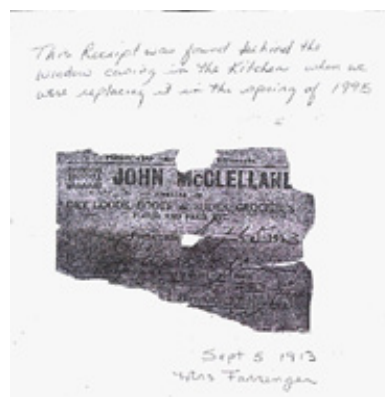
The thing that made the discovery of these names so very exciting was that Brenda also has a fragment of a receipt from September 1913, made out to a Mrs. Farringer! Brenda tells me that this fragment was discovered when she and her husband were replacing their windows a few years ago. Brenda's walls had indeed spoken!

A Google search showed that there was an Edward E. Farringer in the area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century who had been a music composer. I also managed to find names of some of his compositions, none of which I recognized. A search in Ancestry.ca showed that he hadn't survived much longer after buying his House, dying in 1919, if indeed this is 'our' Edward Farringer.

I then went to Peel Archives to see what I could learn about Credit Grove neighbourhood. I didn't manage to turn up anything definitive, but I haven't given up yet! I will continue my search through newspapers of the time hoping to find an advertisement pertaining to the sale of these lots. However, it is time for me to once again turn to the readers and MSHS members, to ask that any information you may have on Credit Grove neighbourhood, which is located South of Queen St., east of Hurontario Street, north of Lakeshore Road East, and west of Cawthra Road, be provided to MSHS, so that I can try to round out this mystery.



Credit Grove AD, Toronto Star June 1912



Receipt fragment, September 1913, E.Eigl

## Bringing Back to “Life”

By Zofia Krivdova & Matthew Wilkinson



*Zofia Krivdova and Suzanna Elmazi working on Sam, HM*

Do not get alarmed! “Sam” and “Rudy” are two mannequins that have been with Heritage Mississauga for many years. They were made in 1934, as part of a group of 12 mannequins, as a Toronto Centennial gift for Fort York from the Toronto Branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada. John Warburton of the Toronto Branch UEL lent “Sam” and “Rudy”, or “Samuel” and Rudolph” as they had been named, to Heritage Mississauga back in 2005 for an exhibit, and they have made their home at The Grange ever since. However, time and wear necessitated some major repairs, which were undertaken this past summer by Heritage Mississauga summer student Zofia Krivdova.

As the repairs progressed, we began to look into the story of the mannequins themselves, and to see if any more of the original 12 mannequins survived. After serving as display mannequins at Fort York for many years, the mannequins were “retired” from display sometime in the early 1970s, and dispersed. Several found their way back to the Toronto Branch UEL, and a few were given to other local heritage organizations. Of the original 12, we have learned that one was damaged irreparably and no longer exists. Of the 11 possibly remaining, we have located, we believe, 7 of them, and Heritage Mississauga is now home to four!

Thank you to Richard Gerrard with Museum Services at the City of Toronto who donated “Peter” (who has, like “Sam” and “Rudy”, also been reconstructed and repaired) and to John Warburton who located a third mannequin from Toronto Branch UEL and donated “James” to Heritage Mississauga as well. As of press time, James is awaiting his repair!

## “Boulder Villa” for sale



The remarkable heritage home known as “Boulder Villa” (aka the Stevenson House at 989 Southdown Road in Clarkson) has undergone a beautiful renovation for a much-needed facelift inside while retaining the character defining architectural elements that make this Heritage Designated landmark truly one of a kind. Built circa 1930 by David and Jennie Stevenson this is a rare (for Mississauga) California-bungalow style featuring distinctive exterior stonework. For more information regarding the sale of this unique property, please visit: [www.spectrumrealtyservices.com](http://www.spectrumrealtyservices.com)



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## Fielding Chemicals cont’d...

Throughout the 1960's and 70's, Mississauga continued to evolve as more businesses were attracted by the promise of reasonably priced land that was ripe for development. Jack McGregor and Fielding were still ahead of the times in their attitude to recycling and the environment and by 1972, revenues from solvent recovery began to eclipse those from the supply and blending of virgin chemicals. Throughout these formative years in our city's history, Fielding continued to conduct their business as a responsible corporate citizen and this reputation was never more evident than when Jack was consulted by the emergency services in the 1979 train derailment, but that's a story for next time as we discuss that pivotal event from both the personal and the corporate perspective.



## The Ridgetown cont'd....

were required to free her. Two of the rescue ships were also grounded in the rescue effort. The Corey was so badly bashed up it took \$100,000 to bring her back into operation. (Note: Nov. 28, 1905, Storm: Mariners did not expect the storm to last and many took to the water once the storm seemed to have abated. A fatal miscalculation. Wind reached as high as 70 mph (112 Km/h) and did so for 12 hours. The Corey was not alone. Seventeen other ships were stranded on reefs, some broke into pieces. Thirty two men drowned.)

For the next 55 years she hauled bulk cargo back and forth across the Great Lakes without a problem. But she got old. It happens to ships faster than to people. In 1960 she was mothballed in Duluth. Just floated there for three years. Seemed her life was over then. At 58 years of age, she was resold in 1963 to Upper Lakes Shipping Ltd of Toronto and renamed Ridgetown. Heavy black paint was slathered over here birth name. The Ridgetown had a very short life. She hauled grain until November 17, 1969, when she was laid up in Toronto with a load of grain.

In May 1970 the Ridgetown was sold again. The new owner, The Canadian Dredge and Dry Dock Company of Toronto, did not want an operating ship. They wanted a carcass. Gutted her. then towed her on June 1, 1970 to Port Colborne where she was filled with stone offshore at Nanticoke as a temporary breakwater protecting the new Ontario Hydro Power Plant.

This must have seemed like a career ending fate to the Ridgetown. But it wasn't. The stone was removed in the fall of 1973. She was refloated then hauled by the tugs Salvage Monarch and Helen M. McAllister to Toronto where she wintered and waited for her final load and her final resting place as a breakwall at the entrance to Port Credit Harbour. Most ships used as breakwalls are stripped but not the Ridgetown. She still has her stack and cabins in place.

Even though her registry was withdrawn on June 19, 1974, which is the equivalent of a death certificate in human terms, she looks alive. To uninformed tourists gazing out from Port Credit Harbour, it looks like the Ridgetown is passing by, or maybe preparing to turn into Port Credit.

She looks alive.

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## Rebellion of 1837 cont'd....

A small force of British regulars was all Sir Francis Bond Head needed to end the rebellion, and it's just as well. The lieutenant-governor, mystified that his loyal subjects had turned on him, would have found little support from reserve militias made up of common farmers. Francis Logan was a councilor and the roads commissioner for Toronto Township in 1837, and he took on the additional task of

mustering men to defend the government in the days following the rebellion. In a letter to the bewildered Bond Head, Logan wrote, "I trouble Your Excellency with this letter, and beg to inform you that Colonel William Thompson came to the Village of Cooksville to call out the militia to go to Toronto. The majority of the inhabitants refused." Logan concluded, "I have reason to believe that most of these men were attached to the radical party." Incidentally, the Colonel Thompson referred to in Logan's letter was the same assemblyman who lost his seat to Mackenzie in 1828 – the first of six opponents to lose an election to Mack.

Mack may have been a skillful politician but he was a lousy general. The Rebellion of Upper Canada was poorly-planned and blame for the debacle falls squarely on the man who staged it.

But victory wasn't really what Mack's army of desperate farmers was hoping for. Most of the men didn't have guns. Surely they knew, as they began their march down Yonge Street, that they couldn't win. They may have been simple farmers but they weren't simpletons.

What they were was angry and, after seeing their man expelled from office repeatedly, they had given up any hope that responsible government could be achieved by peaceful means. Rebellion, even a disastrous one, was all they had left.

About 700 men came to Mackenzie's aid on the day of the rebellion but if all the historical accounts about Mack's post-rebellion escape through Mississauga are to be believed (and most aren't), thousands more must have supported his cause.

Next time, we'll look at the long list of people in Mississauga who supposedly harboured the rebel during his escape from the law.

## The Last Word!

2013 marks a very special year for Heritage Mississauga. The organization will present a new Awards program, focused on the community of Mississauga through categories of natural, cultural, modern, built and community heritage.

Criteria will be announced in the New Year and nominations will be accepted online and at the Heritage Mississauga office.

The awards event will be held in November. Follow news on our website, social media sites and through our newsletter for further details.

Heritage Mississauga has honoured over 160 individuals and groups over the last 15 years. This fresh, expanded awards program offers all of us the opportunity to recognize heritage heroes in our midst.

# Heritage Matters

## Heritage Mississauga Events

*Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre*

**Jan. 15-Feb. 22-Huma Durrani Art Show**

## Art Gallery of Mississauga

Visit the gallery website for events and programs scheduled.

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

## Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

**Dec 9 - Opened for a Victorian Christmas.** Make a traditional tree ornament and enjoy tea and cookies.

**Jan 13 - Story Time.** Spend a quiet winter afternoon reading and listening to stories. A collection of children's story books will be available for parents to read to children. A volunteer will be there to read to a group of children and parents.

**Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013 10:00 am- 6:00 pm** at the Bay Court in the Bramalea City Centre Mall. This is a unique opportunity to learn more about the history of Northern Peel County as there will be many heritage groups represented.

**Feb 10 - Valentine's Day.** See the display of old valentine cards. Make a card for your favourite person.

## Open Sundays at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse

Drop into The Schoolhouse the second Sunday of the month from 1:00-4:00 pm. **Jan.13, Feb.10, March 10, Apr.14, May 12 and June 9, 2013** Volunteers will be on hand. Please check the website [www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org](http://www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org) for special activities on these Sundays. Parking in the H.J.A.Brown Education Centre parking lot. Enter off Matheson Blvd. west of Hurontario St.

## Halton Peel O.G.S.

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

**Jan. 27, 2-4, Brampton Public Library-Douglas Hill, author & Halton-Peel Branch member.** Topic: Tripping Over Tombstones: Searching Ontario Cemeteries This talk is an introduction & update on searching Ontario Cemeteries. Cemetery information is found on the internet, on paper and 'on foot.' Trends in burial practices, cemetery ownership, and cemetery recording will also be discussed.

## Mississauga Arts Council

Visit the website for events and programs scheduled.

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

## Mississauga South Historical Society

**Jan. 22-Speaker to be announced.** What's Up for 2013? Visit our website [www.clients.teksavvy.com/~chessie/index.htm](http://www.clients.teksavvy.com/~chessie/index.htm)

## **Mississauga Heritage Speakers Series** **[www.mississauga.ca/heritagepartners](http://www.mississauga.ca/heritagepartners)**

Presented in collaboration by Mississauga's Heritage Partners (Heritage Mississauga, Mississauga Library System, Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee, and the Museums of Mississauga), 2012 saw a talented group of speakers come to Mississauga. We welcomed Daniel Bratton (who spoke on Mazo de la Roche), Ron Dale (The War of 1812 on the Niagara Frontier), Richard Gerrard (In Their Own Words: Contemporary Accounts of the Battle of York, 1813), Dr. Carl Benn (War of 1812: The Big Picture) and William Lyon Mackenzie (portrayed by David Morris). Thank you to everyone who came out, and we look forward to seeing you in 2013. Planning is currently underway for the 2013 series, and we look forward to sharing that with you in the next issue of the *Heritage News*.

## Museums of Mississauga

**INFO: [www.museumsofmississauga.com](http://www.museumsofmississauga.com) or 905-615-4860**

## Afternoon Tea December 16

Reservations are required (please refer to the flyer for details)

Gift Certificates are also available for purchase

## Home for the Holidays at the Museums of Mississauga

**December 9, 12 to 4 p.m.** Bradley Museum, Benares Historic House & Leslie Log House. Free Admission (donations of non-perishable food items will be collected for the local food bank)

**Feb. 18 1-5 pm-Family Day** at the Museums of Mississauga, Bradley Museum, Benares Historic House and Leslie Log House.

**Mar. 9-19 weekdays 12-4 pm and weekends 10 am to 4 pm.**

Maple Magic: Maple Syrup Festival

## Streetsville Historical Society

**December 9 12:00-4:00** "Home for the Holidays" at the Leslie Log House. Come and enjoy our friendly fireplace, Christmas treats and hot cider. Register for our festive mystery hunt through the orchard to win prizes. Cost is a donation of dried goods or cash in support of our local food bank.

**December 13 7:30-**Our general meeting at Specialty Care, 4350 Mississauga Road South. Guest speaker Matthew Wilkinson, historian at Heritage Mississauga, who will speak on the War of 1812. For more information call Jean 905-826-1860.

**January 9-Fund raising Euchre** at the Leslie Log House, 7pm sharp, refreshments and prizes, cost is \$10.00. Limited space, preregister by calling Bernice at 905-826-7198

## Trafalgar Township Historical Society

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

## **December 7th 2012 and February 22nd 2013 Archives Open**

**House.** You are welcome to visit our archives on the above dates. We are always adding family histories, journals, relevant school texts (elementary), photographs and postcards. Items can be scanned and returned.

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

## **2nd Regiment of York Wants YOU!**

### **Bringing the 2<sup>nd</sup> York to Life**

Plans are being made to bring the 2<sup>nd</sup> York back to life! The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of York Militia was largely an un-uniformed group of volunteer militiamen from historic Mississauga, served in a variety of capacities and in several battles during the War of 1812. Volunteers from Heritage Mississauga are seeking to connect with others who might be interested in participating as re-enactors to tell the story of this regiment. Plans are in their infancy and for more information please contact Heritage Mississauga at 905-828-8411 ext.29.

