

Heritage News

Celebrating Over 200 Years of History

The Newsletter of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation Inc.

Winter 2006 Vol. 19/Issue 1

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Mississauga the First 10,000 Years



Purchase your copy from the Foundation's Heritage Gift Shop at the Robinson Adamson Grange

This hardcover book is only \$44.95. \$35.00 for members Tel. 905 828-8411

Legacy For the Future!

By Marian M. Gibson, MHF President

The beginning of the year is a useful time to review personal and other goals, so MHF looks into the future determined to secure the heritage legacy this city should leave for future generations.

Many questions arise about what we are attempting to do. I believe we will earn the respect of our descendants, by being concerned enough to prepare for their critical appraisal of our times. What will we show them? How well have we preserved and conserved the record of this community's evolution and cultural development? Are we laying a more than adequate base for them to understand their heritage as Mississaugans?

Our descendants will, no doubt, be aware of visible buildings and road systems in this huge city, as elements of prosperity, the focus of progress in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

Will those future generations perceive more than that? Will there be evidence of Mississaugan zest for living, and of balancing work and play effectively? Will they be mindful that as they take what this community offers, they in return will be building upon the past, handing on to their future generations what their ancestors since first coming to this continent etched upon this landscape?

Will it be apparent? We were a young city striving to make economic progress, often achieving little more. Will there be signs of the earlier Native population and their agrarian and other achievements? Will there be evidence of the agricultural and subsequent industrial development wrought by the early settlers and those who came after them?

Will future citizens be aware of the energy we spent, enthusiastically embracing the abundant recreation open to us? Leisure time made available to all because rapid technological growth enabled us to reduce labour-intensive manual work. In contrast with the long, often difficult hours our own ancestors were forced to invest.

Will our descendants know our own struggle to understand and work with our cultural diversities, brought about by rapidly expanding immigration? Will they be aware we accepted challenges and changes, learned about each other's differences, learned to be gracious, tolerant of attitudes and practices sometimes seemingly unlike our own?

Mississauga's many heritage groups work to bring awareness to this rapidly growing population - of how the city's heritage has evolved and continues to evolve. Through events such as MHF's Annual Heritage Showcase we demonstrate and embrace heritage in Mississauga, drawing together over thirty diverse groups. These groups, without duplicating or competing with each other, spread the knowledge of our heritage in different ways, revealing a colourful mosaic of that heritage to Mississaugans. Over time if we persevere, citizens will become well informed about it. The process is ongoing for MHF with all its partners in the community, and we expect it to endure strongly into the future.

Cont'd pg. 2



Executive Director's Message

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director

"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give". -- Winston Churchill

Support - The Canadian Oxford dictionary has allotted a quarter page to the many definitions it has for the word support; give strength to, speak in favour of, encouragement, contribute to the funds of, give help to, back up, be actively interested in". What is missing when you read this definition is the value associated with the support received. It does not thank the supporter for their tireless efforts, their philanthropy or their dedication to the cause. The value to a not-for-profit organization can never be truly measured, for it is with support from its volunteers, the community, the donor, and funding grants that assures its existence.

We marvel daily at the effect we would have as an organization, if we did not have support from our community. Each year the Foundation has many reports that it is required to prepare to meet the regulations for a charity and receiver of grant dollars. As those reports are being written, outlining the many events and programs that we host for the community, the enormity of the support we receive becomes apparent. Without the support of volunteers, nothing would be finished, completed, accomplished, or even occur. How can we ever thank you properly? Your steadfast dedication to the cause of preservation and conservation of heritage humbles us. From early morning hours at a sunrise ceremony to midnight cleanup, our volunteers have gone above and beyond to "support" the efforts of the Foundation. We are truly grateful and hope that each of you understand how much we appreciate you.

And to those organizations, businesses, and personal donors who have "supported" the Foundation's many projects and operations, where would we be without your gifts? I say it again - nothing would be finished, completed, accomplished or even occur. How can we ever thank you properly? Funding is one of the most difficult kinds of "support" that we receive. Donation and sponsorship dollars are few and far between in this world that has seen its fair share of disasters in the last 18 months. But with the gifts that our community shares with us we will persevere. Over the past 45 years we have seen our fair share of trials and tribulations and with the kind support from funding and volunteerism we will carry on through these next difficult years.

As we move down new paths in our heritage journey, we recognize the importance of the "support" we give back to the community as well as that which we receive. Through our programming, projects, resource centre, and communications, we hope that what we have offered supports your interest and needs. *Continuous Improvement* was a buzz phrase in the manufacturing industry many years ago, when the importance of quality improvement meant being in business or closing the doors. This is still very true today, and not just in manufacturing but in all aspects of our business and personal lives. As an organization that holds high on its list of importance researching, recording and educating about the history and heritage of this community, continuous improvement in our work is uppermost in our minds.

We hope that we give quality service with a quality product that you as a community member find valuable. In true continuous improvement tradition, we need to hear from you to help us improve our service and product. Please call me, visit us for a coffee and chat in the library, help us to help you.

Once again to those who volunteer, who sponsor or donate, please remember that without your support, nothing would be finished, completed, accomplished, or even occur. Thank you for your dedication, your tireless efforts, your interest, your love and your "support", for without you we would not be here.

Cont'd from pg. 1

Legacy for the Future

Gradually, supported by awareness and pride in the intangibles as well as the tangibles of our heritage, 200 or more years of recent history will be secured for our own time, as well as for the future. It is important therefore, not to denude our landscape of its treasures, however limited they may seem. Let us remember that once gone, those treasures cannot be retrieved. Such a young country as ours cannot afford to lose its heritage.

So in this spirit, let us perpetuate a rich heritage legacy to pass on to those who will come after us. Let us give more than lip service to protecting the best of what we have and let us not dismiss as unimportant what experts and our better selves identify as being vital and fundamental to this whole community. The cost need not be as high as shallow thinkers assert. Let us enrich our descendants with a better understanding of our times, working with each other to incorporate substantial elements of our past, skilfully woven into a colourful Mississauga tapestry for the future. This will give continuity from generation to generation. By so doing we will earn the respect of our descendants, preserving the collective identity of the past for them to enjoy and build upon.

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, Human Resources Development Canada, the Ministry of Culture 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, 1921Dundas 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

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Exhibition of Culture and World of Music and Dance Concert

Co-Presidents, Alexandra Simmons and Karen Cochrane

entor College is excited and proud to present the Exhibition of Culture and World of Music and Dance Concert on Wednesday, February 22, 2006. We cordially invite you to attend this event in support of the Land Mine Relief Fund and Take Action charities, and the significant effort and commitment of all the student volunteers involved.

Visitors to the Event (to be held in the North/South Gym at the Main Campus, 40 Forest Ave.) will take a trip around the globe and experience a multitude of tastes, traditions, music, and dance. Enthusiastic students in national dress will man 24 Pavilions brimming with artefacts, audio and visual displays, craft demonstrations, and sumptuous finger foods from their countries of origin. The Concert will feature a variety of traditional music and dance joyfully performed by Mentor, Team and Primary School students and professional performers from many Cultural Associations and elsewhere.

We are extending this event to include a reception, pavilion viewing, and complete concert for parents, guardians, students, friends, family and the general public on Wednesday February 22, 2006 at 6.15 pm at a cost of \$10/person. There will also be provisions made for those who wish to make a much-appreciated charitable donation at the Event.

For further information, please contact The Cultural Association at the Main Campus (905-271-3393) or admin@mentorcollege.edu and leave a message for Co-Presidents, Alexandra Simmons and Karen Cochrane, or StaffAdvisor, Mr. Petrosean.

Heritage News

Heritage News is a publication in English and it has a total circulation of over 3000. It is distributed free of charge to members, libraries and community centres throughout Mississauga.

Advertising rates are as follows:

Business card \$MHF Members \$65, Non Members \$85 ½ page \$MHF Member \$125, Non Members \$165 ½ page \$MHF Members \$225, Non Members \$285 Full page \$MHF Members \$400, Non Members \$520

For irregular sizes, customized artwork, or other questions regarding advertising, please calls 905 828-8411.



Birth of a New Book! "Birth to Millennium - Mississauga's Sports Heritage"

Ike Toth can't compete with today's great athletes in Mississauga. But then, Mississauga's great athletes might not be competing if it had not been for Mike Toth. If they gave out medals for establishing the importance of sports in our city, he would win two gold medals - one as a builder, the second as a journalist. As chairman, he was one of the driving forces in establishing the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame. And as a journalist, his name was synonymous with The Mississauga News for nearly 20 years (1974 - 92), first as sports editor, then editor. He was named Canada's Sportswriter of the year in 1978,



Mike Toth, courtesy MSC

and was chosen by the Sports Federation of Canada. He was a founding member of the Mississauga Sports Complex Foundation and has been a member of the Peel Olympic Committee, raising funds to assist promising amateur athletes of the region. Mike also received a Member's Choice Award from the Mississauga Heritage Foundation in 2005, recognizing his contributions to heritage in our city.

In his book, From Birth to Millennium, Mike Toth takes us on a journey through time, weaving together a compelling and comprehensive collection of Mississauga's sports heritage. The book will be launched during Mississauga 13th Annual Sports Week celebrations at the Feb. 21st Kick-off Breakfast, Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre from 7-9 a.m. MikeToth will be on hand, along with a number of Mississauga Olympians and Sports Hall of Famers.

The book will be available throughout Sports Week at a series of events, including the February 23rd Olympian Exhibit Reception at The Grange. This exhibit will feature a number of Mississauga's Olympians and their story. Mike will be on hand to sign the book and share his stories. The book has over 400 pages of stories and pictures commemorating the exceptional contributions of Mississauga's athletes and sports supporters. For more information on the launch, contact the Mississauga Sports Council at 905-896-5853 or visit their web-site at ww.sportsmississauga.org.



he Lost Hamlet of Derry West By Nicole Mair

A lmost two hundred years ago at the intersection of Hurontario and Derry Road, a group of immigrants arrived intent on starting a new life. The hamlet of Derry West, founded in 1819, was settled by Irish immigrants from New York. They were led by a man named Joseph Carter.

An early settler, George Graham, submitted the name for the village. He suggested the name Derry Walls in honour of his forefathers that fought at Londonderry, Ireland, as well as to



Derry West - 1877 Historical Atlas of Peel County

celebrate their Protestant Orange heritage. The village was later renamed Derry West by the postal department.

George Graham also founded an Orange Lodge at Derry West, L.O.L. #10, in 1822. It was unofficially known as Graham's Lodge because a large number of Graham's relatives were involved in its membership.

Derry West had the first post office in Peel County, built in 1826. However, the building was closed shortly afterwards when its first postmaster, Joseph Carter, moved elsewhere. In 1851 a permanent post office was established, with Thomas McLear as the postmaster.

Joseph Carter donated a half-acre of his land for the building of a church. Together with other members of the community, a log building was erected, and it was dubbed "Carter's Church". The church was opened in July of 1829. It was the second Anglican Church to be built in the township; the only older Anglican Church was St. Peter's in the village of Springfield (Erindale). Local lore has it that the church was christened with a bottle of whiskey, and when Reverend John Stratchen learned of this he refused Carter's Church Holy Orders on the basis that the church was spawned out of drunkenness. Carter was so disappointed by this turn of events that he sold his farm and moved back to New York.



Postcard of Derry West, c. 1900 - Region of Peel Archives

In 1840 a second church was built in Derry West. A new Presbyterian church was built on the Brown family's land, on the south side of Derry Road, directly across from Carter's Church. In 1886 the Presbyterian congregation merged with the one from Brampton leaving the building unused and eventually it was demolished.

A school was built in Derry West in 1856. The school was located on a four-acre site (specifically reserved for a school) on the southwest corner of a lot that had been purchased by David Hunter from Kings College seven years prior. There were a total of three schools in Derry West over the years. A later school was built on the east side of Hurontario Street, just north of Derry Road. In 1870 the little community added a Temperance Hall, and it was also used for Sunday school until it was discontinued in 1906.

The Tilts were another important Irish immigrant family of Derry

West. John Tilt ran the grocery and liquor store, and an ashery - a factory where hardwood ashes are converted into lye, potash, and pearlash. In addition to this he was also a lawyer and magistrate. His granddaughter married Timothy Eaton, founder of the Eaton's department store. In addition, James Tilt ran a hotel and a shoemaker's shop in Derry West. Later he opened a boot and show factory in Brampton, before moving to Chicago.

Derry West grew until 1867, when the hamlet was swept by fire. The fire broke out on the back porch of the Moffatts' house and was spread through the village by a strong wind. Only the school and few houses survived. Derry West's buildings were replaced within the year, but its former prominence was never reestablished.



The Telephone crew at Derry West, Region of Peel Archives

Unfortunately, little lingers of the village that once was Derry West, its memory only preserved by a few lingering reminders: the historically designated Hunter-Holmes House at the modern Derrydale Golf Course, the small historic pioneer cemetery just west of Hurontario Street, and the name of Derry Road itself, as the



Threshing on the Wedgewood Farm c. 1910 - Region of Peel Archives

concession line that once led to the bustling crossroads hamlet of Derry West. We can look at family names from historic maps to help place a personal face and stir a collective memory: names like Armstrong, Brown, Carter, Golden, Grafton, Graham, Hunter, Moore, Moffatt, Oliver, Sanderson, Tilt and Wedgewood, to name a few. Please share your stories and pictures of this lost village with us.

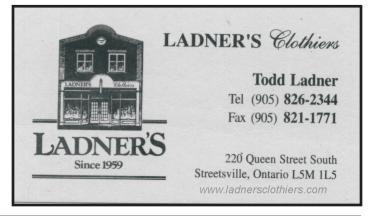
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Educational Opportunities!

By Katherine Gutierrez, Program Developer

New Programs

2006 will be a year of new beginnings...a revamp of our education programming...New programs...New ideas...New direction. We will be unveiling our new aboriginal programs for both the grade 3 and grade 6 levels, based on the new Ontario Curriculum and will be available to teachers effective September 2006. We also offer programs in pioneer education and the "warfront" World War I & II.

Volunteer Opportunities

We welcome new volunteers interested in gaining experience in teaching. This is a great opportunity for those looking to go to Teacher's College. We offer a primary workshop where you will be taught the programs we offer, provide activities for the classes to which you will be presenting. Through these programs you will gain valuable classroom experience through our presentations. For more information, please contact Katherine at (905) 828-8411 ext. 26, or at programs@heritagemississauga.org.

Support the Heritage Resource Centre

Do you have old books that are in need of another home? Do you have history or heritage related books that are gathering dust? We invite you to support the Heritage Resource Centre at the Mississauga Heritage Foundation. We are continuing to build a small community resource library at our office in the Grange/Robinson-Adamson House, located at 1921 Dundas Street West. Books in our library are available as a public resource and MHF members are able to sign books out. It is our hope that the Heritage Library will aid in the discovery of local Mississauga, Peel, Ontario and Canadian heritage. It is also a wonderful way to remember and honour individuals, as books donated to the Heritage Library can be identified with a bookplate signifying either "In Memory Of..." or "Donated By...". We invite you to visit the Heritage Resource Centre, and to help it grow! For more information, please contact the Mississauga Heritage Foundation at 905-828-8411 x 29, or email history@heritagemississauga.org. Thank you for your support!

Mississauga Library System's Historic Images Gallery makes history!

By Paula Wubbenhorst, Assistant Heritage Coordinator City of Mississauga

Check out www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/historicimagesgallery for hundreds of images of Mississauga's rich and varied heritage! The brainchild of Don Mills, Director of the Mississauga Library System, the Historic Images Gallery brings visual documentation

of the city's history directly to you! Collections are provided by the Mississauga Library System, the Museums of Mississauga and the City's Cemeteries and Heritage departments.

Visitors to the site can either browse through the galleries or search for specific pictures by using keywords. Images are accompanied by text that serves to interpret the visual and/or provide relevant or related data. Unlike most of the generalized information on the internet, this is a treasure trove of local



Mississauga Library System

research. It is an invaluable tool for anyone investigating just about anything in Mississauga! Because it is structured around images, which are said to be worth a thousand words, it is that much more valuable.

In addition to historic figures and objects, the gallery showcases many places within the city. Internet surfers can virtually tour Mississauga or compare and contrast archival versus current views of buildings and landscapes.

Images are continually being added to the site. Next time you are online, see what this resource can offer you!

Historic Images Gallery wins award!

The Mississauga Library System's "Historic Images Gallery" was awarded the inaugural Archival and Preservation Achievement Award by the Ontario Library Association (OLA) at the OLA's 2006 Super Conference.

The Mississauga Heritage Foundation wishes to congratulate the dedicated and hardworking staff of the Mississauga Central Library and the Canadiana Room for their continuing hard work aimed at preserving and promoting the heritage and history of this city.

Everybody Needs Friends

To promote, strengthen and support the Museums of Mississauga - that is the vision of the Friends of the Museums of Mississauga. The official launch of this new organisation took place at Benares Historic House on the night of November 30, 2005. Nearly 100 people have already become Friends and some members are already working with the museum staff on a variety of tasks including the planning of the annual *Starlight & Candlelight Gala* fundraising event, and on the Log Cabin Task Force.



The Friends Executive consists of *John Pegram* as Chair, Vice Chair Fred *Durdan*, Treasurer *Gerry Dallas, Jenny Dale* as Secretary, *Margaret Adolphe* as a director, and *Annemarie Hagan* representing the museum staff. The first annual general meeting will take place at Benares on April 12th. Watch the Museums' website for further details.

Everybody needs friends and the Museums are no exception. The Mission of the Friends group is to "engage volunteers and enhance community awareness through promotion, participation and fundraising to ensure the integrity of the Museums". The Museums are looking for people who will help reach these goals. Individual membership is only \$10; a Family is \$30. Call the Museums at their new number 905-615-4860 for further details.

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Looking Back.....

Looking Back at a "Haunting" Evening!

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

The Mississauga Heritage Foundation was excited to welcome Terry Boyle back to Mississauga for the fourth consecutive year, to share his ghostly stories and intriguing experiences while researching haunting around Ontario. On Tuesday, October 25th, The Mississauga Heritage Foundation hosted its fourth annual



Eric Gbison reenacting Thomas Sibbald from "Haunted Mississauga 2005" at the Britannia United

"Haunted Mississauga" evening. The venue this year was the historic Britannia United Church and Cemetery. The evening featured a visit by ghost *aficionado* and author, Terry Boyle, and the main venue, the Britannia United Church, followed by a guided spirit tour of the cemetery, was simply superb! The atmosphere of the old church and cemetery created a great ambience for the evening. Special thanks go to Pat Brown of Theatre Unlimited for aiding us with costumes, and to the Trustees of the Britannia United Church, notably Mr. Ben Madill, for opening the doors of the church to us and allowing this event to take place!

As the organizer of this event, we would also like to thank our sponsors Long & McQuaide and Direct Disposal. In addition, we sincerely thank the many volunteers in our "Spirit Team" who volunteered their time to help bring the spirit of the evening to life:. Doreen, Kurt, Ryan and Steven Armstrong; Terry Boyle; Pat Brown and Theatre Unlimited; Greg Carraro; Richard Collins; Sarah Cossette; Meaghan FitzGibbon; Brent, Evan and Jayme Gaspar; Eric Gibson; Scott Gillies; Katherine Gutierrez; Amy Jaques; Rose Langley; Dusica Mladenovski; Matthew Wilson; Mavis Wilson; Trustees of the Britannia United Church and Cemetery; and members of the 2nd Erin Mills Venturers. We could not have done it without all of you! Thank you, and see you next year!

Step back into Mississauga's history with....

Cooksville: Village of the Past Erindale: The Pretty Little Village

Verna Mae Weeks Author

Telephone: 905-542-8615



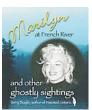
Haunted Mississauga THE BOOK!

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

Do ghosts really exist? Terry Boyle believes so. For the past four years, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation has welcomed teacher, historian, author and ghost hunter Terry Boyle to Mississauga, and shared in his stories and experiences. Terry has travelled across Ontario to research popular hauntings. The outcome of his research has been published in ten popular books, including "Haunted Ontario", "Haunted Ontario 2" and "Fit to be Tied"



Terry Boyle



In conjunction with the Mississauga Heritage Foundation, Terry Boyle is currently researching a new book entitled "Haunted Mississauga", which will explore some of Mississauga's ghostly tales. In the upcoming months, Terry will be researching hauntings, visiting various sites, and speaking with residents, employees and interest citizens about their experiences.



We invite you to share your ghostly stories and haunted happenings with us. Stories with substantial evidence will be selected and investigated by Terry, and citizens who submitted the selected stories will be contacted individually by Terry during the course of his research.

Membership in the MHF

Individual \$20 Non-profit groups \$25 Small-Business \$35 Corporate \$500 Family \$30 Senior \$10 Schools/Students(ages 16+) \$10 School Program Sponsor \$450



.... at our memories

"Spirits of the Season" - 15th Annual Wine Tasting & Silent Auction

By Katherine Gutierrez, Program Developer

On Sunday, December 4th, 2005, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation hosted its 15th Annual Wine Tasting and Silent Auction. "Spirits of the Season" was held at the historic Cawthra-Elliot Estate and was surrounded by the soulful sound of *Saxappeal*, the sight of people mingling with one another, and the smell of wines from



Doug Ward, Authentic Wines and Jayme Gaspar

all over the world, courtesy of Authentic Wines & Spirits Merchants.

We would like to thank all those who participated in this year's "Spirits of the Season." Both the wine tasting and silent auction were well received by all attendees. All funds raised for this event support our ongoing programs and projects, some of which include our education outreach kits, collecting and cataloguing historical materials, and our oral history program which records the stories of our communities' residents.



Stephen Wahl & guests at the Wine Tasting

A special thank you goes out to our sponsors who have made this event a truly successful one: Authentic Wines & Spirits Merchants, Mary Finley, Bear Claw Tours, The Toronto Maple Leafs, The Toronto Argonauts, Stratford Festival, Meadowvale Theatre, The Living Arts Centre, Paul Smith, Lakeview Curves, Lighthouse Pharmacy in Port Credit, Delta Meadowvale, Fairmont Royal York, Gourmet-on-

the-Go, Tim Petersen (MPP - Mississauga South), Orchestras Mississauga, The Waterside Inn, Visual Arts Mississauga, Mysteriously Yours Dinner Theatre, and Dallas McLean-Lowe. This event was a great success, thanks to your kindness and contributions.

Thank you once again for all your continued support of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation. We truly appreciate all your efforts to make heritage a part of our community. We hope to see you once again at the 2006 "Spirits of the Season".

"Carolling at the Grange"

By Katherine Gutierrez, Program Developer

The beautiful sounds of carollers singing around the bonfire...the smell of hot chocolate filling the atmosphere... On Sunday, December 18th, 2005, over one hundred people gathered together for "Carolling at the Grange". Carolling was led by the talented voices of the Mississauga Festival Youth Choir, and neighbours and friends joined in as we celebrated the upcoming holiday season.

"Carolling at the Grange" turned out to be a great success. The entire community felt that this was an excellent way to celebrate the upcoming Christmas season with their friends, families, and neighbours.



Amy, Mary and Dorothy

Special thanks go out to our fantastic volunteers who have been

a great help and a great support system for events such as this. A



Carollers around the Fire

great appreciation also goes out to our wonderful sponsors who have made this event possible Loblaws Glen Erin & Eglinton, Loblaws Mavis & Dundas, Mississauga Festival Youth Choir, LaVilla Bakery, Starbucks Sherwood Forrest, Region of Peel, Rogers Television, and the Mississauga News.

Memories of Christmas... The Exhibit

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

The grange hosted the "Memories of Christmas" exhibit in the Debbie Hatch Discovery Centre from December 4th to February 1st. The exhibit explored some of the many early Christmas and holiday traditions, focusing on Christmas as a time of



gathering, a time for family, and a time for remembering. Whether it is recalling hanging stockings by the fireplace, hoping to hear



John/Father Christmas, Matthew, Amy & Mavis

Santa Claus, decorating the Christmas tree, or listening to traditions come from our not-so-distant past, while others are decades or centuries old. Whether it is recollecting pomanders or wassailing, or whether it is memories, sleighs, dolls, laughter or holiday cheer, the exhibit provided a wonderful journey down Christmas-memory lane.

The exhibit featured artifacts, memorabilia and images from the Mississauga Heritage Foundation, the Greeniaus Collection, the Museums of Mississauga, Black Creek Pioneer Village, Delamary Barker-Wilkinson & "Victorian Christmas" by Bobbie Kalman & Barbara Bedell. Special thanks in particular to Stephanie Meeuwse from the Museums of Mississauga, James Hunter from Black Creek



"Memories of Christmas" Exhibit

Pioneer Village, and John Warburton for their assistance in assembling and providing artifacts!

When "Old Baldy" separated from Canada

By Eric Gibson

It all started as a bit of a joke on a day when the booze was flowing but the fish weren't biting. It was 1950 and the location was a few miles out to sea from Wedgeport, Nova Scotia. "Old Baldy" was the pet name for the tiny un-inhabited island of Outer Bald Tusket which a year previously had been purchased by Russell Arundel, a mild mannered Washington lawyer whose favourite getaway was to go tuna fishing. The events which were about to take place almost got out of hand and could have had serious consequences for Canada, and indeed for the whole of the free world.

Arundel, egged on by a group of his tuna fishing buddies, and perhaps influenced just a little by the whisky, decided that it would be a great idea to declare his island, all four acres of it, as the Grand Principality of Outer Baldonia. A Declaration of Independence was drawn up which included "the inalienable right to lie and be believed, to drink, swear and gamble; to sleep all day and stay up all night;" and among other things to enjoy "freedom from war, shaving, taxes, politics, inhibitions, nagging spouses...etc." Arundel himself was to be known as King Russell of Outer Baldonia. Citizenship was to be limited to tuna fishermen who were princes or six-star admirals. Of course, it was the view of the tuna fishermen involved in this story that all tuna fishermen were already princes and were deserving of the rank of six-star admiral. So, it was a logical move that all sixty-nine members of the Wedgeport Tuna Guides Association would be issued Outer Baldonian commissions as six-star admirals, and their boats would become instant units of the Outer Baldonian Navy. In addition, a select few were to become Baldonian aristocracy with the titles of Tunic Princes of the Realm or Knights of the Order of the Blue Fin.

When Arundel returned to his Washington DC office, he arranged for all the necessary trappings required by his new Principality. He commissioned a Great Seal, ordered official letterhead and arranged for a listing in Washington's Diplomatic Telephone Directory. The Seal featured a tuna and a lobster flanking one of the island's sheep and the Outer Baldonian consulate was located at a spare desk in Arundel's office.

Soon the phone started to ring and the mail to arrive. There were dozens of invitations to public and private functions and so many requests for information and statistics about the fledgling country that a new, very large garbage bin had to be purchased! UNESCO requested a copy of the Outer Baldonian constitution, and ambassadors were appointed to the United States, Canada and the United Nations. King Russell authorised the printing of suitable currency, the basic unit of which was the Tunar, and arranged for a supply of Outer Baldonian passports which were "valid forever and a day."

Since Outer Baldonia was now a fully fledged country, King Russell made formal requests to the U.S. Department of the Interior, to the Canadian Geographic Commission and to Rand McNally's cartographic division to have its name included in all future maps and reference works. Press releases announcing foreign policy and official positions on a variety of subjects followed, many of which were picked up in translation by European and Russian newspapers.

The Moscow Literary Gazette took exception to some parts of the Outer Baldonian constitution and in October 1952 published a vicious attack on King Russell.

He was portrayed as a depraved monarch leading his subjects into the wicked ways of capitalism and encouraging them to abandon all the ethical and moral practices of a civilised nation.

The king was shocked, offended and upset. He immediately penned a formal protest to the Soviet Consulate in New York. In it he threatened the severance of diplomatic relations if a suitable apology was not received. Further, he hinted darkly that worse could follow, for the Outer Baldonian Navy was now allied with the forces of the Armdale Yacht Club of Halifax. Naturally, he sent copies to all the major newspapers in the English speaking world.

The Russians ignored him! The newspapers did not!

The Outer Baldonian consulate was inundated with requests for information and statistics and interviews. The *New York Times* was anxious for a story as were *the Globe and Mail*, the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Maclean's* among others.

Russia still ignored the threat and eventually, in March of 1953, King Russell after due consultations with his princes and admirals took the drastic step of putting the Outer Baldonian Navy on full alert and declaring war on Russia.

The Russians still ignored him! They made no reply to Outer Baldonia's declaration even feigning ignorance of the threat when questioned by the press. However the Outer Baldonian Navy stayed at full alert for several months and this, according to the King and the aristocracy, convinced the enemy that they dare not approach the gutsy little kingdom nor try to infiltrate the bureaucracy. No KGB agents managed to infiltrate Wedgeport society!

However as later events would show, the Russians did appreciate the severity of the threat and secretly started to move arms of a very serious nature into Cuba. It was only the U.S. invasion of the Bay of Pigs which side-tracked the Soviets from their planned attack on "Old Baldy." (This leaves one wondering if the Cuban missile crisis of the early 1960s was also a result of Soviet fear of the little Principality!)

Today, the Principality no longer exists. It was not outside political pressures which lead to its demise but internal squabbling and several blatant acts in contravention of the constitution. There were several such incidents culminating in the sighting of King Russell's fishing sloop with a person of the female persuasion clearly visible on the foredeck. This caused great unrest among the admirals. Some ordered their flags to be flown at half-mast, while others started to accept charters which included female fisherpersons - some of whom caught more fish than the accompanying male fisherpersons. The King argued that his female passenger was his wife who did not nag, in fact had never nagged! But of course he was not believed!

There followed a series of severe blows as tuna stocks started to diminish in the later 1960s. Several resignations were tendered as the fishing fleet shrank in size. The exalted Ambassador Extraordinaire to Canada was one of those to abandon the principality and to accept the very ordinary job of Mayor of Halifax. Finally in 1975, King Russell deeded Outer Baldonia to the Nova Scotia Bird Society which designated it as a bird sanctuary. And so ended the story of the Grand Principality of Outer Baldonia.

"Old Baldy" was once again part of Canada.

Source:-Andreas Schroeder Scams, Scandals and Skulduggery McClelland and Stewart Toronto 1996

Do you have a heritage phobia?

By Mark Warrack, Heritage Coordinator, City of Mississauga

Why is it that many property owners in the City of Mississauga have this incredible fear of heritage designation? Is it because they don't understand what heritage designation of a property means? Is it just a misunderstanding or lack of information? Whatever the cause, it is a rampant fear in this city that



Queen Victoria, COM

heritage designation comes up as a four letter word. While talking to colleagues in other municipalities I am always surprised at how many requests for heritage designation are made each year, whereby property owners actually approach council and request that their properties be designated. Obviously these property owners are proud of their heritage and value their contribution to the community. However that is rarely the case in Mississauga. Some of the most common untruths about heritage designation are:

- 1. Never will the owner be able to change or alter the building! This is not true. Alterations are allowed, but through a process to ensure that the changes are in keeping with the character and design of the original. Heritage is not about freezing time, but providing guidance through change.
- 2. The city is not going to tell me what colour to paint my house! No, the city will not tell you what colour to paint your house. The colour of a building or parts thereof is not dictated through heritage designation. Owner may continue to use any colour they wish, but they can consult on colour if they care to do so.
- 3. The value of my property will be diminished! This is generally not true. A study was conducted by the University of Waterloo showing that on average heritage designated properties were either the same as any other similar property on the market or of higher value.



Old Meadowvale Village, COM

So what does heritage designation achieve? There are a number of advantages. When a property is under heritage designation it must be respected and included in any future development of the property and will affect how adjacent properties are developed. It is an insurance that future property attributes

that give the property its character and definition. Heritage designation provides for a recognition of the past, as sense of place, and gives a grounding as to how a property or area has

changed over time while contributing to future community development.

If you have a question about heritage designation, please do not hesitate to contact city staff at 905-615-3200, ext. 5070.



Derry House, COM

A New Historical Society is Born!

Trafalgar Township Historical Society

By Liz Benneian

In an effort to capture the rural history of Trafalgar Township

Lefore development erases traces of its past, a new historical society has formed. On Monday, January 30th the inaugural meeting of the Trafalgar Township Historical Society was held. This new Society has grown out of a group of citizens called "The Trafalgar 200 Committee". This group have been planning



SS # 10 Trafalgar, MHF

events to mark the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar Township in 2007.

Most of the community now known as Oakville was once Trafalgar Township. Surrounding "Old Oakville", Trafalgar Township



Isabella McCarron & Family,
MHF

originally extended to the Lake on both the east (Winston Churchill) and west (Burloak Drive) and then stretched over the farmland to the north all the way to Steeles.

The Society will continue to work with The Oakville Library on a project to scan in historic family photos related

to life in Trafalgar Township that was begun by the Committee. The project has been very successful to date with more than 250 photos scanned and many documents photocopied. The next two scheduled scanning dates are Thursday, February 9 from 10a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oakville Public Library, 120 Navy St. and on Thursday, March 9th, same time, same place. Other times can be arranged by calling Elise Cole at 905-815-2042, ext. 5037 or by emailing her at ecole@oakville.ca.

As well, a Family Day Historical Celebration has been scheduled

for Saturday, September 23, 2007. This fun event will be held in several venues clustering around the historic Palermo corner (Bronte and Dundas). It will include ghost walks in the pioneer cemetery, historical displays, a costumed recreation of education 100 years ago in the one-room schoolhouse on Dundas, a farmers' market, demonstrations of blacksmithing,



McCarron barn raising, MHF

pioneer crafts at Palermo United Church and many participatory activities that will engage a new generation of Oakville residents in the history of their community.

For more information about the new Trafalgar Township Historical Society or to be added to its email list, please contact Liz Benneian at 905-257-0250 or email her at lizedn@yahoo.com.



Trafalgar family gathering, MHF

Preservation Works! A Heritage Home for Sale

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

Many reminders of Mississauga's past have disappeared from our landscape. What we often view as unique and picturesque building and architectural styles have been replaced, in many areas, by suburban uniformity. Many current residents in our city lament the loss of much of our built heritage. We are often forced to wonder what heritage buildings we will be passing on to future generations.

Heritage homes can act as anchors in the landscape, giving distinctiveness and historical character to a community, such buildings help to develop a sense of "rootedness". After all, it is difficult to expect residents to maintain their connections to the past if the physical world in which they live does not sustain and protect those roots.

Revitalising and stabilizing a community through the preservation of heritage structures helps to enhance the character and develop intrinsic values of a neighbourhood. If you want people to care about the welfare of their community, you have to ensure that there is something to care



Arrowfield, Lynda Cowan website

about, a commonality that everyone shares, and preservation of heritage building helps to provide that commonality. By protecting its architectural heritage, a community will be able to grasp, retain and connect with its past, as well as develop a sense of pride in that past. Heritage buildings are a direct link between modern landscapes and past foundations.

Modern studies conclude that heritage structures perform as well or better than non-heritage properties in the real estate market. Significantly, on average, the listing price of heritage properties appears resistant to market fluctuations: "there is much less doubt about the positive value of heritage property." (Peter Howard, University of Plymouth) It is becoming clearer that owners of heritage properties, far from being inconvenienced by the heritage listing of a property, are in fact being rewarded by the market.

Heritage buildings, while one of immeasurable intrinsic and social value, are also of economic value and can remain entirely functional in a modern community. Let those who inherit our City from us not say, "See what manner of stones are here," but rather "See what manner of men." (John Ruskin, 1870)

But selling a heritage home is not an ordinary transaction. It usually involves some investigation and commitment from the homeowners, the prospective buyers, and the real estate agent in regards to finding a "good fit" in the hopes of preserving the home. After all, when the current owners have put an incredible amount of time, love and resources into caring for and remodeling the historic house over the years, it is important that new owners will show an equal amount of respect for the home and for its connection to the historic roots in the surrounding community.

Similar to buying a classic car, for buyers with an appreciation for history, architecture and restoration, purchasing a heritage home can be intrinsically rewarding as well as a good investment. Such an opportunity exists in a house which is currently for sale at 1462 Mississauga Road. Lovingly cared for and restored by the Hanson and Durland families, this gracious home helps to create a sense of place, tying the larger community which has grown up around it, to its not-so-distant past and rural roots. Historically located on part of Lot 7, Range 2 of the Credit Indian Reserve, the "Gordon House" (also known as "Arrowfield" due to a number of native arrowheads found on the property) is believed to have been built between 1884 and 1887 by George W. Gordon, although archival research indicates that the home may incorporate an even earlier dwelling dating from the early 1870s.

Architecturally, the home is as unique as it is stunning. It is a white clapboard and frame house, with a Credit Valley stone foundation, and although the home has undergone many alterations and at least three additions in its lifetime, it retains its charm as a remarkable example of early Ontario architecture similar in fashion to early gothic-gabled farmhouses. Inside, much of the original molding, flooring, and molded staircases remain intact. This home is a fine example of heritage preservation that works: the home remains functional, beautifully restored and charming, yet true to its historic roots.

For more information regarding the sale of this beautiful heritage home, please contact Lynda Cowan at Royal LePage Realty at 905-828-6550.

What's In A Name? "Tomken Road"

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

ave you ever been intrigued by a street or park name from our past? Here is a chance to explore some of our "people and places of the past" through association with modern place names. If you have ever wondered about a modern street or park name, let us know, and we will see if we can find out!

Tomken Road takes it name from a veteran, local politician and fruit grower, Thomas Laired Kennedy (TOM KENnedy). Born on a farm northeast of the intersection of Dundas Street and what is now Tomken Road on August 15, 1878, he was the son of John



T. L. Kennedy, MHF

Kennedy and Mary Elgie. Colonel Thomas Laird Kennedy was educated locally and in Toronto, and became active in local politics. He served with distinction in the First World War, attaining the rank of colonel in the militia. Elected in 1919 to the provincial parliament as a Conservative member for Peel, he retained this seat, with the exception of one term, until his death. A fruit grower most of his life, he was concerned with farming and rural affairs, and served as Minister of Agriculture in 1930 - 1934 and 1943 - 1952. Kennedy became Premier of Ontario in 1948, remaining until 1949. As a result of his great personal popularity and long public service, he was affectionately known as "Old Man Ontario". He passed away in 1959. Due to his great popularity, Second Line East was renamed "Tomken Road" in his honour.

Wildwood Park New Research and Old Roots

By Matthew Wilkinson, Historian

Recently the Mississauga Heritage Foundation was contacted by Marnie Branfireun, the project ecologist for the Malton Environmental Stewardship Project, to provide historical information and pictures about the history of Wildwood Park in Malton. Needless to say, we were delighted to help! However, many of the early families in this area we knew little about ... so it was off to the archives we went! After numerous hours spent researching and compiling information, a picture of early life around Wildwood Park began to emerge. We are indebted to Mr. Randall Reid for his expertise and assistance. What follows below is but a



Colonel Connell James Baldwin,Wm. Perkins Bull

part of the story that has come to light during our research into this small part of our city:

The area covered today by Wildwood Park has rich historical ties to a rural past. The park is but a small part of a vast tract of land that was surrendered by the Native Mississaugas in the Second Purchase of 1818. Surveyed in 1819, these lands became part of the Township of Toronto Gore. The southern section of Toronto Gore was incorporated into the City of Mississauga in 1974.

History relates that Natives once traversed extensively through the floodplains of Mimico Creek and that in succeeding years it was not uncommon for a farmer to turn up arrowheads while ploughing in the fields. The land in this area proved ideal for farming, and many early settlers who settled in this vicinity took up farming as way of life. Once the land was cleared, farmers planted wheat, hay and other grains, as well as keeping livestock. Wildwood Park today covers parts of five historic farm properties, belonging over the years to different families, namely the Baldwin, Brophy, Gracey, Heydon, Rowland, Shaw and Tomlinson families. Prior to the railway, farmers would often haul their goods and produce to St. Lawrence Market in Toronto.

The northern portion and majority of Wildwood Park resides on what was the Tomlinson Farm. Joseph Tomlinson, a carpenter from Derbyshire, England, together with his wife and seven children, arrived on Lot 10, Concession 7, in 1819. Their eighth child, David, was born on the farm in 1821. David, who inherited his father's farm in 1852, became quite prosperous. He served as a Township Councillor for Toronto Gore from 1860 to 1867, and Reeve in 1868 and 1869. The Tomlinson family sold the family farm to Orenda Engines Limited, a company closely connected with A.V. Row and the Avro Arrow, in 1950. As provision of the sale, they continued to

reside on the farm until 1971.

Shaw Family - Randall Reid

The Tomlinson's immediate neighbours to the east were the Shaw family. Samuel Shaw arrived in Toronto Gore in 1821, together with his wife Margaret, and their children Jane, Catherine, Mary, Robert, James and Arthur.

Robert was one of the first trustees of the Malton Primitive Methodist Church, and a Sunday school superintendant. His brother, Arthur, eventually inherited their father's farm, and together with his wife Sarah Walker, raised ten children: Mary Jane, Mary Ann, Eliza, Sarah, Ekeabir, Isabelle, Matilda, Samuel, James and Wilbur. The Shaw family continued to reside on the family farm until it was sold to developers in 1951.

South of the Shaw's was a farm that belonged to the Heydon family. Originally from Queen's County, Ireland, James Heydon and his wife Bridget Foy arrived in the Malton vicinity in 1826. The family went on the raise seven children: John, Catharine, May, Michael, Ann, James, Frances, Margaret and David. The Heydon family continued to farm here until the land was sold to developers in 1955. The Heydons were related to the Gracey and Brophy families who farmed to the south. The wetland visible here likely represents an old course of Mimico Creek, and is located on what was part of the Heydon farm. The Heydon homestead once overlooked the valley on the ridge.

Also connected to the land now covered by Wildwood Park was the Baldwin family. Connell James Baldwin was born in County Cork, Ireland, in 1777. He was a member of a distinguished family, who included General Count Daniel O'Connell of the Irish Brigade of the French army; Daniel O'Connell, "the Irish Liberator," was a

cousin; and the Upper Canadian Reform leader, Robert Baldwin, was also a distant relative. After joining the British army, Connell Baldwin fought with distinction in the Peninsular Wars against Napoleon, rising to the rank of Captain and receiving a medal and ten clasps. In 1828, Baldwin immigrated to Upper Canada, receiving 400 acres near Peterborough and 400 acres in the newly opened Township of Toronto Gore. It was in Toronto Gore that Baldwin chose



Wildwood Park barn raising- Richview, Randal Reid

HERITAGE NEWS 11

to make his home, building a large log home, which he dubbed "Clogheneagh Lodge", after his birthplace. In 1830, Baldwin married Mary Sprague, and the couple raised one son and six daughters. Also in 1830 Baldwin built a log school and the first Catholic Church in the vicinity on his property. Many early Catholic settlers, including the Heydon and Gracey families, likely attended services here until the Fifth Line Church, at Elmbank, was built. A loyal government supporter, Baldwin served as justice-ofthe-peace, commissioner of roads, and a militia colonel. During the Rebellion of 1837, Colonel Baldwin raised and outfitted a militia of 1200 men at his own expense in defence of the Niagara frontier and the home district. Clogheneagh Lodge also served as a place of refuge for Irish immigrants sick from typhus. A small cemetery on Baldwin's property, now lost, was the final resting place for many of those who did not recover. One historical record suggests that no one is less well-known, yet left a deeper impression on his surrounding community, than did Colonel Connell James Baldwin. He died in 1861.

Although a public park surrounded by a modern city, Wildwood Park evokes memories of its not-so-distant pioneer past, and of the early families who helped to carve a modern city from the historical landscape.

Heritage Matters

Mississauga Heritage Foundation

February 17 - 19 Heritage Showcase Square One - during Mall hours

February 20 Mary Fix Memorial Heritage Awards, 7pm Noel Ryan Auditorium cost \$20.00 per person.

Guest speaker The Honourable James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario

May 18th Annual General Meeting 6:30pm The Grange

June 10th, 8-12pm Heritage Garage Sale To be held at "The Grange" To donate items to support this fundraiser please call Doreen at the office 905-828-8411 ext "0".

Friends of the Britannia Schoolhouse

March 12th, April 9th, May 14th Open House at The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, 5576 Hurontario St.

Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm June 28, 11:30am - 2:00 pm

Strawberry Social Held in the Atrium of the H.J.A. Brown

A delightful (and delicious) way to celebrate the beginning of summer. Plump, fresh strawberries atop scrumptious shortcake and whipped cream. Cost is \$8.00 Tickets available after June 1, 2006 For further information or tickets call Eva 905-459-9158

Halton- Peel Branch Ontario Genealogical Society

February 26 Paul McGrath guest speaker "1853 Toronto Assessment Rolls" Chinguacousy Branch Library Lower Level Meeting Room 2:00 PM

March 26 Fawne Stratford-Devai guest speaker "British Home Children" Chinguacousy Branch Library Lower Level Meeting Room 2:00 PM

April 23 Fred Hayward, UEL guest speaker, "Loyalists in Oakville" PLUS Michelle Knoll speaking on "Trafalgar Township Centennial" Oakville Public Library 2:00 PM For more information please contact Jane Watt at 905-281-1701 or email:jwatt@ica.net

Mississauga Garden Council

February 21 Speaker: Mac Yule -Winter Birding and Feeding March 21 Speaker: Laura Grant Pond Gardens: The Natural Way

April 18 Speaker: Marion Jarvie - The Spring Garden

May 16 Speaker: Dr. Peter Kotanen - Plant Invaders and Their

Enemies: Tales from Old Fields

June 20 Speaker: Tony Fleischmann - Growing Healthy Trees:

Summer Challenges and Solutions

Cost per Talk

MGC Members: \$10. each talk Non-MBC members \$15. each talk **Cost for Entire Evening Series** MGC Members: 5 evenings \$ 40 Non MGC members: 5 evenings \$ 60

Series will be held at the MacEwan Field Station at Riverwood at 1475 Burnhamthorpe Road West. All presentations are

Tuesday evenings and start at 7:30 pm

Mississauga South Historical Society

March 21 Richard Feltoe guest speaker "What the History Books Don't Tell - War 1812" in the Texaco Room 7:30 pm Guests Welcome

May 24 Dundurn Castle bus trip, for ticket information please contact Mary Finley 905-822-2312

Museums of Mississauga

March 11th - 19th Maple Magic

Mississauga's annual Maple Syrup festival at Bradley Museum! Join in the early spring time fun of maple syrup making. Enjoy fresh pancakes with real maple syrup, and horse drawn wagon rides.

May 13th Doggie Doo at Benares. *NEW*

Bring Fido and Fifi to this new event for dogs and their owners. A tail-wagging celebration of "man's best friend" today and in

July 21st - 22nd Shakespeare Under the Stars

Driftwood Outdoor Theatre Group performs "The Winter's Tale" under the stars at the Bradley Museum site. Pay-what-you-can admission. Showtime is 7:30 pm

July 30th_Teddy Bears Picnic

Gather up your favourite stuffed animals and the other members of your household for this popular family event. The 6 acre grounds come to life with games, songs, crafts and activities including the Teddy Bears Clinic!

January to end of June A Tapestry of Cultures

A reflection of the immigrant experience in Mississauga over the last 200 years. Presented jointly with the Mississauga Arts Council at Bradley Museum.

April 28 to July 23 For the LOVE of Tennis

Learn about the early local history of this popular sport, once played on the grounds of Benares. Benares Visitor Centre.

July 2006 to January 2007 A Stitch in Time: Quilting and the Bradley Museum This display will highlight our unique quilt collection and the equipment used in making them. Bradley Museum.

July 30 to October 23 2006 Shedding Light on Mississauga From Betty Lamps to Floor Lamps, this display will shed some light on the evolution of home lighting. Benares Visitor Centre.

Streetville Historical Society

April 13 Speaker to be Announced

Streetsville Village Hall - 280 Queen St. South \$5.00 for nonmembers, Social hour, light refreshments for more information call Jean Watt 905-826-1860

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