

Heritage News

Celebrating Over 200 Years of History

The Newsletter of Heritage Mississauga

Winter 2009

Vol. 22/Issue 1

Inside...

President's Message	~ 2
Heritage Heroes	~ 3
Lost Village	~ 4
A Fall from the Stars	~ 6
Designations	~ 7
Museums Exhibit	~ 7
New Speaker Series	~ 8
Haunted 2008	~ 9
The Power of the Pen	~10
Historical Societies	~11
In Memoriam	~12
Celebrating our Past	~12
This Old House	~13
Doors Open 2008	~14
Winding Lane	~15
Heritage Matters	~16

SPECIAL EVENTS

Heritage Awards
Thurs. Feb. 19th
7:00pm

Speaker Series

The Avro Arrow
Fri. Feb. 20th
7:00pm

Colourblind! Exhibit
Opening Mon. Feb.
23rd. 7:00pm

**Francophone
Exhibit**
Ontario's Francophone
History: Now and Then
April 6th

Remembering "Black Friday"

The 50th Anniversary of the Cancellation of the Arrow

By Matthew Wilkinson

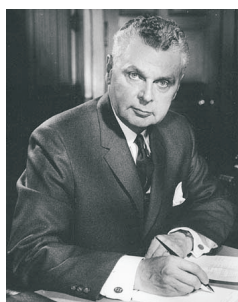
February 20th, 2009 marks the 50th Anniversary of two entwined and significant moments in Canadian history: the 50th Anniversary of the cancellation of the CF-105 AVRO Arrow program and the subsequent loss of some 50,000 jobs in the weeks and months following the cancellation. Even looking back on the events of 1959 through the coloured glasses of history and 50 years of time (and stories), it is hard to fathom a single event which garnered so much national fervor that arguably led to the downfall of a government, as well as caused so much local and social upheaval and uncertainty.

Many written histories on the Arrow suggest that the cancellation of the program, and the subsequent demise of the A.V. Roe Canada and many of its subsidiaries, was a crippling blow to the Canadian Aviation industry, which was only then in its infancy. One historian writes, in cryptic terms alluding to a mafia-like conspiracy, that the cancellation of the program was in effect a "knee-capping hit" to Canadian engineering and National pride, and something which, 50 years later, the Canadian psyche has yet to truly recover from.



*Diefenbaker Canada Centre
Archives*

So the challenge with this article is how to sift through the many, many layers of evidence, the stories, the reports, the multitude of books on the subject, and myths, the conspiracy theories, and the many local and personal stories of the events leading up to and following the cancellation and "Black Friday". In short, I am not sure that it is possible in this format to offer a comprehensive analysis of the evidence and events behind "Black Friday", as there are entire books devoted to reviewing the legacy of the Arrow, and reviewing the many theories and the myriad of explanations behind its demise. The story is truly one which has seemingly gained strength over the past 50 years, something akin to a great Canadian love story, murder mystery and dark tragedy rolled into one. As one article indicates, the Arrow "might have become the fastest plane in the world, our best defence against Soviet bombers, (and) the catalyst to propel Canada to the forefront of the aviation industry. Instead, it became a \$400-million pile of scrap metal, and the stuff of legends."



Diefenbaker, www

Less than a week after the Arrow's first flight, on March 25th, 1958, the Conservative party under the leadership of John Diefenbaker won a landslide election. Immediately the new government began to reassess all funding commitments and expenditures undertaken by the previous Liberal administration, including the AVRO Arrow program. The new Prime Minister publicly voiced concern over the apparent spiraling costs of the Arrow program, and in September of 1958 the government announced that it would only authorize the completion of planes which were currently under production and that the program, and all financial commitments, would be fully reviewed in six months time. These were not the first rumblings of government discontent, and this was coupled, at least in hindsight, with an underlying distrust and an apparent lack of transparency and communication between the new government and the executive at A.V. Roe. This, together with the emerging perceived threat of Nuclear weapons and the desire to employ the Bomarc missile defence system, led to doubts that Canada could fund both projects. In a very real sense, the Arrow was both ahead of its time and obsolete at the same time.

President's Message

By Barbara O'Neil

By the time you read this, events will be happening across Canada in recognition of **Heritage Month**. Since our last newsletter, Heritage Mississauga has held its second gala Ball; proposed and received approval for this year's business plan and budget; and is in process with some committee level reorganization and work to implement the ongoing, previously-stated objectives of:

- increasing our membership
- establishing new sources of sustainable long term funding
- and increasing our community profile.

It was a particularly busy fall. Beginning with the well-attended **Streetsville's 150th** anniversary celebration, Heritage Mississauga was both a participant in the Heritage Showcase and a partner in the unveiling of models of 4 interpretative panels (funded in part by proceeds from our first Ball). We also hosted **Doors Open in Meadowvale Village**.

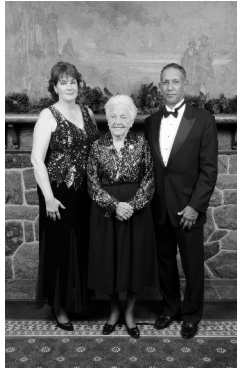
In October, we held our perennially popular **Haunted Mississauga** event, this year in cooperation with the Museums of Mississauga at the Benares Historic House. Despite the cold, about 100 people joined the fun, many thanks to Allan Candy for the treats!

Our second successful **Heritage Ball** was celebrated at the Mississauga Golf & Country Club on November 15th. In the photo on this page, you can see our Ball Chair, Darrel Carvalho, with myself and Mayor Hazel McCallion, who is wearing an Ojibway bone and turquoise breastplate necklace Heritage Mississauga presented to her that evening in honour of her 30 years in office. Despite a slowing economy, and with the assistance of our able MC and auctioneer Ron Lenyk, publisher of the Mississauga News, we raised \$15,000. This money will be put toward creation of a Native Commemorative Garden and plaque, and also toward our operating costs in 2009.

The success of our Ball is the result of many able volunteers. In addition to Darrel Carvalho, we must mention committee members Princess Alexander, MP Bonnie Crombie, Raphleta Taylor, Councilor and Director Katie Mahoney, Councilor George Carlson, Executive Director Jayme Gaspar and the late Susan Ryan.

A great time was had by all who enjoyed a bonfire and toddies at our annual **Carolling & 48th Birthday Party** at the Grange. If, like me, schedule conflicts have recently prevented you from attending the party, make a promise to yourself to attend this year!

With the support of Paul Archambault, of "Frankies Float Services", and volunteers Rose and Tony Langley, Heritage Mississauga entered a float into the Mississauga Santa Claus Parade. We appreciate the year long efforts of this team to promote the organization. Many thanks once again to Allan Candy who supported this event with a donation of 10,000 Candy Canes for parade visitors.



Barbara O'Neil, Mayor
Hazel McCallion,
Darrel Carvalho,
Mississauga News



Our annual plan and budget were presented and approved by the City Grants Committee. \$157,358 will be received from the City, an increase of \$22,000 over last year. The much-needed increase reflects a growing appreciation of the importance of heritage, arts and culture to this community. In fact, an **Arts & Culture Master Plan** is currently in development. Heritage Mississauga is an active participant in the process and we appreciate the involvement of the community in helping to make heritage a focus of this plan.

Looking forward, our **Awards Evening** will again take place at the Lakeview Golf Course on Dixie Road, Thursday February 19th at 7:00PM. At \$25 per ticket, this is an affordable evening out and a wonderful opportunity to honour some of our most loyal local heritage heroes. Mark your calendars as well for the February 23rd launch of the **Colorblind Art Exhibition** in the Grange's Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre. For the early-risers, on Saturday, March 21st, Joe Paquette will conduct an **Equinox Sunrise Ceremony** at 6am at the Grange.

In the next newsletter, I will outline **our 2009 initiatives and programs**. **We are making progress vs. our goals** of membership growth and increased profile (and utilization of our services), and are working to continue our positive momentum!

Board of Directors 2008-2009

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

Darrel Carvalho, Arthur Dias, Don Hancock
Councillor Katie Mahoney, Josip Milcic, Jeff Stephens
Mark Warrack (City of Mississauga), Nicole Wright

STAFF

Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director
Jane Watt, Administrative Assistant
Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

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

NEXT DEADLINE: April 1, 2009

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Heritage Heroes

By Jayme Gaspar

We are once again back in the land of ice and snow, more ice and snow and it seems to go on infinitum. In all of this record breaking weather we are having, there is a bright sunny light that shines thorough for those at Heritage Mississauga each February. It gives us great pleasure to bring you the news of our "Heritage Heroes", those being honoured for their excellence and dedication in preserving, protecting and promoting heritage.

Last year Premier McGinty provided Ontario with a new holiday naming it "Family Day", but in actual fact all over Canada this day - the third Monday in February is known as "Heritage Day", and so that week, after a nice day to rest and reflect on all that we do to celebrate our heritage we bring together those very special individuals chosen to receive honours for their work in 2008. On Thursday February 19th at the Lakeview Golf Course at 7:00pm (reception 6:30pm) we will present awards to the following individuals:

Lifetime Membership Award

Don Mills, Joe Paquette

MHF Heritage Award

Dave Cook

Special Recognition

*Ron Lenyk, Roxanne McKenzie,
Theatre Unlimited, Dorothy Tomiuk*

Member's Choice Award

*Anne Byard, Kristy Elik, Fran Goddu,
Halton-Peel Branch Ontario Genealogical Society*

For the first time we will also be awarding excellence in successful adaptive reuse and preservation, restoration and enhancement of a designated cultural property. The *Cultural Heritage Property Award* presented by the Mississauga Heritage Advisory Committee in partnership with Heritage Mississauga accepts nominations under strict criteria. A team from both organizations reviews and selects a winner. Nominations for this year's award are: Apple Tree Inn, Meadowvale Blacksmith Shop and the Tomlinson House. The winner of this award will be announced on February 19th.

The awards do not end there: each year Heritage Mississauga has the honour of nominating members of the heritage community to be recognized by the Ontario Heritage Trust for their volunteer work in preserving, protecting and promoting the provinces' rich heritage. We are proud to announce the following well deserving members who will be honoured on Wednesday April 8th by Mayor Hazel McCallion and the Ontario Heritage Trust:

Lieutenant Governors Lifetime Achievement Award

Mary Finley

Lifetime Achievement Award

Jenny Dale

Certificate of Achievement will be presented to:

Keith Gibson (Cultural Heritage Category)

Log Cabin Task Force (Cultural Heritage Category)

*Heritage Tree Subcommittee for the Mississauga Heritage
Advisory Committee (Natural Heritage Category)*

Tickets for the February 19th event are \$25.00 and can be purchased by calling the Heritage Mississauga office at 905-828-8411 and speaking with Jane at ext "0". We hope to see you at these events celebrating the work of the dedicated members of your community who protect and preserve your heritage.

The Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre at the Grange presents:

ROOTS TO RHYTHM

**Open February 23rd to
March 6th**



"Roots to Rhythm": a dramatic journey through the soul of music - from the rhythm of African drums to gospel, jazz, rhythm and blues, and hip-hop genres,"

We were born to the rhythm of the African drum, we stand proud of the land that we are from.

We were stolen from the rhythm of our motherland, to become enslaved by another man.

We refused to be broken by the rhythm of the trip, or the threats of a masters whip.

We sang and we danced to the rhythm of our songs, we disguised the words and did no wrong.

We now jump-up to the rhythm of steel pan, we limbo to the beat of a calypso band.

We live by the rhythm of gospel sounds, that share hope and promise of heaven bound.

We tell stories in the rhythm of jazz, that echoes the sounds and beats of our past.

Workshop: Black History in Ontario

Monday, February 23, 7:30 p.m.

**Mississauga Central Library Room CL3
301 Burnhamthorpe Rd. W.**

**In 2009 Black History Month celebrates its
30th anniversary in Canada.**

Join in a Celebration of Ontario Black history with
guest speaker

**Rosemary Sadlier, B. Ed., M.S.W., President, Ontario
Black History Society.**

Sadlier discusses her role in the society and in making Black History Month a national celebration. She provides an overview of Canadian Black History, including the Underground Railroad, African-Canadian women, black loyalists and historic personalities. Sadlier's well recognised volunteerism, academic research, writing and professional credentials make her the speaker of choice for this celebration.

Admission is free.

The Lost Hamlet of Whaley's Corners

By Nicole Mair

Continued from the Fall 2008 issue of the Heritage News

The old Victoria School section, S.S. 21, served Whaley's Corners and the surrounding area until 1959, when it was closed and turned into a residence. It was torn down around 2003.



Nicole Mair, HM

In 1827 land was purchased from the crown for the purpose of a cemetery at Whaley's Corners. The first person to be interred in the new cemetery was Nicholas Kennedy. A short time later a frame structure was built on the burial ground for a community church. Reverend Heyland was the first minister. In 1867 a new log and frame church was built, and this building would come to be known as Mount Zion Methodist Church. This second church was dedicated on November 17, 1867. The church was at different points in time part of the Streetsville and Brampton circuits. James Gooderham, of Streetsville, a local preacher, gave sermons at Mount Zion. Inside the church there were tin candlesticks and candles, each about a foot long, to light the interior of the church. The congregation often held local events to raise money to support the church, however, as the years passed the church collections decreased considerably.

By 1905 the size of the congregation at Mount Zion had dwindled down significantly and the church was closed. In 1918 the cemetery board decided to auction off the church and cemetery, the auction took place on December 3, 1918. The church building was sold to Robert Whaley for \$300 and the church's driving shed was sold to Arthur May for \$188. The pulpit was sold for \$2.25 and the organ was sold to Mr. D. Cordingley for \$2.00. The sum of the church and contents sold at the auction amounted to a total of \$571.30. The cornerstone of the second church, dated 1867, was retained by the Whaley family. The old Church building was later sold, for a second time, by Robert Whaley to Jack Fraser Farms also referred to as Jack Frazer Farms of Huttonville, and it was turned into a driving shed. In 1980 and 1981, the Parks Department for the city of Brampton started a restoration program for the cemetery. In 1983 a cairn was erected, and the cornerstone from Mount Zion was laid at its base.

The Orange Hall at Whaley's Corners was one of the oldest lodges in the area. Mrs. Bell recalled that the lodge was a plain farm building that had a door in the front and three windows on each side. The building was located on the Toronto Township side, or south side of Steeles Avenue. The Loyal Orange lodge certificate was granted in 1835 to Andrew Grundy and it was registered as Orange Lodge L.O.L. No. 62. According to Perkins Bull, the Orange Lodge at Whaley's was "home of those lusty Town Line Blazers who first taught the Roman Catholic and the Grits of Toronto Township that Orangemen could look after themselves." There also used to be a band in the Orange Hall. There were a number of local residents associated with the Orange Lodge at Whaley's Corners: Henry and James Arnott, John Cook, Adam Halliday, John T. and John S. Hanna, John A. And Joseph S. Mason, and John Rutledge. James Gooderham did electioneering in the Orange Hall when the railway was being built. William Menary was deputy master of the lodge in 1834. William Whaley was the first committee-man of the lodge and held the position of

deputy master in 1837. Francis Birdsall, brother of Colonel William Birdsall, belonged to No. 62 and was Grand Committee-man in the 1850s. At one time James Orr was master and Henry Rutledge was master in 1902. John Whaley used to march in the July 12th day parade, though he was not an Orangemen himself, he wore the scarf of the order and "would not have given it up for anything." The Orange Lodge ceased operation sometime in the early twentieth century and the lodge's records have since disappeared. Mrs. Bell recalled also, that when the lodge was "finally sold to Alexander Kent about 1905, Joe Hillis, who liked his drop, received the sad news in a tavern, where he had evidently been trying to fortify himself. Hillis cried so bitterly that the bartender too wept in sympathy." The hall was moved to the Kent property where it became a residence after the Kent farmhouse burned down.

There were a number of other very important aspects to the community of Whaley's Corners. At one time a tavern was located at Whaley's Corners, owned by William Whaley. It was known as Whaley's Inn. When John Whaley became the proprietor of the hotel and tavern, balls were often held there. One of Hannah Whaley Bell's aunts, probably a sister of John Whaley, would play the dulcimer to provide music at the balls. In October of 1848, William Whaley put an advertisement in the Streetsville Review. He advertised a farm and tavern for rent, with excellent stables and out-houses. The tavern was later taken over by Aaron Laidlaw and renamed the Royal Albert Inn. The blacksmith shop at Whaley's Corners was also likely owned by William Whaley. Andrew McFarlane, Thomas Nicholl and Richard Howell all worked as blacksmiths there. Whaley's Corners had an ashery as well, where soap was made from lye. There was no post office in Whaley's Corners; the mail was delivered from nearby Churchville.

The community of Whaley's Corners remained small throughout its existence, including up to the early nineteenth century when the community was practically no more. While it is difficult to determine exactly how close-knit the hamlet was, it is clear that the residents of Whaley's Corners often came together in support of their community. Please help to preserve the history of those early residents, by remembering the names: Alexander, Arnott, Hillis, Kent, Mason, May, McClure, Switzer and Whaley, among others. Help to keep the spirit of Whaley's Corners alive by sharing your memories and pictures.

March Equinox Sunrise Ceremony

Saturday March 21, 2009
6:00A.M.

We invite everyone to join us for an
Equinox Sunrise Ceremony led by
Métis Elder Joe Paquette



Where: The Robinson-Adamson House
"The Grange", 1921 Dundas St. W. (One
block west of Mississauga Road) at Sir John's Homestead

*On this morning, which is the official beginning of Spring,
we give thanks to the Creator for the great gifts of life,
intelligence, free will and intuition. We give thanks for the
gifts of sight, hearing, smell, taste, voice and song and for
the ability to feel. We give thanks to our Earth Mother for
giving us everything we need to live a good life - the food,
the water, the animals and the air that we breathe.
For all of these, we are grateful.*

Black Friday cont'd.....

When placing blame, most point fingers particularly at Prime Minister Diefenbaker, A.V. Roe president Crawford Gordon, and Minister of Defence George Pearkes, amongst others. I will leave the "finger pointing game" to others, more qualified than myself, to analyze. Needless to say, there appears to be plenty of blame to spread around, although hindsight is a wonderful historical tool.

February 20th, 1959 would become known as "Black Friday". At 11:15 am, Prime Minister Diefenbaker rose before the House of Commons and announced that the AVRO Arrow and the Iroquois engine program were to be immediately terminated, and the Government's intent to acquire Bomarc missiles. Cancellation brought the total development costs of the Arrow program to around \$470 million. Publicly, the Diefenbaker government, and the Prime Minister himself, were vilified for its handling of the cancellation. Off the record, many top military personnel, including George Pearkes and C.D. Howe, admitted that they supported the cancellation, although they would have cancelled the program earlier. A.V. Roe and Orenda, having done little to prepare for this contingency, were essentially decimated. Top management and engineering personnel resigned, and over 14,000 skilled employees found themselves out of work on "Black Friday". Most of these employees left for manufacturing and engineering jobs with British and American companies, including NASA, and undoubtedly made considerable contributions in their fields.

The trickle down effect of the cancellation was enormous and far reaching. All the contracts affiliated with the Arrow program were also cancelled, with an estimated 16,000 jobs lost over the next several days and the estimated number of total jobs affected or lost amounting to some 50,000 workers and support staff. There is no clear number of the jobs affected in Toronto Township (modern Mississauga), and most certainly the harshest impact was on the community of Malton and its surrounding environs. The total estimated population of Toronto Township in 1959 was 52,682 people, and the estimated number of jobs affected by the cancellation in Toronto Township alone was between 7,000 and 9,000 jobs (these stats vary amongst several sources), but amount to some 12% to 17% of the total population of Toronto Township! Regardless of the accuracy of the stats, this amounts to a significant portion of the population directly affected by this cancellation. The resulting economic impact was devastating for families and communities within what is today the City of Mississauga (and the surrounding areas). These effects must have been far reaching and long lasting, especially when you couple that with the diminishing of a Canadian industry, dispersal and loss of skilled and technical employment and personnel, and the demoralizing blow to National pride. "Black Friday" indeed.



Jan Zurakowski on the wing of Arrow RL-201, www

Heritage Awards

February 19th, 2009, Reception 6:30pm
Lakeview Golf Course 1190 Dixie Road
Tickets \$25.00 Call 905-828-8411 ext "0"

ONTARIO'S FAMILY HISTORY EVENT

Coming to Oakville May 29-31st

The annual Conference of the Ontario Genealogical Society is being hosted by the Halton Peel Branch at Sheridan College in Oakville from May 29-31. With the theme "From the Printed Age to the Digital Age" there are workshops, speakers, and vendors for both the beginner and the experienced researchers.



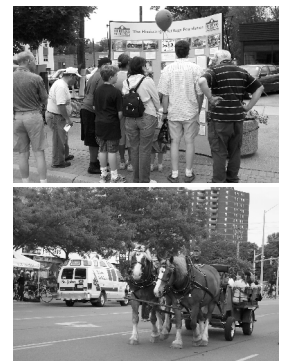
Speakers include well known genealogist and speaker Brian Gilchrist from Peel Heritage and noted genealogist, lecturer from Salt Lake City, Utah, Kory Meyerink.

The special banquet speaker is the popular author, journalist and historian, Charlotte Gray. Gray has written biographies of Isabel Mackenzie King, Susannah Moodie, Alexander Graham Bell and recently Nellie McClung, women's rights crusader.

For more information please go to the Conference Website at: www.ogs.on.ca

Celebrating Anniversaries in 2008

Mississauga celebrated two very special anniversaries in 2008 and the Heritage Showcase was there. First in June despite rain, large numbers of the community came out to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Village of Clarkson. Lakeshore Road was closed, bands hit the street and a horse drawn carriage led the parade of dignitaries to the main stage. Many thanks to the 200th team including the Clarkson BIA, the Museums of Mississauga and residents who made it all happen.



Clarkson 1808 Celebrations, HM

Then on September 13th Streetsville celebrated their 150th Anniversary. As part of the ceremonies, Heritage Mississauga along with Mayor McCallion and Councillor Carlson unveiled four interpretive panels that will be placed throughout Streetsville. We were thrilled to meet members of the family of Streetsville's founder Timothy Street who came out to share in the festivities. Many thanks to the 150th team made up of members of the Streetsville BIA, resident and community groups who made this day a success.



Streetsville 150th Celebrations, HM

A Fall from the Stars

By Richard Collins

Normally I enjoy writing an article for Heritage Mississauga's newsletter. But this time around I've managed to misplace the notes I had so carefully (or so I thought) filed. And as misfortune would have it, my computer crashed leaving me electronically isolated from any information on my subject, Albert Durrant Watson.

If I had taken Watson's advice I'd have seen it all coming. He'd have recommended that I consult my horoscope before embarking on the project.

Watson looked to the stars except that, as a child, he didn't seek their cosmic advice. He was fascinated by their motion as they journeyed in unison across the sky.

There were no halogen street lights in Dixie 150 years ago to soften the sky down to the dull gray hue city dwellers see today. Nightfall provided a black canvass that the heavens seemed to burn through. There were millions of stars to see. Most of these banded together on an arcing trail called the Milky Way - an aptly-named apparition of luminescent starlight.

Before he was a teenager, Watson had charted the motion of the stars and planets. They were to guide him through his life, in many ways.

Watson's grandfather, William Watson, Sr. came to Canada in 1819. In 1836, William purchased a 12 hectare farm that, today would be defined by Bloor Street, Dixie Road and the curving Golden Orchard Drive. Albert was born on this farm in January, 1859 - 150 years ago this month.

The family were devout Methodists. Watson's father, William Youle Watson was one of the founding trustees of Bethesda Wesleyan Methodist Church, built on Dundas Street in 1864 (and demolished in 1998). It was a simple Gothic church, well-suited to the rural Methodist community in Dixie. Watson attended Sunday school here but his most vivid memory was the funeral of his older brother, Jesse. Watson was eight at the time and it was about then that his thoughts turned to the heavens.

Astronomy was never Watson's profession. He was briefly a school teacher in Malton, and in 1893 he graduated from Victoria College the premier educational institute of the Methodist Church with a degree in medicine.

But his evenings were spent behind a telescope mapping the sky, or behind a desk writing about his fascination with the stars and the sophistication of astronomy as a gentlemanly pursuit. A number of Watson's essays were published. The most notable, and controversial of these was "The Reformation and Simplification of the Calendar" where, for one example, Watson suggested moving the beginning of months to coincide with celestial events such as the changing of the seasons (which take place, now on the 20th or 21st). The idea was simple and logical but it challenged tradition. Watson was a progressive, and often daring thinker. Sometimes this got him into trouble.

Watson became a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada in 1892 although (for reasons that will be clear, soon



Albert D. Watson,
www

enough) he doesn't make the present list of its notable members, despite having served as the society's president from 1916 to 1917.

Watson's falling out began at the Methodist Church that was just steps away from his home on Euclid Avenue in Toronto. (Watson's home still stands. The church is gone.)

As the Sunday school teacher, Watson should have been lecturing his students, but a 20 year old pupil, Louis Benjamin appeared to be the one doing the teaching as he held the room in a trance with tales that weren't so much about spiritualism as they were about the spirit world.

Any other Sunday school teacher would have put an end to such heresy at once, but Benjamin's world of the occult was a world of new fascination for a man like Watson whose receptiveness to new ideas was boundless... to a fault.

Benjamin claimed that he could become an "instrument" through which people from the past could talk to the living in this world. Watson, whose quest for knowledge lay somewhere between scientific curiosity and reckless enthusiasm, put Benjamin to the test in an experiment. "Seance" would be more to the point, but Watson was careful not to use that word.

Possibly as much to convince himself as to convert the masses, Watson wrote "The Twentieth Plane" in 1919. The purpose of this 320 page essay was to document Benjamin's revelations, which took place over two years at different locations (including at least once in the home of a U of T professor) but always under Watson's supervision.

Watson was charting the world beyond with the same passion he once charted the skies above, although he warned the reader that his book, "*attempts to prove nothing*". That much, it does convincingly.

Benjamin, in his natural state, is recorded by Watson as being a bit of a dunce and concludes that since he speaks with clarity and uses big words while he's in the twentieth plane, he must be in communication with articulate people. The change in Benjamin's diction appears to be the extent of Watson's proposition.

Benjamin spoke to all sorts of people from the past, like Lincoln and Plato. Kind of like "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" without the gags. The book's dedication was kindly written by poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge who, it should be mentioned, had been dead 85 years by then. That should give you some idea of where Watson's research was going.

It was, in fact Coleridge who coined the book's title, although Watson concluded that the number is "*purely symbolic*" and that Benjamin was able to meet people of the past on a number of planes.

The public loved *The Twentieth Plane*, but then the 'Roaring Twenties' was hardly a golden age of Canadian literature. This was, after all, the era of Jalna and the "It" Girl.

Lucy Maud Montgomery (who had earlier praised Watson's books of poetry) hated *The Twentieth Plane*, and her commentary counted for much considering that she was a bit of a netherworld nutcase herself. The author of *Anne of Green Gables* called Watson's science, "*utter poppycock*". Catching the true essence of *The Twentieth Plane*, Montgomery noted, "*it is really exquisitely funny all the funnier because it is so deadly serious*".

Cont'd pg. 15

City Designates Dowling House

By Paula Wubbenhorst, Assistant Heritage Coordinator, City of Mississauga

The City of Mississauga has designated the Dowling House, 2285 Britannia Road West, under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The late Frank Dowling (1914-1998) was born and raised in the bricked farmhouse at this address. The dwelling used more recently for commercial purposes is just west of the Streetsville core, about halfway between Queen Street and Erin Mills Parkway.



Dowling House, HM

Frank Dowling is renowned for being elected Streetsville's first mayor when the village became a town in 1962. Dowling also served on the village council for many years, beginning in 1949. This service included reeve from 1958 to 1959. Dowling's father and grandfather, John and James respectively, were also Streetsville politicians and also resided in this house.

James Dowling purchased the property in 1886. It then comprised an existing large farm that included the Canada Brick lands to the north and the Credit Valley Railway junction to the east. Accordingly, it was called "Junction Farm." The abode predates the Dowlings. It is a typical late nineteenth century centre-gable farmhouse plan, though the gable is perpendicular to Britannia Road.



Dowling House, HM

After sixty years in the family, Frank Dowling's mother Mary Alice Hepton Dowling sold the farm in 1946; its subsequent owner subdivided it. The Dowling House stands as testament to Mississauga's agricultural and Streetsville's political history.

For more information on heritage planning at the City of

Mississauga, visit us online at www.mississauga.ca/heritage.

Streetville's Council Meeting

It's not very often that Council of the City of Mississauga convenes their meeting outside of City Hall. In honour of the 150th Anniversary of the town of Streetsville they did just that and we were there. On Wednesday October 8th, Mayor and Council held a special session of Council at the Kinsmen and Senior Citizen's Centre, formally known as the Streetsville Town Hall. This meeting honoured members of the community for the work they did to celebrate this anniversary and former members of the Town including: Reeve Bill Appleton, Reeve Jim Graham, Councillor's Ted Southorn, Douglas Spencer and Deputy Fire Chief Gordon Bentley.



The Official Photo, HM

Upcoming Exhibits at the Museums of Mississauga

By Stephanie Meeuwse, Collections & Exhibit Coordinator

The Museums of Mississauga have two new exhibits Preserving Streetsville's Past: The Streetsville Historical Society Collection on Display at the Museums of Mississauga and Dolls of Japan: Shapes of Prayer, Embodiment of Love.

Preserving Streetsville's Past will be exhibited at the Anchorage at Bradley Museum until June 15, 2009. This display is presented in partnership with the Streetsville Historical Society and highlights a number of images and artifacts from their collection. Selected photographs from this important archive highlight the people and places that contributed to the growth and prosperity of Streetsville during the past 150 years. The Streetsville Historical Society began in 1970 and is dedicated to preserving the history of the "Village in the City". They meet on the second Thursday of every other month except during the summer. For more information about the Streetsville Historical Society please call 905-826-1860.

Dolls of Japan: Shapes of Prayer, Embodiments of Love is a travelling exhibit developed and circulated by The Japan Foundation. In honour of our twin city, Kariya, Japan and the 80th anniversary of Japanese-Canadian relations, the Museums of Mississauga are pleased to be able to present this amazing cultural display. The collection of dolls is being divided into groups which will be displayed at the Benares Visitor Centre, Bradley Museum, the Great Hall at Mississauga Civic Centre and Mississauga Central Library (3rd floor). This exhibition will run from Dec.20 to April 13, 2009. The Japan Foundation writes "In Japan, dolls have been a part of everyday life since ancient times. Japanese dolls reflect the customs of Japan and the aspirations of its people, possess distinctive regional attributes, and over the centuries have developed in many diverse forms.... We hope that the dolls in this exhibition will help visitors to appreciate these various aspects of Japanese culture". The Japan Foundation promotes the understanding of Japanese culture by engaging in cultural exchange activities including Arts and Culture exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange. For more information on the Japan Foundation please visit www.jftor.org/ or call 416.966.1600. Thanks to their funding generosity we are able to have this display in Mississauga! Images of dolls courtesy of The Japan Foundation.



Oyama Ningyo, MOM

Carolling at the Grange: celebrating 48 years

December 6th marked the 48th birthday of Heritage Mississauga and what better way to celebrate than with a bonfire on the lawn, carolling all the old tunes, hot chocolate and one of our friend Mary Finley's marvelous cakes. Many thanks to Amy Wilkinson for the smores, hot off the fire and to our Volunteers and Staff who braved the snow and cold to help us honour this special day.



Heritage Four Presents Speakers Series 2009 “Events That Shaped Mississauga”

Mississauga's Four Heritage Partners (the Heritage Advisory Committee, Heritage Mississauga, Mississauga Library System and the Museums of Mississauga) present a collaborative Speakers Series through 2009, focused on *“Events That Shaped Mississauga”*. There will be six lectures throughout 2009 at different library locations throughout the City. Admission is free. Venues open at 7:00pm, and lectures start promptly at **7:30pm**, unless otherwise specified. For more information and an up-to-date list of speakers, topics, dates and locations, please visit www.mississauga.ca/heritagefour or call 905-615-4860 ext.2113.

Friday, February 20th, 2009

“The Avro Arrow and a History of Aircraft Manufacturing at Malton, Ontario” by Frank Harvey, (President of the Aerospace Foundation of Canada: www.ahfc.org)

Location: Malton Community Centre and Library, Hall B, 3540 Morning Star Drive

Thursday, April 2nd, 2009

“Your Home On Native Land” by Alan Skeoch, (author, historian, retired teacher, and member of the Mississauga South Historical Society)

Location: Lakeview Branch Public Library, 1110 Atwater Avenue

Tuesday, May 5th, 2009

Lecture and book launch: *“Her Worship: Mayor Hazel McCallion and the Development of Mississauga”* by Tom Urbaniak, (author and political science professor)

Location: Noel Ryan Auditorium, Mississauga Central Library, 301 Burnhamthorpe Road W.

Tuesday, September 22nd, 2009

“From A Vision to Reality! The Birth of Mississauga's Downtown Core” by Ron Duquette (producer and former S.B. McLaughlin & Associates Communications Director)

Location: Noel Ryan Auditorium, Mississauga Central Library, 301 Burnhamthorpe Road W.

Thursday, October 15th, 2009

Remembering Hurricane Hazel by Steve Pitt (author)

Location: Texaco Room, Port Credit Branch Public Library, 20 Lakeshore Road E

November: Date, Location and Speaker TBD

30th Anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment

~ADMISSION IS FREE~

A Complex Verdict

From the Peel Heritage Complex



On a cold, grey February day in 1909 a young man was led from his cell in the Peel County Jail to the outdoor exercise yard. There he mounted a specially constructed scaffold and at 8 am, he met his death: hanged for the murder of a young Polish immigrant near Erindale in 1908. Stefan Swyryda declared his innocence with his dying breath.

The murder trial which led to this moment, the first of three 20th century hangings in Brampton, took place in 1909 at the Peel County Courthouse. *“A Complex Verdict”* is a dramatic theatrical reenactment of the trial, and will be presented to the public in the courthouse where the trial occurred.

“This is going to be a fascinating presentation,” says acting manager of the Peel Heritage Complex, Diane Allengame. “To be able to envision what actually took place here one hundred years ago, and to think about the repercussions is really captivating.” The play will interest a variety of people, from those who enjoy a complex murder mystery; to people who love live theatre, law professionals, and people interested in local history. “There's something for everyone,” says Allengame, “and to experience this play in the same room where Justice Riddell delivered the death sentence promises to send shivers down our spines.”

Written by professional actor and teacher Kristine Marchese, the script draws heavily on the trial transcript provided by the Region of Peel Archives and stored at the National Archives in Ottawa. Actors in *“A Complex Verdict”* will interact with the audience providing an added element of reality. Research into life in Brampton in 1908-1909 will provide interesting elements of detail for the program, decorations and costumes.

Performances are scheduled for April 16 (evening); April 18 (evening) and April 19 (matinee). Regular performance tickets are \$25 for students and Peel Heritage Complex members and \$30.00 for the public. Friday, April 19 will be the evening premier event and will be a fundraiser to support the heritage and cultural programs of the Peel Heritage Complex. Tickets for this event will be \$125.00 with a portion of that being tax deductible.

For more information on the production, contact Josie Premzell at 905-791-4055 ext. 3625. For ticket information, contact Sue Noel at 905-791-4055 ext. 3641. Tickets to the Gala will be on Sale January 20, 2009. Public tickets will be available March 1, 2009.



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Heritage Resource Centre & Discovery Centre

By Matthew Wilkinson

The Heritage Resource Centre at The Grange continues to be a busy and productive place. We are continuing to work on upgrading our heritage database, prepare for our 2009 summer students and their research projects, continue to work on both a new publication ("The Lost Villages of Mississauga") and revised heritage tour brochures, as well as multiple ongoing research projects, outreach and educational programs, partner with the Heritage Four speakers series program, assist with the planning and organization of Doors Open 2009, and continue preparing for our upcoming heritage exhibits.

In regards to our ever-growing heritage library, we have added seven new books to our catalogue in the opening weeks of January, all of which are focus on the story of the AVRO Arrow, which is appropriate considering that 2009 marks the 50th anniversary of the cancellation and destruction of this legendary and controversial aircraft.

Looking back on 2008, we fielded over 300 public inquiries, and 2009 looks to be an equally busy year. Current research projects focus on the production of a Property Research Guide in partnership with many of our heritage partners throughout Peel, continuing property research, trails research, documentation on the history of Lakeside Park and neighbouring properties in Southwest Mississauga, and on the Arsenal Lands, amongst the myriad of public inquiries that we receive on a weekly basis.

Looking ahead to 2009, we are planning to hire several summer students who will conduct individual heritage research projects. Depending on summer funding, our research projects plan to focus on some of the following projects: the history of the Arsenal Lands in Lakeview; documentation of the former schoolhouses, school sections, and class pictures from Toronto Township c.1820 to 1950; research and development of an outreach program on early doctors and medical practices in Toronto Township; oral history interviews; property research and documentation on the historic estates along Mississauga Road; and library cataloguing to continue work on our heritage database.

From the Discovery Centre: 2009 will bring several exciting exhibits. From February 23rd, 2009, until March 6th, 2009, we are delighted to welcome back the Association of African-Canadian Artists as they present an art exhibit "Colourblind 2009: Roots to Rhythm". April 6th, 2009 will see the opening of a traveling exhibit from the Société franco-ontarienne d'histoire et de généalogie entitled "Ontario's Francophone History: Now and Then". The exhibit will run until April 17th, 2009. In the fall, we will welcome Mississauga artist Sonja Hidas, as she presents an art exhibit entitled "Hot Box", focused on the 30th Anniversary of the Mississauga Train Derailment. The exhibit officially opens on November 10th, 2009.

Haunted Mississauga 2008

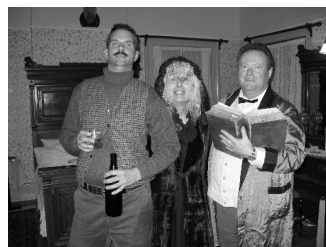
The Spirits of Jalna at Benares

Heritage Mississauga, together with the Museums of Mississauga, hosted our 7th Annual "Haunted Mississauga" evening on Wednesday, October 29th, 2008, at Benares Historic House in Clarkson.



2008 Haunted Cast, HM

The evening was inspired by the 1927 award-winning novel "Jalna" by famed Canadian author Mazo de la Roche. Many believe that Mazo was inspired, in part, by the Harris family and their grand house, Benares. For one night, Benares became Jalna, the home of the Whiteoak family, and the volunteer actors of the "Haunted Mississauga" Spirit Team brought the characters (and stories!) from the book to life. Visitors met characters such as Renny, Meg, Gran, Eden, Piers, Alayne, Finch, Wakefield, Pheasant, Nicholas, Ernest and Maurice, amongst others.



Cast members HM Vice President Greg Carraro, Museums Arlene Manning and HM Treasurer Scott Mair, HM

Special thanks to our Spirit Team from 2008: Kurt Armstrong, Greg Carraro, Sandra Ceccomancini, Richard Collins, Renata Colwell, Brianne Crites, Brent Gaspar,

Jayne Gaspar, Fran Goddu, Vanessa Gouveia, Annemarie Hagan, Bryan Ho, Sharifa Khan, Zofia Krivdova, Kelly Kubik, Sandra Lindsay, Arlene Manning, Denise Mahoney, Nicole Mair, Scott Mair, Amanda McCully, Stephanie Meeuwse, Christian Pariente, Paul Smith, Jane Watt, Amy Wilkinson, Matthew Wilkinson, Mavis Wilson, Heritage Mississauga, Museums of Mississauga, Theatre Unlimited, Allan's Candy, and the 2nd Erin Mills Venturers. Also a special thank you to Nicole Mair, whose hard work helped to bring this event together.

Looking ahead, Haunted Mississauga 2009 will bring us to the Streetsville Memorial Pioneer Cemetery. The Spirit Team will bring some of the people and stories from Streetsville's past back to life as visitors will enjoy an interactive tour of this historic cemetery. The event will take place on Saturday, October 17th, starting at 7pm. For more information, contact Heritage Mississauga at 905-828-8411 ext.29.



Clarkson Anniversary Memento

In honour of the 200th Anniversary of the Village of Clarkson, Lorne Park Jewellers created a special memento for Mayor Hazel McCallion for the occasion. This gold pin created by Vanig Jelilian includes three delicate strawberries hanging from the words Clarkson 200. What a wonderful gift to commemorate a very special anniversary.

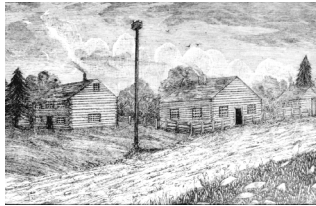


The Power of the Pen

Researching the Culture of the Credit Mission 'Indian' Village (1825-1847)

By Michael Chyczij

Much like anyone else living in the city of Mississauga, I have always lived on the traditional lands of the New Credit First Nation. In fact, I was raised on Sir Richard's Road. (South west of Queensway and Mavis), and as a young boy have often taken the 2 minute tumble down the ravine in order to stroll about the Golf Course property while searching for stray golf balls and such, entirely ignorant of the historic presence of a 19th century 'Indian' village so close by. Fast forward to 2008. I am currently a 4th year Anthropology student at University of Toronto, specializing in socio-cultural anthropology and North American First Nations studies. My training thus far has emphasized a holistic approach to pursuing research, and once the contractual terms with Heritage Mississauga were finalized, I could hardly wait to put this training to work. Like any half-decent student, I began by pouring over as much primary and secondary source material as possible (of which there is an enormous quantity), since I wanted to be fully prepared for my trip to the New Credit Reserve, where I would then interview the descendants of the Credit Mission Village themselves.



Credit Mission, HM

The interview process began with current Chief of the Mississauga's of the New Credit regarding potential oral traditions relating to either village life, or the move to New Credit. Surprisingly, he could neither relate one, nor could he point me in the direction of anyone who could. Chief Laforme sadly noted that New Credit Elder Lloyd King, had just passed away less than two years ago, (April 14, 2006), and the lament was clearly visible in the chiefs eyes. At that point I could see how apt the phrase: "when an elder dies an entire encyclopedia of knowledge is lost". I then approached Margaret Sault, director of Lands and Research, about the issue and yielded a similar result. Several days later I had a chance meeting with Carolyn King, a former Chief of the New Credit. My luck I thought, yet I received roughly the same answer from her. It was becoming evident that from an aboriginal perspective, the only Oral Tradition about the Credit Mission Village was that there was no Oral Tradition about the Credit Mission Village. Silence ... how could this be? I continually asked myself this question as it was fundamentally important to me (especially without the benefit of archaeological evidence) to document not only the ethno-historical and archival evidence, but also to faithfully represent the Aboriginal voice concerning the subject matter. Days later I remembered an insightful conversation I had with Carolyn King. In two seemingly unrelated strands of discourse she quipped with a sly smile: "the power of the pen".

Having discussed numerous cultural themes with my contacts at New Credit, it is obvious that they possess a thirst for knowledge about their history. As it turns out, a Chief of the Credit River band, and Reverend Peter Jones in the Methodist Church was an extremely prolific writer. Perhaps such an importance was placed on written documentation in the new culture of the Credit River band, that the oral histories were left to the wind. Nevertheless, as a direct result of Jones' literacy, and quite skillful penmanship, there

exists an Aboriginal voice found in his almost endless flow of correspondence to people in all levels of the social stratosphere. In addition to this, he kept a detailed journal, wrote an autobiography, and composed a historical sketch on the Ojibwa; much of which was written about a mile down the Credit River from the intersection of Dundas and Mississauga Road. For all his heroics however, Jones was certainly biased and wholeheartedly embraced a European understanding of the non-Christianized natives as 'heathens and savages'. Incidentally, some of my research was aimed at reconciling the 'man with the myth', and will turn up as an article in a future issue. An extremely valuable historical record which helps mediate the biases are the Credit River Band Council minutes, all of which were discussed, transcribed, and implemented right here in the Mississauga Village. The village population was constantly in flux but, most reports indicate a figure within and around generally the 150-300 range. It was not uncommon for that number to periodically boom, as the village played host to numerous visitors and was a centrally significant location of political importance, and education (or assimilation depending on who you ask) among not only the Mississaugas of Southern Ontario, but the colonial and religious authorities as well. At least one report indicates that travel was possible by schooner up the Credit River to the Mission Village from the Port Credit Harbour (which the Credit River band built). Today that would be impossible; anyone who has attempted it in a canoe will know what I'm talking about. This brings me to another very important point about village life in mid-19th century Mississauga, and that was the tsunami of white settlement, and subsequent encroachment. The reality is, with the building of dams and mills along the Credit River (even 40 kilometers upstream) the patterned flow of salmon upon which the villagers heavily relied, the village landscape itself, and the course of local history were altered forever.

At first, Heritage Mississauga was unsure of the amount of information actually in existence regarding this enigmatic village. As such, I intend to use the 'power of the pen' to underscore the importance of this village, to both the cultural history and heritage of the city of Mississauga as well as the significant connection we as current residents of this city have to its traditional inhabitants; and the friendship we have been, and will be continually promoting with their descendants, the New Credit First Nation. Notably, as of the date of this publication, there exists absolutely nothing to officially commemorate the early/mid-19th century presence of the Mississaugas of the River Credit or their Village. Some especially keen readers (and/or avid golfers) may object by pointing out that the Ontario Heritage Trust's commemorative plaque was placed on the Mississauga Golf Club's property specifically for this purpose. My answer is good point (since I didn't even know about the plaque until last year), but that is really only half the story: the other half of the story is the sign was actually taken in 2007, and has yet to be recovered (*Heritage Mississauga is currently raising funds to replace the plaque*). Therefore, in a very real sense as of now there is no official commemoration within city limits (or in Toronto for that matter). All is not doom-and-gloom, however, as there are plans to build a commemorative garden in place of the plaque, replete with native plants such as sweet-grass and Indian corn, possibly surrounding a (less portable) central cairn. Nevertheless, the general silence within the city's limits of the areas aboriginal inhabitants is to put it bluntly shocking indeed. Heritage Mississauga recognized, with deep regret, the significance of the silence, and my research position with them was borne out of such a reaction.

Continued in the April 2009 issue of Heritage News.

Mississauga South Historical Society Happenings

by Richard Collins, President,
MSHS

At the Mississauga South Historical Society, we not only enjoy looking back to the past, we're looking ahead to the future. We're still the same society we've been for 46 years (a place where people can get together to celebrate our heritage) but we've also started cataloguing our historic collection for future generations and we've recently opened a website to post historic photos, tell stories of the past and keep members and visitors up to date on events and special projects.

Our web address, for the moment, is:
www3.sympatico.ca/chessie217.

It's not the kind of web address that rolls off the tongue, but we're planning to work with other community groups in Mississauga South to develop a common home page (with a catchier address) so that we can all share the cost, and the benefits of internet communication. Stay tuned.

MSHS hosts five meetings a year on the third Tuesday of January, March, May, September and November. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 pm.

In years past, the society has met in Port Credit, but we're expanding our horizons to fulfill our mandate to truly be the "Mississauga South" Historical Society. Our September meeting will be in Lakeview and our November meeting will be held in Erindale.

We just recently hosted our annual "Show and Tell" meeting a January tradition for many years. Members and guests are never short of interesting items to "show" and stories to "tell". This year's event was as productive as it was enjoyable with the highlight being a show of slides from the Marg Naish collection. Many of Marg's historic photographs are unidentified, and long-time members had an enjoyable stroll down memory lane identifying the people and places. Keep visiting our website on a regular basis. We'll be posting new images from Marg's collection frequently.

Our next meeting, will be at First United Church in Port Credit and our guest speaker will be Peel Region's resident genealogical genius, Brian Gilchrist. The meeting is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day so, appropriately Brian has offered to talk about the Irish settlers of Mississauga.

Instead of a meeting in May, we usually plan a heritage-themed trip. We're still making plans for this year's field trip, and when they're finalized, we'll post the information on the website.

We invite you to join MSHS. Membership is \$20 per person, or \$30 for a family. Or if you prefer, just join us for one of our upcoming meetings. They're free and they're fun.



Paul Smith and Betty
Craigie, HM

Streetsville Historical Society Happenings

By Jean Watt, Publicity Director,
SHS



Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on February 12th, 7:30pm on the MPR meeting room of Specialty Care Mississauga Road, 4350 Mississauga Road. February is Heritage Month, and we are pleased to welcome Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director, and Matthew Wilkinson, Historian, from Heritage Mississauga. Their presentation is entitled "Heritage For Mississauga" a look at Heritage in the City of Mississauga. Please plan to attend and bring a friend!

In Leslie Log Cabin news, the City has budgeted \$117,000 in 2009 to renovate the cabin, which will become the home of the Streetsville Historical Society and our archives. We are looking forward to settling in our new location in the near future.


The Museums of Mississauga, together with the Streetsville Historical Society, present a new exhibit in the Anchorage at the Bradley Museum entitled "Preserving Streetsville's Past". The exhibit opens on January 24th, 2009 and will run until June 15th, 2009. For more information on this exhibit, please contact the Museums of Mississauga at 905-615-4860.

The April meeting will take place on April 9th, 2009 and will feature guest speaker Denise Mahoney, Supervisor of Cemeteries for the City of Mississauga. Her presentation will focus on the Streetsville Cemetery Project. Plans are also underway for the annual trip of the Streetsville Historical Society at the end of May. For more information on the Streetsville Historical Society, please contact Ann Holmes, Secretary, at 905-826-3183 or Jean Watt, Publicity Director, at 905-826-1860.


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In Memoriam

Thomas Jackson

Former Reeve of Toronto Township Tom (Thomas) Jackson passed away on Friday, November 28th, 2009 at the age of 85. Tom was a veteran of the 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion and jumped into Normandy on D-Day on June 6, 1944. Tom was instrumental in the establishment of the modern-day site of Port Credit Legion, from which the annual Remembrance Day parade of veterans begins in Port Credit.



Thomas Jackson, Mississauga News

Jackson served on the Township of Toronto Council beginning in 1954, becoming deputy reeve in 1955 and then reeve in 1956. He was succeeded the next year by Reeve Mary Fix. His obituary refers to Jackson as a "lifelong Peel farmer." After the land was sold for development, Jackson bought a farm in Tullamore, in Caledon, where his sons continue to farm. He bred and raised champion Aberdeen Angus cattle and served as president of the local cattleman's association.

(Special thanks to John Stewart and the Mississauga News).

John C. Gray

John Cameron Gray passed away on November 20th, 2008 at the age of 86. John C. Gray not only ran one of the most successful and well-known companies in Mississauga's history, he was a strong supporter of the community in which it was located: Port Credit. John was a past-president of St. Lawrence Starch Company in Port Credit, which was founded in part by his grandfather in 1889. St.



John Gray, HM

Lawrence Starch would go on to become one of the leading Canadian manufacturers of corn-based starch, glucose and feed products. He also served a term as president of the Mississauga Board of Trade. John was a strong advocate and supporter of Port Credit, and was a driving force behind the building of Port Credit Memorial Arena, and many other community-based projects.

(Special thanks to Louie Rosella and the Mississauga News).

Susan A. Ryan

Heritage Mississauga lost a wonderful friend on November 9, 2009. Susan Ryan was an active member of the community supporting so many organizations as a volunteer. She cared deeply for the causes that she worked for. In August Sue joined Heritage Mississauga's Fundraising Committee and worked tirelessly to support the Heritage Ball, the organizations fundraising initiative. Sue was not the kind of volunteer that sought praise for the work she did, she quietly made things happen behind the scenes and always accomplished what she started. We will miss this spirited wonderful caring member of our community and our heritage team.



Susan Ryan, www

2009: The Year of Celebrating Our Past

From the Mississauga Library System



The Mississauga Library System has selected this theme for the coming year to recognize the completion of its local history series. With the publication of the history of the Erindale community this year, the Our Heritage Series of nine books by local historian and author Kathleen Hicks comes to an end. Thanks to the generous support of the Friends of the Library group and several donors, over 5000 copies of the nine titles have been sold making the series a revenue generating project. That's impressive by any standard.

The past has to be cherished or it will disappear. Your Library acquires the history of our community, preserves it and promotes it but more is needed. Make a few resolutions for 2009 like:

- Visit the **Museums of Mississauga**: Bradley Museum and Benares Historic House.
- Join the **Friends of the Library** group and encourage local writers.
- Make a donation or volunteer with **Heritage Mississauga**.
- Buy some local history books (there are lots to choose from!) and give them as gifts thereby supporting our local authors and historians too!
- Read a local history book a month and learn enough to brag about our fascinating history to others. See pages 16-21 of **Library LINK Winter 2009**.
- Think about any personal possessions or records you could give to the Library or local historical agencies to make our history richer for future generations. Celebrating Our Past can start today and will last forever.
- Visit the **Canadiana Reading Room** at the Mississauga Central Library for specialized resources.
- Check out Mississauga's **Historic Images Gallery**.
- Use your library card to read the Toronto Star's **Pages of the Past** online archive.
- Research your **family history** or your **property history**: visit the Mississauga Library System to learn more.
- Visit **Heritage Four Mississauga**: Mississauga's web portal for heritage organizations.

~www.mississauga.ca/heritagefour~



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Todd Ladner

This Old House: Reflections on the Distinguished Career of Sir John Beverly Robinson

By Sharifa Khan

Continued from the Fall 2008 issue of the Heritage News, this is the second part of a detailed look at the career of Sir John Beverley Robinson, the original owner of the The Grange, now home to Heritage Mississauga.

To the unbiased observer Robinson was at times seemingly more concerned with the public record and with ensuring that he was not responsible for illegal actions. Rather, he ensured all such problems were passed on to the military. For instance, while he recommended that four men accused of treason be excused due to a lack of evidence of such a crime, he did not actively or seriously attempt to have them excused. For his overall conduct as acting Attorney General in this time, however, the comments and praises offered in his name by senior administrators speak for themselves. Indeed, for the Acting Attorney General, any clemency and fair dealings exercised in favour of the accused would ultimately work to the benefit of Upper Canada, as citizens - impressed and grateful for the respectable and just conduct of the government - would remain loyal to England. This philosophy and unwritten contract was central to Robinson's conduct as a jurist and would frame his political and judicial career.

Sir John Beverly Robinson was also enmeshed in the 1830s "alien" affairs of the colony. The main issue here was the status of Americans living on Canadian soil, and whether they qualified as British subjects. Robinson, while not the leader of an official party, was an extremely influential and charismatic figure amongst the members of the Family Compact (whose parallel can be found in the Chateau Clique of Lower Canada) in Upper Canada. This tight-knit group of political allies comprised of administrative personnel and politicians who "had fought together in the War of 1812 and was distinguished by support of the British connection, opposition to the United States, a desire to assimilate French Canadians into a "British" culture, and support of commercial development and the construction of public works." It is thus not surprising that Robinson would be in the midst of the "Alien Debates", which sought to establish the rightful place of American settlers in Upper Canada after 1783. Specifically, could these individuals be considered British citizens? Due to the number of American settlers in this region who would undoubtedly be affected by this controversy, the Alien Debates was of considerable importance.

This controversy was brought to the fore with the election of Barnabas Bidwell to the Lennox and Addington riding. An American who was a representative in the Massachusetts state legislature, Bidwell fled to Canada after being accused of embezzlement. Consequently, a number of Upper Canadian legislators (primarily Family Compact affiliates), including Robinson, attempted to have Bidwell banned from office (both for his questionable moral character" and also because of his dubious loyalty to the crown). Added to the grievances against Bidwell was his Republican tendencies and nasty habit of voting with the assembly reformers. Essentially, the personage of Barnabas Bidwell was a deviation from and posed a threat to the established norms of the day. Robinson also realized, however, the

Implications of attacking Bidwell based on his "alien" status and the negative impact this would have on the citizenship and property of many American settlers. Thousands of Upper Canadians had also left America after 1783. Essentially, if a serious charge of alien status was indeed to be levelled against Bidwell, the same accusation would apply to Upper Canadians in a similar position. Yet Robinson did advocate for the dismissal of Bidwell, proclaiming, "If aliens in war, they must be aliens in peace."

In the end, Bidwell was expelled from the assembly, though this took place after a motion to expel the former American was defeated due to insufficient evidence and with the passing of a rather obscure resolution. Due to the acrimonious nature of the Bidwell debate and the emotionally-charged rhetoric (often from Sir John Beverly Robinson) which accompanied it, many American settlers became suspicious of the Attorney General and wary of their own rights within the colony. Indeed, subsequent judgements by the Crown law officers had vindicated Robinson, agreeing that Bidwell, being born in America was not a British citizen since he was not naturalized. Robinson's conduct, however, did much to affirm the belief that the government was run by a rigid elite.

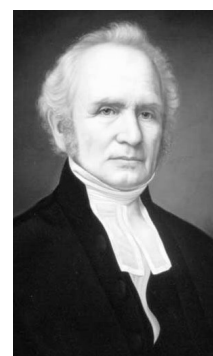
The last major event that I would like to mention with regards to Sir John Beverly Robinson's career is the question of the union of Upper and Lower Canada. As students of history, we often encounter Lord Durham and the now infamous "Durham Report" in which the British official urged the joining of Upper Canada (now Ontario) and Lower Canada (now Quebec). However, less popular but not insignificant were Robinson's views on the question of Upper and Lower Canada unification and his own recommendations on the future of British North America. Whilst Durham advocated for the unification of Upper and Lower Canada in order to inundate and overwhelm the French population, Robinson, (after initially assuming a neutral position on this issue) later vigorously objected to this proposal. Rather than championing Robinson as an egalitarian hero, however, it is important to note that he objected to this amalgamation out of fear of what certain deadlock and dysfunctional legislating such a union would create. Moreover, like most Upper Canadian officials of his time, Robinson was painfully conscious of what he perceived to be inherent differences between English and French Canada. Essentially, the two were not compatible and until the assimilation of Lower Canada, would remain "two nations warring in the bosom of a single state" Indeed, what is constantly made apparent about Robinson is that while he was passionate about upholding the law, and was an advocate of a government responsible to its citizens, he was also deeply concerned about preserving English traditions and heritage. Included in this, of course, was a concern for preserving the elite as a power base as this was the mark of a good society.

What I found interesting with regards to the future of the Canadas as envisaged by Sir John Beverly is his own proposal regarding amalgamation. As Attorney General, Robinson travelled to England in 1822 in order to advocate Upper Canada's position in the Custom's duties conflict with Lower Canada. He was dismayed

Cont'd pg. 13



Sharifa Khan & Portrait of Sir J.B. Robinson at the Grange, HM



Sir J.B. Robinson,
www

Sir John Beverly Robinson cont'd.....

to discover, however, that Edward Ellice- a Member of Parliament who also happened to own a considerable tract of land in Lower Canada - was eager to introduce a bill that would unite both Upper and Lower Canada.

To counter, and true to his Loyalist characterization, Robinson in 1823 drafted a proposal in which he recommended the amalgamation of Lower and Upper Canada with Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. For Robinson, this arrangement was ideal as it would ensure both the British and Protestant character of the Canadas. With a dual centralized government and semi-autonomous local government in place, the various parts would be satisfactorily bound into a successful whole. Ties with the imperial government would be central, and the Attorney General suggested that British American officials should be elected to represent the colony in the Westminster Parliament. Sir John Beverly's recommendation was not taken seriously, however and due to accounts of protests from both Lower and Upper Canadians, the union issue was put on hold until conditions became more amenable to such a discussion in the British Parliament.

Having been such an influential and important figure in the history of Upper Canada it should not be surprising to note that Robinson's career and viewpoints (and indeed, the man himself) have come under scrutiny. As Chief Justice, his judgments were also questioned and sometimes challenged. One such example took place in 1860 and was one of his last rulings as Chief Justice. John Anderson, an ex-slave who had run away from Missouri to temporary freedom in Canada, was caught in the middle of an extradition battle. At issue was whether Anderson should be returned to Missouri, where he was wanted for killing a man who attempted to stop him from escaping to freedom. While Anderson's lawyer argued that freedom was a fundamental principle and that the ex-slave was within his rights to escape from slavery, the contention was whether American law (allowing slavery and the pursuit of fugitive slaves) should trump Canadian law (which prohibited slavery). Indeed, many Upper Canadians were abolitionists at this time, and the case received much attention. Robinson ruled in favour of the former. As Patrick Brode notes, while this decision was legally sound (and is used today as the benchmark ruling for extraditions), it was inherently void of human compassion. The Chief Justice knew that Anderson would not only be returned to slavery, but that there existed a very likely probability that he would be lynched before even being returned to his former abode. For Robinson, the task was clear: the question was whether the crime had to be considered as such in the country in which it occurred, or in the country where the accused was being held. The relevant law ("Article x") itself provided an answer, and stated that the deed need only be a crime in the original country. It is interesting to note that while the third justice, Robert Burns, agreed with Robinson, Justice Archibald McLean (who was also an ardent abolitionist) rejected this reasoning and proclaimed that such retrograde American laws should not be allowed in Canadian courts.

While Canada's human rights laws have evolved and become more encompassing, and although it is difficult to judge such historic events due to inherent contextual biases, the fact that there were many individuals who attempted to protect Anderson remains. What emerges is a picture of Sir John Beverly Robinson as a man who was a product of his time. Extremely loyal to England and British law, and consequently tied to its traditions, Robinson often

Appeared static in a rapidly changing world. Robinson's ruling was certainly not in keeping with progressive voices of the time, and he was never credited with holding such sentiments.

In fact, the Chief Justice was a staunch conservative and his opinions derived from the political philosophy he espoused. For Sir John Beverly Robinson, society is based on a contractual agreement between its rulers and the people *they serve*. Consequently, the masses were to find their freedom in the rule of law, which acted as a surety against injustice. As long as this "contract" was justly upheld by the ruler, the people would follow the laws and remain loyal to the ruling body which provided this security. The problem as it related to the Anderson case was that this reasoning did not take into account the *content* of laws. Eventually, British abolitionists would secure Anderson's release by bringing forward his case to the English Court of Queen's Bench. As Brode remarks succinctly, "Perhaps the time had come for younger men to administer the law for the benefit of the ungrateful public."

Thus, Robinson was renowned for his dedication to fair trials and his belief that the law- whether right or wrong- was to be upheld. Indeed, the judge was not to create legislation, but to administer justice. However controversial a figure Sir John Beverly is made out to be by historians (and amateur commentators such as myself), what is undeniable, as discerned from his conduct throughout his career, was Robinson's unwavering dedication to the law and a steadfast loyalty to the values which he held dear.

Doors Open Meadowvale

Doors Open 2008 was held September 27th in Meadowvale this year featuring the old and the new. This is a unique event where visitors are given the opportunity to explore sites that are not normally open to the general public. Featured at the Village Hall in Old Meadowvale the Heritage Showcase welcomed over 600 visitors. We appreciate the support of the City of Mississauga Office of Arts & Culture and the Doors Open team for their efforts in making this event an enormous success.

Doors Open 2009 will be held on Saturday September 19th and will be a city wide event.

Heritage Mississauga will welcome the Heritage Showcase to their offices at the historic Robinson-Adamson House on Dundas just west of Mississauga Road.

Other doors that will be open include; Riverwood, the Bradley House Museum, UTM, and St. Peter's Anglican Church.

Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy the many sites Mississauga has to offer.



Mississauga Lost A Wildlife Guardian Angel

By Laurie Arbeau

On the evening of Jan 27th 2009 Bernice Inman-Emery quietly passed away before my eyes. As I sat grieving beside her waiting for her closest friends to return to Leisure World nursing home, I suddenly was able to find a bit of comfort. The walls in her room displayed pictures that Bernice took over the years of the wildlife who's home is also Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary, along with many newspaper clippings. The news articles, some dating back to the late 70's and early 80's, pays tribute to Bernice and her passion for helping injured animals.



Bernice Inman-Emery,
Mississauga News

I started to think back to when I first met Bernice about 15 years ago as I had a little robin with a broken wing that needed help. I am sure I speak for everyone whose very first visit to 3032 Mississauga Rd. with the one way in/one way out winding twisting path makes you think where the heck am I going, but at the same time feeling you are in a sacred hidden place away from the fast paced, box malls and urban sprawl of Mississauga.

The sounds of the traffic disappear, to be replaced by chirping of birds. Driving past a sea of white trillium flowers, a variety of plants, lots of trees, the old stone fire place a reminder of where Mr. Ivor's cottage use to be, I came upon Bernice's cabin. I knocked on the front door and waited. Bernice did not come out right away, however I was greeted by a dozen or so very curious raccoons that descended down the trees climbing up on the wooden front steps, to sniff around my legs. A few minutes later Bernice came out closing the door behind her, but kept looking over my shoulder as we spoke. She told me to turn around slowly. A mother doe and her fawn were directly behind me. With the raccoons still by my feet, Bernice said "I judge a lot of people through the animals, they seem to like you. You can come in now and have a cup of tea and I will take a look at helping your robin". I will always treasure this first meeting.

Once inside, I met Captain & Cookie, a couple of cockatoos, Howie a little African Gray and a variety of smaller birds that needed help in one way or another. The cabin itself is like a museum, a big stone fireplace, lots of photographs of the animals that lived on the property, taken by Bernice. Old books of stories that Bernice herself wrote. One particular magazine caught my attention, it was called Fur & Feathers. On the front cover a stunning picture of Bernice with a little squirrel on her lap. She wrote this magazine back in the early 1980s.

I learned a lot about Bernice that very first visit I had with her. She talked about the school classroom visits to the sanctuary that started back in the 1960's and was carried on into the 80's. She explained how injured birds and other wildlife were taken care of. Types of rare plants, flowers, trees and the generations of wildlife that lived and still does at the sanctuary.

Bernice always had this wonderful smile. I remember commenting on this, her reply was "well why not, I have Mother Nature as my neighbour, everyone would smile a lot with more nature around

them". Mr. Ivor the founder of Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary passed away just before his 100th birthday, Bernice was just a little over 90 years old. These two people should not be forgotten in all they did to help wildlife and to try to educate children to respect wildlife and the green spaces they live in.

Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary should not be a memory of the past. This is heritage that needs to be saved and the wildlife that has managed to survive from generation to generation to be cherished. Mississauga citizens must honor the past in order to respect the future.

Bernice will be sadly missed by a lot of people that shared the same passion.

In the next issue of the Heritage News, we will look at the story of Winding Lane Bird Sanctuary.

A Fall from the Stars cont'd.....

Other critics appeared less concerned about the laxity of Watson's science as they were with the book's many historical inaccuracies. Were history's greatest men just forgetful in their hyper-old age?

The Christian Guardian, the voice of the Methodist Church in Canada, summarized the book (and presumably the author, by extension) as, "*cruel and wicked*".

Watson deflected the criticism as easily as he accepted the praise. He seemed to revel in the daily dialogue that went on in the Toronto newspapers for months after the book's release.

But the attack by his own church appears to have struck a nerve. Watson responded by declaring religious institutions closed minded. "*The church will have to widen its vision*", Watson declared, "*to comprehend the whole vista of life*".

Religion and science had been at odds for centuries. Now Watson had opened a rift between religion and pseudo-science.

Watson, who was once a faithful servant of God from a devout Methodist family, further infuriated the church by criticizing ministers who, "*repeat phonographic records of old sermons*".

Watson's sentiment here may have been inspired by a fellow poet, E.J. Pratt who Watson likely knew through the Methodist Church in Mississauga. From 1915 to 1917 (while Watson was going through his psychic epiphany) Pratt was studying as a minister's assistant on the Cooksville Circuit a job that took him, by bicycle to Streetsville, Clarkson and finally to the Watson family's Bethesda Church. Pratt lost his desire for the ministry and became a psychologist.

In the early days of his spiritual search, Watson traveled to Montreal in 1912 to see the leader of Baha'i, Abdu'l-Bahá. In 1920, Watson became a member of the Baha'i community and took to his new faith with dedication until, like all aspects of his life, it was no longer new to him.

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada still does not openly acknowledge Watson's leadership and contributions. To them, his foray into psychics is unforgivable. But his church was ready to forgive his past transgressions. Watson died in 1926 and his funeral was held in the same church where, 10 years earlier, he had been dismissed as Sunday school teacher.

After the warm tribute of friends and fellows, Watson began his own journey to the twentieth plane.

Heritage Matters

Heritage Mississauga

Written in Stone, Mississauga's Historic Cemeteries Exhibit until February 19th at The Grange
February 19th. Awards Evening, Lakeview Golf Course, 6:30pm please contact the office to order tickets.
February 23rd to March 6th Colourblind Exhibit at The Grange ** see page 3 for more information
March 21st 6:00am Equinox Sunrise Ceremony at The Grange
April 8th to 17th Ontario's Francophone: Now & Then-Celebrating Franco-Ontarian History at The Grange

Art Gallery of Mississauga

Open: M,T, W, F 10 am to 5 pm, Thursday 10 am to 8 pm

Weekends Noon to 4 pm **Admission is free**

February 5 to March 22, Couch surfing in Mississauga/ Couch surfing in Syracuse, Alison S.M. Kobayashi & Christina Kolosvary

February 5 to March 22, Illuminating Peace, Amy Loewan:

There will be an informal talk by the artist at 8 pm on the opening night.

March 26 to May 10, One Step at a Time: an installation by Libby Hague Opening Reception: Thursday, March 26th at 6 pm. There will be an informal talk by the artist at 8 pm on the opening night.

A free shuttle bus departs from the Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen Street W., Toronto) at 7 pm to the Art Gallery of Mississauga returning by 9 pm.

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

Drop into the Schoolhouse the second Sunday of the month 1-4 pm.

Open Sundays. January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12 and August 9, 2008. Volunteers will be there to

answer questions about the artifacts, the schoolhouse and the programme. Please check the website.

www.britanniaschoolhousefriends.org for special activities on these Sundays. Parking in the H.J.A. Brown Education Centre Visitors' Parking off Matheson Blvd.

Halton Peel O.G.S.

February 22, - Oakville - Ruth Blair, professional genealogist and Author. In Search of Lady Diana Taylor (1897-1957) - Putting a life together when all you have is a tombstone and a questionable obituary: a case study based in Oakville

March 22, - Brampton - Elise Cole, Professional Librarian, Oakville Public Library, Web 2.0

April 26, - Oakville - Carolyn Bart-Riedstra, Archives Advisor, Archives Association of Ontario, Organizing and Archiving Your Family Papers

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

Mississauga Arts Council

Music Business Workshop

Learn how to break into the music industry with the expert advice of multi-talented Roselyn Brown on Tuesday, February 10th at the Art Gallery of Mississauga, 300 City Centre Dr. The workshop is \$15 (\$10 for members of MAC). The workshop begins at 7pm.

Open Mic You've heard the buzz and now it's your turn to rock the mic at the next Open Mic Night held on Thursday, February 12 at the Metalworks Institute of Sound & Music Production located at 3611 Mavis Rd. Singer/songwriters, instrumentalists, spoken-word artists and beat-boxers are invited to perform.

Financial Planning for Artists

On Tuesday, February 24th, 2009 the Mississauga Arts Council will be hosting a Financial Planning Workshop for artists. The event will be held at the Art Gallery of Mississauga located 300 City Centre Dr. The workshop begins at 7pm. The workshop fee is \$15 (\$10 for MAC members). Please call 905-615-4278 to register today!

Acting for the Camera

MAC teams up with the Universal Academy of Acting on Tuesday, March 10 to present an insightful workshop on acting technique for the camera. The workshop takes place at the Art Gallery of Mississauga and begins at 7pm. The workshop fee is \$15 (\$10 for MAC members).

Mississauga South Historical Society

March 17, 7:30pm Brian Gilchrist, Irish Settlers of Mississauga. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Museums of Mississauga

Family Day at the Museums

February 16, 1- 4 pm, Come enjoy the afternoon at the Museums. Special programming will be done at both Museum locations.

Saturday March 14th to Sunday March 22nd, Maple

Magic: Maple Syrup Festival at the Bradley Museum

Weekends: 10 to 4 PM, Weekdays: 12 to 4 PM

Bradley House Museum, 1620 Orr Road

Exhibits in the Anchorage at Bradley Museum and Benares Visitor Centre Free, Mon to Fri 10 to 4 PM

Pre-Booked Programs offered at the Museums all year round

INFO: www.museumsofmississauga.com or 905-615-4860

Streetville Historical Society

February 12, Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director and Matthew Wilkinson, Historian with the Heritage Mississauga will speak on "Heritage for Mississauga-Looking at Heritage in Mississauga."

April 9, Denise Mahoney, Director of Cemeteries in Mississauga will update us on the Streetville Cemetery project along with her usual humorous stories.

Meetings are held at Specialty Care, 4350 Mississauga Road, Mississauga.

Hot Box Project

November 2009 will be the 30th anniversary of the Mississauga Train derailment and evacuation. The "Hot Box" project is a Multi-art community project that will reflect on the stories and history of the Mississauga Train Derailment and evacuation. These memories will be expressed through multi-art disciplines. The core of the project is an installation by Sonja Hidas. The first installation will be located at The Grange, home of Heritage Mississauga. The second installation will be at the Living Arts Centre's visual gallery and a third location will be at The Art Gallery of Peel's community art gallery. Events will be presented in collaboration with Suzanne Carte-Blanchenet, out-reach coordinator for the Arts Gallery of Mississauga. The Hot Box is a conceptual art project by Sonja Hidas and supported by its connectors. To include your memories of the train derailment in the "Hot Box Project" contact Sonja Hidas please phone: 416-305-7985 or Sonja@sonjahidas.com



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