Clarkson and its Many Corners

Kathleen A. Hicks
CLARKSON AND ITS MANY CORNERS

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The Silverthorns: Ten Generations in America
Kathleen Hicks’ V.I.P.s of Mississauga
The Life & Times of the Silverthorns of Cherry Hill

Video

Riverwood: The Estate Dreams Are Made Of
I dedicate this book to Richard Barlas, formerly of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation, who suggested such a book was necessary and to Don Mills, Director of Library Services, for seeing the potential of this publication. Also to the many people of Clarkson whom I have met, especially those born and raised there and who still reside in their old hometown.

(Edith Nadon)
This is a different kind of historical book than I am used to writing. My other books have more text and are full of historical facts that required overwhelming research. This was a fairly easy writing assignment, thanks to the many cooperative Clarkson residents, who gave me their wonderful stories and made it simple to put the text together, although many days were spent at Land Registry to verify ownership of the properties involved, and the Mississauga Central Library and Peel Archives clarifying facts.

Little has been written over the years on this tiny hamlet that lies at the southern most section of our City of Mississauga. It does have an intriguing story though, that I bring to you with all the fervour beknown its start in the Township of Toronto. The early pioneers were courageous, adventurous people, who were community minded enough to put their hard work, sweat and tears into establishing a centre to their new locale, a village that would be the heart and soul of their efforts. I tried to get under the skin of the former village of Clarkson to bring you stories not previously told. I hope I have succeeded.
The pictures, however, required some time to accumulate. The Mississauga Library System did a promotion to notify the public about the book and requested anyone who had pictures of the area to come forward. At first there was little response, but once I started contacting people and interviewing them, one thing led to another until I managed to pull together enough to make this an extremely interesting presentation.

So I wish to thank Richard Barlas for advising Chief Librarian Don Mills that the small community of Clarkson lacked historical documentation, therefore this book materialized, and for his help in providing pictures from the Mississauga Heritage Foundation files; Don Mills for his endless support and dedication to heritage in Mississauga; Vicki Gregory for her splendid work on designing this book - fabulous job, Vicki; Bruce Carr, City of Mississauga’s Community Service Department for the Foreword; Dorothy Kew, of the Mississauga Library System’s Canadiana Room, for her assistance in putting a slide display on Clarkson together for Don Mills and myself, which got us off to a good start. It was splendid and appreciated and extremely helpful; Rowena Cooper of the Peel Heritage Complex, who reproduced all the Clarkson photos that her department had on file - great work, Rowena; Betty Mansfield in Library Administration for being my liaison with people who had pictures available; Mark Warrack, Heritage Coordinator, City of Mississauga Heritage Department, for his generosity of time and files; Catherine Soplet, who worked on the Hillcrest Public School’s 40th anniversary celebration and gave me help with local contacts; John Speck and his mother, Enid, and her sister, Doris, who were born and raised in Clarkson, for their family’s story; Stephanie Meeuwse, collections coordinator for the Bradley Museum and Benares Historic House, for assisting with photographs; Mary Finley and Marion Johnson Josiak for sharing their knowledge of the area; Wendy Davies, Peel School Board (Ward 2) Trustee, for leads to longtime Clarkson residents, who were extremely helpful, namely, Jim Dickson, Margaret McNair and Bill West; former president of the Mississauga South Historical Society, Lorne Joyce; Ward 2 Councillor Pat Mullin for contacts from the City of Mississauga’s Planning & Building Department; former Mayor Ron Searle for his unending support and assistance of a political nature; thanks to Viola Herridge for information on Herridge’s Market, Kumeetus Klub, the Canadian Cancer Society and many other topics; Barbara Larson, Joan Terry Eagle, Isabel McArthur, Phyllis Williams, Eva and Ralph Manley, Anson Hardy, David Johnson, John and Doris Bodley, and Jean Lindsay for supplying such lovely pictures and information on their families; Doug and Bill Auld, Thelma and Archie Izatt, Jane and Frances Barnett, Eileen Gilroy, Doris Vernon, Lorraine, Wendy and Bruce Borgstrom for their input; Dena Doroszenko, archaeologist for the Ontario Heritage Foundation; Judy Dobson and Jean Moore from Clarkson Public School, Irene Yeudall of Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church, Ann Moore, The Christ Church, Noreen Bruce, St. Bride’s Anglican Church, Jim Geddes of The Clarkson Music Theatre, Ken MacDonald of Enersource Hydro Mississauga, Marie Woods, St. Christopher’s Roman Catholic Church, for their histories; Gladys Coleman and Bill Lawrence for Spring Creek Cemetery’s history; Jill Concodie from the CIBC Archives, Pat Hammill from Petro-Canada Lubricants, Cindy Monaco from GO Transit Archives, Joe Costanzo of the Ministry of Transportation, Karen Stone and Linda MacLeod of Sheridan Nurseries, Archivist Yolaine Toussaint from The Bank of Montreal, Michael Dutnerski, former manager of Clargreen Gardens, and Ian Sharpe of CFRB, for information and photos on their businesses. A special thank you to John Hunter for allowing me to use his wonderful biography on the Lush family called “A Remarkable Couple” for research. To all the other interesting citizens of the Clarkson area my deepest gratitude for their cooperation.
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The Village of Clarkson is one of the oldest communities in the Region of Peel. The City of Mississauga is proud of its heritage and the many vibrant villages and towns that were amalgamated in 1968 to form the Town and then Streetsville and Port Credit in 1974 to complete the City. Clarkson is not only significant because it is one of our older communities but also because right up to the present time it has been able to retain its older building fabric and character. The original Warren Clarkson home is still standing, as well as the Bradley House and Benares and many other older homes built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries as you will discover in this book. These buildings scattered among mature trees, large lots and scenic roadways provide well-established and unique character in the Clarkson neighbourhood.

On a personal level, the Village of Clarkson holds a fond place in my heart as it was instrumental in the direction of my professional career. As a Landscape Architecture student, I was commissioned, along with two other Ryerson students, to work with the Clarkson Business Improvement Area to prepare a design for a new streetscape for Lakeshore Road. This work resulted in my being hired by the City of Mississauga as the project manager responsible for construction of the project in 1976. I had the opportunity to work with an enthusiastic and dedicated group of business people, community volunteers and City staff whose contributions made my first professional project a great success.

Over the last twenty-five years my path has crossed with the community of Clarkson in many different projects I have worked on, such as Birchwood Park, the Bradley Museum, the Waterfront Trail, Clarkson Park, Rattray Marsh and many others. I was pleased to have been involved with the latest addition to the community, the redevelopment of the Clarkson Community Centre and Library. I know this project, which opened on September 21, 2002, will be a welcome addition and be valued by the residents of Clarkson.

Foreword

Every time I visit or travel through Clarkson, I am amazed by how much the community has changed but not really changed. It still has a character of a small village but also has grown and is more vibrant than ever. The future of Clarkson is bright and I look forward to our paths continuing to cross in the years to come.

Bruce Carr, Director,
Planning & Administration,
Community Services Department,
City of Mississauga
The Beginning

A new province was created and called Upper Canada eight years after the English were defeated in the American Revolution (1775-1783). Following the war, over 10,000 British sympathizers poured into the province of Quebec, with 6,000 settling on the Niagara Peninsula, where in 1784 over three million acres (1,200,000 hectares) were purchased from the Mississauga Indians for the purpose of extending land grants to those loyal to King George III. These United Empire Loyalists, so named by Governor General Sir Guy Carleton, who had given up farms, homes, livelihoods, family and friends, settled in to establish a new beginning in a new fertile land.

The province of Quebec was ruled under the Quebec Act of 1774, or French Civil Law, and the English came to resent this. So the Loyalists set about to establish their own laws and thus in 1791, the Constitutional Act was passed. The province was split in two to form Upper and Lower Canada (which would become Canada West and Canada East in 1841 and Ontario and Quebec in 1867).

With the new province established, a new government had to be put in place. To head up this undertaking, Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe was appointed Lieutenant Governor. He, his wife, Elizabeth, and their youngest two children of six, Sophia and Francis, arrived from Dunkeswell, Devonshire, England, on November 11, 1791.

Following Simcoe’s swearing in by Chief Justice William Osgoode at St. George’s Church at Kingston on July 8, 1792, he and his family left for the new capital, Niagara, which was immediately changed to Newark. (An Act of Legislation in 1798 would reinstate the name Niagara.) They were settled in marquees on the west bank of the Niagara River, next to Navy Hall, which was later renovated for their occupancy.

Introduction

The opening of the First Legislature of Upper Canada, 1792

(Clarkson and its Many Corners)
The opening of the Legislature took place on September 17th and an election for the first parliament was held. During the first session of the House of Assembly, September 17th thru October 15th, the laws of Britain would be adopted, trial by jury established and marriages validated. At the second session in the spring of 1793, it was passed that roadways be constructed and slavery be abolished.

Then on July 30th, the Simcoes left to establish themselves in the new capital of the province, Toronto, which was changed to York. (The name Toronto would be reestablished in 1834 when it became a city.) Here they set up residence in tents that had belonged to the navigator/explorer Captain James Cook. The Queen’s Rangers built Fort York. Gradually the town blossomed with new, energetic arrivals, who began to put their imprint and expertise on the small colony.

In September, 1793, Simcoe initiated construction on the first roadway, Dundas Street, often called the Governor’s Road. It was started at Burlington Bay and ran westward to the River Thames. (The York to Burlington Bay section was not completed until after Simcoe’s departure.) Then a northerly roadway, Yonge Street, was set in motion in February, 1794, but complications prevailed and it was not opened until February, 1796.

Simcoe left for England in July, 1796, and was replaced by the Honourable Peter Russell, who would administer the duties of the Governor in his absence. It was during Russell’s regime that the Dundas was completed in 1798. In 1799, Peter Hunter was made the Lieutenant Governor. Many prominent men such as John Beverley Robinson, William Allan, Judge Grant Powell, Reverend John Strachan, Joseph Cawthra and Reverend Egerton Ryerson brought their skills to York and prosperity prevailed.

On August 2, 1805, the Mississauga Indians sold the British Government the Mississauga Tract from the Etobicoke Creek to Burlington Bay, 26 miles of shoreline and five miles inland (43 kilometers/9k), consisting of 70,784 acres (28,713 ha). The negotiations took place at the Government Inn on the east bank of the Credit River under the supervision of Superintendent of Indian Affairs, the Honourable William Claus. The host was the operator of the Inn, Thomas Ingersoll. Toronto Township came into being, comprising 29,569 acres (11,327 ha) of this transaction, with a mile (1.4 kilometres) on either side of the Credit River designated as the Mississauga Indian Reserve.

This brought about the establishment of small communities in the Township. First came Syndenham (later Dixie) and Harrisville (later...

In 1805, the Mississauga Indians sold the British Government the Mississauga Tract. (Mississauga Heritage Foundation)
Cooksville) along the Dundas, with Lakeview to the east and Clarkson to the west along the shores of Lake Ontario. Gradually towns and villages were formed throughout Toronto Township.

The first resident was Thomas Ingersoll, then Philip Cody, the grandfather of the legendary Buffalo Bill Cody, and Daniel Harris. The first children to be born were Sarah Ingersoll, January 10, 1807, and Elijah Cody, November 7, 1807. The first census was taken in 1807-08 by Deputy Provincial Surveyor, Samuel Street Wilmot, who had surveyed and drawn up the first map in 1805-06, outlining the 200 acre (81 ha) lots that were designated grants to the incoming settlers. It listed the first families as Philip Cody, Daniel Harris, Joseph Silverthorn, Absolom Wilcox, Allen Robinet and William Barber.

The first residents of the Clarkson area were the Gables, 1807, the Greeniauses, 1808, the Merigolds and the Mongers, 1808. The first birth to be recorded was that of Joshua Pollard Junior in 1813.

▲ Loyalists drawing lots for their lands, 1784
(C.W. Jefferys, Rogers Cantel Collection)
Samuel Wilmot's 1806 Map
(Thompson Adamson)
Warren Clarkson, for whom Clarkson was named, was known to be an energetic man, hard working and reliable. He was born in 1793 and hailed from Albany, New York, where his father, Richard Rouse Clarkson, a British shipwright, had resided for many years. The Clarksons had originally emigrated from Cheshire, England.

When Benjamin Monger met up with 15 year old Warren and his brother, Joshua, in York in 1809, he encouraged them to come to Toronto Township, where his father-in-law, Thomas Merigold, had a grant, and work for him, which they did. Joshua, 12 years older than Warren, was married with children. He only stayed for two years, then he moved his family to Markham Township.

On August 4, 1816, Justice of the Peace, William Thompson, married Warren to Susan Shook (born, 1797, died, 1853), the daughter of Monger’s good friend, Henry Shook, who resided in Trafalgar Township, but leased Lot 35, Con. 2, South Dundas Street (SDS). They had a son, George, two years later. On February 2, 1819, Warren purchased the southern sections of Lots 29 and 30, Con. 2, SDS, parts of Peter Hess’ and Monger’s grants, for £200 ($500, York currency being $2.50 to the pound) from Archibald Wright and promptly built a generous four room timber frame house 20 feet by 30 feet (6 m x 9 m) on a stone foundation. This structure was soon abandoned when his daughter, Charlotte, was born in 1822. A much larger house that sat upon the crest of a sandy knoll was completed by 1825 with the help of brother, Joshua, who was a skilled craftsman. In this house, with its symmetrical five-bay facade, gable roof and cornice returns, another daughter, Lovina (b.1827, d.1850), and his next two sons, William Warren (1830-1894) and Henry Shook (1834-1901), were born. A daughter, Isabella, born in 1837, died at age three. In 1827, he added an English three-bay style barn and several stone outbuildings, one being a smokehouse.

Warren immediately became involved in virtually every aspect of community life. He was very instrumental in the formation of the Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground, which he maintained for nearly
50 years as a trustee and the chairman of the board until 1873 when he resigned. Because of his dedication, the area was named Clarkson in his honour when the railway went through in 1855.

On August 14, 1835, he bought 50 acres (20 hectares) of the south section of Lot 28, Con. 2, from Edgar Neave for £162 ($405). A sign indicating directions was set up on this land for the stagecoaches which were travelling on a regular basis along the Lake Shore Road from Toronto to Hamilton. He put this property in his son Henry’s name in 1856, for which Henry was to pay some monies to his sister, Charlotte. Henry left for Rochester in Minnesota Territory, where he got a job as a surveyor-foreman for the Railroad. He returned in 1860 and became a produce merchant and helped his father with the farm operations. He married Sarah Moseley and they had one daughter, Mildred, who became Mrs. Phillip Mitchell.

It was in 1835 that Warren built and opened the first grocery store in the area on the dirt trail that in 1850 would become Clarkson Road. With the stagecoaches travelling along Dundas Street and south from Erindale, it became a waiting room for travellers. In 1837, he built what he called a trading post in the Port Credit area where the harbour was a port of call for the vessels that plied Lake Ontario. In 1852, he sold the Port Credit store to Robert Cotton, who sold it to James Hamilton in 1860. This is where the first telephone in Toronto Township would be installed in 1881.

Susan died in 1853. That same year, on November 17th, the Great Western Railroad purchased nearly six acres (2.4 ha) of Warren’s property for the right-of-way, a station and siding space. A station was built on the north side of the tracks and called “Clarkson’s.” The first train travelled through on December 3, 1855.

Warren was remarried on November 20, 1855, to a widow, Mary Ann Kirkus, from Richmond Hill, whom he met through Joshua’s son, Hilary. Warren put another addition, called the “spinning room,” on his house in 1858, which connected his first dwelling with the main block.
By this time, at age 65, Warren’s farm operation was run by hired help. His son, William, who returned from a sojourn in Ohio around 1858, married Lorenda Hemphill, the daughter of Nathaniel and Hannah Hemphill that year. They often travelled to New York State on buying trips for Warren. They had Warren Frank in 1862, then Cora and Bertha and baby Edith, 1868. William took over the management of his father’s store in the mid 1860s and opened a post office there in 1875.

In 1873, Warren and Mary moved to Oakville, close enough to keep an eye on his holdings. He passed away in 1882, leaving all his worldly goods to his surviving children, William, Charlotte and Henry. George had died in an accident on his farm in Milton in 1876. Mary retained the Oakville residence, and received $140 a year from William and Henry for the remainder of her life. William continued in the store and farmed his property west of Clarkson Road, and Henry remained on the east acreage and maintained Warren’s portion of Lot 30 until their deaths. Their children inherited their properties and parts of it were sold off in the next few decades.

The remaining acreage of the old Clarkson estate was purchased in 1936 for $5,700 by Major John Barnett and his wife, Blanche, from Warren’s granddaughter, Mildred Clarkson Mitchell’s estate. They immediately assigned architect, Douglas Catto, to draw up plans for an extensive restoration of the old homestead and outbuildings. The Major also planted over 5,000 trees on the property.

The old farmhouse ended up on 17 acres (7 ha) of land. The property was sold to Gwilliambury Investments Limited on June 26, 1980, for a subdivision and Feeley Court was named for its president, Thomas Feeley. Gwilliambury registered the land titles in January, 1981. In 1988, the barn was relocated to the Erindale Park, north of Dundas Street below the University of Toronto-Mississauga Campus, where it was enjoyed by groups of people at various functions. With age and deterioration, it was dismantled in April of 1999. The Clarkson/Barnett house, the second oldest house in Peel County, second only to the Cherry Hill House (built 1815-22), however, still exists. It is located at 1084 Feeley Court and is occupied by the Major’s granddaughter, Jane.
Part One 1807 - 1850
Henry Gable (born 1765, died 1834) who arrived in Upper Canada from Berks, Pennsylvania, in 1798, was the first person to be given a land grant in Clarkson. He received Lot 35, Con. 3 and 4, South Dundas Street (SDS), 230 acres (93 ha) at the Township Line (Winston Churchill Boulevard). He came to the area from Ancaster, Lincoln County, Niagara, in 1807 with his wife, Elizabeth (1765-1834), and six children, Henry, 1789, Jacob, 1796, Samuel, 1797, Magdalane, 1798, Elizabeth, 1800, and Catherine, 1802. Son, John, born in 1787, remained in Ancaster.

HENRY PERFORMED HIS SETTLEMENT DUTIES SET OUT BY the government: to build a cabin 16 feet by 20 feet (4.8m x 6m); to clear and fence five acres (2 ha) of land; to clear the roadway in front of his property; and to present a signed and witnessed certificate as proof. His house was 22 feet by 18 feet (6.4m x 5m). He took his oath before William Allan, collector of customs and Home District treasurer, with Andrew Cook as his witness, and received his patent on December 19, 1807. This done, the Gables settled in to do what they knew best, farming.

Their son, Henry, was a private in Captain William Applegarth’s Company, the 2nd Regiment, York Militia, in the War of 1812. For this participation, he received a grant of 100 acres (40 ha), SW ½, Lot 14, in Erin Township in 1820. He married Eve Oille (1790-1869) in 1811, and in 1817 his father transferred the north half of Lot 35 over to him and he built a house. Henry Sr. gave his son, Samuel, the 30 acres (12 ha) of Con. 4 in 1825.

Henry and Eve’s daughter, Lucinda (1812-1883), married David Hammond, the 21 year old son of David and Rebecca, on March 8, 1838. Henry gave them a section of property on which to build a house and to farm. Besides being a farmer and fruit grower, David was active in the community and was said to be an upstanding and honourable man. He was chairman of S.S.#5 School, 1855-58, Trustee of the Carman Church, 1875, a prominent official of the Palermo and Oakville Church circuit, and a Justice of the Peace. At the Toronto Township Fall Fair in 1876, David won many prizes for his turnips, apples, grapes, cattle and sheep.

Henry Sr.’s nephew, Jacob (1809-1893), came to reside on the SE½ of Lot 35 in 1850 with his second wife, Jane Petch (1817-1893), and their five children. He was an excellent carpenter, who had helped built the Methodist Church in Port Credit in 1825. His daughter, Esther Ann (1835-1862), by his first wife, Sophia Hammond (1807-1837), married his partner in the carpentry business, Richard Oughtred, (1813-1881) in 1855. They had four daughters, Jane, Mary, Esther and Lucy. Richard and Esther’s daughter, Mary, married David Shook (1850-1927), son of
Conrad and Mary Shook, in 1882 and they had nine children.

Henry Jr. died on August 15, 1866, at age 77 and was buried in Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground (now the Spring Creek Cemetery). He left all his worldly goods to his son-in-law, David Hammond. His wife, Eve, passed away in 1869.

According to John Pope’s *Historical Atlas of Peel County*, David Hammond still owned his property in 1877. He lost his wife, Lucinda, in 1883 and he died in 1885. Their descendants continued to reside in the Gable house and it became known as The Old Hammond Place. This house was purchased by Sheridan Nurseries from William Speck around 1930. It was moved and used for storage and then as a bunk house for their relocated Japanese employees during World War II. The Japanese stayed until the 1960s and when they moved out, vandals set the house on fire. The fire was put out before the house completely burned down. It was then considered a hazard and Howard Stensson had it dismantled in 1965. He took several of the pine timbers and used them in his cabin at Dorset, Lake of Bays.

There are no longer any Gables in the Clarkson area, in fact, there is only one Gable in the Mississauga telephone book, But there are still descendants in Ontario and British Columbia.
Sebastian Greeniaus (b.1761-d.1847) who was a weaver, came to Niagara from Pennsylvania in 1802. He received the second crown grant, Lot 34, Con. 2, S.D.S., 200 acres (81 ha), on July 1, 1808. He and his wife, Eve (1766-1844), who were married on April 6, 1790, arrived in Toronto Township with their five children, Daniel, (1793-1863), Elizabeth (1796-1832, married James Kelly), Johann Peter (1797-1871), Susanna (1800-1844) and Catherine (1802-1854, married Hiram Oliphant in 1822). They constructed a house and began to farm their land.

Peter married Elizabeth Oliphant (1803-1866), daughter of Peter Oliphant in 1822. His father gave him the north half of the property on November 22, 1823, to farm. On December 3, 1823, he received 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 33, Con. 2, as a grant. He purchased another 50 acres (20 ha) for £150 ($375) from William Kelly, Lot 34, Con. 2, on June 29, 1833. He and Elizabeth had five children, David, 1823, Gaylord, 1827, Willard, 1829, Jane Amanda, 1831, and Catherine, 1834. The Greeniaus were primarily farmers, who were closely associated with the historical events of this period: the first Church services, the Spring Creek graveyard and School #5.

When Sebastian and Eve passed away (both are buried in Spring Creek Cemetery), their sons carried on the family tradition of farming. Some of the property was sold off over the years, but the main farm acreage was passed down from generation to generation. In 1913, Daniel Greeniaus sold 100 acres (40 ha) to Sheridan Nurseries.

Gaylord Greeniaus built a brick house in 1891. Unfortunately, he did not get to enjoy it long as he passed away in 1893.
In 1955, it was the residence of Sebastian’s great grandson, Norman, and his son, Wilmer, when it was sold to the United Lands Corporation for the development of the Park Royal subdivision, which opened in 1958. It was used as the sales office for a time and then was torn down. Wilmer and his wife, Julie, now reside in Oakville and his niece and nephew, Kathryn and Kent Greeniaus, live in the Clarkson area.
Wilmer, Bruce, Murray and Ross, with wagon
(Wilmer Greeniaus)

Greeniaus residence
(Region of Peel Archives)

Wilmer’s Farm
(Wilmer Greeniaus)

Gravestone of Greeniaus family at Spring Creek Cemetery
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Wilmer, Bruce, Murray and Ross, with wagon
(Wilmer Greeniaus)
Two prominent families to settle in what would become called Clarkson were United Empire Loyalists, Thomas and Elizabeth Merigold, their 17 year old daughter, Mary, and her new husband, 39 year old Benjamin Monger. Thomas sold his farm in Kingsclear, New Brunswick, to George Ludlow for £200 ($500). They arrived in the summer of 1808 as a party of 26, of which 16 were children. When these families arrived, the population of Toronto Township was 170. They stayed in the Government Inn at the mouth of the Credit River while they built a 20 foot by 30 foot (6m x 9m) log house that would house 14 people.

Thomas Merigold was born in New Jersey and as a young man served in the Loyalist Regiment of the New Jersey Volunteers of the British Standard during the American Revolution. When his regiment dis-

THOMAS RECEIVED TWO GRANTS OF ABOUT 450 ACRES (182 ha), Lots 29 (registered August 7, 1809) and 30 (August 13, 1818), Concessions 3 and 4, SDS, fronting on Lake Ontario. He paid £17 ($42) for his patent and surveying fees. This area was called Merigold’s Point for a number of years. Upon their arrival, Benjamin put in for a grant and received Lot 30, Con. 2, 200 acres (81 ha), which he took possession of on July 31, 1811.

Thomas Merigold was born in New Jersey and as a young man served in the Loyalist Regiment of the New Jersey Volunteers of the British Standard during the American Revolution. When his regiment dis-
banded, he moved to New Brunswick, where he married Elizabeth in 1782. The Merigold's had seven sons and four daughters. Benjamin was born July 12, 1769, in Duchess County, New York. At age 19, he commanded a sailing vessel on the North River (the lower course of the Hudson River). His route was Albany to New York. At age 22, he sailed on a merchant marine ship, alternating as chief mate and captain. He went to India, Bengal, Jamaica, Ceylon, China, France, Spain, Portugal, Africa and many countries before he left the sea and settled in Upper Canada. In 1813, Benjamin sold the south half of his property to Malcolm Wright, then Archibald Wright sold it to Warren Clarkson in 1819. Thomas and Benjamin leased Lots 27 and 28, Con. 2, from the Crown before they were granted. Thomas died in 1826 at age 65. Benjamin served as an assessor, pathmaster, road surveyor and bridge builder. The north half of his acreage was sold to Daniel Merigold on March 4, 1822, for £500 (81.25). A few years later, he moved his family to Lot 3, Con. 3, West Hanover Street in the New Survey, where he became known as Squint Minger. He became a magistrate for the Home District in 1829, which he remained until he left the area in 1832 to live with his son, George, in Upper Canada.
Memories — 1809

“At the early day of our emigration to Canada there was not a boat or bridge from York to Hamilton. York was the only place where we could get supplies and the only means of travel was on foot or by boat, a necessity to every settler. The only Mill in the County was on the River Drown which enters the Lake at York. As soon as we raised wheat, we took it by boat to this Mill in a boat built for that purpose. The trip took about a week and was performed by a half dozen neighbors each carrying such food as he required. As a general thing they enjoyed themselves. We were the first settlers except Indians between York and Hamilton for several years. No such thing as a team of horses were seen for several years, when we began to cut roads.”

Letter from William Merigold to son, Willie, seventh son of Thomas Merigold, born 1808, N.B. Excerpt from “The Families of Merigold Point” by Dorothy L. Martin, pages 121-122

Garafraxa, near Fergus, where he died on March 5, 1863. Mary passed away in Orwell, Elgin County, at the home of her daughter, Jane, in 1884.

Benjamin’s property is now a subdivision, bordered on the west (Southdown Road) and south (Lakeshore Road) by various business establishments.
Family tree from *The Families of Merigold's Point*, page 72.
The Jarvis Family — 1809

Stephen Jarvis of York (Toronto), received a 225 acre (91 ha) grant of lot 31, Cons. 3 and 4, SDS, in Toronto Township, in 1809. He had brought his family to Upper Canada from Kingsclear, New Brunswick, in July of that year, arriving in York in August. They resided in a house that cousin, Secretary Jarvis, had purchased and readied for them. Stephen had six children. His oldest was Frederick Starr, who had been born April 9, 1787.

When the fees were paid on the land on September 5, 1809, Frederick performed his father’s settlement duties. He started clearing the land and had a log cabin built. In 1812, Frederick as a Loyalist’s son, having reached the age of 21 in 1808, received Lot 32, Cons. 3 and 4 as a grant.

His son, Peter, wrote in his memoirs, “Having selected the farm, my father’s next duty was that of felling the trees and clearing the land. On the lakeshore this was begun in a peculiar manner. The clearing was commenced along the shore, the first trees being cut in such a way as to fall over the bank into the lake. The next thing was to build a log house in which he had the assistance of the Merigold boys. Matters prospered, and in due time (he) had a considerable, clearing and a house of more

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| **Frederick Starr**  
son of Stephen Jarvis and Amelia, nee Glover  
b. 1786 d. 1852  
m. Susan Isabella Merigold  
dau. of Thomas Merigold and Elizabeth, nee Ansley  
b. 1800 d. ... |
| **Frederick William**  
b. 1818 d. 1887  
m. 1857, Caroline Skynner  
b. 1826 d. 1916 |
| **Amelia**  
b. 1819 d. ...  
m. 1836, Alexander Proudfoot |
| **George Thomas**  
b. 1820 d. 1890  
m. 1852, Eliza Hovenden |
| **Stephen Maule**  
b. 1822 d. 1901  
m. 1850, Mary Stinson |
| **Peter Robinson**  
b. 1824 d. ...  
m. 1849, Marion Neilson  
m. 2 1860, Annie Stein Maclear |
| **Charles Beverley**  
b. 1826 d. 1894  
m. ... Elizabeth Mead |
| **Hester Elizabeth**  
b. 1838 d. 1858 |
| **Julia**  
b. 1836 d. ... |
| **Edgar John**  
b. 1835 d. ...  
m. 1863, Charlotte Beaumont  
b. ... d. 1927 |
| **Henry Augustus**  
b. 1832 d. 1836 |
| **Arthur Murray**  
b. 1830 d. ...  
m. 1, 1852, Mary Matilda Ratcliffe  
m. 2 1860, Annie Stein Maclear |
| **Mary**  
b. 1828 d. 1861  
m. 1851, Henry Skynner |
convenience, although it was still of logs. His farm life during this period was varied by the part he took as Major of the Militia during the War of 1812-14. The sword he carried in that war was the same one his father had used in the Revolutionary War, when Lieutenant in the South Carolina Dragoons. I still have that sword in my possession.”

Frederick arrived home safely from the war and continued the clearing of his father’s property, which had become known as Brunswick Farm. Stephen always lived in Toronto, so Frederick took on the responsibility of his property. Stephen sold Frederick the lakefront Lot 31, Con. 4, acreage in 1816 for £200 ($500). On August 4, 1816, he married Thomas Merigold’s daughter, Susan. Justice of the Peace and neighbour, William Thompson, performed the ceremony.

Susan and Frederick had 12 children, eight sons and four daughters. Two of their children died early, Henry, at age three died by drowning in 1836, and Hester, born in 1838, died at age 20.

The Jarvises were very involved in the community known as Merigold Point (Clarkson). The children attended the S.S.#6 School and the family went to St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale). Frederick was instrumental along with William Thompson in its founding in 1825 and its opening in 1827. He signed many settlement certificates, was executor on his neighbours’ wills, and performed his government obligations such as serving on the Home District Court of Quarter Sessions’ juries. With his father’s York connections, he was well known by government officials such as Chief Justice Beverly Robinson, who handled the St. Peter’s property purchase. He became called Squire Jarvis.

In October, 1835, Frederick and Susan moved their family into a commodious red brick house, they called Brunswick Lodge. His father reported at this time that the house was located on the north side of the Lake Shore Road.

Their 17 year old daughter, Amelia, married Alexander Proudfoot, a Trafalgar Township merchant and post master, on January 12, 1836.

Their sons, William and Peter, went to Upper Canada College. William became a government official and Peter a mercantile merchant. He married Marion Neilson of Galt in 1849 and they would have 11 children. In 1863, he would become Mayor of Stratford. In 1849, son Frederick William moved to Toronto and became the Sheriff of the Home District, taking over the position handled by his Uncle William Botsford Jarvis, who had been involved in the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837. He married Caroline Skynner in 1857 and they had five children.

Daughter, Mary, married the son of the late Captain John Skynner of the Anchorage, Henry Skynner, on October 30, 1851. A year later, June 2, 1852, Frederick passed away suddenly of a heart attack.

It is very likely that the two storey Jarvis house “Brunswick Lodge” became the Spinning Wheel Lodge (see article 1950).
HE AND ELIZABETH WENT TO NIAGARA, WHERE HIS HALF-sister, Mary, lived with her husband, Bartholomew Crannel Beardsley. There he opened a store. He put in a petition for a grant, which was certified for entitlement by Stephen Jarvis of York (Toronto), the father of his future brother-in-law, Frederick Starr Jarvis, who married Susan Merigold in 1816.

When Lewis received 222 acres (90 ha) of Lot 28, Con. 3 and 4, SDS, in Toronto Township in August, 1810, he took over his property and built a log cabin that sat surrounded by pine trees. He carried out his settlement duties and received his patent, which was signed by Frederick on January 29, 1811.

According to Dorothy Martin, who wrote *The Families of Merigold Point*, Lewis and Elizabeth had seven children, Mary, 1810, William, 1815, John, 1817, Eliza, 1819, Charles, 1824, Cornelia, 1828, and Richard, 1832. With such a large family to accommodate, Lewis built a much bigger house in 1830, a storey and a half salt box construction with a three-bay facade, reminiscent of the American Federalist style found in northeastern United States.

Lewis was known to be a worthy settler of Merigold’s Point, a kind father and attentive husband. To his community and neighbours, he was charitable and liberal. He conducted his annual statute labour of maintaining the roadway in front of his property, was involved in local civic affairs and attended Grand Jury duty on the Home District Court of General Quarter Sessions, which required trips into York.

It was said of Lewis that he had been a steady and consistent member of the Methodist Church for years and his house a welcome home for its ministers until the Methodist Church (now Christ Church) was built in 1830. Also that year, the Bradley children were able to attend the S.S. #6 School located on the Lake Shore Road that had been corduroyed since 1820.

Lewis Turner Bradley was born a twin of William Brown Bradley in 1771 in Savannah, Georgia. His father, Richard, died when the twins were ten and their mother, Sarah (nee Turner), married Lieutenant John Jenkins within a year. After the American Revolution, as United Empire Loyalists, they went to live in New Brunswick, where their stepfather died in 1804. Lewis did not find New Brunswick to his liking, so after marrying Thomas Merigold’s 19 year old daughter, Elizabeth, in 1808, he decided to make the cross country trip to Upper Canada with the Merigolds.
Part One 1807 - 1850

Richard Bradley
(Bradley Museum)

Margorie Bradley
(Bradley Museum)
Three years after Lewis Bradley’s death on April 1, 1843, at age 72, his property was sold to his brother-in-law, Bartholemew Crannel Beardsley, for £500 ($1,250). The Bradley house was then occupied by Beardsley’s daughter, Cornelia, and her husband, James Upham. Elizabeth and her children moved to Trafalgar Township. (Over a hundred years later, a park on Inverhouse Drive was named for Lewis Bradley.)

Down through the decades, the Bradley House had many occupants, such as the Ryries and the Flemingtons, until 1941 when the British American Oil Company (B.A.) began purchasing several hundred acres (hectares) in the area for its refinery and obtained the house. The B.A. rented it until 1959 when it was decided to demolish it. Kenneth Armstrong, who founded The Mississauga News in 1964, bought three houses from the company and donated the Bradley House to Toronto Township with the stipulation that it be used as a museum. The Ward 2 Councillor, Robert Harrison (1960-65), was instrumental in the transaction along with former Reeve Anthony Adamson. It is the only house of the original Merigold’s Point settlement to survive. The Toronto Town-
Part One 1807 - 1850

The Historical Foundation was formed and incorporated on December 6, 1960, to operate the museum. This organization became the Mississauga Historical Foundation in 1976 and the Mississauga Heritage Foundation in 1987.

In 1963, the house was moved some 3,000 feet (914 m) inland to Orr and Meadow Wood Roads onto an acre and a half (0.6 ha) of land donated by the British American Oil Company. It still sits on the original Bradley grant, adjacent to the 13.2 ha (32 a) Meadow Wood Park. The house was restored by a group of dedicated volunteers. Architectural details were put into the fireplace’s wooden mantel, the dining parlour’s corner cupboard, and the period furnishings as examples of the early pioneers’ lifestyle. Only a corner cupboard of the original Bradley home has survived, which was set up in the common room. The museum, located at 1620 Orr Road, was opened to the public on July 5, 1967. It was designated a heritage building in 1977 by the City of Mississauga according to the Ontario Heritage Act of 1974.

Gradually, a few other buildings were added: a drive shed was put up in 1971 and a display barn, with original beams and siding from several barns in the City, was constructed by Bruce S. Evans in 1976. Captain John Skynnner’s home, the Anchorage, was moved onto the property on June 16, 1978. Following extensive studies and fund raising efforts, it was renovated and opened in 1992.
William Thompson was born to Cornelius and Rebecca in New Brunswick in 1786. During the War of 1812, he headed up the 2nd Regiment, West York Militia, as a Captain and fought in the Detroit, Queenston Heights and Lundy’s Lane battles. William and his brother, Augustus, were taken prisoners of war at St. Davids on July 19, 1814, when it was set afire at the command of American General Jacob Brown. They were not released until February, 1815, when the war was officially over. Despite this harrowing experience, he remained in the Militia and was made a Lieutenant Colonel in 1826 and a Colonel in 1831.

WILLIAM’S FATHER PASSED AWAY IN 1814, LEAVING HIM TWO of his many land grants, 480 acres (194 ha), Lots 33-34, Cons. 3 and 4, SDS. Following his release, he came to the Clarkson area to farm the property assigned to him. He had married Jane Garden in 1810 and they had two sons, William John and Alfred Andrew. When his log house on Lot 33 got too small for his growing family, he built a substantial house in a Regency style on Lot 34 and named it “Harwood.”

Between 1824-28, he represented York and Simcoe Counties in the House of Assembly. He was made a commissioner by the Provincial Act of 1826, along with William Allan and Doctor Grant Powell, to supervise the construction of a building for the Legislature. At this time, he was involved with Colonel Peter Adamson in the building of St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale). He is considered one
of its founders and signed the deed. His son, Henry Horace, was the first child to be baptized in the church in May, 1828.

In the 1828 election, he ran against William Lyon Mackenzie for the York County Riding and lost. During the Mackenzie Rebellion in December, 1837, he was second in command alongside Lieutenant James FitzGibbon. He became a leading Upper Canada magistrate and was productive in the Home District’s Court of General Quarter Sessions.

He was an extremely politically minded gentleman, who was heavily involved in Toronto Township politics for a number of years. He became the Ward 1 councillor in the Clarkson area and treasurer in 1850 and the Reeve in 1851. Over the years, he bought parcels of land throughout the Township and held many mortgages.

In 1848, he lost his wife, Jane, with whom he had had nine children. She passed away at age 62 while visiting relatives in New Brunswick. Their son, Alfred, was the first mayor of Penetanguishene. William died at his home on January 18, 1860.

Thompson’s “Harwood” was restored in the 1930s by the Wasson family, who renamed it “Acacia Farm.” Then it was part of the St. Lawrence Cement purchase in 1956 and the house was rented to Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Vanravonstein. Then newlyweds Rene and Rommy Vanderspek resided there from 1963 to 1968. He was the plant’s maintenance supervisor. It was demolished in 1986.
The Oliphant Family — 1819

The Oliphants became a prominent family in the Clarkson area. Peter (b.1763, d.1846) and Elizabeth (1769-1826) Oliphant, came from Trafalgar Township, Halton County, in 1819 with their children, Aaron (1788-1868) and Hiram (1802-1864). Peter purchased the north half of Lot 26, Con. 3, for £130 ($325) in 1821 from David Kerr. This property was sold to John Peer in 1827. Peer built a brick house on Barrymede Road (now Bexhill Road) that is still there.

The Oliphants bought property all over Clarkson: In 1825, Aaron, whose first wife was Catherine Hendershot, purchased 150 acres (61 ha) of Lot 27, Con. 3, for £200 ($500) from John Marlett. In 1843, Peter bought the south half of the property that is now the Rattray Marsh, which was then called Oliphant’s Swamp. This section was sold to Thomas Slade in 1851. In 1856, Aaron’s son, Isaac (1824-1894), bought 70 acres (28 ha) for £800 ($2,000) of Thomas Merigold’s grant, Lot 29, Con. 3. Over the years, parts of Lots 23, 25, 28 and 34 were purchased.
BESIDES BEING WHEAT farmers, the men of the family were great hunters, trappers and fishermen. They were also community minded and were involved with the Methodist Church and School #6 for as long as they resided in Clarkson. On May 25, 1860, Isaac and Catherine Oliphant registered a deed on a small piece of their property on Lot 29 to the Church for a meeting place and burial ground. The cemetery never materialized.

In 1884, a list of members of the Carman Methodist Church included Thomas Oliphant (b.1858 to Aaron's son Phillip and wife Eliza, who had 75 acres (30 ha) of Lot 28, Con. 3), as a steward, and his family. Thomas purchased 50 acres of lot 29 and 30, Con. 3, in 1886 and built a two storey house. Thomas played the organ at the turn of the Century. He was also mentioned as one of the actors in the 1910 annual minstrel show held in the Community Hall. His second wife, Mary Shook, daughter of Henry and Alicia, belonged to the Church's Ladies Aid. Their only child, Armadell, married Gordon Pattinson.

Thomas passed away in 1911 and Mary sold their home. Around 1920, she rented Edith Clarkson's house on Clarkson Road North, Lot 29, Con. 2, to use as a boarding house. Edith, who had died in 1919, had started selling off her property in 1913 and had had the house built north of the Clarkson store and post office. Mary boarded some of the teachers from S.S. #6, along with Annie Hall. Eva Herridge, a young widow with a seven year old daughter, Irene, went to work for Mrs. Oliphant as housekeeper in 1927. She and Irene lived there until 1938, the year that Mary died at age 71. Mary had one of the largest funerals in Clarkson, which was held at the Clarkson United Church with Reverend R. Spencer officiating with the burial at Spring Creek Cemetery.

There are no longer Oliphants living in Clarkson, but the last Oliphant residence (the Edith Clarkson house), a two storey white brick building at 1160 Clarkson Road North, next door to The Toronto Ability School, is owned by Teresa Hunkar.
First Church Services — 1820s

UPPER CANADA WAS DIVIDED INTO SEVEN Methodist Episcopal circuits. Toronto Township was included in the circuit along the Lake Shore Road from Pickering to Trafalgar. Early church services were conducted by circuit ministers, who rode their horses from one community to another, preaching wherever a home was open to them. They usually covered their territory once a month.

In May, 1822, Reverend Reed of York wrote to Reverend T. Mason to report, “We had any quantity of preachers who made himself at home wherever he went. He rode up and if the cow was in the stable, turned her out, fed his horse before he came in and generally commended the wife of the splendid shortcake he had eaten the last time he was there and always stayed all night, preaching in the evening. The house was now crowded with listening multitudes. To see them coming from the woods in every direction with lighted torches, has often filled us with pleasing solemnity.”

The first record kept on a church service in Clarkson was noted in Reverend Anson Green’s journals. Green, who was born in 1801 at Middleburgh, Schoharie, New York, was converted to Methodism on October 17, 1819, and came to Upper Canada in 1822, when the population was 130,000. He was ordained on August 25, 1824, and was assigned to the Smith Creek Circuit (Peterborough area). In September, 1826, he was given the Ancaster Circuit. He stated, “We
laboured in eight townships from the River Credit to the Grand River Swamp.” There were 396 churches under his pastoral care.

On Saturday, October 14, 1826, he preached in Lewis Bradley’s house. In attendance were Lewis’ sons, William and John, Captain Daniel Merigold and wife, Margaret, the Hendershot family Peter Oliphant and family, and John and Maria Peer. On the Sunday, a service was held at Greeniaus’ Red Schoolhouse on the north-west corner of Lot 31, Con. 2. Green called it Greeniaus because he stayed at their home during the weekend. There were more people out for the Sunday service. Besides the Greeniauses, all of the above, as well as Alexander Hemphill, whose property the school was on, and sons, Zechariak and Nathaniel, David and Sophia Hammond and sons, William, Ransom and David Jr., with his wife, Lucinda, Heinrick Schuch and sons, Peter and Conrad and children, Joshua Pollard and children, the Kellys, Johnsons, Henry Gable and sons, Henry Jr. and Samuel, and grandson, Jacob, Warren Clarkson and wife.

**Road Report — 1822**

Local Road Commissioner’s Report: I furthermore certify that I have examined the allowance for a road between Captain Monger’s (Lot 30, Con. 2) and Mr. Hemphill’s (Lot 31, Con. 2) down to the lake and find it will be impractical to make a good road by reason of the ground being low, wet and stone.

Author’s note: This roadway was opened that year and became Fifth Line and then Southdown Road in 1958.

(Ontario Archives, John Boyd Collection)
In 1825, Henry Johnson purchased 100 acres (40 ha) in Clarkson for £100 ($250) south half of Lot 31, Con. 2, SDS, from David Kribbs of Barton Township. Henry had been born in the United States on February 14, 1780. His father, Henry, brought his family to Niagara about 1786, after the American Revolution. Around 1806, young Henry married Elizabeth Smith and they had eleven children.

HENRY WAS A FARMER AND UPON HIS arrival in the Clarkson area, he built a house and immediately began to work the land with the help of his nine sons. The family were Methodists and joined their neighbours in the communal church gatherings at the Bradleys and Greeniaus’ Red Schoolhouse until the first church was built in 1830.

In 1853, Henry sold his acreage to his sons, Jeremiah (50 acres, £400 - 20 ha, $1000) and James (50 acres, £400). Henry passed away on September 25, 1854. On October 6th, his wife joined him. Both are buried in the Spring Creek Cemetery. Jeremiah sold his 50 acres (20 ha) to Charles Cordingley for $3,000 on February 2, 1874, but James’ land, located behind the Specks’ farm, was retained for generations of Johnson descendants. The Johnsons were related to the Patchett, Taylor, Shook, Greeniaus and the Naish families.

James died in 1904 and left his property to Thomas Patchett. There were Johnsons in the Clarkson area up until the 1930s. The property was eventually sold in 1955 to United Lands Corporation for what became the Park Royal subdivision. The house remained for years and then was demolished.
THE FIRST CLARKSON SCHOOL, located south of Middle Road (now the Queen Elizabeth Way) and west of what would become Southdown Road, was built in 1826. (The first Grammar School Act was passed in 1807, which established that one school was to be built in each of the eight Districts. This was followed by the Common School Act in 1816.) It was a frame structure of 40 square feet (3.7 m²) on the northwest corner of Lot 31, Con. 2, SDS, on property leased for 999 years from Alexander Hemphill. He had purchased the north half for £400 ($1,000) from grantee David Kribbs on July 1, 1816. The school was registered on March 14, 1826. The area was called School Section #5.

Down through the years, it had other names such as the Little Red School house, Greeniaus’ Schoolhouse and Monger’s Schoolhouse and by 1950 was sometimes referred to as Hillcrest School by the Grade 8 students, because it was located on the crest of a hill. Three of the first trustees were Alexander and Zachariah Hemphill and Joshua Pollard. They also acted as secretaries and auditors and saw that good records were kept on all school expenditures. The first teacher was David Hammond Sr. The local farmers, Greeniaus, Shook, Pollard, Gable, Clarkson, Oughtred, Conover, Johnson and Cameron, maintained the schoolhouse and kept it in good repair.

As attendance grew, it became necessary to enlarge the school to two rooms in 1830. The yearly cost to parents for each student was 18 shillings (approx. $2.25). The cost went up to 25¢ (2 shillings) per month by 1861, at which time $56.82 was collected. Free schooling came about with the Grammar School Act of 1871, which provided for “Free and Compulsory Primary Schooling” for all children.

By this time it was apparent that a new school was required. A three-quarter acre (0.3 ha) piece of property was purchased east of the school from John Utter for $37.50 in 1876 and a new building of red brick with a green shingled roof was put up and opened that same year. The old school was sold for $21.50.

In 1957, the property was expropriated by the Department of Highways for the expansion of the Fifth Line (Southdown) intersection, where a rotary interchange would be constructed at the Queen Elizabeth Way. The South Service Road was put through and the “Little Red Schoolhouse” was demolished. The South Peel Board of Education received
School #5
(Phyllis Williams)
$125,000 for this property and an 11 acre (4.4 ha) site was purchased north of Truscott Drive, just east of Fifth Line (Southdown Road). A six room school was constructed and opened on November 14, 1957, retaining the name Hillcrest.

In 2003, the principal of the Hillcrest Public School, 1530 Springwell Avenue, is Nancy Perrin and there are 510 students.
THE SPRING CREEK CEMETERY WAS STARTED by the pioneers around 1827 on one acre (0.4 ha) at the northeast corner of John Chambers’ 20 acres (8 ha), Lot 29, Con. 2. This acreage had been purchased from William Kelly on September 29, 1827, and August 27, 1828. It was located on the west side of a trail that would become Clarkson Road in 1850. It was originally called “Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground” for his association and the spring that meandered through the property. This cemetery had no church or government affiliation.

Warren Clarkson was the moving force behind the establishment of the cemetery and was instrumental in choosing the perfect location. He became Chairman of the Board and a trustee, along with John Chambers and Nathaniel Hendershot. John Chambers sold all but the cemetery plot to Frederick Starr Jarvis on March 25, 1835. Warren saw to the maintenance of the graves and held his position until 1873. When he died in 1882, the Clarkson family grave was enhanced by an elaborate carved stone angel.

Most of the old Clarkson pioneers are buried here, the Bradleys, Merigolds, Oughtreds, Shooks and Greeniauses, but the first burial was that of Christopher Hendershot, which has April 17, 1812, on the headstone. Christopher, a cooper from Ancaster, had received Lot 26, Con. 3, as a grant in 1808.

The earliest records kept are written minutes and an account book dated 1848. The first meeting’s minutes of April 11 read: “The object of this meeting called by the Trustees, for the neighborhood to take into consideration the management of Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground.” The Trustees were Warren Clarkson and Nathaniel Hemphill. Jacob Gable was appointed to take the place of John Chambers.

Finally on March 19, 1849, Chambers sold the acre (0.4 ha) of land the cemetery occupied to Warren Clarkson and the Cemetery trustees. At this time Warren Clarkson obtained a deed from John Chambers to secure ownership of the property. According to the Cemetery Board minutes, the Chambers was still being used in 1901. August 10, 1901: “Moved by E. Savage and seconded by E. Orr that Henry Shook be and is hereby appointed to collect all outstanding debts due the Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground for unpaid lots.” At the October 15, 1907 meeting, it was referred to as the Clarkson Cemetery. Then Clarkson Spring Creek Cemetery.

In 1859, another half acre (0.2 ha) was purchased from James Morgan, the new owner of Chambers’ farm, to expand the site. The plots were being sold for around $1.25 each. Another half acre was acquired on January 29, 1931, from Cyrus Ward, for $580. The Board of Trustees was incorporated on July 19, 1951.
Over the years, the cemetery at 1390 Clarkson Road North, has expanded to 20 acres (8 ha). Many decorative head stones enhance the quiet solitude of this final resting place that reflects the spectrum of Clarkson’s original pioneers.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Spring Creek Cemetery since 1995 has been Bill Lawrence, whose great grandfather, Ferris Lawrence, was chairman in 1895. Two of the Oughtreds also serve on the board, Wallace and Gordon’s sons, Bill and Richard.

**SPRING CREEK CEMETERY BOARD MINUTES — 1873**

**Saturday, June 28, 1873:** Solomon Savage, chairman, Daniel Johnson, secretary, carried. Mr. Warren Clarkson then tendered his resignation as Trustee of Chamber’s Spring Creek Grave Ground. The meeting accepted of the resignation. Moved by J. Pollard and seconded by J. Gable that this meeting tender Mr. Clarkson a vote of thanks for his long service as a Trustee. Carried. Moved by D. Hammond and seconded by J. Gable that Henry Shook act as Trustee instead of Mr. Clarkson who had retired. Carried. Moved by H. Shook and seconded by G. Greeniaus that the number of trees on a lot do not exceed one to a lot and that they not be allowed to grow larger than eight inches in diameter and twenty feet high, except ornamental trees now out. Anyone not complying with the above resolution, the Trustees are empowered to go on said lots and cut down all trees that exceed the above dimensions. Carried.
Public School S.S. #6 — 1830

THE SECOND SCHOOLHOUSE BUILT IN CLARKSON was School Section #6 on Lot 29, Con. 3, on a piece of property donated by Thomas Merigold. It was a rough-cast building situated on the west side of what was Lake Shore Road and is now 888 Clarkson Road South. There is not a definite date of its construction, only that it was built around 1830. Little else is know as no records are available before 1900, when Miss Jean Smith was the teacher with an annual salary of $400.

In 1904, the little schoolhouse was sold to Misters Shook, Manley, Stephens and Pengilley and moved onto part of James Pengilley’s 10 acres (4 ha) behind the Church to be used as a community hall. It was rented out to organizations such as the Clarkson Red Cross Branch and the Women’s Institute for functions until it burned down in 1920.

A new brick, one-room school replaced it with Miss Cline as the teacher. Thomas Oliphant was the secretary, Mr. Pengilley the caretaker.
and Mr. Galbraith, inspector. In 1905, 20 more feet (6m) was purchased for $28 in order to extend the school property.

By 1915, the Clarkson Public School was overcrowded and during the spring season, a tent was utilized as a portable. By September, the old schoolhouse behind the Church was used for the winter months. A new four room brick school was erected by architects Ellis and Ellis in 1916 and is still used today.

In 1924, when an acre and a half (0.6 ha) of land was purchased from George James, a dynamic young lady came on the scene and made such an impression during her tenure that she is still talked about today. Miss Annie Hall came to Clarkson to be interviewed for the job of principal.

She had graduated from Hamilton Normal School in 1918 and taught in Burlington until 1923. In 1924, she attended the University of Toronto. She met Trustee Fred Orr in his strawberry patch and before several pupils, Doris and Enid Pattinson (Speck) being two, she was interrogated for the position. She was hired and remained with the school until her retirement in 1962. She taught three generations of pupils. Another dynamic teacher was Myrtle Speck, who arrived in 1926, and spent 44 years as an active presence in the school’s activities until she retired in 1970.

Over the years, the school put on many plays under the directorship of Annie Hall, such as “The Wishing Moon,” which was a fund raiser for the Red Cross, “The Hot Potato Inn” and “Star Bright,” written by Evelyn Crickmore. These were held in the Carman Church’s Community Hall and audiences often numbered 600.

It was not until 1944 that the school had new plumbing installed, which included flush toilets, much to the relief of the students, who abhorred the outhouse. In 1945, the school was insulated and indirect lighting was a new addition and the interior was redecorated. A new roof was put on in 1946 along with an oil burning, hot water heating system.

The Clarkson Public School now has 14 teachers with 11 classrooms and a gymnasium to serve the 209 students. Scott Kruger is the principal.
“My early life was un-eventful. My education began in the first log school house built in the neighbourhood. It was situated on the Lake Shore Road about a mile from my house. At about seven years of age, I began attending school and as the road was exceedingly rough, being of corduroy, I was frequently carried on the backs of the larger boys to and from school. The educational facilities of those days were imperfect and the opportunities in that direction were limited. There was no system of education in the country at that time and whatever was done was by the pioneers in the locality.”

Excerpt from “The Families of Merigold’s Point” Dorothy L. Martin, page 133
The Methodist Church — 1830

The first church in Clarkson was the Methodist Church, that became the Carman Methodist Episcopal Church, then Christ Church. It got its start in 1830 when the congregation held its first service in the S.S. #6 School and meeting house. But the first church was not built until 1859. The dedication services took place on October 30 with the key being presented to Bishop Smith by building chairman, Dr. Thomas Slade. On May 25, 1860, a registered deed was signed, whereby Isaac and Catherine Oliphant granted a 90 by 121 foot (27 m x 37 m) piece of property, Lot 29, Con. 3, to trustees of the Methodist Church, Thomas Slade, Phillip and Aaron Oliphant and Joseph Johnson, to be used for a meeting house and burial grounds. This property was 1,155 feet (352 m) south of the Lake Shore Road corner.

It was the only church in a three mile (5 k) radius so it was not known for strict denominationalism and because of this, it became the focus of community life in Clarkson. Many extracurricular activities were held there such as picnics, concerts, plays and choral singing.

That church was only used for 16 years when a larger church was required for the growing congregation. A new church was built in 1875 on three-eights of an acre (0.2 ha) donated by the late Daniel Merigold’s wife, Margaret Vail, with a 96 foot frontage and a 160 foot (29 m x 49 m) depth of Lot 28, Con. 3, on the bend of the Lake Shore Road (now the Carman Church Picnic, 1912
corner of Clarkson Road South). It was at this time that the Church was named for Bishop Albert Carman of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada, a longtime friend of Mrs. Merigold's. (From 1918-1922, the Church was called the Clarkson Community Church and over the years was often referred to this way, even though in 1922 it was changed back to the Carman Church.)

The old schoolhouse that had been used for community activities burned down in 1920 and a new hall was required. The Church constructed a Sunday School and Community Hall with the aid of a build-
ing committee headed up by Percy Hodgetts. The $9,000 structure, worked on mostly by volunteers, would allow for an expansion to the Church’s activities. It was dedicated on September 28, 1924.

In 1925, with the amalgamation of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches to form the United Church of Canada, this church became the Clarkson United Church.

It was decided in 1954 to build a new church on Mazo Crescent on 4.3 acres (1.7 ha) of the former Harris property. It cost $3,000 an acre (0.4 ha). The chairman of the building fund was Stanley Arnold Holling, who just happened to be a second cousin to Mazo de la Roche for whom the street was named. The ground breaking was on May 1, 1955. The last Church service in the old church was on Sunday, January 29, 1956.

▲ Clarkson United Church play, 1943

▲ The 1920 School Fire
(Jean Lindsay)

▲ Sunday school concert
The new building was dedicated on February 1, 1956, by Reverend G. C. Ridgeon. A plaque was unveiled on August 2, 1956, for the “Margaret Merigold Room,” in honour of this lady, who kindly gave the Church such a generous start. At this time it became Christ Church.

The old church was sold to St. Christopher’s Roman Catholic Church, but only remained a church for a short time. Cecil Caton purchased the building in 1964 and opened it as a commercial business for Lakeshore Floor Finishers. When he died in 1995, his wife, Edith, became the owner of the building and the business was owned and operated by their son, Bruce. In March, 2002, Bruce moved his business to 1034 Clarkson Road North. Wowy Zowy Toys, owned by Kevin and Mary Pat McConnell now operates out of the old location.

Although a great departure from its original historical bent, the Gothic windows of the former church lend an enduring trace to its past.
**Highway Legislation - 1834 – 1917**

**1834:** An Act to exempt tolls on Sunday for persons going to Church or vehicles carrying manure.

**1868:** An Act to regulate speed of steam traction engines carrying freight or passengers not to exceed 6 mph and 3 mph in town. A messenger to precede the engine with a red flag. Engine to stop if horses encountered frightened.

**1885:** No stone or gravel to be placed on the Queen’s Highways during the sleighing season.

**1903:** First issue of licence plates. Speed 10 mph in town, 15 mph on highway.

**1905:** Vehicle must carry a headlamp.

**1912:** Vehicles to proceed at a walking speed on bridges over 30 feet in length.

**1917:** Two headlamps required, one on each side.

▲ Canada’s first car owner, Hamiltonian John Moodie in his four-wheeled gasoline-propelled motor vehicle, 1898.

(Ministry of Transportation)
Bush proceeded to build the first tavern and Inn in Clarkson, near Hyatt's Saw Mill, which was located on a ravine beside the waterway now known as Sheridan Creek. Bush's Inn was to accommodate weary travellers on their journey by stagecoach along the Lake Shore Road from Toronto to the Niagara Peninsula. William Merigold, son of Nancy Cody from Dixie, who was the grandfather of William F. Cody, the famous showman, was married to Nancy Cody, the daughter of Philip Cody from Dixie. On November 7, 1835, English born Russell Bush purchased 20 acres (8 ha) of land for £100 ($250), which was part of Lot 29, Con. 3, on a wagon trail referred to as Merigold Road (now Clarkson Road South), from Amos of William F. Cody, the famous showman known as Buffalo Bill.
the business’s need to handle the traffic as stagecoach travel became a daily occurrence.

Initially, the features of the Inn were drawn from typical English inns known for low ceilings and wandering corridors. It was constructed as a three bay facade with a gable roof set on a solid lake stone foundation. This became the back wing of the structure, which was fronted by a larger rectangular, half stuccoed and half timbered house. One popular room was called The Tap Room, which was long and narrow with walls of vertical wood and floors of wide pine planks. It had its own entrance, and here the locals would gather to imbibe, with the odd traveller stopping by to enjoy a brew. The gossip of the day was shared, such as the death of King William IV, 1837, and the crowning of Queen Victoria or the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion.

When the railway arrived in 1855, stagecoach travel diminished and Russell found his business on the decline and sold out to Captain Edward Sutherland of the 96th Regiment on October 16 for £650 ($1,625). Captain Sutherland, who was born in Ireland and came from Halifax, Nova Scotia, renamed the property “Woodburn” and decided to produce strawberries. He made use of the railway and shipped his fruit throughout Ontario. He kept up this practice for a few years, after which he sold the 20 acres (8 ha) to Reverend James Magrath’s son, Charles, in 1861. It is thought that the Captain went to St. Catharines to live with his son, John Newton, for a time. He later moved to his daughter’s home near Santa Margarita, California, where he died in 1885 at age 90.

Over the years, the Inn changed hands and each owner continued the strawberry farming. Magrath sold to Robert Orr in 1868 and he to Joseph Orr in 1870 for $1,480. Then Joseph gave it to his son, Andrew in 1889. When Alexander Westervelt and Percy Hodgetts, purchased the 20 acres in 1910 from Andrew, and tossed a coin to see which piece of the property each would get, Alex won the toss and got the Inn. He tore down the stables, leaving only a barn, and expanded the strawberry fields and planted an orchard. He became the chairman for the Royal Winter Fair when it began in Toronto in 1922. Livestock men constantly sought his expertise and advice to solve their Association problems. As he was preparing for the 1936 Fair, he collapsed and died at age 64.

Avice Westervelt sold to George and Ethel Bonter on May 18, 1944, and then on May 1, 1946, Carolyn Dayley bought it. The strawberries were eventually replaced with an apple orchard with a few peach and pear trees. The Dayleys subdivided the property so that when Muriel Williams became owner of the old Inn in 1955, it sat on one acre (0.4 ha) of land. Murray and Joan Thom and their five children took up occupancy in March, 1956, and did some restoration, throughout which they discovered the old kitchen fireplace and bake oven. In August, 1975, it was taken over by Hubert and Katherine Thom, who also took pride in the old place and restored it further.

Bush’s Inn today looks much as it did in the 1830s when stagecoaches stopped on a regular basis and passengers took advantage of the refreshments and camaraderie. It is however sitting on a very narrow lot at 822 Clarkson Road South, surrounded by houses and is used as a residence by William and Janet Woods, who purchased it in 1979 from the Thom's.
Richard Oughtred III and his brother William came from Guisborough, England, to Quebec in 1820. While there, William married Mary Cole. Four years later, they returned to England. Then in 1831, William, Mary and their two children, William and Elizabeth, and Richard’s two sons, William and Richard, came to Upper Canada to settle in the small hamlet of Hammondville, named for the William Hammond family, who had received a 100 acre (40 ha) grant, north half of Lot 35, Con. 2, that was located at the junction of the Town Line (Winston Churchill Blvd.) and Middle Road (Q.E.W.), in Toronto Township. Shortly after their arrival, Richard’s son, William, died. His son, Stephen, came to Upper Canada a few years later.
After residing there for a time, Richard, who was a blacksmith by trade and quite a literature buff, suggested the name of the village be changed to Sheridan for the Irish playwright, Richard Brinsley Sheridan. He married Esther Ann Gable in 1855 and purchased 90 acres (36 ha) of Lots 28 and 29, Con. 1. He built a brick house that was torn down in 1938 to make way for the widening and paving of the Middle Road. In 1835, his Uncle William, at 59 years old, purchased 40 acres (16 ha) in Clarkson of Lot 33, Con. 2, for £50 ($125) from William Kelly and began to farm. His daughter, Elizabeth, died this same year. Reverend Peter Jones preached a sermon for her at the Port Credit Methodist Church.

When Richard died in 1881, Stephen inherited his farm and it was left to his son, William, upon his death in 1903. When William died in 1923, it was passed down to William and Emmaline’s only son, Wilson.

The Oughtred family, who were serious farmers, owning over 400 acres (162 ha), became prominent in the Township. They had one of Ontario’s successful strawberry farms. They transferred their membership from the Sheridan Methodist Church to Clarkson’s Carman Methodist. Wilson served as a Society representative and in 1924 he took part in the building committee for the new Sunday School and Community Hall. His wife, Alice, was involved in the women’s organizations. They had three sons, Arthur, Gordon and Wallace. Wilson was the first in the Township to use irrigation and the Oughtreds were called early pioneers of this innovation. He died at age 56.

Arthur, Gordon and Wallace took over the farm and ran market outlets around Clarkson and other small towns until 1965. Arthur became very active in the church, first in Sunday school and then as president of the Young People’s Group. When plans for a new church began in 1954, he was instrumental in raising funds. Arthur became the president of the Fruit Growers Association of Ontario, he died in 1962.

The remaining acreage of the Trenwith Stonehaven Farm was sold on July 22, 1963, to Idlewyld Developments Ontario Limited, owned by the Oughtred brothers. They built the subdivision that became the Trenholme Estates.

Today, Gordon and Wallace are in land development with Oughtred Brothers Limited.
Benares — 1837

The Historical Georgian Classic Revival style brick and stone structure called “Benares,” that was designated an heritage building by the City of Mississauga in 1977 and has been a period museum since 1995, has an interesting history. It is one of the oldest houses in the Clarkson area (built in 1857, with original outbuildings from the 1830s period), in line with the Clarkson/Barnett house, the Bradley House and the Anchorage. The six acre (2.4 ha) property it sits on, located at 1503 Clarkson Road North, was originally owned by Edgar Neave, Lot 28, Con. 2, SD. He had started to build a house, but apparently he left in 1835 before it was finished. Neave had purchased 150 acres (61 ha) from grantee Frederick Starr Jarvis for £300 ($750) on December 20, 1833. He received 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 28 as a grant in 1834 and 136 acres (55 ha) of Lot 27 in 1835.

An ad placed in the Upper Canada Land, Mercantile & General Advertiser on July 31, 1835, for the sale of this property, stated, “A Quantity of Land upwards of 80 acres (32 ha) under good fence, an elegant stone house, having been constructed by the present proprietor, 4 log houses and a new barn, with at least a 2 mile (2.4 k) frontage, consisting of 197 acres (78.8 ha), Lot 28, 2nd Concession.” It was signed James Magrath (son of Reverend Magrath of Springfield/
Erindale) and John Jones (the minister for the Mississauga Indians, whose reservation was where the Mississaugua Golf and Country Club is now located). According to the Land Registry, George Truscott purchased the property from Neave on August 21, 1835.

On August 31, 1837, 39 year old Captain James Beveridge Harris bought 136 acres (55 ha) of Lot 27 and 148 acres (60 ha) of Lot 28 for £850 ($2,125) for a total of 284 acres (115 ha) from Truscott.

Captain Harris was of English descent and had a traditional military service background, having had a military post in India with the British Army’s 24th Regiment of Foot. His grandfather had been at the capture of Quebec during the Seven Years War (1756-63) and his father, Major General John Harris, had fought against Napoleon at Waterloo (1815). His three brothers also had been professional soldiers, so he came by his calling from family tradition.

In 1829, he had married 23 year old Elizabeth Molony, who had been born in County Clare and lived in Dublin, Ireland. They had two children, Elizabeth, called Bessie, who had been born on the ship on
the way to Canada in 1835, and John, born in Montreal in 1836. They were residing in Toronto when they heard about Truscott’s sale of the former Neave property.

It has been said that Neave named his estate “Benares,” as a tribute to the Hindu holy city, Benares, an Indian name, today known as Varanasi. According to Anne Sayers, who was interviewed by Dora Royce for the William Perkins Bull books in 1932, “Strangely enough, Neave had named it Benares, which suited the Captain of the India Regiment, and so Benares it remained.”

Captain Harris gave up his military position in 1837 and became a gentleman farmer and worked his land earnestly. He was community minded and became involved in local affairs as a Justice of the Peace for a number of years. He and his family socialized with their neighbours and attended St. Peter’s Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale).

James was their first child to be born at Benares in 1838. Margaret, nicknamed Maggie, was born in 1839, Charles, 1841, Arthur, 1843, Lucy, 1844, and Anne in 1846.

For over 10 years, Captain Harris and his family fared well at Benares and prospered. Then tragedy began to stalk them. They lost their son John in 1850 to pneumonia. On November 11, 1855, a fire brought the original stone Benares to the ground, except for the summer kitchen on the back. It was suspected that thieving servants, who had poached the family’s silverware, started the fire to cover their crime. Captain Harris had a frame structure put up quickly only to have it burn down in December of 1856, at which time young Lucy saw two men running away from the scene. The Captain, wearing only his nightshirt, led his family to safety and as they stood on the front lawn watching their house burn, he looked through his bedroom window and saw his pants, hanging on the bedpost, go up in flames.

He then commissioned carpenters, Robert Leslie and Charles Dingwell, and stone mason, William Heron, to build a third house, this time a sturdier brick structure. The house with its Neo-Classical cornice returns, tall decorative chimneys and rooms with 12 foot high (3.7 m) ceilings was completed at a cost of £1000 ($2,500).
In 1857, their son, James, was gored by a bull and he died. Captain Harris had the bull shot. In 1860, they lost Charles to cancer of the kidneys and Maggie died of scarlet fever in 1875.

Both James and Elizabeth passed away in 1884, and their son, Arthur, inherited the homestead. Arthur was the only child to give his parents grandchildren. Bessie, Maggie and Lucy had never married and Anne married Peter Henry Cox, the Mayor of Paris, Ontario, in 1875, but had no offspring. Arthur and his wife, Mary Magrath, who were married in 1881, had Anne (1882-1986), Naomi (1883-1968), and Margaret (1887-1887). She was the granddaughter of Reverend James Magrath and her mother was Captain Edward Sutherland’s daughter, Christiana. In 1889, they redecorated the house and added two marble fireplaces, brought by Mary from her Springfield family homestead, and an ornate Victorian style veranda, extremely fashionable at the time.

Daughter Anne married Beverly Sayers in 1906 and Arthur gave them 94 acres (37.6 ha) as a wedding gift. They did not move to the property until 1911 when Beverly had a two storey house built to accommodate his family. (This house became Claudine Hare’s nursing home, The Pines, which was opened by Reeve Robert Speck in November, 1962.) They had three children, Geoffrey, 1907, Dora, 1915, and Barbara, 1920. Anne and Beverly built a log bungalow on Birchwood Drive in 1922, where Anne lived until her death in 1986. Her daughter, Barbara, resides there today. When Arthur passed away in 1932, services were held at St. Peter’s with Reverend H.V. Thompson of Niagara, who had been the Rector for 25 years, and the present incumbent, Reverend George Banks. Arthur left his property to his daughter, Naomi, who continued to care for her mother until she died in 1954. Naomi lived her entire life at Benares until her death in 1968.

Geoffrey, who was educated at the University of Toronto Schools, was a handsome and sophisticated young man, who often rode his bicycle to the station to catch the train into Toronto. He went into stocks and bonds until the crash of the stock market in October, 1929, then he worked selling life insurance for Northern American Life. In November, 1933, he married Kathleen Colloton at St. Peter’s. During World War II, he served in the Lorne Scots Regiment and attained the rank of Captain. When he returned home, he became involved in the development of the Birchwood subdivision on his estate. He and Kathleen lived at Benares.

It is common knowledge that author Mazo de la Roche lived on the
Sayer’s estate with her cousin, Caroline Clement. In 1924, she purchased two small lots from the Sayers, and built a small cabin she called the “Trail Cottage.” Here she wrote the first book of her *Jalna* series.

The Harris family did not appreciate the notoriety that transpired when people began to associate Benares with the *Jalna* books. They were invaded by tourists from the first publication. In 1972 when officials from CBC - TV requested permission to film the *Whiteoaks of Jalna* TV series at Benares, Geoffrey Sayers refused. So interior shooting took place at a pioneer homestead in Toronto and the Lake Shore Studios, with exterior shots being done at Audie Irwin’s Whitby home, and filming of the war scenes at the old brickworks in Cheltenham.

Captain Harris’ great-grandchildren, Geoffrey Harris Sayers, Dora Sayers Caro and Barbara Sayers Larson, inherited Benares upon the death of Aunt Naomi, who was the last Harris to reside in the old homestead. They generously gave Benares to the Ontario Heritage Foundation (OHF) in 1969. It was one of the first properties in Ontario to be donated this way. Geoffrey remained there until the spring of 1979, then the house was rented out for security reasons until it was turned into a museum.

An archaeological dig was conducted in 1991 by the OHF under the direction of archeologist, Dena Doroszenko, and 94,617 artifacts were uncovered. Restoration on Benares was conducted over 1993-94 in preparation for its future as a museum, which would recreate the ambience and lifestyle of the three generations of the Harris family who had resided there during the 19th century.
Arthur with grandchildren, Geoffrey and Dora Sayers, and the goose won at the Red Cross Raffle, 1917

(Benares Historic House)
By the fall of 1994, the 2,500 square foot (232 m²) Benares Visitor Centre was under construction. Sears & Russell Architects Ltd. was the architectural firm handling the design and the general contractor was Luigi de Benardo Construction.

On June 25, 1995, Benares Historic House was opened as Mississauga’s newest museum by the OHF, which would work in partnership with the City of Mississauga to operate it.

Geoffrey Sayers passed away on Tuesday, November 25, 1997, and Benares was darkened in his memory. He was survived by his two sisters, Dora and Barbara. His wife had predeceased him in 1981.

Benares, which received an Award of Merit for significance and execution at the 1995 Urban Design Awards, is also a popular movie site. The revenue from this opportunity allows Benares staff to have the artifacts restored.

As of June 25, 2000, the City of Mississauga became the sole owner of Benares, as the City completed a land transfer agreement with the OHF. An Old Fashioned Family Fun Day was held and a plaque unveiled to commemorate this achievement and to mark Benares’ fifth anniversary.
CAPTAIN JOHN SKYNNER BOUGHT PROPERTY IN the Clarkson area on Lake Ontario from James W. Taylor in 1839 for £600 ($1,500). It was 113 acres (46 ha) the east half of Stephen Jarvis’ original land grant, Lot 31, Con. 3 and 4. There was a lovely, Ontario Regency style, wooden cottage, with a five-bay facade, hipped roof and Neo-Classical doorcase on the Con. 4 part of the estate, which Skynner named, “The Anchorage.” This has been said to come from his retiring at age 76 from his long career as an officer in the Royal Navy and commenting, “I have retired. Here I will rest. This is my anchorage.”

The Captain, who had commanded King George III’s Brig of War, *Hirondelle*, in the Mediterranean (1802-07) for which he received a handcrafted silver urn, was a congenial host, who invited the farmers to bring their grain to the Anchorage, where it would be shipped to England from his dock. They came from all parts of southern Ontario, even on cold days when he would offer them a meal and hot toddy of rum, butter and cinnamon. Viola Herridge’s grandfather, Andrew Aitkens, was one of the farmers and he “teamed his grain” from the northern section of Halton County.

Captain Skynner passed away in 1846, and after his death, his family made a few alterations to the house, one of which was the replacing of some of the wood for a veneer of yellow brick. The Skynner family resided in the house until they sold it on August 27, 1853, to George Lees for £1,200 ($3,000).
After several owners, including Joseph Foote, William Ellis and George Hanning, the 28 acre (11.3 ha) lakefront property, where the Anchorage was located, was purchased in 1952 by the National Sewer Pipe Limited from James Davison. The house became the executive offices of the company until the plant opened in 1955, and then it was used for storage. In 1978, this company generously donated the house to the City of Mississauga and City Council decided to use it to augment the Bradley Museum. The Anchorage was moved on June 16th of that year.

In 1983, when the house was designated a heritage home by the City of Mississauga, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation (MHF), which operates the museum, undertook a feasibility study for the entire museum site. MHF contributed $130,000 towards the restoration’s estimated budget of $420,000. After the extensive restoration was completed, it opened on June 21, 1992, now providing an exhibit gallery, curatorial work space, artifact storage, an administrative office and a tea room that is open to the public every Sunday.

Since 1994, the Bradley Museum has been operated by the City of Mississauga.
The Township was divided into five wards at a meeting of the Home District Council on October 2, 1849. At an election held the first Monday in January, the councillors for the year of 1850 were decided upon: Ward 1, Clarkson, William Thompson, Ward 2, Charles Romain, Ward 3, Christopher Row, Ward 4, Joseph Wright, and Ward 5, Samuel Price. The Council now had the jurisdiction to hold municipal elections and control its own governmental undertakings.

On January 21 at the Telegraph Inn in Streetsville, the councillors took their oath, then proceeded to appoint a Town Reeve and Deputy Reeve. The yeas and nays for Joseph Wright as Reeve went Yeas, Price, Row, Romain and Nays, Thompson. For Samuel Price as Deputy, Yeas, Wright, Row and Price, Nays, Thompson. Joseph Wright became the first Reeve. William Thompson of Clarkson became the Reeve in 1851. Samuel Price became Reeve at Confederation in 1867.

The population of the Township at this time was nearly 7,000. This same year, the Council opened Clarkson Road.
Clarkson Road — 1850

AFTER MANY YEARS OF USE AS A STAGECOACH and wagon route, Clarkson Road was officially opened and named in 1850 by Toronto Township Council. At a meeting in Streetsville, July 1, William Thompson moved and Christopher Row seconded “that the report of the Township surveyor relating to the line of Road between Lots 28 and 29 in the 2nd Concession, South of Dundas Street, Old Survey, be adopted to Clarkson’s Corner and that the Line should then diverge one chain (66 feet - 20 m) more or less in a southerly direction to the road travelled at present to the Lake Shore Road and that the same continues as the public highway and that the parties applying shall pay the surveyor his legal charges.” This had occurred because of the increased traffic along the roadway. Now the residents would be assured of regular maintenance and upkeep by the Township.
In 1845, Captain James Harris and Warren Clarkson had donated land to allow Clarkson Road to be more than a wagon trail, so it was called a given road. It was named for the prominent landowner, Warren Clarkson, whose store sat on the west side, north of the Lake Shore Road. The reason the road has a jog in it is because Warren Clarkson did not want to move his store so the road could go straight to the highway.
Part Two 1851 -1900
In 1986, the house was selected as a heritage site by the City of Mississauga. On July 16, 1991, the barn went on the inventory list as one of seven heritage barns in Mississauga. In 2001, the actual by-law to designate the property was passed by Council.

The Robertson Farm — 1851

This house and barn were built by Andrew Robertson shortly after he purchased the south half of Lot 35, Con. 3, part of Henry Gable’s 1808 grant, in 1851. At the turn of the century, it won an award as a Gold Medal Farm. There were stories told about the house being haunted by a ghost that was in a cupboard under the front stairs. The Robertsons’ hired help used to live at the top of the back stairs and they would run up there and hide when anything peculiar occurred.

William Lightfoot bought 57 acres (23 ha) from Lillian Robertson on September 14, 1942. His daughter, Marguerite and her husband, Edward (Ted) Abbs, took possession in 1943. They farmed the acreage until Ted sold 53 acres (21 ha) to Hydro Electric Power Commission on April 24, 1970, so the property could be used for the Clarkson Generating Station. However the project never materialized.

Don Herridge has rented the house and barn from the Hydro (now Hydro One Networks Inc.) for the past 30 years. The buildings now sit on 63 acres (25 ha) and are located at 381 Winston Churchill Boulevard.
Over the next two years a tremendous amount of activity took place as the Railway began its work. Local men and farmers were given jobs of preparing the area and laying the railroad ties and then the tracks. It was a boost to the Township’s economy as the foremen and workers required accommodations and meals.

The first train, a green brass-trimmed engine drawing several passenger cars full of railroad officials, began its inaugural run on December 3, 1855. As it headed for the Clarkson Depot, so the residents could see the flashy newness of this phenomena, a commotion ensued before the revelry could commence.

A Mr. John Carthew attempted to prevent the train from going through. He blocked the tracks with a wooden barrier because the Great Western Railway had not paid him for his land utilized for the tracks. He owned 75 acres (30 ha) along the right-of-way. He had purchased 42 acres (17
ha) of the southwest part of Lot 26, Con. 2, in 1846 and another 33 acres (13 ha) in 1848. When the engineer saw the barrier, the train came to a screeching halt before colliding with it. Carthew was arrested and taken aboard the train while it continued its initial run, after which he was hauled to jail in Toronto. When the Railway discovered that indeed Mr. Carthew had not been paid, he was released and on March 10, 1856, he received £662 ($1,655), higher than the going rate, for 3½ acres (1.41 ha) used by the Railway.

A small railroad station was built on the north side of the tracks and called Clarkson’s by the Railway, which officially gave the area its name. The farmers took advantage of this fast, advantageous way of shipping their produce and fruit. With the passing of the years, more business was carried out, and the growing of fruit, packing, storing and shipping of it, became an important industry.

A larger, modern station was built in the center of the tracks around 1910 and other wooden structures were built as required. The station unfortunately burned down on December 15, 1962. The last of the buildings were not pulled down until 1998.
Strawberries

Nourished by dew and softly falling rain,
And ripened by the sun’s warm golden glow.
Like ruby gems cut by a master’s hand,
Neath verdant foliage strawberries grow.
No incense burnt the ancient gods to greet,
Ne’er lulled the doubting soul with scent so sweet.
The sweeping rustle as of silken gown,
Attuning with the snap of slender stem.
Rises to join in nature’s eternal song,
As eager fingers seek to gather them.
Yield of the earth that through the ages span,
The Great Creator’s richest gift to man.

By Annie Hood Turner
Clarkson artist and teacher
The Strawberry Industry — 1855

When Captain Edward Sutherland first planted strawberries on his land, Lot 29, Con. 3, which he had purchased from Russell Bush in 1855, it started an industry in Clarkson that would eventually make the small hamlet the strawberry capital of Ontario. His commercial venture multiplied in volume with the coming of the railroad that year.

The strawberry growing enterprise expanded with other farmers taking up the trade. Clarkson was described by one local writer as “The strawberry kingdom of Canada.” A postcard of the early 1900s says, “The Chief Strawberry Shipping Station of Ontario.” In 1915, a sign was erected at the station that stated proudly, “Through this station passes more strawberries than any other station in Ontario.”

As it happened, Clarkson had a rich soil and the right climate for a fruit and vegetable centre. The crops became potatoes, corn, apples and strawberries.

The strawberry industry provided work for the local people. In mid June, when the strawberry harvests began, the workers would arrive at their designated field, straw hats perched on their heads to protect them from the hot sun of the day and pick up their wooden carrier tray by the handle, which was filled with six wooden quart baskets or eight pint boxes. They would head for the rows, kneel down and begin to pluck the fruit from the vines and fill their baskets.

When the baskets were full they took the tray to a barn, wagon or strawberry shanty, where they were given a ticket. They collected these tickets throughout the day as their work progressed. These were tallied...
at the end of the day and they were paid the going price per quart. In 1936 it was 1½¢ a quart. It has been said that 300 boxes would be picked on an average day. It took about three weeks to clear the farmers’ fields of strawberries.

These migrant workers then moved on to picking raspberries. Then came cherries, plums, pears and apples. But in Clarkson, it was the strawberry that reigned supreme.
A Letter Between Brothers — 1857

Massillon, Ohio, Decem 25th 1857

Dear Brother

Well Hank this is Christmas day and I wish you ALL A Merry Christmas And A happy New year for I shall not write again until after New year. Well Hank I suppose you would like to know how I spent this day. Well I will describe it to you in a short way. We opened the Store this morning and did business as if there was no such day on Record and tonight there is a Ball in town and all the boys are in it (but I am not). Don’t you think I am improving. It goes against the grain pretty hard. I can’t help it. I am bound to quit such foolish practices.

I say Hank can you keep a secret. Well if you can I am going to ask a favour of you. I wrote to Miss Henrietta Hemphill about two weeks ago and have not received any answer as yet. I cannot tell what is the reason why I have not. Is there something in the wind. If there is I wish you would tell me. I think she must certainly have got the letter. Well Hank try and find out if she received it but do not let any person know anything about it. Keep it to yourself and as soon as you ascertain the truth of the matter write and let me know the particulars for I am anxious to find out how the Cat jumps so that I will know how to play my card. (Do not let any person see this letter.)

You will please remember me to Father and Mother and all the family and to Liz and all the family that inquire after my welfare.

Well goodbye Hank Write soon
Your Affectionate Brother
W. W. Clarkson

Give my love to Miss Henrietta Hemphill and tell her I should like to hear from her.

Author's note: This letter is to Henry Clarkson from his brother, William Clarkson. William married Lorenda Hemphill in 1858.

See William Clarkson, Post Master - 1875.
HENRY SHOOK CLARKSON WAS GIVEN 42½ ACRES (17.2 ha) of Lot 28, Con. 2, south of the railway tracks in 1856 by his father, Warren. In 1858, he left for a job in Minnesota and returned in 1860. He married Sarah Moseley and they had a daughter, Mildred. He built this house and resided there with Sarah until his death in 1901. She died in 1918.
WILLIAM CLARKSON MARRIED LORENDHA HEMPHILL IN OCTOBER, 1858. THEY HAD FOUR CHILDREN, WARREN, CORA, BERTHA AND EDITH. HE BUILT THIS HOUSE NEXT DOOR TO HIS FATHER WARREN’S STORE ON CLARKSON ROAD, WHEN HE TOOK OVER ITS MANAGEMENT IN THE MID 1860s. IN THE 1950s, IT WAS BILL ELLIOTT’S FRUIT MARKET. IT IS LOCATED AT 1140 CLARKSON ROAD NORTH, AND IT NOW SITS EMPTY.
Irish born Thomas Cavan and his wife, Mary, and their three sons, Hugh, James and William, came from New York State to the Lakeview area in 1837, where he received a 200 acre (81 ha) grant that had been designated for the King's College, Lot 11, Con. 2, SDS. He cleared his land, started to farm and was soon transporting his produce into Toronto by wagon and then by skiff via Lake Ontario.
THEIR SON, HUGH, married Mary Giles and they had eight children. Son, James, married Elizabeth Giles in 1838 and he brought her home to a little log cabin. They eventually had 13 children. He was involved in community work as a preacher and was one of the first trustees of the Methodist Church in Port Credit, built in 1825, and superintendent of the Sunday School.

Thomas died in September, 1844, as did Mary. They were buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery. Their family carried on in the community, passing the family property down from generation to generation.

James’ son, Hugh Mathias, was born in 1839. Hugh became a ship-captain on the Great Lakes. His route ran from Port Arthur to Quebec. He met Anne Elizabeth Proctor of Clarkson and they were married in 1862. Anne stayed with her parents while Hugh went off on his ship. Richard Proctor had purchased the north half of Lot 29, Con. 2, 80 acres (32 ha) from Alexander Proudfoot on November 30, 1852, for £200 ($500). He had built a large, oblong shaped house and a barn with a stone foundation and stabling. It was here that Hugh and Anne raised eight children.

When Anne’s father died in 1863, she inherited 40 acres (16 ha), so Hugh retired and started a dairy farm and shipped his milk to Toronto. This only lasted for a few years and then in 1871 he purchased 40 acres (16 ha) for $1,000 from Anne’s sister, Isabelle Thomas, and planted the entire acreage in apple trees – Greenings, Russets, Baldwins and Spies. They were shipped by train all over Ontario. The light, sandy soil of Clarkson proved to be a successful fruit growing area.

Hugh was extremely active in his community. He was auditor for the #5 School Board, 1873-74, a trustee on the School Board, 1880-82, secretary, 1887, and chairman, 1883, 1892-93, and 1899, and he became a Justice of the Peace in 1890.

A tragic story is told of the death of Hugh and Anne’s son, William, in 1894 at age 23. On his way home from a mill in Erindale with a wagon full of bags of ground feed for their cattle, as he turned off Mississauga Road, the front wheels were pulled out and he was jerked over the dash board. The half ton of meal fell on him and crushed him. He managed to hold onto the reins and his horses dragged him home. He died of his injuries a few days later.

When Hugh passed away in 1901, his son, James Harry, inherited the property. He replenished the orchard, replacing the old trees with new ones and added cherry trees and other fruit trees. Upon his death in 1947, his son, Thomas, took over the farm. On October 15, 1955, he sold part of his property to Trusteel Corporation and on August 26, 1966, 27 (11 ha) acres to New Peel Developments Corporation Limited for a subdivision. He passed away in 1970.

Donald Cavan, son of Thomas and Marjorie, started a roadside fruit stand in 1956 on part of his 30 acres (12 ha) that was market garden. When he first started only his wife, Doreen, worked with him. They had been married in 1946 and had five children, Larry, Jamie, Ellen, Tommy and Gina. Don built a substantial house with a swimming pool. As the children became teenagers, they all worked in the family business. (Tom now has his own Cavan Garden Centre in Erin, Ontario.) Business prospered over the years and Don kept on expanding until he built a 10,000 square foot (929 m²) Garden Centre in 1970 to serve a community that now had a population of nearly 19,000.

Don eventually sold off all but three acres (1.2 ha). In 1998, he closed down his market and now Coventry Lane Townhouses are located at 1566 Clarkson Road North. (Kylmore Homes, and Guthrie Muscovitch Architects, were given an Urban Design Award in 2002 from the City of Mississauga.) The Proctor/Caven house, although remodelled a few times, is at 1404. It is owned by Bobbi MacDougall. Don’s greenhouse was bought by James Ryan, who opened the Clarkson Rock Health and Fitness Club in the restored Cold Storage Building in 1999.
Fruit Market, 1959
(Don Cavan)

Cavan’s Fruit Market, 1998
(Don Cavan)

Proctor/Cavan House, 2002
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Coventry Lane Townhouses, 2002
(Kathleen A. Hicks)
The Shook Family — 1866

Heinrich Schuck (Henry Shook, b.1766, d.1839), who was from Rheinbeck, Duchess County, New York, was the first of his family to move to Upper Canada following the American Revolution. He resided in the Township of Grimsby, County of Lincoln, in the District of Niagara. He received a grant in 1807 to the west of Toronto Township, Lot 1, Con. 1, SDS, Trafalgar Township, and moved there with his wife, Rosanna, and their seven children in 1808. Other members of his family soon joined him.

The Schucks obviously had an interest in what went on in the Township to the east for Henry Mrs. Rosanna Shook (Region of Peel Archives)

Henry Shook and Family (Christ Church)
leased Lot 35, Con. 2, SDS, on May 29, 1811, for farmland, before it was granted out. This activity in the community led to his daughter, Susan, marrying Warren Clarkson in 1816. Then his son, Conrad (1799-1881), married Mary McDonald in 1830 and they had ten children, who married into the Merigold, Pollard, Oughtred and Johnson families. Henry and Rosanna are buried in St. Peter’s Anglican Church cemetery.

Conrad and Mary’s son, Henry (1837-1918), who married Alitia Starrat, purchased 60 acres (24 ha) of Lot 30, part of Benjamin Monger’s original grant, from William Stewart for $1,796 on April 3, 1866, and began farming. They had Charles, Robert, Mary and William.

Henry bought another 27 acres (11 ha) in 1872 and 16 acres (6 ha) in 1884 for a total of 103 acres (42 ha). Henry was politically inclined and became a councillor for Toronto Township from 1886-90; 2nd Deputy Reeve, 1891-94; 1st Deputy Reeve, 1895-96 and Reeve, 1897-98.

Their son, David (1850-1927) married Mary Oughtred, the daughter of Richard and Esther Ann Gable Oughtred, in 1882. David was also a councillor in 1902. They had nine children.

The family belonged to the Carman Methodist Church and were actively involved in its activities. Henry and his son, Robert (1860-
1929), who married Cora Clarkson, William’s daughter, were on the Trustee Board for many years. The Shooks were very community minded and their farm wagon was used as a school bus.

Keeping up the tradition, Robert took over the farm upon his father’s death in 1918, along with his brother, William (1878-1948). When Robert passed away in 1929, he had one of the largest funerals in Clarkson’s history. Over 200 cars were in the procession. At the time of his death, he was president of the Clarkson-Dixie Fruit Growers Association.

William, who purchased 27 acres (11 ha) in 1910 from Drusilla Clemens, was also an auctioneer, an insurance agent and a qualified school teacher. His wife, Mary Lightfoot, played the organ at church and was involved in the Women’s Association and the Women’s Missionary Society. Their only daughter, Elaine Merigold, married Douglas Auld, who opened Auld’s Butcher Shop in 1947.

The Shook farm was sold by Robert’s only child, Robert Lloyd Shook, in two parts, to Roy Price Bourne on November 12, 1943, and to Harry Newman, June 15, 1944. It is now the Curran-Hall and Fairfield subdivisions.
Shook Family Picnic May 24, 1897 (Mary Langstone)
Joseph and Elizabeth Orr, who hailed from Northern Ireland, had a farm on Dundas Street in a small hamlet named Frogmore, near Winston Churchill Boulevard. They sold it in 1870 and moved to Clarkson, where they had purchased acreage, Lot 29, Con. 3, on January 24, 1868. He and Elizabeth had four children, Edward, Andrew, Alexander and Isabella. Joseph built a large homestead and barn.

In 1870, Joseph purchased 20 more acres (8 ha) of Lot 29 that included Bush’s Inn. In 1872, he bought 70 acres (28 ha), Lots 29 and 30, Con. 3, for $2,200 from Isaac Oliphant. In 1879, he purchased another 25 acres (10 ha) from John W. Bredin for $1,293 and 47 acres in (19 ha) 1884 for $2,350 for a total of over 180 acres (73 ha) of the original Thomas Merigold grants.

Edward, who married Mary Cavan, had quite an enormous dairy farm and had 10 acres (4 ha) in strawberries. Edward bought 33 more acres (13 ha) in 1891 as did Andrew. In 1925, Ed became the president of the Toronto Milk & Cream Association. He also became very involved in local politics. Besides being the trustee for the Clarkson Public School #6, he was on the Toronto Township Council as Councillor of Ward 2, 1914-15, was 2nd Deputy Reeve, 1916-17, 1st Deputy Reeve, 1918-19, and served as Reeve, 1920-22, and was also Warden of Peel County in 1922. He was quite active in the Carman Methodist Church.
and helped in the participation of the building of the Sunday School and Community Hall in 1924. He had seven sons, Fred, Hugh, Donald, Howard, Andrew, Stewart and John.

Edward died in 1935 and his sons, Fred and Hugh, took over his interests. Fred (b. 1899, d. 1925) had married Myrtle Manley (1899-1966) in 1912. He was the S.S. #6 Trustee who hired Annie Hall for principal in 1924. Hugh sold the remaining 100 acres (40 ha) of Orr property to the British American Oil Company on February 26, 1941, for $57,000. The house his grandfather, Joseph, had built was torn down.

Hugh died in 1988 and his wife, Beatrice, in 1992. Their son, Joseph, still reside in the Clarkson area (he lost his wife, Sophie, on August 11, 2002) and he is a member of Christ Church. Orr Road is named in honour of the family.
Clarkson’s Corners, located at the railway tracks and Clarkson Road, between Lots 28 and 29, Con. 2, was already a popular place in the 1860s when William Clarkson first took over his father’s general store. William, born in 1830, was the son of Warren and Susan Clarkson.

When Warren died in 1882, William and his brother, Henry, inherited their father’s holdings.

William opened the first Clarkson post office on June 1, 1875, and was the first postmaster. Before this, residents had to go to Springfield (Erindale) for their mail. He would be succeeded by his son, Warren Frank, on May 1, 1894. On May 1, 1901, Warren would turn over the position to his sister, Edith. He died in 1904.

IN 1906, IT COST ONE CENT TO MAIL A LETTER TO THE United States. A letter received at the post office was just addressed “Clarkson, Ontario.” Shortly after Edith took over the post office, she had the store enlarged to two storeys and added a new section on the north side to accommodate the growing community. In 1913, she subdivided her property and built a Queen Anne style house. Edith was
the postmistress until she died on November 30, 1919. That made a total of 44 years that the Clarksons handled the post office.

Harold U. Hare, who operated a coal yard, took over the rental of the store and post office on January 1, 1920. He was postmaster until August 24, 1925, when he resigned.

William Thomas McCord bought the business on February 23, 1926, and became the postmaster. It was the Red & White Store at this time. On October 18, 1937, Harry Gerhart purchased the business and took over as postmaster. On November 10, 1937, he appointed David Terry to handle the post office. In 1941, it was Carload Groceteria, according to an item in the Port Credit Weekly that stated Gerhart supplied coffee and sandwiches for the firemen who worked on the fire at the Basket Factory. David was postmaster until 1945 and Gerhart again took over the responsibility.

In 1947, John Bodley purchased the grocery business from Gerhart and it remained the Carload Groceteria. Gerhart moved the post office into the adjoining building. The business had been a general store and John got rid of everything but the groceries. This did not go over well
△ John Bodley (John Bodley)
with the customers and his business gradually went down hill. He sold out to James Tait in 1952.

A Post Office was built two doors up on the north side of Balsam Avenue in 1955. Gerhart resigned as post master in 1957. When corner boxes were installed throughout Clarkson in 1962, the Post Office building was sold to Clarkson Holdings and it has been used since 1995 by The Toronto Ability School, 1146 Clarkson Road North, that was established in 1984. The Clarkson store at 1130 and 1132 now sits empty as does William Clarkson’s house at 1140. Edith Clarkson’s house is at 1160 and it is owned by Teresa Hunkar.
This house was built in 1880 by Captain James Harris, on Lot 28, Con. 2. It was located between what is now Mazo Crescent and Truscott Drive. In 1928, it was leased by newlyweds, Samuel and Maude (Lush) McCord from Arthur Harris. In later years, it was bricked over. In 1960 when William A. (Bill) Trenwith bought the house, the bricks were removed and the Bourne family, who had six acres (2.4 ha) nearby and owned part of Lot 29, used them for their barn. The house was then transported by tractor-trailer to Bill’s Stonehaven Farm in Campbellville.
The Manleys — 1881

The first Manleys to come to Canada from County Cork, Ireland, were Bartholomew and his wife, Catherine Dempsey, who were married August 7, 1835. They eventually settled in the small hamlet of Sheridan. Then on October 24, 1881, Catherine purchased the north half of Lot 31, Con. 2, 100 acres (40 ha) of Alex Hemphill’s property, where the S.S. #5 School was located, from John Kentner for $6,750. When Catherine died in 1889, her son, George, inherited the property.

George (b.1852, d.1934) married Arletta Greeniaus (1863-1949) in 1889. They had three children, Charles, Myrtle and Harold. They farmed the land and were quite successful in their efforts. Charles Gaylord (1896-1966), named for Arletta’s father, Gaylord Greeniaus, married Minnerva Bentley (1894-1984) and they had one son, Ralph Gaylord, in 1925. Myrtle married Fred Orr in 1912 and they...
had five children, Harold, Howard, Helen, Harry, who was killed while serving in the Army during World War II, and Freddie. Harold married Jessie Ford in 1920 and she died when their daughter, Velma, was born in 1922. Velma married Archie Izatt in 1940.

Charles and Harold were given a piece of the family farm. Charles and Minnie remained in the family house and took care of George and Arletta. Minnie took in boarders. The teachers from the #5 School lived at the Manleys.

Ralph married Eva Jones, (b. 1928), in 1949. Her family had come to Clarkson in 1944 from Toronto. Reg and Beth Jones bought six acres (2.4 ha) with a 60 year old house on it, part of the original Captain Richard Pollard property, Lot 33, Con. 2, near what is now the Queen Elizabeth Way/Southdown interchange. They had two other daughters and the family attended the Clarkson United Church and they sang in the choir. The Joneses moved to Bolton in 1952.

Eva taught school at the Lakeview Army Barracks emergency housing from 1948 to 1951. Ralph worked as a plow jockey, driving a tanker truck at Goodrich in Port Credit for eight years during the wintertime. They had a son, Martin Gaylord, in 1952, and two daughters, Gay, 1953, and Judy, 1955.

Charles sold the farm in 1955 to United Lands Corporation for the Park Royal subdivision and retained only the property where the family house was located. In 1966, Charles died and in 1968 Minnie sold it and moved to an apartment in Port Credit. She died on July 19, 1981.

Ralph and Eva purchased Fairview Farm in Brampton in 1955, where they still reside today with their children and two grandchildren.

MANLEYS’ ASSESSMENT NOTICE — 1911

Toronto Township, Taxes for Year 1911

Part 31, Con. 2, SDS, 99 acres
Value of land: $3,200
Value of buildings: $1,200
Total assessment of property: $4,400
Total Taxes demanded $50.51

Collector District 2, Thos. D. Schiller

To Arletta Greeniaus,
When sailing down the stream of life
In your little white canoe,
Oh, may you have a merry time
And lots of room for two.

Agnes M. Merigold

from Arletta's autograph book given to her by her father, Gaylord Greeniaus, April 17, 1880
Diary of Minnie Armstrong Durie — 1882 to 1930

Jan. 10, 1882. Ettie and I went by train to a place called Clarkson to visit Mr. Thompson.

Aug, 4, 1884. Joined the Salvation Army Corp, Parkdale, under the command of Lieut. Adamson and Cadet Joe Griffins.

Sept. 1, 1884. Went on a picnic at Lorne Park.

Jan. 1, 1885. Went to Springfield with A. Durie and the Patchetts.

Feb. 3. Went for a drive with A. Durie.

Feb. 4. Drove to Riverdale Banquet with A. Durie.

Feb. 13. Moved into Stemachers - like it very well.

▲ Minnie Durie
(Phyllis Williams)

● Minnie & Arthur, 1914
(Phyllis Williams)
Mar. 16. Wrote four letters, one home, one to A. Durie, Uncle Ferris, Libby McCollough. I am sitting in my room with nothing in it but a bed and washstand.

Mar. 24. Had a letter from Alex.

Dec. 27. I was home for Xmas. Spent New Year at Uncle Ferris' with Fannie. Alex gave me an album for xmas present. I gave him a large framed picture. Alex hired a rig and took me all over the country.

Mar. 16, 1886. Married at seven o'clock in evening. Ettie was bridesmaid and George Durie, groomsman. Mrs. McAdair, Rev. McCullen and wife, Libby and Mary McNab were all that were there outside of our two families. Alex drove Mr. and Mrs. McCullen, then we went home. Ettie and George lit the place up and wound the alarm clock and put it under the bed, but we found it.

Mar. 20. Moved to Dovercourt Village - did not think it very healthy behind store.


July, 1889. Moved to Lisgar Street as Alex wanted to keep another horse. Lilly Hodge was hired maid.

Oct., 1889. Moved again across the road to the only house I ever liked. Before being settled, Ernest fell into hot water on Nov. 5 badly scalded. When Alex got home, I had Ernest in bed and myself with a black eye I got it going up back stairs. Ernest was five months before real well.

July 8, 1891. Nelson born. Children sick with the whooping cough. All had it even the baby a month old.

April 20, 1892. Moved again. We thought the rent too high and he would not lower it.

April, 1892. Rented a house only three weeks when Alex bought a home. Alex had a chance of trading his house on Grove Avenue for one on Argyle Street, a larger house and room for a stable. So we moved again before we were all unpacked. Cleaned and painted - took two years to get fixed up as we owned the house. Alex decided he would like to live in the country. Moved over the hills to the hateful country on May, 1894 — for a year and moved to Pickets May, 1895.
Feb. 1896. Ettie born. Mother with me. All of them had the measles, even my month old baby.

Mar. 1896. Moved to a cottage of four rooms while building our new house. Built a house on a farm he bought on Erindale Road.

Fall, 1896. Moved to new house on the farm.

Apr. 19, 1899. Lottie born.


April, 1903. Nelson, my boy died age 11.

1908, moved to the store.

1914. Arthur went to war.


Sept. 1924, Ettie married.

June, 1925. Sold the business.

Oct. 3, 1925, nephew Walter

Apr. 5, 1926, Moved to a summer house on my lot. Built a big house on the lot. Moved there. Alex died 1930.

(Author’s note: Minnie’s diary filled a lined scribbler – only highlights were used)
The Pollard Residence — 1884

Captain Richard Pollard, the 35 year old son of Joshua and Mariah Pollard (pictured above), purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 33, Con. 2, in 1884 from William Kelly’s widow, Anna, and built this house. He was married to Maggie Bell and then Selena Bannister. He had seven children. He had served in the Fenian Raids with #1 Company 20th Rifles, 1866. He made his mark in the community by being a trustee for S.S. #5 School, 1875, 1877-78, 1885-86, auditor, 1881, chairman of the School Board, 1882, 1885, and secretary, 1890. In the 1876 Toronto Township Fall Fair, he won prizes for his sheep, tomatoes, citrons, peas and grapes. He farmed until 1902 when he moved into Toronto. His property was sold to George Pepper by Franklin Pollard on August 12, 1915. In 1944, Reg and Beth Jones purchased it and resided here until 1952. The house was demolished for the Park Royal subdivision.

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)
This homestead was called “The Red House” by the family and belonged to Frederick John Taylor and his wife, Elizabeth Anna Johnson, who married on November 21, 1878. They had eight children.  

(Vera Davis)
n article in The Brampton Conservator on July 16, 1901, focused on George Gooderham of the famous Gooderham family of Toronto’s Gooderham & Worts, the second largest distiller of whiskey in the world that had been established in 1832. It read that even though George Gooderham was one of Toronto’s wealthiest men, occupied with numerous commercial enterprises, he found time to acquire lots in Clarkson in 1893. He purchased 360 acres (145.7 ha), Lots 31 and 32, Con. 3 and 4, the Jarvis grants. He had abundant crops and it was turning out to be a great investment. He shipped enormous quantities of fruits and vegetables to the Toronto markets from the Clarkson Station. This locale also enabled the farmers to procure fertilizers for their farms at reasonable prices. The going rate from Toronto was $9 a car load. He charged only $6. He had a 10 acre (4 ha) orchard that contained 500 apple trees, Northern Spy, King of Tompkins, and other Ontario varieties and 15 acres (6 ha) of Canadian walnuts, planted in 1894, which were doing reasonably well in 1901.

The George Gooderham Farm — 1893

IT WAS SAID IN LATER YEARS THAT THE GOODERHAM Estate was one of the finest farms in the province. George Horace, the third son of William and Harriet Herring Gooderham, had built four houses of architectural design, a family residence called the “Manor House,” a manager’s home and two boarding houses for workers. His first manager was Harold Scholefield. He also constructed two barns valued at $100,000 and a horse stable at $25,000, which had Georgia pine doors and four coats of varnish, a real animal palace. Only three years later they burned to the ground. He built four more barns of modern construction and kept them trim and neat. He had two Massey
Harris binders and two mowers, a Royce Reaper and a Patterson Reaper. There were rail fences of the old snake pattern all around the estate, which gradually changed to the straight rail with posts.

George died in 1905 after being ill with typhoid for a number of years, and his son, William, took over the farm. He purchased more acreage in 1914 and 1918, adding to his father’s luxurious estate. The Gooderhams owned property on both sides of Royal Windsor Drive. Grain was grown and when harvested, it was sent to the Gooderham and Worts Distillery in Toronto. There was a special spur on the railway with a siding for this purpose. He had high class horses, cattle and poultry. In 1915, he supplied the Department of Agriculture with Holstein cows. His son, Gordon, helped manage his Clarkson estate. According to the Conservator, April 15, 1920, when Holsteins were selling at the Canadian National Exhibition, Gordon was the largest buyer. He paid $12,925 for eight head and $5,100 for Rose Echo Segis, a two year old heifer.

The Gooderham maple bush was also popular, where maple syrup was made in the evaporator and sugar house. It was closed down around 1930.

Although William’s brother, also named George Horace, held many titles of companies and organizations, he was best known for his presidency of the Canadian National Exhibition (1906-1910) and Chairman of the Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission (1914-1922). William died in 1936 and Gordon took control of his father’s holdings including Gooderham & Worts. George and Gordon were both close friends of Reuben Lush.

The Gooderham acreage was eventually sold for various businesses and houses. The last Gooderham to live on the remaining property was Eric Gooderham, George’s great grandson, who had three daughters, one being Patricia Leaver, who resides in Meadow Wood subdivision on Boh-O-Link Road. They lived on the Manor Farm on the last ten acres (4 ha), and a neighbour farmed the acreage. In 1947, Gordon Gooderham’s house was purchased by Mrs. Grey and Mrs. Scher, who named it the Greyscher House and opened a nursing home for seniors. Toronto
Township purchased this property and Eric’s Manor House for the Clarkson Sewage Disposal Plant in 1955. The Greyscher House became the Plant’s administration building and both houses were torn down in the 1960s.
When Alex retired in 1923, after living in Clarkson for 29 years, he sold the store to George Battersby, who took it back in 1928, probably due to non-payment. On September 25, 1929, his general store was burglarized. The thieves entered the bank through the transom over the door and broke the glass in the door of the bank, which was located next door to the boulder stone house her father built.

Alex's daughter, Lottie, married William H. Trenwith in 1926. Their daughter, Phyllis, was born on Trenwith property and still lives there. Alex's daughter, Elva, married Roy MacBain in 1940. Mildred bought the property and gravel pit and it became a dumping ground for a few decades until it was filled in. Alex belonged to the Salvation Army Corps and this is where he met Minnie Armstrong in 1884. They were married on March 16, 1886, and had six children: Ernest, 1887, Arthur, 1889, Nelson, 1891, Elva, 1896, Lotie, 1899 and Phil, 1901.

Alex Durie was 29 years old when he first came to this area from Toronto in 1896. He leased property from Henry Clarkson's daughter, Mildred, Lot 28, Con. 2, that had two old buildings on it. He moved his family into the one closest to the tracks and opened a store and sold meat, groceries, fruit and vegetables. The following year, he started delivering groceries throughout the area, even to the Ryers, who were living in the old Beatley house. His store was a meeting place where the farmers gathered and sampled from the cracker barrel while they discussed the local news and gossip.
store to make entry. Alex told the police that a considerable amount of goods were taken, but the bank only had a loss of a few dollars in coppers.

In 1926, Alex built a cottage on Lakeview Avenue (Meadow Wood Road) in which to reside while he built a luxurious brick house for his retirement home. Unfortunately, he did not get to enjoy his leisure time for long, as he passed away on July 26, 1930, at age 63. He was buried in Spring Creek Cemetery. His pallbearers were Wilson Oughtred, William Trenwith, Bert Dingwall, George Adamson, Nelson Lawrence and Alfred Strickland.

On April 12, 1932, Alex’s executor sold the building to Charles Terry and his store became the Izatt’s Basket Factory. When the Basket Factory had a fire in 1941, the building was rebuilt and turned into apartments. Howard Speck bought it from the Charles Terry estate in 1959 and Doris Speck sold it to Alderpark Investments in 1970. This company still owns it. Part of it is used for apartments and it has been the offices of Cleyn Industries Limited, 1115 Clarkson Road North, since 1994. Alex’s retirement home is also still in existence at 960 Meadow Wood Road.
Durie’s Store, 1915

960 Meadow Wood Road, Alex Durie’s House, 2002
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Alex Durie’s Store, now apartments and a business, 1109 Clarkson Road North, 2002
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Clarkson Road North, looking north, 2002
(Kathleen A. Hicks)
Reuben Lush became a prominent name in Clarkson shortly after he moved to the district in October, 1897, with his brother, Cuthbert. On October 15, they entered into an agreement with Edmund Jarvis, to purchase 15 acres (6 ha) of land for $1,200, part of Lot 31, Con. 3, SDS, on which they built a house, stables and began a market garden. Once their produce was ready, they went into business selling to farmers’ markets in Toronto.

With the security of their endeavours, Reuben married Margaret (Maggie) Coulson on January 25, 1899, at St. George’s Church in Lowville, near Kilbride, and brought her to her new home. When Maggie was asked where they went for their honeymoon, she would quip, “Upstairs!” Reuben and Maggie had four daughters, Marjorie, 1901, Maude, 1903, Ethel, 1906, and Zilla, 1908.
Reuben and Cuthbert had grown up over their father’s butcher shop in Milton. Their family had got its start in Eramosa Township, near Guelph, in 1831 when their great grandfather, George Lush, age 50, and his family immigrated to Canada from Somerset, England.

Their father, Thomas Foster, was born in 1844 in Illinois where George’s son, Israel, and wife had moved in 1838. They returned in 1847. Thomas married Margaret Jane Howson in May, 1867, and Reuben Howson was born June 29, 1868, the first of a family of 13 children. Thomas built a three storey building in the Town of Milton and opened a butcher shop on the ground floor.

Reuben left school when he was only 12 and went to work doing odd
jobs in bush camps near Huntsville and as hired help on farms in the area. He began courting Maggie and in 1890, joined in the founding of the Sons of Temperance, Energetic Division, which became active in organizing social events for young men and women.

After working for various farmers, he and his brother Cuthbert, who was a year younger, decided to go into business for themselves. They devised a “tree stump puller” and began removing stumps from farmers’ fields, using this contraption and a team of horses.

By 1900, they were well established in Clarkson. By October, 1902, they had paid off their $1,000 loan to Jarvis and their property was registered on November 17, 1902. On January 16, 1904, they purchased 29 acres (11.7 ha) of Lot 30, Con. 3, from Andrew Orr for $2,421. On October 1, 1905, they bought the 22 acres (8.9 ha) of Lot 28, Con. 4, from Charles Upham for $1,300, which they turned around and sold to Harry Ryrie in 1909 for a profit of $900.

In 1909, Reuben and Cuthbert dissolved their partnership and Cuthbert married Mable Speck on March 24 and moved to an 80 acre (32 ha) farm in Trafalgar Township near Milton.

On their fertile acreage, Reuben and Maggie had their frame house, a barn, driving shed and several frame cottages for their Indian workers that were brought from the Brantford Hagersville Indian Reserve during the picking season. They had strawberries, raspberries, thimble berries and every kind of vegetable imaginable. Most of their produce was shipped into Toronto and Montreal.

When the Lake Shore Road was relocated in 1914, it cut Reuben’s property in two. He had 15 acres (6 ha) on the west side where his
Ontario’s first road-side fruit stand. Maggie is second from the left, and Rueben is on the far right. The other persons are not identified but are probably the Lush daughters. (Photos courtesy the Lush Family)
house was and 28 acres (11.3 ha) on the east side that had the barn, berries and market gardening. Having access to the roadway led to his opening Ontario's first road-side stand in 1917, which was recorded as such in the *Book of Knowledge* encyclopedias.

During World War I, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides came out from Toronto to work on the farm. A comical story about the Boy Scout’s lack of enthusiasm comes from this time period. Reuben got a call (they had one of the first telephones in the area as well as electricity and one of the first automobiles – a Model T-Ford) from an irate wholesaler in Montreal, who claimed that there was a layer of small potatoes in each of his berry boxes. The Scouts, who were always anxious to go swimming, had raided the potato patch and hurried their job along. Reuben was a mild tempered man and did not give the boys a tongue lashing, but the practice was stopped cold.

Reuben was very involved in the community and served on many committees such as the Peel Farmers’ Mutual Fire Insurance Board, the Clarkson-Dixie Fruit Growers Association and the Canadian Terminal System of Montreal. He was devoted to politics as a participant, being a strong Conservative, and as an avid spectator. His political career began in 1906 as a councillor on the Toronto Township Council. In 1910, he became Deputy Reeve and was Reeve in 1912 and 1913. He often held political meetings in the den of his house and worked hard when elections came around. He mostly promoted better roads and more electrification throughout the Township. He promoted the 1917 creation of the Toronto Township Hydro Commission and served as Hydro Commissioner 1917-18, 1931-34, and Chairman in 1919-20 and 1922-23. He was a man of vision who managed to make many of his ideas materialize.

In 1919, Reuben and Maggie started to sell off parts of their property which would end up being subdivided for other people to start smaller farms. At this time, they decided to build a new house just east of what became known as Lushes Corners. It was an elegant, two storey brick structure designed by Albert Howson, a relative, who was an architect in Toronto. They then added a small barn and several outbuildings. The carpenter was a Mr. Bull, who was paid $740 for his work.

With no sons to carry on the business, Reuben retired from farming in 1922. On August 30, he and Maggie began a journey across Canada by boat and train with friends. When they returned October 3, Maggie opened their home to American tourists at a rate of $1 per person a night. Her busiest time was when the Canadian National Exhibition was on at the end of August. Reuben, working on behalf of wholesalers, such as Hart and Tuckwell and Eastern Fruit of Montreal and the Niagara Peninsula Growers, bought fruit and vegetables from his neighbours. He also had a business called the Manure Syndicate and had manure shipped in from Gunns Limited and supplied the local farmers. He sold fence posts, wire and Premier Separators as well as gravel to Toronto Township and Peel County for roads at $2.10 a yard. On December 31, 1926, 63 yards (57.6 m) were delivered to the Town Line and 14 yards (12.8 m) to Stavebank Road. All his transactions were kept in an account book, which is now in the possession of the Region of Peel Archives.

On May 26, 1925, Reuben became a Justice of the Peace and tried many cases of speeders caught on the Lake Shore highway. The offenders were fined $5 to $10 plus $2 for the arresting officer and $2.75 for Reuben. In 1927-28, he served the Township as a Corn Borer Inspector and travelled extensively, inspecting the corn fields for intrusive moths that lay eggs in the corn that turn into caterpillars that cause considerable crop damage.

Reuben, who had long suffered from diabetes, died on June 29, 1934, from a stroke. Maggie sold the property and bought a house in Hamilton in the early 1940s. Her daughter, Zilla, moved in with her. She later moved to Toronto to live with Maude. While convalescing at Zilla’s, she succumbed on December 13, 1961, at age 89. Both are buried in the Spring Creek Cemetery. Their memory lives on in the history of the area of Clarkson. Many people remember Lushes Corners and Mr. Lush whose name remains in Lushes Avenue.

The Lush home at 1998 Lakeshore Road West, is now owned by the well known artist, George Rackus, whose mother purchased it in the early 1950s. For a number of years it was a tourist stop called “Pipe and Slippers.” George's works have been purchased by the National Gallery of Canada. He is the president of the “Colour & Form Society,” which helps establish new Canadian artists.
James Harris married Margaret Jane Peer in 1898 and they purchased her brother John’s frame house for $2,800. Their grandfather, John, had built the house in 1855 and it was located on 6½ acres (2.6 ha) on Barrymede Road (now Bexhill Road). This property was part of the original 1808 grant, Lot 26, Con. 3, of Christian Hendershot. David Kerr bought the northern 100 acres (40 ha) in 1809. In 1821, Peter Oliphant bought it and sold it in 1822 to his son, Hiram. He in turn sold the property to John Peer on March 27, 1827, for £150 ($375).

James and Margaret had six children, Olive, 1900, Harold, 1902, Bill, 1904, James, 1912, Margaret, 1915, and Doris, 1921. As the family grew, James built a new addition on the back and bricked the house. He farmed the land and utilized the large barn that John had constructed behind the house.
THE CHILDREN ATTENDED THE THREE ROOM S.S. #6 School. Doris Harris remembers Annie Hall fondly. She joined the Lorne Park Baptist Young People’s Union and while at a convention in Montreal in 1946, she met John Bodley. He had just returned from overseas duty as an air frame mechanic in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II.

John’s parents, Clarence and Emma Bodley, were married in Toronto in 1900. They had Fred in 1902, Jean, in 1918, and John in 1920. When John, who was a sickly child, was 11 months old, the family doctor suggested that his parents take him to the country to live, which would be a healthier environment for him. So Clarence bought 10 acres (4 ha) north of the Middle Road (QEW) from Bill Shook, for a small fruit farm and moved his family there. He ended up with 200 cherry trees, an apple orchard and fields of corn and asparagus. John attended the two room S.S.#5 School.

When the government decided to widen and pave the Middle Road in 1937, Clarence sold six acres (2.4 ha) of his land. He and his sons tore down their house in 1938 and built another one on the northern section of the property, using some of the wood. According to John, the highway went right through the dining room of their old house.

In 1947, while courting Doris, John took over the William Clarkson store and ran it until 1952 as Carload Groceteria. They were married in 1948. They have a son, David, who has blessed them with two grandsons.

Doris is a rarity in this day and age. Up until 2001 when she and John moved to Barrie, she resided on the land next door to the original John Peer house, 956 Bexhill Road, where she was born. The Peer house was last owned by her sister, Margaret Harris Duke, and her husband, Glen. Margaret died in 1996 and in 1997, Glen moved into a nursing home and sold his house to Paul Ingram and Ann Martin. He died on July 16, 1997 at 86 years of age.
The Bodley House

The Peer Barn
(((((Doris Bodley)

Martin Shoe Repair Store — James Harris, seated

Doris Bodley, and great, great niece Samantha wearing great, great Aunt Olive's dress and bonnet from 1908, sitting in the 130 year old rocking chair of great, great, great grandmother Harris.

The Peer Barn
(Doris Bodley)

The Bodley House
Part Three 1901 - 1950
STONEHAVEN FARM — 1904

WILLIAM D. TRENWITH, A BAKER IN Toronto, met and married a Clarkson girl, Margaret McIntosh Pattinson, and they moved out from Toronto in 1901 with their four year old son, William H. (The eldest son for five generations was named William and they were distinguished by their middle initials.) His mother-in-law, Jeanette Pattinson, had bought 110 acres (44.5 ha) of Lot 27, Con. 3, from William McCullogh on December 19, 1899, for $1,300, which was located east of what is now Meadow Wood Road. William and Margaret moved in with Jeanette and he ran the farm for her. They had a son, John, 1901, and daughter, Lorna, 1903. Jeanette sold the farm for $10,100 to the Cobalt mining tycoon, William Griffith Tretheway, on February 1, 1905. Tretheway sold the property in 1909 to Henry G. Hamilton for $15,800 and Art Murdock purchased it from Hamilton on May 27, 1918 and started the Lake Shore Country Club.

WILLIAM D. moved on to 25 acres (10 ha), closer to the Lake Shore Road, that he had bought in 1904 from William A. Bowbeer for $2,800, where he had built a substantial house. They called it Stonehaven Farm, which was suggested by son, Bill. The farm prospered and William sold fruit and produce locally and to outlets in Toronto. He started up the Trenwith Market on the Lake Shore Road in 1920 and his son, John, worked with him. In 1927, he gave each of his sons four acres (1.6 ha) to farm. Bill ran an apple orchard, grew vegetables and sold eggs. John was also given the market and William D. supplied him with fresh produce.

In 1926, William H. built a boulder stone house on his property (now 1503 Petrie Way) that is quite a unique structure. His daughter, Phyllis
Williams, lives next door. She has lived on Trenwith property all her life.

William D.’s original house still exists at 1567 Davecath Road and has been rebuilt in brick. Trenholme Estates, a subdivision with elegant houses built by the Oughtred Brothers, has sprung up around it. There is a street named Stonehaven Drive and one called Trenholme Drive in the subdivision named for the Trenwths.

Stonehaven Farm has been continued in Campbellville at the Guelph Line by Phyllis’ brother, William Alexander Trenwith, who has 48.6 hectares (120 acres) in orchard and vegetables.
Part Three 1901 - 1950

▲ William H., Bill and Phyllis Trenwith

▲ William H. Trenwith’s Boulder House
(Photos courtesy of Phyllis Williams)

▲ 1567 Davecath Road

▲ Boulder House, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Part Three 1901 - 1950
Great Grandpa Trenwith, Wm. George, Grandpa, Wm. Donathorne Trenwith, Dad, Wm. Henry Trenwith, and my brother Wm. Alexander Trenwith, 1931
(Phyllis Williams)
AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, A PHENOMENAL sight appeared on the streets of North America – the automobile. Because everyone was used to horse drawn wagons, the new contraption became called “the horseless carriage.”
T he first gasoline-powered automobile was invented by Americans Charles and Frank Duryea in 1893. Henry Ford began to manufacture cars in Detroit, Michigan, in 1903, and others followed. The mass production in the first decade by Henry Ford brought about a tremendous change in transportation. The day of the horse drawn wagons and carriages would become passe. The automobile was here to stay. 

The right to manufacture cars in Ontario was acquired in 1904 by Gordon Morton McGregor, the president of a wagon factory in Walkerville (Windsor), which became the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

After World War I, Edward A. Orr had Ford cars shipped to Clarkson on a flat car. He lined them up on Clarkson Road North and sold them for $495 each and managed to sell them all.

The first car lot to appear in Toronto Township was established in Port Credit by The Ford Motor Company. The first operator’s licence was introduced in Ontario in 1927 at a cost of $1. During the first year, 444,472 licences were issued.

According to the Ministry of Transportation, in 2000 there were 8,121,374 licenced drivers in Ontario.
Clarkson’s Early Automobiles

(1) Howard Orr, Marie King and Etta Durie in front of Durie’s Store (Phyllis Williams)
(2) Elva Durie (Phyllis Williams)
(3) Alex Durie and family (Phyllis Williams)
(4) Percy Hodgetts and David Brash (Jean Lindsay)
(5) Ralph Manley and Model T (Ralph Manley)

(6) Allan Hardy and Model T (Anson Hardy)

(7) Phyllis and William H. Trenwith and Model A (Phyllis Williams)
The Arrival of the Telephone — 1905

THE TELEPHONE WAS INVENTED BY Alexander Graham Bell in Brantford, Ontario, in 1874. The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was founded in 1877. The first telephone in Toronto Township was put in James Hamilton’s general store in Port Credit in 1881.

In 1905, the telephone arrived in Clarkson in Edith Clarkson’s store on Clarkson Road. Clarkson was connected to the Cooksville Exchange. Edith was the first telephone manager for the village. In 1906, the first long distance line was put in the store through the Toronto-Hamilton Exchange and a call to Toronto was 15¢. That year, for the first time, Clarkson was listed in the telephone directory.

By 1910, the service was available to home owners and 36 telephones were installed. In 1911, the Central Ontario Directory included Adamson, Bourne, Cox, Lightfoot, Oughtred, Pattinson, Shook and Robert Speck, classified as fruit growers; Curran, the blacksmith; Aldwell, Bowbeer, Orr, Lush, Manley, Ross, farmers; and Alex Durie, butcher and general merchant.

Alex Durie took over the telephone management from Miss Clarkson in 1915 and the switchboard was relocated to his store.

By 1928, there were 200 telephones installed in the area. In 1948, there were 500. In 1953, a new exchange building was constructed on Clarkson Road South. Then in 1954, Bell Canada introduced dial telephone service into Clarkson and the local switchboard was eliminated.
SHORTLY AFTER 9 A.M. ON THE MORNING of Wednesday, September 23, 1908, two freight trains collided just a short distance from the Clarkson Station. One engineer upon seeing the other freight bearing down on him, put on the brakes and jumped from the engine, only to have a wheel run over his foot.

The loud crash caused residents to rush to the train tracks to see what had happened. They witnessed quite a sight. Six cars were turned over, the caboose was smashed to pieces, and a carload of pigs had landed on top of a car of fruit and about 50 pigs were seen eating grapes and peaches with gusto.

A wrecking crane was brought from Hamilton to haul the engines away. A huge auxiliary came out from Toronto and they used a heavy chain to move the debris, but when they commenced their work, the chain snapped in two. It took some time to clear the tracks of the wreckage.

MY JOB

It’s not my place          Nor even clang the bell.
To run the train.          But let the damn thing
The whistle I can’t blow.  Jump the track...
It’s not my place          And see who catches
To say how far             hell!
The train’s allowed to go.
It’s not my place
To shoot off steam         Author Unknown

A train heading for Clarkson Station
(Edith Nadon)
O **n** NOVEMBER 9, 1909, HARRY RYRIE purchased 22 acres (8.9 ha) of lakefront property, Lot 28, Con. 4 (part of the Lewis Bradley grant), from Reuben and Cuthbert Lush for $2,200. On June 15, 1910, he bought 63 acres (25 ha) for $8,500 from Thomas Oliphant of the same Lot, Con. 3, for strawberry fields. The old Bradley house was on their property and Harry restored it for a summer cottage. He built a barn and driving shed. Then he planted strawberries and raspberries, and when picking time came, he built several small sheds for his workers to live in.

Harry, who was related to Henry Birk of jewelry store fame, built a large brick estate house. His wife, Christine, was extremely devoted to the Carman Methodist Church and worked tirelessly for its Ladies Aid projects. When Harry passed away in 1919, his wife remained on the estate. She kept herself busy with her community work. One of the organizations she was involved with was the Clarkson Red Cross that often held meetings at her home.

In 1937, she furnished the Bradley cottage, readying it to rent, and then one night, in the first week of July, some thieves broke into the house and took all the furnishings and curtains. This break-in and theft devastated her.

O **n** April 26, 1943, the property was sold to the British American Oil Company for its refinery. Mrs. Ryrie, who was said to be a gracious lady, was told she could remain in the house for the remainder of her life. The Ryries’ son, Ross, who was also very involved with the Church and other community activities, such as serving on the Board of the Clarkson Library Association, was not cut out to be a farmer. He became a lawyer, married Ruth Arkell and moved to Oakville. Mrs Ryrie died in 1953. A nurse, Joy Lismore, lived in the Ryries’ house from 1954 to 1962 when it was torn down. The Bradley house was purchased by Ken Armstrong in 1959 and moved. It became the Bradley Museum in 1967.

▲ Mr. Ryrie
(Region of Peel Archives)
Charles Terry, who came from Maryborough Township in the Elmira area, bought 50 acres (20 ha) of rich Clarkson land, Lot 29, Con. 2, on January 18, 1910, from Drusilla Clements for $14,000. It was located between Fifth Line (now Southdown Road) and Clarkson Road, above the railway tracks and was eventually bordered on the north by the Hydro power lines. There was a large house on the property thought to be built by William Bowbeer.

HE AND HIS WIFE, ELLEN (STEVEN) WOULD HAVE 12 children, eight boys and four girls. They lost a daughter as an infant. The Terrys prospered over the years as their farm flourished. Their main crops were apples and strawberries.

After Charles sold his first piece of property to Samuel Biggs in 1913, the sale of other parcels brought new neighbours like Doctor Edward Gladstone Vernon in 1915, then the Williams, Comlys and Beckers.

In late June, 1919, the Clarkson Women’s Institute organized a Strawberry Festival that would be held on the Terry Farm. The World War I veterans from Christie Street Hospital were invited and the Toronto Rotary Club organized the transportation under chairman George Baldwin. The ladies provided strawberry desserts, entertainment and sport games such as softball.
In 1920, when the annual Strawberry Festival was held, over 100 veterans attended. During World War II, the guests numbered 200. The names changed, such as the organization committee chair and Arnold Burke, chairman of the Rotary transportation, but never Mr. and Mrs. Charles Terry, who had been steadfast during the years where this event was concerned. Mrs. John Barnett was the Institute president at this time. This annual event continued into the late 1940s.

After World War II, the Terrys, who were extremely community minded and compassionate, took in a Japanese family, a father, mother and three children, who came from out west. They worked on the farm and established themselves and then eventually moved to Toronto.

Charles turned over his affairs to his son, Burton, in 1943. On October 3, 1955, Burton sold most of the family farm to Selmit Estates Limited, only keeping about three acres (1.2 ha) where their house sat. The property was turned into a subdivision.

When Charles passed away in 1958 at 92 years of age, the community lost a great resident. His son, Burton, and family resided in the Terry homestead until 1972 when the last piece of the farm was sold.

The Terry house still exists at 1040 Welwyn Drive and is now owned by Elizabeth MacGregor and her husband, Brian McGoey, who purchased it in 1992.

The last Terry to reside in Clarkson was Charles’ son, David. He had purchased six acres (2.4 ha) on the east side of Clarkson Road North, Lots 27 and 28, on September 18, 1936, that had a splendid house that had been constructed in 1928 by Arthur Durie, who had previously owned the property. Most of this acreage was sold in 1965 to D. Eric Johnson Limited. David passed away in 1980, and his wife, Violet Joy, remained there until 1988 when she sold their house to James Ryan. Jim, who opened the Clarkson Rock Health and Fitness Club in 1999 in the renovated Cold Storage building, lived there for 10 years, throughout which he did a tremendous amount of restoration to the luxurious structure, which is located at 1333 Clarkson Road North, and is splendidly surrounded by trees, a manicured lawn and gardens.
Thompson and Mary Ann Patchett bought 23 acres (9.3 ha) of Lot 31, Con. 2, in 1910 to farm. They were married in 1882 and had 11 children. Thompson built a frame house for his growing family and farmed the land with the help of his sons, Watson, Edward, Gordon, Hank and Miles. Thompson passed away and Mary Ann carried on alone as her children married and moved away. Only her youngest son, Edward Enoch, known as Pete, had the farming instincts of his father. He married Merle Cummings and they had two sons, Thompson, 1934, and Edward, 1935. Merle died in 1941, leaving Pete to raise his boys. Then he lost his mother, Mary Ann, in 1947 at age 91. In 1956, 21 acres (8.4 ha) of the farm was sold to United Lands for the Park Royal subdivision. The other two acres (0.8 ha) and house were sold in 1967 to the Canadian Tire Corporation. The house was torn down and a Gas Bar was constructed in its place on the west side of Southdown Road above the GO Station. There are no longer any Patchetts in Mississauga who are related to Thompson and Mary Ann. Their grandson, Edward, lives in Oakville.
PERCY HODGETTS AND HIS GOOD FRIEND ALEXANDER

Westervelt purchased 20 acres (8 ha) of land, Lot 29, Con. 3, in 1910 from Andrew Orr. It was located on the west side of what is now Clarkson Road South, right next door to School #6. Hodgetts Creek, that flows west to east crossing under Clarkson Road, was so named because it ran through Percy’s farm and emptied into Rattray Marsh.

Bush’s Inn and many outbuildings were on the property and the two gentlemen tossed a coin to see which piece they would each take. Alexander Westervelt got the Inn. He became the General Manager of the Royal Winter Fair (1922-1936).

Once this was settled, Percy built a huge house on the top of the south bank of the Creek, overlooking the remnants of Hyatt’s Mill and Dam, which had been built before his time and had disintegrated with the years. Percy was very adept at farming as he had been educated at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph and graduated in 1897 with a Bachelor of Science and Agricultural degree. In 1902, he was appointed
Afternoon tea with Uncle Harry, Jack, Aunt Alice, Grandma Jessie, Percy, May, (unknown) and family housekeeper, Elizabeth Cusden.
Percy Hodgetts
(Christ Church)

Percy Hodgetts to the Provincial Department of Agriculture. He became secretary of the Ontario Fruit Growers Association in 1904 and in 1908, when a Fruit Branch was formed, he was promoted to be its directing head. He was a chief of several other activities in the service of the government.

Percy and his wife, May, had three children, Agnes, Jack and Jean. His family enjoyed many picnics on the banks of Hodgetts Creek, where Percy put in a tennis court on the cement foundation of the mill.

Percy was also very active in the Carman Church, serving as chairman of the building committee for the Community Hall that opened in 1924 and holding the position of recording steward for 15 years. He died in 1966 at age 88. Daughter, Jean Lindsay, passed away on April 30, 2003.

The small waterway is now called Sheridan Creek.

Percy Hodgetts House, 1920

Jean Lindsay, 1925

Hodgetts House, 1920

Part Three 1901 - 1950
Turn of the Century Trees

▲ Charles Terry beneath the Terrys' chestnut tree
(Joan Terry Eagle)

▲ Allan Hardy on his farm
(Anson Hardy)

▲ Alex, May, Ettie, Elva and Lottie Durie
(Phyllis Williams)

Clarkson and its Many Corners
EVEN THOUGH THE AUTOMOBILE WAS ON THE scene, the Blacksmith was still required for the farmers’ horses. Thomas Curran was the local Smitty. He was located on Clarkson Road on part of Lot 29, Con. 2, which he purchased from Joseph White on May 9, 1911, for $1,100. In 1930, he was advertising car repairs in the Port Credit News.
m. Morley Fletcher and his wife, Annie, moved to Clarkson in 1911 from Toronto. On May 20, 1914, they purchased 18 acres (7.3 ha), Lot 30, Con. 3, east of what is now Southdown Road (across from the former Clargreen Gardens), from Richard Morphen for a market garden. They had three children, Kathleen, Dorothy and George. Their crops were mainly vegetables and much of what they grew was sold in Toronto. They grew about 10 acres (4 ha) of asparagus and at times rented another 20 acres (8 ha) to expand with potatoes, tomatoes, squash and parsley.

The Fletchers’ asparagus was becoming famous and in 1939 when the King and Queen of England arrived in Canada for a national tour, Fletchers’ asparagus was shipped via rail to Ottawa for a state banquet. George got such a reputation for this vegetable after this honour that he became known as “The Asparagus King.” George was the only one who married and he carried on the family market garden when his father passed away in 1951 and continued until 1968. He died in 1987, the same year as his sisters.

There are no longer Fletchers living in Clarkson, but the family is remembered by having a street named after them – Fletcher Valley Crescent.
Part Three 1901 - 1950

Inset top: Morley and Annie
Inset bottom: The George Fletcher House

Harvesting the asparagus

The Rhubarb House
(All photos, Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)
Effie Oughtred Hardy, the daughter of Stephen Oughtred from Sheridan, who was a widowed school teacher, purchased 9¼ acres (3.7 ha) of property east of Clarkson Road, Lot 27 and Lot 28, Con. 2, on what is now the South Service Road, from Captain James Harris’ son, Arthur, on May 30, 1912, for $1,237. She called it Allanson Farm for her only son, Allan, who had been born in 1890. Her husband, Anson Oliver Hardy, had died of a ruptured appendix on April 16, 1893.

BY THE TIME ALLAN married Madeline Lawrance in 1924, he was working in Toronto for the Imperial Life Insurance Company, while managing his small farm with hired help. On April 28, 1933, he purchased 6½ acres (2.6 ha) from Naomi Harris for $3,846, bringing his property to 15¾ acres (6.3 ha). He and Madeline had five children, Anson, Betty, Donald, Anna and William. They looked after Effie until she died in 1948.

Allan was a notary public for a number of years and a trustee and secretary-treasurer for School #5 and president of the Lawn Bowling Club organized in 1930. They bowled on leased land from Mildred Clarkson Mitchell, the south side of Auld’s Butcher Shop, where a car lot stands today. James Pengilley was the first president. Allan also was very involved in the Clarkson United Church.

In 1943, Allan had a series of strokes and was forced to retire. He passed away on New Year’s Day, 1954, and was buried in the family plot at Spring Creek Cemetery. His son, Anson, sold the farm in 1956 to Leonard Finch of Canada Limited and now lives in Sheridan Homelands, only a short distance from where he grew up. Sister Betty still resides in the Clarkson area.
Part Three 1901 - 1950

▲ The Hardy Farm House

▲ Picking rhubarb

▲ Allan and his horse (photos courtesy of Anson Hardy)

▲ Anson Hardy
Hydro in Clarkson — 1913

SIR ADAM BECK was an electricity advocate, who introduced the first Power Bill into Legislation in early 1906. The Power Commission Act was passed on June 7th and Beck was made chairman of the newly formed Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario that would oversee the distribution of hydro in the province.

Beck was a strong supporter of Beck’s efforts. He often accompanied Beck on meetings with the local farmers to convince them of how beneficial hydro would be to their farm production.

Port Credit, the Police Village, was the first community in Toronto Township to turn in an application for hydro power under the Rural Distribution Act of 1911. A By-law was passed by the Township Council on November 20, 1911, for the cost of $7,500 for a plant to distribute electric power to Port Credit. On July 5, 1912, the first electricity was supplied. In early 1913, the residents of Clarkson and Cooksville put in an application and soon electric lines were being installed. An extension of the Ontario Hydro service from Port Credit was sent to Clarkson. Benares was one of the first houses to get electricity.
On June 10, 1913, Toronto Township Council took over the operation and signed a contract for power with the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario. It was then operated by the Commission of Council until June 1, 1917 when the Toronto Township Hydro Electric Commission was established with Reeve David McCaugherty as Chairman. Reuben promoted the formation of the Commission and served as its Chairman in 1919-20, 1922-1923 and he was a Commissioner in 1917-18 and 1931-34. Reuben’s cronies called him “The Father of Toronto Township Hydro.” He was Reeve when electricity came to Clarkson.

The basic service charge was $2 a month and when meters were installed the following year, the meter rate was 4½¢ per kilowatt hour.

From 1960 to 1967, Reeve Robert Speck was a Commissioner of Hydro.
Horsepower was used to move transformers, March 3, 1910 (Hydro One Networks Archives)

Cables being installed in Park Royal, April 22, 1958
(Enersource Hydro Mississauga)
The ladies of the Clarkson Institute did a tremendous amount of work during the First World War (1914-18) to aid the men who were shipping out for Europe. Clarkson was a regiment stop over, which was supervised by the ladies on behalf of The Red Cross. Here the soldiers, marching from Niagara to Toronto for embarkation to England, rested, had lunch and received routine medical attention. Clarkson had 52 local boys involved in the war, some of whom were from the Herridge, Oliphant, Terry, Orr, Sayers and Durie families.

The women would have work parties to do knitting and make gifts and food stuffs, to be sent overseas. Parcels and letters of encouragement were mailed out regularly. The Women’s Institute grew over the years, adding members who kept up their industrious practices and events.

The Women’s Institute members were known to entertain the veterans and staff from the Christie Street Hospital at the annual Strawberry Festival on the grounds of Charles Terry’s homestead that was started
after WW I. They would send boxes of fruit to the patients in the fall and gifts at Christmas. During World War II (1939-45), the same procedure was followed, except for 1943 when the gas shortage caused the event to be cancelled.

The organization was dissolved in 1948.

Gathering in 1926: Front row (L to R): Mrs. Anne Sayers, Mrs. Colloton, Mrs. Hodgetts, Mrs. W. Shook. Back row: Mrs. Cavan, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Terry, Naomi Harris and Mrs. Bourne

(Clarkson Women’s Institute activities (Courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)

Strawberry Festival

Gathering in 1926:
(Left to Right) Front row: Mrs. Anne Sayers, Mrs. Colloton, Mrs. Hodgetts, Mrs. W. Shook
Back row: Mrs. Cavan, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Terry, Naomi Harris and Mrs. Bourne
(Barbara Larson)
The Merchant Bank of Canada opened on November 23, 1913, as a sub-station in a building south of the Railway tracks on Clarkson Road North, Lot 28, Con. 2, that was leased from Alex Durie, who had the local grocery store next door. Both buildings were owned by Sarah and Mildred Clarkson. It became a full-time branch on May 1, 1914, under its first manager, H. L. Read. Then Roy McBain, Alex’s son-in-law, became manager.

Roy McBain and Staff (Phyllis Williams)

The Merchant Bank, which had been granted a charter in 1822 in the Town of York (Toronto), was absorbed into the Bank of Montreal in 1922. It closed down on December 31, 1938, and Roy McBain was appointed to a branch at Desbarats, Ontario. Clarkson did not have another bank until 1949, when the Canadian Bank of Commerce (now CIBC) came on the scene with A. G. McDermott as manager, leasing property from William Lightfoot at the northeast corner of Lakeshore and Clarkson Road North.

Doug Auld purchased the building for $3,500 on June 11, 1947, from James Penguilly and it became Auld’s Butcher Shop.
Etta and Alex Durie and Bankers
(Phyllis Williams)

Bank of Montreal,
Royal Windsor Drive,
2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

William H. Trenwith, 1924
(Phyllis Williams)

Clarkson and its Many Corners
IN 1913, REVEREND JOHN KININMONT Fairbairn (b. 1841, d. 1913) purchased six acres (2.4 ha) in Clarkson. There was a large barn on the property that had been built around 1830 by Thomas Mason. When the Reverend died that year, his wife, Margaret (1857-1928), who had just opened the Blue Dragon Inn, had the barn divided into three floors, making 17 rooms in all. She filled the rooms with antiques.

After Margaret passed away on September 3, 1928, her daughters, Grace Mary (1884-1967) and Agnes (1897-1976), took over the top two floors and rented the lower level to Mrs. P. Williams Arnold. In 1932, Grace purchased the Clarkson Market from the Sydney Preston Estate, where she had worked since 1918, and renamed it the Clarkson Market Antiques.
Red Cross Society Pageant — 1914

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)
Soldiers March Through Clarkson: W.W.I — 1914

▲ Ernest Durie

▲ Soldiers, en route to Toronto, 1915 (Region of Peel Archives)

▲ In front of Clarkson Store (Phyllis Williams)
↑ Soldiers en route to Toronto at Clarkson, 1915
(Region of Peel Archives)

↑ Soldiers Pie Fest at Clarkson, Ontario
(Phyllis Williams)

↑ Alex Durie and soldiers from 74th Regiment at a Pie Fest on way from Niagara to Toronto, Clarkson, November 5, 1915
(Phyllis Williams)
IN 1914, THERE WAS A CONTROVERSY THAT CAME ABOUT FROM the decision to reroute Lake Shore Road when it was going to be paved, the first in the province. The original roadway, now called Clarkson Road South, turned southward through Thomas Merigold’s grants, Lots 28 and 29, Con. 3, and ran along the lakefront to Oakville. It was decided to have the road on a 30 degree angle from the corner of Lorne Park Road across farm lands to connect with the lake extension. This proposal would have cut the Clarkson farms in half.

For many years, several local farmers had been pressing the government for road improvement to Lake Shore Road. During the horse and buggy days, gravel roads had been fine, but now with the innovation of the automobile, better roads were desired. On August 27, 1914, a group of supporters for better roads, led by George H. Gooderham, of Gooderham & Worts, distillers in Toronto, sent a petition to the Ontario Minister of Public Works about creating jobs during this time of high unemployment by proceeding with work on the highways. The petition included, “such an undertaking would provide work, not only for those directly engaged in the construction, but would also afford employment for many others in providing necessary materials and supplies.” Approval was reported by R.P. Fairbairn, Deputy Minister of Public Works, on September 4. There would be 40 miles (66 k) of highway, 24 feet wide (7.3 m) 16 feet (4.8 m) of concrete with 4 feet (1.2 m) of shoulder on either side) with Toronto, Hamilton, the province and municipalities bearing the cost of $613,000.

The Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission was created by an Ontario Government Order in Council on September 17th. On October 9th, the Ontario Government appointed former Reeve Reuben Lush as Roads Commissioner. His good friend, George H. Gooderham, was chairman.
When the proposed route came up, several people became incensed. Some of the local farmers objected to losing part of their property and the Carman Church officials did not want to lose a portion of their parking lot. A Commission Report states, “Most of the property owners saw the advantage that would come to them, and were willing to give the right-of-way required. One or two were so utterly unreasonable that the whole idea had finally to be regrettably abandoned.”

The route was changed to head south

(Commericing work on Lake Shore Road
(The Lush Collection)
From left to right: G. F. Beer, T. W. Jutton, H. Bertram, R. H. Lush, George H. Gooderham, M. C. Smith and W. S. Davis

Lake Shore Road is completed, 1917 (Lush Collection)
through the Lushes’ 44 acres (18 ha. now Southdown Road) and this was beneficial for them, for they opened the first roadside fruit stand in Ontario in 1917.

The building of a concrete highway, one of the first of its kind in Canada, began immediately and construction continued over the next three years. Gooderham laid the last slab at Mimico, smoothing the cement with a silver trowel before a bronze tablet was inserted into the slab. The official opening was carried out with great fanfare on November 29, 1917, by the Ontario Premier, The Right Honourable Sir William Hearst.

When the Lake Shore Road was completed in 1922 at a cost of $1,189,201 (not including bridges), the Commission was disbanded by the government and the road became known as Highway 2. In 1944, the spelling was changed to Lakeshore Road.
Robert and Enid Speck — 1915

The Town of Mississauga’s first Mayor, Robert William Speck, was born on April 16, 1915, and raised in Clarkson on his father Charlie’s 100 acre farm (40 ha), Lots 31 and 32, Con 2, located on the west side of Fifth Line (Southdown Road) and south of Middle Road (Queen Elizabeth Way). The 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 31 had been willed to his grandmother, Hannah Speck, in 1883 from Charles Cordingley. His grandfather, Robert Speck, purchased another 50 acres (20 ha) from John Johnson on March 26, 1884, for $3,250. In March, 1914, Charlie inherited it.

△Robert Speck (Mississauga News)

△The Speck Farm House
(Enid Speck)
ENID PATTINSON SPECK WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 2, 1916, in a house on Lake Shore Road on two acres (0.8 ha) her father, Harry, and mother, Cybella, purchased from brother Gordon Pattinson in 1910. Henry later sold this acreage and purchased a larger farm area of seven acres (2.8 ha) on Lot 30, Con. 3, on November 5, 1917, from Dennis Herridge, on what is now the northeast corner of Orr Road. He built a substantial house to accommodate his family and a barn. (The barn burned down in April, 1929, and was rebuilt. It is located in the Lewis Bradley Park and is owned by the City of Mississauga. The house was torn down on September 27, 2000.)

These two youngsters, who would meet and marry, lived only a short distance apart. Bob attended School #5 near his home (now Hillcrest School) and Enid went to School #6 (Clarkson Public School). However, the families both attended the Carman Methodist Church, so they knew each other. When it came time to go to high school, Bob went to Port Credit and Enid to Oakville. Bob was a keen athlete and was very active in local sports. For a time in his teens, he was an outstanding junior hockey player in the Ontario Hockey Association founded in 1890.

After a two year courtship, Bob and Enid were married in 1939. Bob’s father had passed away in 1938, so he was the sole manager of the family farm. They lived in the Speck residence for a number of years and started a family. They had three children, John, 1942, Marilyn, 1944, and Paul, 1954. During this period, Bob was a director of the Clarkson-Dixie Fruit Growers Association and the secretary of the Clarkson-Cooperative Storage Ltd. Between 1947-49, he served on the Clarkson School Board.

In 1951, Bob sold the family farm in four parts to Ross Watson, William Trenwith, Melville Watson and Wilbur Stewart, and rented a house on Balsam Avenue. He purchased property in Lakeview and here he established Speck’s Fruit Market, a large, bright open air facility at 947-9 Lakeshore Road, Stop 4. Being from farm families, he and Enid were used to hard work and their fortitude allowed their business to
prosper. Their market became a popular location in the small hamlet. In 1953, he built a beautiful two storey white frame house at 940 First Street, which is still there.

He joined the Lakeview Businessmen’s Association, became president and served four years as a member of the Toronto Township Committee of Adjustment.

At age 41, a new interest came into Bob Speck’s life – politics. There were a few problems in the area that irked him and he decided to see if he could rectify them. He ran for councillor of Ward 1, which at the time was Lakeview, and won by a large majority. The following year, he became Deputy Reeve. In a short time, he was hooked and within three years contemplated running against Mary Fix for the Reeve ship. Much to his surprise, he won. For a man who had thought he would only be involved for a couple of years, the challenge of a political life had gotten into his blood. He sold his market in 1968 and never went back to his roots for the rest of his life.

He became the 41st Reeve of Toronto Township since Confederation in 1867. When his second election against Mary Fix was won in 1961, he broached town amalgamation in his inaugural speech. He also suggested the town adopt a new name.

Bob Speck was a proficient, resourceful man, who was ambitious, profound and sincere. He carried these traits into his every day involvement with his Reeve responsibilities for Toronto Township. No matter what he ventured into, his wife Enid was always supportive of his endeavours. She also busied herself with charity work such as the Canadian Cancer Society and the ladies’ Kumeetus Klub.

Fortunately, Reeve Speck saw his dream of a town come true. At a town meeting, Monday, November 24, 1964, a motion was passed that Toronto Township would send in an application for town status to the Ontario Municipal Board.

“IT would give us some identification at last,” Reeve Speck had declared. “This move is a step in the direction of growing up.”

Town status was granted on March 29, 1967, and the council began preparation to amalgamate the small villages of the Township, with the
exclusion of Port Credit and Streetsville, to form the largest town in Canada on January 1, 1968.

However, before much of the work was accomplished, Mayor Bob (as he was fondly called) suffered his first heart attack on November 1st. While he was confined to the hospital, he was acclaimed the first Mayor of Mississauga on November 28th. He then went home and on Sunday, December 31st, he was able to attend the ceremonies held at Confederation Square in Cooksville, where the Town Hall was located.

In 1970, a new Town Hall was built for Council by S. B. McLaughlin Associates west of Hurontario Street on the 237 acre (95.8 ha) site that was destined for the City Centre on what would become Robert Speck Parkway in 1977. Shortly after the January 4, 1971, commemoration of the building, Bob Speck suffered a second heart attack and was rushed to Oakville Trafalgar Hospital. He was then transferred to St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto to have a blood clot in his leg removed. Upon his discharge, he attended the opening of the Clarkson Arena on February 28th, and then took a well deserved vacation in Florida.

In September, he was again admitted to St. Michael’s, where he and Enid were told that he had a terminal heart condition. This led to speculation about the newest medical discovery by Doctor Christiaan Barnard – the heart transplant. This took place on December 20th when he received the heart of a subway victim, Richard Woniewicz. This made him the 18th heart transplant patient in Canada.

Bob Speck kept up his courage to brave this fight for his life until his health returned so he could get home and back to the job of running the new town. Unfortunately, it was not to be. He contracted a cold in February, which caused a setback. He came home for Easter and spent quality time with his loving family. His stomach bothered him so badly, he was again rushed to the hospital and on April 5, 1972, at age 57, he died from a combination of pneumonia and a duodenal ulcer.

Enid carried on alone with the help and support of her children and she moved back to Clarkson. She spent her winters in Florida with daughter, Marilyn, son-in-law, Allan Greenfield, and their three children, Alyson, Alan and Christopher. Son, John, lives in Clarkson, with his wife, Shirley, and children, Robert and Lesley. Paul and his wife, Susan, and their three children, Lindsay, Graeme and Garrett, also reside in Mississauga. Enid passed away on August 24, 2002.
In 1915, when 100 acre (40 hectare) farms in Clarkson were selling from $10,000 to $15,000, the first doctor to settle in this area was Dr. Edward Gladstone Vernon (b.1885, d.1956). He and his wife, Ida Mary Thompson (1886-1975), a school teacher, came here from St. Mary’s outside of London, Ontario. They purchased half an acre (0.2 ha) of land on the corners of Sayers and Clarkson Road North, Lot 29, Con. 2, from Charles Terry for $2,500 and built a house. He opened his practice there that year.

DR. EDWARD VERNON’S HOUSE
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

Over the years, Dr. Vernon’s patients were the descendants of the pioneer families discussed in this book. In 1940, he suffered his first heart attack and had another in 1950, after which he retired. His final one occurred in November, 1956, and he was buried in Spring Creek Cemetery.

Doctor and Mrs. Vernon had two sons, James, 1916, and Howard, 1920. Howard, followed in his father’s footsteps and went to Western University in London to become a doctor. He graduated in 1951 and bought property across the street from his father and opened his practice with his wife, Doctor Elizabeth Vernon. He later moved to the southeast corner of Sayers Road, where he remained until he retired in 1986.
Brother, Jim, was a jack-of-all-trades, being an engineer, writer, builder and having worked at Maclean Hunter and American Motors. He married Doris Taylor, (1912), of Lorne Park on September 27, 1941. They had a daughter, Dianne, in 1942. He passed away in 1998 at age 82. The Vernon house, where Jim and Howard were born, was recently torn down.
Part Three 1901 - 1950

THIS BUILDING IS A GOOD EXAMPLE of the vernacular farmhouses of the 19th century. Located at 972 Clarkson Road South, it was built by Gordon Pattinson in 1915 on 23 acres (9.2 ha), Lot 29, Con. 3, he had purchased from Andrew Orr, November 1, 1906, for $5,500. He married the daughter of Thomas and Mary Oliphant, Armadell (Dell), and they raised their two children, Tom, and Kathleen, here.

Gordon farmed his acreage in a variety of vegetables, apple and pear trees and strawberries, but he was also community minded.

He and his family attended the Carman Church. He was a Trustee for the Clarkson School #6, along with Lloyd Herridge and Edward Slacer, during the 1930s and 1940s. Gordon had political interests as a staunch Conservative and followed his brother Harry as Hydro Commissioner. Harry served as a Commissioner from 1935 until he died in March, 1941. Gordon’s term lasted until 1963. He was Chairman 1948-49, and 1953-59.

Pattinson/Shoreacres Building — 1915

▲ The Pattinson House / Shoreacres Building, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Gordon Pattinson
(Enersource
Hydro Mississauga)

▲ Gordon Pattinson

Part Three 1901 - 1950
When Gordon passed away on August 11, 1973, in his 89th year, his daughter Kathleen (Kay) inherited the house and remained there until 1985. She had started working as a secretary in the Toronto Township Clerk’s Department in 1937 and worked there all her life.

Kay Pattinson sold her family home to Shoreacres Property & Investments Ltd. and moved to a condo on Inverhouse Drive. She died in 1995 at age 81 years. The building is now occupied by Garvey & Garvey Barristers and Solicitors. Pattinson Crescent is named for the family.
Strawberry Capital of Ontario — 1915

Clarkson Station, 1915
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)
Howard and Grace West first came to Clarkson in 1916 with their two year old son, John. They spent the summer at the Blue Dragon Inn. Howard worked in Toronto with his father and brothers. Their business, J. & J. Taylor Limited, manufactured bank vault doors, safes, deposit boxes, prison doors and jail cells.

Howard and Grace enjoyed Clarkson so much that in the fall they rented a house from the Sayers family and resided in it for several years. (It became the Pines Nursing Home.) During these years, the Wests attended the Carman Methodist Church, where Howard served as the organist and choir master.

In 1921, they rented Sydney Preston’s house that sat on ten acres (4 ha) on the east side of Clarkson Road South. For a time, John attended S.S. #6 School along with the Orr, and Pattinson children. The Wests had Patricia in 1928 and William in 1930.
Howard bought Mr. Preston’s property, which was part of the original Lewis Bradley grant, Lot 28, Con. 3, on April 1, 1929, for $12,500. They added a new wing to the house, planted an orchard of 90 apple trees, put in an acre (0.4 ha) of asparagus and named the place “Sunningdale.”

John started working with his father in the summer of 1932, when he was attending the University of Toronto and studying to be an engineer. That same year, at a corn roast on Meadow Wood Lane, he met his future bride, Elizabeth Tucker, who was studying to become a kindergarten teacher. By 1936, he was working full time in the family business at a salary of $50 a month.

In the spring of 1940, when he was making $100 a month, he and Elizabeth were married. They took over Howard’s house rent free for one year on condition that they pay the $80 in property taxes. They had four children, Ann, Thomas, Patricia and Philip. In 1954, they sold the property to John Aloe for a subdivision, retaining one lot on which they built a new home. Mr. Aloe put in the street now known as Sunningdale Bend.

Bill West purchased a building lot in 1951, adjacent to John and Elizabeth’s property, and built a house. He married Beverly Brockett in January, 1952, and they had three children, Sandra, Gordon and Carol. They still reside in that house. Bill, who is now retired, owned and operated a contracting business that provided doors, locks and control systems for prisons and penitentiaries.

Howard West’s Sunningdale House still stands today at 831 Sunningdale Bend. The original part of it is well over 100 years old.

MEMORIES

“When we were kids, we would go swimming in the Sheridan Creek, which was behind our place. One day, there had been a rainstorm, then the sun came out and it was a beautiful day. So we went down and took our clothes off to go skinny dipping. When we quit and came out, all our clothes were wet because the creek had been rising after the storm and this one kid’s clothes had been washed away completely. So he had to go way up above Balsam Avenue with nothing on. I got hell from my mother because all my clothes were soaked.”

John West interview for Mississauga Heritage Foundation - Dec. 6, 1995
Arthur Durie, Alex Durie’s second son, was sent overseas during World War I (1914-1918). While working as a stretcher bearer at Vimy Ridge in 1917, a big horse threw its rider and came trotting over to Arthur and kept nuzzling him over and over. Everyone was amazed at this horse and when Arthur wrote his next letter to his father, he told him, “If I hadn’t known you still had Big Dan, I’d have thought I met him today in Europe.” Alex wrote back immediately to tell his son, “I’m sure you did meet Big Dan, as I sold him to the Army six months ago for overseas duty at the front.”

△ Arthur Durie and Big Dan

Contributed by Phyllis Williams, Alex’s granddaughter.
Another letter from Private Arthur Durie to his father, Alex, was sent from the front in 1918 as the Allies made their last big push to victory.

“Yes, we have been covering ourselves with glory, but I am proud to say we are not fighting for glory or I would not be here. If the war has done no greater thing it has done much for the world in making us realize the value of our friends and of the things we have been permitted to enjoy in the days that are gone, and I trust that the material things will stand in their right places of value, and not take first place, as too often has been the case in the past.

“A millionaire is no happier nor any better off in the trenches than a day labourer. What a blessing it will be when the world realizes the foundation of true happiness. I know no other pleasure like that of making others happy.

“I wish I could tell you much of what we see here and do, but the time is not yet, however, you will know by the papers that one success has crowned another along our entire front during the whole of our spring campaign, and we are looking forward to the day when our enemies will fully realize that we have command of the situation, and the powers come together with pen and paper to arrange a just peace.”

Arthur Durie (Phyllis Williams)
HENRY G. HAMILTON SOLD HIS PROPERTY OF 105 acres (42.5 ha), Lot 27, Con. 3, with its 1,800 foot (548 m) lake frontage, to Art Murdock on May 27, 1918. This had been the former Pattinson/Tretheway acreage that Hamilton had purchased in 1909. Murdock commissioned the renowned architect, Stanley Thompson, to design a golf course.

A clubhouse and pro shop were built and a nine hole course was ready for the 1922 golfing season. The clubhouse had a lovely restaurant with a fireplace at each end of the room and a picturesque view of Lake Ontario. The Lakeshore Country Club was officially opened on August 26, 1922. In 1924, the course was expanded to 18 holes.

Percy Bell was the golf professional in 1923, Percy Barrett, 1924-26, and Bert Tew, 1927-33. Art Oughtred took care of the gardens. In 1925 it was renamed the Lake Shore Golf & Country Club. During the first week of May, 1930, the Club experienced a fire in its locker rooms, but the rest of the building was not damaged.

The clubhouse was active in the early 1940s when World War II raged in Europe. One of its activities was the British War Victims Fund, which by 1941 was doing well. Then in 1943, it caught fire and burned to the ground.

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Phyllis Trenwith Williams remembers watching the fire from her bedroom window. Only the two chimneys remained standing, the only sign of the once elegant structure. Leo Johnson moved the pro shop on rollers up Meadow Wood Road to his property north of the Lakeshore Road and it is now a residence located at 1029 Johnson’s Lane.

The property, down to 102 acres (41.3 ha), was sold on June 30, 1944, by Murdock to James I. Tuckett of an American group and it was registered on March 30, 1946, as Meadow Wood Limited. Internationally renowned landscape architect, Carl Borgstrom, was appointed to design and manage the proposed development. Once the Toronto Township Council approved his plans, he had two model homes constructed and called the subdivision Meadow-Wood-On-The-Lake. The street leading to the subdivision, Lakeview Avenue, was later changed to Meadow Wood Road.

Carl’s sons, Bill and Bruce, were working with him and he put Bruce in charge of the sale office. Bruce obtained his Broker’s Licence and is still in real estate today in Oakville.

They advertised and the people who viewed the homes felt they were too far from Toronto and, because of the unfamiliar design, too highly priced. When Real Estate editor, Paul Fox, of The Toronto Star, came to view the houses, he was intrigued that they had a mill on the property and were cutting the trees and using the wood in their houses. He wrote an article describing the model homes which gave them free advertising. The following day, the cars were lined up for a mile (kilometer) down the road and Meadow Wood was “on the map!”

Usually, the buyers purchased the lots and arranged their own construction plans. A 100 x 200 foot (30 m x 60 m) lakefront lot sold for $2,300, and lesser lots sold for about $900. Carl passed away in 1951 and did not see the outcome of his endeavours. Bruce continued until the early 1960s.

The two chimneys stood until the early 1950s when they were torn down by Ray Lee, who built two houses there. The circular drive, where the clubhouse sat is still used today by numbers 461 - 471 Country Club Crescent.
IN OCTOBER, 1998, CLARGREEN GARDENS celebrated 80 years in business. It was one of the first commercial enterprises in the Clarkson area, having been started in 1918 by Thomas Holmes and Bert Abbs in a 20 by 35 foot (6.1 m x 10.7 m) facility set on four acres (1.5 ha) of Lot 31, Con. 3, purchased from Reuben Lush. It was first called the Clarkson Greenhouse.

The business, located on Lake Shore Road (now Southdown Road), prospered over the years. In 1957 a flower shop was opened, then it branched out in 1969 to a garden centre. In 1973 it turned from a wholesale operation to a retail business and took on the name Clargreen Gardens. This evolution was necessary because the Greenhouse’s successful cut flower business was eroding because of the highly competitive international cut flower market. By 1974, its 56th anniversary, it boasted over 250,000 plants with 60,000 square feet (5574.2 m²) of back-yard greenhouse and an annual business of over one million dollars.

In November, 1978, when Bert’s son, Lawrence, was the owner, they had a $250,000 fire that almost destroyed their business. The fire demolished over 17,000 square feet (1579.4 m²) of the 60,000 square foot greenhouse. The next year, in November, 1979, they lost a lot of business due to the evacuation of Mississauga during the train derailment.

Lawrence retired in 1988 and his daughter, Cathy, and husband, Mike Dytmerski, along with partner, Ted Abbs, took over the operation of the business. After a couple of years Ted left. At their anniversary, they had over 100 employees in their numerous operations around Southern Ontario and business was better than ever. On November 12, 2001, Mike announced the closure of this long running nursery facility. Councillor Pat Mullin said of this happening, “Clargreen has been an institution and a part of the special uniqueness that makes up the Clarkson/Lorne Park area.” The final day of business was December 15th and the
MEMORIES

The village Lawrence Abbs knew was strictly farming country. In an interview in 1981 with John Stewart of the Mississauga Times (now with the Mississauga News), he told of traipsing through the farmers’ fields on his way to the four-room S.S. #5 schoolhouse with its oiled floors. He still could name every farm he had had to cross on his daily trip and tell you a little about each family. He talked about Reuben Lush, pointed out the dimensions of Ed Orr’s farm, told of the rerouting of Lakeshore Road, the Gooderham estate, where the owners of the Gooderham & Worts distillery kept cattle. He recounted how the Abbs family had lived on the same property on the west side of Southdown Road for 63 years. He remembered the Clarkson of his youth as a wonderful lively place. In summer, youngsters would take advantage of an offer to visit the Fudger estate, later Major Rattray’s. There was a beautiful sandy beach along the lake and the kids had to convince Mr. Brooks, the gate man, they really did live in Clarkson, for only Clarkson children were allowed. The most astounding thing to Lawrence was how anyone could pay three millions dollars for a swamp. (The cost of the Rattray Marsh was actually $1,050,000.)

property is now up for sale. The Interior Landscaping Division is carrying on as Butterfly Landscaping Corporation at 2243 Dunwin Drive and Mike is involved with that operation.

▲ Edd Orr’s Farm

▲ Sybil and Lawrence Abbs
(Mississauga News)
IN 1918, GRACE MARY Fairbairn started to work with Sydney Preston, who operated the Clarkson Market on Lake Shore Road, Lot 28, Con. 2, where he sold vegetables and fruit. His business operated out of an old barn said to have been constructed in 1827 of hand hewn timbers and beams measuring 10" by 4" (25 cm x 10 cm) and some 40 feet long (12 m), with 6,000 square feet (557 m²) of floor space. The story goes that he rented the property and moved the barn to this location. It was here that Grace sold her first antique for $5, a pewter jug she had purchased for 50¢ when she was 15. This spurred her decision to use half the barn for antiques. Sydney Preston also had a Toronto branch at 129 Bloor Street West.

In 1932, when Mr. Preston was killed in a car accident, Grace took over the entire barn, and purchased the property from Louisa A. Fitzgerald, who had bought it from Mildred Clarkson Mitchell in 1928. She opened Clarkson Market Antiques, retaining the name of the former market. Another barn was moved in by local carpenters from property her father owned near Mississauga Road to give her more space. Grace was known as the lady in blue, because she always wore her favourite colour.

Her sister, Agnes, the Clarkson librarian, helped her with this huge undertaking.

Their mother, Margaret, also was a businesswoman, as she had opened an establishment called The Blue Dragon Inn in 1913. Both the Inn and their home, which was a restored barn, were furnished with antiques.
Antiques. This Inn burned down in 1923 and another took its place under the management of Mary McCallum, who purchased a house from Mrs. Fairbairn's estate in 1928.

They kept the business going until 1966 when they sold it to Alice J. Millar. Grace died in 1967. When the Barn was taken over that year by Mrs. Patricia Carter of Cooksville, who had been in the antique business for 15 years, she called it “Heritage House Antiques - Imports - Art Gallery.” She gave it a face lift and added a coffee room and put an art gallery in the hayloft. The business did not prosper and Patricia closed the Barn down in 1970 and sold it to John and Isabel Trenwith McArthur, who purchased the property as an investment.

The Barn sat empty for two years, during which, Isabel occasionally used it as a clothing store and sold second hand clothes.

In 1973, Frank Pleich, who owned an antique store in Oakville, rented the Barn to store his antiques. In 1974, he would open two days a week, holding auctions. He purchased the old structure in 1980, and opened it full time. Today, Frank continues his antique sales at 1675 Lakeshore Road West, and it has been called Barn Antiques since he started the business.
THERE HAS BEEN A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN Clarkson since 1919. It was started in an upstairs room of Alex Durie’s store on Clarkson Road North, thanks to his generosity. There were no minutes kept of meetings until 1925, at which time the Board included most of the founders: George Hodgetts, Rev. George Lawrence, Mrs. D. Westervelt, W. Gemmel, William Bourne, Percy W. Hodgetts, C. A. Hewett, Mrs. Margaret Fairbairn, Mrs. George Adamson and Librarian Roy Gemmel. The library had 693 books and a membership of 37 adults and six children.

In January, 1925, it was moved to the Clarkson United Church. There was no interest shown by the 200 Clarkson citizens and so it was dormant until 1929 when it was reopened and managed by the Young Men’s Class with Frank Halliday as president. Agnes Fairbairn became the book buyer, a position she held until 1956.

A lack of interest turned it into the Sunday School library for a time. It was revived again in 1939, thanks to the efforts of the Clarkson-Lorne Park Women’s Institute led by president Mrs. John Barnett. With these industrious women in charge, the library was relocated to a large room in the Church basement and was set up with bookcases purchased from a member of the Church’s congregation. It was elegantly furnished and also utilized by the Church as a meeting room.

A Board was elected and comprised of: Mrs. H. Kennedy, A.S. Cook, Ross Ryrie, Miss Mary McCallum, Mrs. John Barnett, F. Halliday, with Miss Agnes Fairbairn as Chief Librarian. Interest picked up and in the first annual report in 1940, 254 adults and 54 children were library users.
When the Roman Catholic Diocese bought the building for St. Christopher’s in 1956, the library was retained. A fire shortly thereafter caused much damage to the library room.

By December, 1956, when the Clarkson Library was amalgamated into the Toronto Township Public Library System, it was still housed in St. Christopher’s Church with Agnes Fairbairn as the librarian.

In 1965, when the Park Royal Shopping Centre was constructed, the library was relocated into one of the stores and it became the Park Royal Branch with Miss Fairbairn continuing on as librarian until 1969 when Janet Armstrong took over the position. Janet was followed by Pamela Frick in 1980. In May, 1997, the name was changed back to the Clarkson Branch with Kathy Angus as manager.

On June 13, 2000, a sod turning ceremony was held at the Clarkson Community Centre to start the renovation of the building, which will include the library. The manager of the Clarkson Branch is Aileen Wortley and Diane Kendall is librarian. The Centre had its official opening on September 21, 2002, along with the new Clarkson Branch Library.
HOWARD AND Lorrie Dunington, who hailed from England, were the forerunners of Sheridan Nurseries on Southdown Road. They emigrated to Canada in 1911 shortly after they were married and opened a Toronto office as landscape architects.

Combining their last names, Dunington and Grubb, they became one of the country’s first landscape architect firms. In their illustrious career, they designed such famous landmarks as the boulevard on University Avenue in Toronto, Oakes Garden Theatre and the Rainbow Bridge Gardens in Niagara Falls and the Parkwood Estate in Oshawa.

\[ \text{The First Logo} \]

\[ \text{The Stensson Family} \]

\[ (\text{Sheridan Nurseries}) \]
They started Sheridan Nurseries in 1913 on 100 acres (40 ha) purchased from Daniel Greeniaus in the village of Sheridan, the area that is now Winston Churchill Boulevard and the QEW intersection. The nursery got its name from this little community, which was named by the local blacksmith and literature buff, Richard Oughtred, for the Irish playwright, Richard Brinsley Sheridan. This property was utilized until 1987.

Howard Grubb advertised for an energetic foreman to manage the nursery and hired Sven Herman Stensson, the former gardener for Prince Knute of Denmark at Knutheborg, who was then working at England’s Kew Gardens. Sven, his wife, Annie, and sons, Bill, Frederick, Christian and Howard, left England in March, 1914, for the long voyage to Canada. He took up his position with enthusiasm and shortly after they got settled into their new life, Sven’s wife blessed him with a daughter, Betty. As his children grew, Sven encouraged them to become involved in horticulture and they all took his advice and they have all worked at Sheridan Nurseries. Sven became a partner and when he passed away in 1938, his son, Bill, took over the operation of the nursery.

The sales station, now the Sheridan Nurseries Garden Centre, was established on the Lake Shore Road (Southdown Road) on Lot 31, Con. 3, in 1920 on 10 acres (4 ha - it is now 3 hectares and has been managed by Uli Rumpf since 1987). In 1953, Sheridan Nurseries started buying farms in Glen Williams near Georgetown and began its expansion. The head office has been located in Glen Williams since 1988.

When Howard Grubb died in March, 1965, Bill, became president of Sheridan Nurseries. Now Sven’s two grandsons carry on: William (Bill) Stensson, Howard Stensson’s son, is president and, Karl, Fred Stensson’s son, is vice president. There are now seven Sheridan Nursery locations throughout the provinces of Ontario and Quebec with over 769 hectares (1,900 acres) of growing fields handled by 500 employees.
From top:
Howard Stensson
William (Bill) Stensson
Karl Stensson

▲ Sheridan Nurseries, 2001
(Mississauga Library System)
The Terry Boys — 1920

▲ Roy, Burton, Arthur and Arlie
(Joan Terry Eagle)
A Wayside Scene — 1920

▲ Eliminating the middleman. A wayside scene on the Toronto-Hamilton Highway, where fruit and vegetable growers offer their products to passing motorists. The trade is growing and many are taking advantage of selling and buying this way. Here we see Arlie (b. 1920) and Russell (B. 1908) Terry. (Joan Terry Eagle)
Lake Ontario — 1920

▲ Lake Ontario
(Jim Dickinson)

Inset: Lake Ontario, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)
Originally this stretch of roadway was the Lake Shore Road, which ran through Merigold property, Lots 29 and 30, Con. 3. In 1917, it became Clarkson Road South.

(Jean Lindsay)

Clarkson Road South, 2001

(Kathleen A. Hicks)
Clarkson Ravines — 1920

▲ Clarkson Road South, ravine on right
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

▲ Hodgetts Creek ravine, Clarkson Road South
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)
JOHN PEER OWNED 46 ACRES (19 HA) ON the north side of the Lake Shore Road (that ran from Meadow Wood Road to Johnson’s Lane) from March, 1854. This was part of Robert Wheeler’s 50 acre (20 ha) Crown grant, Lot 27, Con. 2, minus 4 acres (1.6 ha) sold to the Great Western Railway on December 13, 1853.

There was a big pond on his acreage which was called “Peer’s Pond,” where in the 1920s the Peers cut blocks of ice every winter to supply ice boxes during the summer. The neighbourhood kids used to skate on the pond, but once the ice was cut, this activity was discontinued. This property belonged to the Peers until 1933 when it was sold to William Davis.

Agnes Davis sold 35 acres (14 ha) to John and Amy Trenwith on June 17, 1944, upon which John built three family homes, nestled upon a hillside. He dammed up the creek to make the pond larger in 1955, and decided in 1964 to fill it in. John died in 1971. His daughter, Isabel, still has the original deed from when this property was a grant in 1847. The family still resides on the property.
BETWEEN 1916 AND 1920, EIGHT OF CANADA’S provinces, including Ontario, adopted prohibition. Quebec was the only holdout. The Ontario Temperance Act was passed in 1916. Canadian liquor laws nearly parallel those of the United States, so when prohibition in the U.S. came into effect on January 16, 1920, making the sale and imbibing of alcoholic beverages illegal, Lake Shore Road became a popular stretch for rum running.

Car carrying illegal booze
(Lush Family collection)
Ontario legislation then prohibited the running of alcohol on the highways; it was only to be shipped by train. So, under the cover of darkness, small fishing boats would dock at the Port Credit Harbour and alcohol in cases or metal containers would be transferred to cars that would hightail it along the Lake Shore toward the U.S. border at Niagara Falls, Detroit and Buffalo.

Quite often, if the bootleggers were speeding, they would be pulled over by traffic officers, Sydney and Clarence Hunter. They would be arrested and the alcohol seized and destroyed. Prohibition lasted until December 5, 1933.

Sydney and Clarence were the first traffic officers in the area. They were put on duty in 1919 when Ontario’s first motorcycle patrol was organized. Sydney rented a cottage from Reuben Lush on May 16, 1917, for $10 a month. Then he purchased property from Reuben in 1921, Lot 30, Con. 3, for $1,200 and built a house for his wife Mildred and three children. He was a constable until 1930 and then he became a corn borer inspector with Reuben. He was transferred to Cornwall in 1939, where he died at age 70. His house is located on the southeast corner of Lushes Avenue and Southdown Road and is slated to be demolished.

**TORONTO-HAMILTON HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC OFFICERS INSTRUCTIONS - 1919**

In 1917 with the completion of Lake Shore Road from Toronto to Hamilton, the traffic census taken by the Provincial Department of Highways reported a daily count of vehicles as 520. By 1919, it had risen to over 8,000. Speeding became a serious problem and the Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission decided to police the highway. Constables were hired to carry out this duty. They had to report to the magistrate in the area. These are the instructions they had to follow.

Duty - 10 hours per day, 1 day off in 7 - providing you are not required.
You are to keep out of hotels or bars where idle people habitually congregate.
While on patrol, do not exceed 25 miles per hour unless in pursuit.
Carrying of firearms is forbidden.
Use of sidecar is not allowed except when winter weather renders it imperative.
A sand bag in side car is advised.
Use of motor car is forbidden.
Americans or other foreign tourists to be given our leniency and benefit of doubt.

**Hunter House, 2001**
(Kathleen A. Hicks)
WILLIAM D. TRENWITH, WHO OWNED Stonehaven Farm, started up a market on the south side of Lake Shore Road in 1920 on part of the 25 acres (10 ha), Lot 27, Con. 3, he had purchased in 1904 from William A. Bowbeer.

He appropriately called it Trenwith Market. It was located in the area called “Skunk’s Hollow” because of the slope in the terrain (this would be directly across from Johnson’s Lane today). His son, John, worked with him in the market.

John married Amy Stevenson in 1924 and they had two daughters, Jean, 1925, and Isabel, 1936. William generously gave each of his sons, John and Bill, four acres (1.6 ha) to farm in 1927. He also turned the
market over to John that year and John built a
one storey, square building of small boulder
stones behind the market for his family and a
garage next door to the market, where he sold
gas and did small repairs. Then in 1938,
mechanic Leo Johnson rented the garage.
(Johnson’s Lane, where he bought property in
1944, was named for him in the 1950s.)

Over the years, the market was modified to
accommodate the growing business. John ran
the market until the early 1940s. In 1944, he
bought 35 acres (14 ha) of the original Peer
property on the north side of the highway, Lot
27, Con. 2. He built three homes on this
property and farmed it for quite awhile. He
started up Clarkson’s Fill & Loam in 1952,
which he operated until 1962 when he retired
and he and Amy started spending winters in
Florida. He passed away in 1971.

The building was rented out over the years as
a butcher shop, a variety store, it even had
migrant workers living in it for a time during
the berry picking season. It was eventually torn
down and Wawel Villa’s Turtle Creek Home for
Seniors, opened in March, 1996, now occupies
that location at 1510 Lakeshore Road West.
Glen Leven Golf Course — 1920

THE GLEN LEVEN GOLF Course was started on Lot 26, Con. 3, south of the Lake Shore Road, around 1920 by Lachlan Alexander Hamilton, who served on the first board of the Canadian Pacific Railway as land commissioner. He purchased and surveyed over 25 million acres (10,117,500 ha) of land for the railway and was responsible for choosing the station sites throughout the west.

Hamilton was the first president of the Mississaugua Golf and Country Club in 1906 and remained so until 1915. This 50 acre (20 ha) property was purchased from Frances Peer in 1908 for $3,250. It was a nine hole golf course, located from the Lake Shore to Fudger’s Marsh (now the Rattray Marsh) east of Bexhill Road. Hamilton called it, “the poor man’s golf course.” It was not a fancy place. It just had a small wooden shack at the entrance to take the nominal fee of 50¢ for playing, with a place to check belongings.

He had purchased 50 acres (20 ha) on the north side of Lake Shore, Lot 25, Con. 2, part of Joseph Cawthra’s grant, in 1902 from James MacKerrow for $4,500. It had a house on it that had been built in 1851 by George McGill called “Glen Leven.” On the property were two large ponds, which he utilized to pump water to the house by a hydraulic dam.

In 1912, Hamilton bought the remaining 42 acre (17 ha) farm of John Peer, also Lot 26, Con. 3, for $12,000 from Frances. In one of the buildings, he established a hostel for young girls that his wife, Constance, helped operate. The girls came out from Toronto in the summer and picked fruit for $6 to $9 a week. They were called farmerettes.

Hamilton and his wife celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 19, 1938, and in 1941, he died at age 89. Arthur Brown, the caretaker, and Stewart Wallace, the greenskeeper, continued to run Glen Leven for Constance until she died in 1949. They stayed on and the Golf Course was operational and making money up until 1966 when William Small bought 53 acres (21 ha) on December 15, 1966, and registered it under Glen Leven Properties Limited. Sherman Sand and Gravel mined it of sand for a number of years. Now it is the Glen Leven Estates, which was developed in the 1970s.
The Clarkson Fathers

“Not since on Olympus assembled
The Gods under Jupiter’s sway.
Has the earth neath such eloquence trembled
As our Senate unleashes each day.
When our great leader enters the portals,
The session’s away with a rush,
For as Job is to God, so mortals
Is our president. Meet Mr. Lush.

His oration receives such attention
The Store simply can’t make a sale
And the owner (I might as well mention)
Leaves the counter to help with the mail.
Says Rube, “We are gathered this morning
To study our country’s sad plight.
Find the trouble and issue a warning
If it takes us from now till tonight.”

Rob Shook says, “I know to my sorrow,
It’s the Tories. They’re giving us fits.
Our troubles would vanish tomorrow
If our province were governed by Grits.”

And Ed Orr, “Let me tell you, my hearty,
Both the Grits and Tories I’d ban.
Why will people vote for the party
Instead of electing the man?”

Up speaks Harry Cavan, “You’re dreaming
If we’re to be helped with our loads.
It isn’t political scheming we want,
It’s to build some more roads.”
Then in resonant tones cries our Charley,
“It’s not roads that we need, it’s the cash
To buy Sunday School Bonds. So don’t parley,
Leave the money with me or with Brash.”

Comes a note: “Mercantile competition
Keeps me absent. I’m sending this page
To say, Give us real Prohibition.” A. Durie.
Rube shouts in a rage,
“Prohibition’s a fatal obsession.
The people are bilked of their right
I warn you to cease this obsession
Or Sir Adam will turn off your lights.”

Now in fine oratorical fury
Our president rushes out doors
To argue it out with Dad Durie.
Bill Shook goes to finish his chores.
One by one all the Senators wander
And the clerks clear the litter away,
While the postmaster sighs from in yonder,
“Thank Heaven, they’re through for today.”

Edward Orr and the Peel County Council, 1922

(by William Shook)
Clarkson Market — 1920

Saturday afternoon is a busy time at the Clarkson Market, as it is one of the most popular places for securing fruit and vegetables.

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)
Livesays’ Woodlot — 1922

ENGLISH BORN, JOHN FREDERICK BLIGH (FRED) Livesay, grandson of Sir Melville Parker of Cooksville, was the first president of the Canadian Press that started in 1917, thanks to the ingenuity of E.H. Macklin of the Manitoba Free Press. Fred had started his career in 1907 when he joined Western Associated Press, where he was soon appointed manager. Ten years later, it was merged into the Canadian Press. He moved to Toronto in 1920 to take over the prestigious position of general manager from L.M. Knowles, which he held for 20 years.

Fred said of the Canadian Press in his 1922 annual report, “The Canadian Press is no longer an abstraction but a living thing for which it is an honour and privilege to work. The CP staff are imbued with the ideal of eager and devoted service.” He often had members of his staff out to Woodlot for parties and lively walks in his garden.

He and his wife, Florence, bought six acres (2.4 ha) of the original Harris property east of Clarkson Road North, part of Lots 27 and Lot 28, Con. 2, from Anne and Beverly Sayers, on September 12, 1922, and built a rambling, many windowed house they called “Woodlot.”

Florence was a poet and novelist, who came from Compton, Quebec. She was one of Canada’s first woman foreign correspondents, who had started her career in 1902 as one of 40 people sent to South Africa to cover the Boer War. She also spent some time as a cub reporter for the Toronto Star. They had two daughters, Dorothy and Sophie. Sophie was an artist and she moved to Ireland. Their daughter, Dorothy, graduated from the University of Toronto in 1931. She spent a year studying poetry at the Sorbonne in Paris. She became a nationally known Canadian poet, winner of the Governor General’s Award, a social worker, a reporter and
Florence and children

(Barbara Larson)
editor of the literary journal, *New Frontier*. Her poetry publications were: "Day and Night," "Green Pitcher," and "Signposts."

When Dorothy was growing up, the Livesays were good friends of author Mazo de la Roche, who lived in the nearby Trail Cottage for a time. She encouraged Dorothy in her writing endeavours. The two spent much time at one another’s homes. Dorothy married Duncan MacNair and they moved to New Westminster, B.C.

There was a tragic occurrence that took place in the Livesays’ ravine on Saturday, November 19, 1938. Joseph Conaghan found a man hanging from a tree. He was identified as Stephen Szabo, who was an employee at Trenwith’s Garage. The coroner was Dr. A. B. Sutton.

Fred Livesay died of a heart attack in June, 1944, at age 69 and he is buried at St. Peter’s Anglican Church cemetery. That same year, his wife sold “Woodlot” to Ethel Lines. Over the years, Keith and Margery Box, Keith and Vivian Andrews and Ronald Fournier and the Clinkards have owned the property. Kathleen Clinkard sold the house at 1219 Ravine Drive, that now sits on an acre of land, to Peter and Ingrid Lane in June, 2001, and moved to Oakville. She died on January 25, 2003.
MEMORIES

“Almost 24 years ago, when we came to live in the quiet little community of Clarkson, I thought it the most incredibly beautiful place I had ever known. We embraced its serenity and charm, the rich products of its soil and the warmth and hospitality of its people and we lived a full, good life... immeasurably enriched by the cohabitation.

“It was in the early 1920s that a sprightly gentleman with a 500 watt twinkle in his eyes and a waggish tongue built a home that became Woodlot. That gentleman was J.F.B. Livesay, one of the most enchantingly enigmatic personalities I have ever known.

“As Mr. Livesay’s neighbour, I was one of his most ardent admirers, hypnotized by the beauty of his rose garden — to which he had brought cuttings from all over the world, including his native Isle of Wight. He died at Woodlot, the man with a zest and a humour for living and working, who had created a miracle of beauty out of Nature’s own.”

Bernice Millard - 1965. Excerpt from Mississauga News article on “Clarkson”
THIS UNUSUAL LOG house, located at 1723 Birchwood Drive, was built in 1922 by Arthur Harris’ daughter, Anne, and son-in-law, Beverly Sayers, who had been given 94 acres (37.4 ha), parts of Lots 27 and 28, Con. 2, south of Benares for a wedding present in 1906 to establish their own family residence. Dad Dennison and son, Babe, were the builders and they used logs from trees on the property. This was the third home for the Sayers and they moved into it in 1923.
Daughter, Barbara Sayers Larson, who now resides in this distinctive 19th century looking structure, remembers that day vividly. “I was only three, and I can still visualize the furniture being taken over by wagons. There were carpets rolled up on top and my brother, Geoffrey, was straddled over them. They started to unroll and he fell off. Fortunately, he was unhurt, but it was quite a funny sight. It is a one and a half storey house, finished with hardwood floors. My mother would never call it a log cabin, she had ‘The Log Bungalow’ on her stationery.” Mrs. Sayers lived in this cottage for the remainder of her life. She died at age 104 on July 23, 1986. Her 100th birthday celebration was held in grand style at Benares.

Barbara’s great, great maternal grandfather was Captain Edward Sutherland, who was the first to grow strawberries in Clarkson in 1855 on the property of Bush’s Inn, which he named Woodburn. She and her brother, Geoffrey Harris Sayers, and sister, Dora Sayers Caro, donated the Harris’ Benares homestead to the Ontario Heritage Association in 1969 for a museum, which opened in 1995.

Anne, Geoffrey, Dora and Barbara - 1921
Barbara Larson

The Log Bungalow, 2001
Kathleen A. Hicks

Part Three 1901 - 1950
The Greenwood Garden—1922

James Greenwood owned 4½ acres (1.8 ha), of Lot 28, Con. 2, which he purchased May 31, 1922, from Arthur Harris for $3,600. He designed this magnificent garden. Unfortunately he lost his property in a foreclosure in February, 1934.

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)
Armagh — 1922

THIS STATELY STYLE MANSION WAS BUILT IN 1922 on 4½ acres (1.8 ha) on Lot 27, Con. 3, Lakeview Avenue (now Meadow Wood Road) by Robert McMullen, who was secretary/treasurer of the Ideal Bread Company in Toronto. Mrs. McMullen named their house, Armagh, for the County in Ireland, where she had been born.

“Armagh” in Gaelic means “in high places.” They had two daughters, Beth, a musician, and Kitty, who was a painter.

When Mr. McMullen passed away in 1954, Mrs. McMullen and Kitty had a house built north of Armagh and moved there. In December, Armagh was purchased by the General Board of Missions under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. With the assistance of provincial government initiatives, it was restored to its original splendour. On July 5, 1955, Armagh was opened to provide accommodations for the Board’s Family and Children Services, which are still carried out today.
Scouting in Clarkson — 1923

THE REGISTRATION FOR THE 1ST CLARKSON group of Boy Scouts took place from June 15 to June 29, 1923, and 11 boys between the ages of 12 and 14 joined under Scoutmaster I. T. Learnard. William Arneil was the assistant Scoutmaster. The application for the Troop Charter by citizens of Clarkson took place on July 25 and was signed by chairman, D.W. Glinin, W.S. Arneil, Mrs. M. Brash, secretary, Joseph Price, treasurer, and Reverend George Lawrence. The scouts met at the Carman Methodist Church, and today at Christ Church.

The scouting movement came to Canada in late 1908, having been influenced by Major-General Robert Baden-Powell, who had organized the Boy Scouts in England earlier in the year. By an Act of Parliament, the Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts Association was incorporated June 12, 1914. Scouting includes Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Venturers and Rovers, ranging in age from five to 23. National Scout Week in Canada is celebrated around February 22.

Wilson, Doug, Ronald - 1925
(A. Craig)

In the 1940s, the Clarkson Boy Scouts held sporting events on the front lawn of the Fudger/Rattray estate. Pack leaders Bryan and Ruth Hussey took the 1st Cub Pack there and held games on the field by the lake.
The 1st Clarkson Boy Scouts, 1924
(MLS Harold Hare Collection)

Back Row, Left to right: Gerold Hare, Harold Hare, Graham Black, Doug Ward, Earl Sawyer, Billy Laurence, Geoffrey Sayers, Art Quinrill, Unknown, Norman Langton.
Front Row: Hartley Ionson, Bob Brash, Billy Ord, Cornwall Brash.
On September 8, 1958, the 2nd Clarkson Group was chartered from Clarkson-Lorne Park Kiwanis Club, a spin-off from the 1st Group. They met at the Clarkson Public School and Green Glade Senior Public and still do today. A charter was granted to Park Royal Presbyterian Church for the 3rd Group on November 16, 1959. Then St. Bride Anglican Church received a charter for the 4th Group on October 12, 1967.

There are over 220,000 scouts in Canada, with 93,000 in Ontario and 400 of those are still flourishing in the Clarkson area.
In 1924, Mazo de la Roche purchased two small lots from Anne and Beverly Sayers, which had been part of Captain James Harris’ Benares’ property.

She had a quaint house built, which she named “Trail Cottage.” She and her cousin, Caroline Clement, resided there during the summer months until around 1936 when her career allowed her the privilege of seeing the world and residing in foreign lands.

Mazo came from an Irish background. She was born in 1885 in Newmarket, Ontario, to William and Alberta Roche. She was the only one in her family to use the full surname of de la Roche.

Mazo became good friends with the Livesays, especially Florence, and they visited back and forth when she was in residence.

WHILE RESIDING IN TRAIL COTTAGE, SHE WROTE SOME OF her books. The best known are the first of her 16 books about the Whiteoaks of Jalna, which were written over a 25 year period. She entered her first novel, “Jalna” in the Atlantic Monthly-Little Brown novel competition and won the $10,000 award on April 12, 1927. Macmillan published “Jalna” and it immediately became a best seller. This prolific writer’s favourite of her books was “Seaport of Quebec,” published in 1940.
In 1935, RKO Pictures made a movie based on her book “Jalna”, with the legendary actors, Peggy Wood, Ian Hunter and C. Aubrey Smith as the Whiteoaks. This was followed by a play that she wrote and produced called “Whiteoaks,” starring Nancy Price. It opened on Monday, April 13, 1936, at the Little Theatre in Adelphi, London, England, and after the London run, it went to New York, where it opened in March, 1938, and later that year came to Toronto and then toured Canada, ending in 1939. Her books were translated into 13 languages and sales totaled over $12 million.

The fictional homestead, Jalna, was based primarily on Benares and the Whiteoak Church was patterned after St. Peters in Erindale. Clarkson was heavily disguised as Weddels. The Jalna books became so popular CBC-TV decided to do a television series on the Whiteoaks family in 1971. It was entitled “The Whiteoaks of Jalna” and had Paul Harding as Renny Whiteoak and Kate Reid as the indomitable matriarch of the family, Adeline. It was drawn from four books, taking in the years 1854 to 1954, and premiered on January 23, 1972, and only lasted one season. Sadly, Mazo de la Roche had died in 1961.

Her biographer, Joan Givner, states that one of the first notices on the author referred to

![Benares Historic House](image)

![Mazo de la Roche’s daughter, Esmee (on right), at the showing of RKO classic, “Jalna,” November 15, 2002, with actress June O’Brien.](image)
Trail Cottage as a “bungalow in the Ontario forest.” She says of Mazo’s time in Clarkson, “It would be a long time – if ever– before Mazo was again as happy as she was during those productive years at Trail Cottage.” The cottage was torn down in the 1960s.

The streets, Mazo Crescent, Jalna Avenue and Whiteoaks Avenue, are the only signs left of Mazo de la Roche’s Clarkson residency.

**NEWS ITEM**

The death of the noted author of Jalna stories, Miss Mazo de la Roche, recalls to mind a mutual friend Miss Annie Turner who living near us at Clarkson. Though Miss de la Roche would never publicly acknowledge “Jalna” was really “Benares” the Clarkson home of S.M.C.’s cousin Miss Naomi Harris, Miss Turner told us that her friend Mazo had told her “Jalna” was truth “Benares” with several changes.

She was afraid the Harris family might resent this if people thought peppery “Gran” might have been Miss Harris’s grandmother. Once when we were there, Miss de la Roche had sent out the scene designer of a Jalna play being produced in the Museum Theatre. The designer was to get the atmosphere and portrait of Captain Harris, an officer of the British Army, stationed at “Benares” India.

By Evelyn Crickmore
Erindale Bulletin Board column
*The Review*, July 20, 1961

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**MEMORIES**

‘My family first met Mazo de la Roche in the early 1920s through the Livesays when she visited them at Woodlot. She fell in love with the area and bought two lots from my parents and built a summer place known as Trail Cottage. She and her cousin, Caroline, became fast friends with my parents and my grandparents, the Harrises at Benares. They were often invited for tea.

“As a youngster of five, I was intrigued by these two ladies and more particularly by their little Scottie dog called Bunt. When I went to visit, I was allowed to walk Bunt and this was quite an honour as Bunt was Mazo’s treasured companion.

“In 1931, Mazo adopted two children, Esmee and Renee. When they came to visit in the summer of 1933, I was pleased to escort the children and their nanny down to the Sudgers’ beach to swim. Mazo always remembered me with little gifts, one of which was a book of poetry, which I still have as well as a picture she took of me when I was six.”

Barbara Sayers Larson – November, 2000
In 1924, The Carman Church, which became the Clarkson United Church in 1925, built a Community Hall and Sunday School behind the church on property owned by James Pengilley, to give its parishioners more space for activities. Since 1904, the old S.S. #6 schoolhouse had been used, until it burned down in 1920. Then Ed Orr’s barn was utilized for minstrel shows. The new facility was a $9,000 structure that was mostly built by volunteers. Percy Hodgetts headed up the building committee, while the Ladies Aid organized a bazaar to raise funds. The dedication services took place from September 28th to October 12, 1924. The Honourable Thomas L. Kennedy was on hand to officially open the Hall.

After only four years, a new $15,000 addition was added. The Hall was rented out to organizations such as the Red Cross, Independent Order of Foresters, the Oddfellows and the Women's Institute for meetings. The Hall had a thriving recreational program and was used for sports, plays, minstrel shows, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Brownies, arts and crafts, musical programs and concerts. Dramatics were popular under...
Clarkson Minstrel Show, 1920
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

Cast (from left) Will Shook, Cy Hughes, Jack Hawthorn, Gordon Pattinson, Will Lightfoot, Tom Oliphant, Sitting centre (on stool) Mr. Interlocator: Frank Taylor, Frank was also the accompanist, Dick Winter, Bob Hedge, Roy Oliphant, Tom Curran, Rob Shook, Will Bourne. This photo was taken in the parlor of the Oliphant house on the former Merigold Farm.
the guidance of Evelyn Crickmore, who founded Clarkson’s Little Theatre Group and put on productions like “Star Bright,” 1938, and “The Hot Potato Inn,” 1940, and “The Wishing Moon,” a Red Cross fund raiser on December 3 and 4, 1940. Annie Hall, who was the principal of S.S. #6 School and a Sunday school teacher, assisted in these productions.

The Clarkson Community Centre was organized in 1942 and also rented the Hall. Several local residents, such as Manley, Abbs, West, Lightfoot and Trenwith, began to take a part in the operation of the activities until it was dissolved in 1954. This led to the formation of the Toronto Township Recreation Association. It was that year that the Clarkson United Church decided to built a new church on Mazo Crescent and the church and hall were sold to St. Christopher’s Roman Catholic Church. The former church and community hall building is now the location of Wowy Zowy Toys at 1764 lakeshore Road West.

**Inset: Lawrence Abbs and Doug Auld**
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

**Clarkson Community Hall**
(Region of Peel Archives)

**Phyllis and her brother Bill Trenwith**

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*
Leamon’s Market — 1924

THE CLARKSON FRUIT MARKET was opened in 1924 by 34 year old Hebert Leamon on the south side of Lake Shore Road at Meadow Wood. He owned and farmed 15 acres (6 ha) of property, part of Lot 33, Con. 2, that abutted the railway tracks on the south side that he had purchased from the Kelly family. Unfortunately, during the depression in the 1930s he lost the market. On the farm, he developed strawberry plants that would produce through to October. In October, 1940, he picked 200 pints (100 litres) that sold for 25 cents a box. In January, 1949, his truck was hit by a CPR flyer train and demolished. He was heading home and the vehicle slipped on ice as he crossed the tracks. He managed to get out in time and lived to the ripe old age of 88.

▲ Clarkson Market
(Edith Leamon Nadon)

▲ Edith, Hubert, Catherine, Merrill and Philip Leamon
(Edith Leamon Nadon)
Reuben Lush was appointed Justice of the Peace on May 26, 1925, when the population of Clarkson was around 200. One of his duties was to decide on the charges to be laid by the motorcycle officers policing Lake Shore Road. The officers, Sydney and Clarence Hunter, would conceal themselves behind trees and billboards and clock the motorist on a stop watch.

When an offender was caught, he was brought before Reuben Lush at his home, where he was often in the barn working. His wife, Maggie, would have the officer and speeding motorist wait while she made sure that Reuben was presentable to conduct the justice on behalf of his Majesty King George V.

Depending on the degree of speeding, the fine would range from $5 to $10. The motorist also had to pay costs of $2 to the constable and $2.75 to the Justice of the Peace.

Two interesting non-motorist cases dealt with women – one for using abusive language and the other for damaging a rose bush. Both were bound over, “to keep the peace for one year or face a penalty of $100.”
In 1927, the Lushes were shaken by an accident. Reuben and his old pal, Jim Lightfoot, had been visiting their friend, Magistrate George Gordon, in Port Credit. Reuben dropped Jim off at his home, which was just east of the Lush home on Lake Shore Road. In crossing the highway, Jim was struck by a car. Hearing the crash, Reuben went back to give help. Jim was dazed and appeared to have broken his leg. Reuben went to the house to advise Mrs. Lightfoot that an accident had occurred but that it was not serious. Reuben and others helped Jim into the house and called a doctor. Mrs. Lightfoot went into their bedroom to get something and collapsed and died of a heart attack.

(Excerpt from page 35, “A Remarkable Couple” by John Hunter)

Author’s note: Mrs. Lightfoot was 69 years old. They had lived in Clarkson for 42 of their 52 years of marriage. The Toronto Daily Star of December 3, noted that the driver of the car was Burlington lawyer, Hugh Cleaver.

- Reuben, Maggie, George Gordon, Jim Lightfoot and Mr. Thompson

- The Lightfoot House
  (The Lush Family Collection)
THREE FASHIONABLE LADIES, WHO WERE WELL educated and good friends, decided to find a country location and open a tea room. They looked at many small villages and towns outside of Toronto, where they resided, and decided on Clarkson.

Mary McCallum was a nurse, who had graduated from the School of Nursing at Toronto General Hospital in 1917. Her sister, Margaret, worked as a secretary for the Canadian Bank of Commerce’s head office. Ida Norman, known as “Babs,” was a dental nurse, who also ran a boarding house and had a flair for the culinary.

In 1929, they purchased a house at the west corner of Lake Shore and Meadow Wood Roads from Margaret Fairbairn’s estate. The ladies named their new enterprise after Mrs. Fairbairn’s original Blue Dragon Inn, a restaurant and inn built in 1913 that had been on the adjacent property and had burned down in 1923. When author Mazo de la Roche first came to Clarkson in 1922, she stayed at the Inn while her Trail Cottage was being built.

Mary became responsible for the operation of the Inn, while Babs took charge of the kitchen duties. Margaret continued her secretarial position and remained a silent partner. The food was top notch and the business prospered. The Tea Room had a brilliant reputation and people even came out from Toronto to enjoy the delightful atmosphere. Even the president of the Imperial Bank, Frank A. Rolph, who had his picture
The original sign on the twenty dollar bill, frequented the establishment. It did indeed have an impressive clientele, such as concert singer Frances James.

The ladies joined the Clarkson United Church, and became involved in its activities. They made quite an impression on the locals with their kindness and generosity and made many new friends.

When Mary died in 1963, she left a bequest that allowed the Church to refurbish the organ.

By this time, The Blue Dragon Inn had been closed since 1955. It has been torn down and a small plaza now occupies the property.
Boulder Villa — 1930

THIS POPULAR TURN OF THE century California style bungalow with its unusually designed porch was constructed by Frank Corporation in 1930 of boulder stones, for which the house was named, that were transported from Orangeville. It is vernacular architecture of distinctive character, two storied with a wide spreading gable roof.

Although it is called “Boulder Villa,” it is also referred to as the Stevensons’ house as it was built by David and Jenni Stevenson on property purchased from Reuben Lush, Lot 30, Con. 3, SDS, for $3,300 on April 16, 1930. David was a builder, professional tailor and quite an entrepreneur. This house is located at the southeast corner
of Lakeshore and Southdown Roads, that was once called Lushes Corners for Reuben Lush, who owned several acres (hectares) on both sides of the highway. The Stevensons opened a restaurant in the house and then constructed several small cabins that catered to Americans tourists. They were 12 foot square (3.7 m x 3.7 m) with high roofs, painted white and had the names of American States painted over the doors in black. A larger one was built on the corner and used as a truck stop coffee shop (it became John Robert Custom Framing for a time) and another as a gas station. (Both were later used as residences until February 27, 2001, when the smaller unit that had been the station unfortunately was gutted by fire. It was torn down in June.) The business was closed down in 1965 and the property was sold in 1968 when Jenni passed away.

Boulder Villa, located at 2030 Lakeshore Road West, was designated an heritage property by the City of Mississauga in 1989. It has been owned by Tracy Parzych for 20 years and has been occupied by Mike Nolan and Laurie Gillespie since 1990.
JAMES IZATT STARTED THE CLARKSON BASKET Factory in 1932 in Alex Durie’s old store on Clarkson Road North that was owned by Charles Terry, who had purchased it that same year. James had been the foreman of the Oakville Basket Factory and left there to start up his own business. He and his wife, Helen, had eight children. His sons, Bill, Dave, George and Archie, worked with him in the business, which was very prosperous.

The factory was on the first level. James and Helen had an apartment that Alex Durie had built on the south side of the building and son Bill, and his wife, Lottie, had an apartment upstairs. A wooden shed on the property was used as a garage for their truck. They made a variety of baskets required by the local farmers for their farming needs. The most popular were the strawberry pint (half litre) and quart (litre) baskets. Mr. Terry built a huge Quonset hut type storage shed with a corrugated tin roof in the back to hold their surplus and supplies. In 1934, the factory had a small fire that set business back for awhile until the damage was restored.
When Archie married a Clarkson girl, Velma Manley, in 1940, they rented an apartment upstairs in the building that had been the Merchant’s Bank and became Auld’s Butcher Shop in 1947. It was empty at the time. They moved to Oakville when Doug Auld took over the building.

The Basket Factory had a more drastic fire on November 30, 1941, and the Cooksville firemen had an all night session from 9:45 p.m. to 4 a.m. with the help from the Port Credit, Bronte and Trafalgar Township brigades. Only the brick shell of Durie’s store remained and Mr. Terry had the building rebuilt, retaining the original archway in the front, and turned it into apartments.

After the fire, James Izatt relocated the Basket Factory business into the storage hut. He discontinued making baskets and had them supplied by the Grimsby Basket Factory. The Izatts moved into Station Master Lou Hord’s house on Balsam Avenue. Helen passed away in 1943 and James and his daughter, Helen, continued to live there. In 1947, Bruce Glover bought Hord’s house and James remained there until he died in 1952. The Basket Factory was closed down shortly after his death. Howard Speck purchased the property in 1959.

A two storey block office building was put up between the old Durie store and the Basket Factory.
Fellowship Church occupied part of it. Today, it is used as apartments and the offices of Cleyn Industries Limited, which has operated out of the south side of the building since 1994.

**News Item**

Safe Blown Open at Clarkson Factory

Chief Garnet McGill reported Wednesday that the office of the Clarkson Basket Factory was broken into early Wednesday morning and dynamite was set and the safe blown open. The safe contained from $1,200 to $1,500 in cash and bonds, but fortunately the “would be” thieves were frightened away by some noise when they managed to get the door partly opened. Nothing was taken and an investigation was started immediately.

*Port Credit Weekly*
*Thurs. Sept. 26, 1946*

The old Durie store has been owned by Alderpark Investments since 1970. During the 1980s and early 1990s, Success Mail Service and the Fellowship Church occupied part of it. Today, it is used as apartments and the offices of Cleyn Industries Limited, which has operated out of the south side of the building since 1994.

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*
Most of Warren Clarkson’s property, Lots 28 and 29, Con. 2, remained in the family until May 11, 1936, when it was purchased by Major John Barnett for $5,700 from the Mildred Clarkson Mitchell estate. The Major, who was president of the Ontario Historical Society from 1948 to 1950, restored the house, barn and other buildings with the help of architect, Douglas Catto.

BEFORE SETTLING HERE, JOHN BARNETT, WHO HAD attained the rank of Major during World War I, had lived all over Canada. He had been born in Hartland, New Brunswick, on April 1, 1880. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1905 and his Bachelor of Law degree in 1907 from Dalhousie University, Halifax, after which he started up a law practice in Innisfail, Alberta, in 1908. As a young man living in Dalhousie, he had travelled on one of the first harvest trains to Saskatchewan to harvest wheat, where in 1930, he was ap-
pointed Deputy Minister of the Department of Natural Resources. He came to the Clarkson area as manager of the Ontario Division of the Credit Foncier Franco-Canada. He and his wife, Blanche, married in 1909 and had four children, John (who died as a child), Elizabeth, Hugh and Margaret.

Blanche Barnett assisted in compiling the history of Clarkson when she was with the Clarkson-Lorne Park Women’s Institute. When it disbanded in 1948, she and the Major took over the undertaking. The 13 Barnett Scrapbooks, that were donated to the Mississauga Library System in 1971, are available in the Mississauga Central Library’s Canadiiana Room.

Major Barnett found family letters and papers in the old homestead and became fascinated by its history and began to do research on the house and the village of Clarkson. He wrote, “A Relic of Old Decency” about his farmstead and “An Early Red School House” on Hillcrest Public School’s history and many other articles on Clarkson and Toronto Township. He passed away on January 7, 1972.

In 1988, the Clarkson-Barnett barn, where many Halloween parties had been held over the years, was transported to the 222 acre (90 ha) Erindale Park, north of Dundas Street at the Credit River. In April, 1999, it was torn down by the City of Mississauga because of deterioration to the beams which constituted a safety concern.

Although John Barnett changed the exterior of the Clarkson house, it still retains its heritage charm within, in the heavy wooden axe-hewn ceiling beams throughout, in the rising bake oven in the old summer kitchen and the five foot (1.5 metre) wide stone fireplace in the
family room. Granddaughter, Jane Barnett, whose father was Hugh, currently resides there.

Surrounded by a high wooden fence, the second oldest house in Peel County sits surrounded by a subdivision that detracts from its heritage aspect.

▲ The Clarkson-Barnett barn in Erindale Park, north of Dundas Street at the Credit River before it was torn down.

▲ Livingroom Fireplace
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

▲ Kitchen Bake Oven
(Kathleen A. Hicks)
The Kumeetus Klub — 1937

THE KUMEETUS KLUB WAS A SOCIAL GROUP that was organized by Etta Bodley in 1937. Grace Orr came up with the name Kumeetus, adopted from a Buffalo club, which stands for “Come meet with us.” It began with only a few women, including Marguerite Abbs, Phyllis Weaver and Viola Herridge. It was started during the depression and the ladies found comfort in the involvement.

They would meet at each other homes over coffee and enjoy exchanging stories and ideas. Then they decided to raise some money and put their time to good use. They took up a collection at each meeting and had a birthday box that helped fill their coffers. They organized card parties of court whist and euchre and charged 25¢ and would serve lunch. They held bazaars, bake sales and tea parties. The group was also instrumental in helping to furnish the Bradley House Museum and in supplying books to the Credit Valley School of Nursing.

The Kumeetus Klub celebrates 25 years
(Joan Terry Eagle)
Their biggest contribution was to the new Oakville Hospital when they donated $500 for an incubator in 1950. The first baby to use it was from Merigold Crescent. They donated money for another one, which had gone up to $700. Once when a contributor donated $2, the ladies thought they were in seventh heaven.

The membership grew to almost 30 with most of the local families represented, including the Specks, Harrises, Greeniauses, Fletchers and Terrys. The organization celebrated a 25th, 35th and 50th anniversary before it was dissolved in 1991.
Dora Sayers, the daughter of Beverly and Anne Sayers and great granddaughter of Captain James Harris of Benares, became a famous actress. She attended Oakville High School, where she was an honour student and involved in drama, and the University of Toronto, where she gained experience at Hart House with Dorothy Goulding’s Children’s Theatre. While in England in 1933, she became interested in serious drama and studied at Tamara Daykarhanova’s school for the stage in Mount Kisco, New York, in 1936.

Her first major stage appearance in Ontario was in “Stage Door” with actress Joan Bennett, which opened at the Royal Alexandra Theatre in Toronto on December 13, 1937. She was in “The Fabulous Invalid” on Broadway and played opposite Frederic March in “The American Way” in 1939. She did “The Two Mrs. Carrolls” on Broadway with Elizabeth Bergner and played a maid and
understudied Katharine Hepburn in “The Philadelphia Story” on a whirlwind tour of Canada and the United States in 1940.

In 1945, she joined a USO unit, which was featuring Moss Hart’s Company performing, “The Man Who Came To Dinner.” They travelled over 11,000 miles (18,300 k) touring the Pacific for three and a half months playing at Army bases in Tinian, Marshall, Marianas and the Hawaiian Islands.

In “Private Lives” with Ruth Chatterton, she met and fell in love with actor Ralph Forbes, they married in 1946. Later that year, they played in “Pygmalion” with Gertrude Lawrence, which came to the Royal Alexandra Theatre on November 25th and returned on May 5, 1947.

The Boston Company of “Ten Little Indians” followed. Her husband died in 1951 and in 1955, she married James Caro. She now resides in McLean, Virginia, a suburb of Washington.
World War II Memories — 1939-1945

Clarkson’s Roll of Honour
Ration book
Gasoline Licence

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)
Bruce Glover, a Canadian National Railway telegrapher from Winona, Ontario, came to Clarkson in 1942 to become one of the telegraph operators at the train station. The Stationmaster, Lou Hord, had been on the job for 30 years. In 1918, he had built a house north of the station on Balsam Avenue. When Lou retired in 1947, Bruce bought his house and still lives in it today.

In the early 1950s, Bruce took over the Stationmaster position and he has fond memories of his days at the Clarkson Station. One memory from June, 1955, concerns the CNR officials’ anger about the “s” business on the signs. The Station had been called “Clarkson’s” since the first train rolled through in 1855. There was a sign at both ends of the station.

“WHEN THE OFFICIAL WORD CAME FROM THE RAILROAD,” Bruce said, “I had to saw the ‘s’ off. There were a lot of old timers standing around laughing at me up on the ladder sawing off the ends of these signs. The Railroad owned the station, so they could do anything they wanted.”

He also recalled the night that the station burned down. He was not at work that fateful night of December 15, 1962, as he had broken his leg.
while loading an express truck. He heard the commotion, but could not get over to the station because he was hobbling on crutches. “I jumped out of bed to take a look, but I didn’t go over,” he recalled. “The only thing they could figure about the fire was that it was an old tinder box and everything was wood. It did not take long for it to burn. That night was the end of my railroad career and an historical era.
Over 100 years of history burned with that station.”

In the December 20, 1962, Port Credit Weekly, the headline stated “Clarkson CNR Station Razed by Fire.” This drastic event took place Saturday at 2 a.m., just two hours after the station attendant had left. Mrs. Lottie Izatt, who resided in an apartment nearby with her volunteer fireman husband, William, noticed the blaze and put the call through to the fire station.

The Clarkson firemen, with the assistance of the Cooksville Fire Brigade, fought the fire for five hours, but the old building “was destroyed in the conflagration.” Not only was the loss substantial with a $50,000 price tag, but all the express Christmas parcels were also ravaged by the blaze when the roof fell in. All that was left was one wall with the Canadian National Express sign and part of a telephone box. Two trains were held up for over an hour. The cause of the fire was not determined.

Following this devastating turn of events, Bruce went to work at the Township of Toronto’s Assessment Office and worked there for 20 years, seeing the Township become a Town in 1968 and a City in 1974.

A concrete slab was laid where the station had been and a temporary building was brought out on a flat car and a telegraph operator was installed to carry on with the operation. Two shifts of switching crews serviced the British American Oil Refinery. The telegrapher only lasted a year or so and then there was no more Clarkson Station operation.
IN 1942, THE CLARKSON WOMEN’S INSTITUTE started the 1st Clarkson Girl Guides with Lenore Fraser as Guide Leader. They held their meetings at the Clarkson Community Hall behind the Clarkson United Church. That same year, the 1st Brownie Pack began with Frances Horler as Brown Owl.

The Girl Guide organization was started in England in 1909 by Boy Scout founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and his sister, Agnes, who became the first Commissioner. In 1910, there were companies in Toronto, Winnipeg and Moose Jaw. Guiding is based on the ideals of the Promise and Law and the aim is to help girls and young women become responsible citizens able to give leadership and service to the community on a local, national and global level.

In the 1940s, the Clarkson Girl Guides used to ride horses at the Fudger/Rattray Estate to earn badges in horsemanship. They operated the food concessions for the Minstrel shows and movies at the Community Hall and the funds were used to purchase equipment. In 1946, Mrs. B. Bacon became the Guide Captain and the Commissioner for the Lorne Park/Clarkson District was Mrs. Mally. Mr. Esson donated a Union Jack and the Company colours to the Clarkson Guides.

In 1947, the first Clarkson Guide camp was held at Bramshot Farm outside Orillia on the shores of Lake Couchiching. The Guides called it “Silverbirch” and Mrs. D. Smith was the Camp Commander.

Clarkson was divided into two Guide Districts in 1960, Clarkson North and Clarkson South, with the Lakeshore Road as the dividing line.

The Clarkson Districts are part of the Jalna Division in White Oaks Area, which presently has 8,460 guiding members. The girls are involved in many projects and good turns, During the summer, they enjoy camping at their area camp – Camp Wyoka, located near Clifford, Ontario, approximately 160 kilometres north of Mississauga.

In, 2003, there are Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Senior Branches, for girls ranging in age from 5 to 18. There are 191 girls and 43 leaders under Division Commissioner, Lillianne Poulin.
ON NOVEMBER 18, 1943, THE BRITISH American Oil Company opened an oil refinery in Clarkson, adjacent to Lake Ontario, east of Lake Shore Road (now Southdown Road). Plan 324 was registered June 28, 1943, and the $9 million project began in July. The property (423 acres/173 hectares, Lots 28, 29 and 30, Con. 3 and 4) had been partly owned by Edward A. Orr and his brother Andrew. Their last 100 acres (40 ha) was purchased on February 26, 1941, from Ed’s son, Hugh, who had inherited it in 1935 upon Ed’s death. Harry Ryrie had owned 63 acres (25 ha), which was purchased from his widow, Christine, and the rest of it was the farms of the Lovejoys, Lightfoots, McLaughlins, Fletchers and Hodgetts.

With this new industry came an influx of workers who required housing for their families. The company built Merigold Village, fifty, two-storey homes on 50 foot lots (15 m) to accommodate over 200 adults and children, which was managed by Ed Potts. British American (B.A.) was responsible for bringing the Township water supply to Clarkson in 1943.

Initially, the B.A. Refinery produced wartime fuels, lubricants and asphalt. The company transported its products into Toronto by freighter, except for the winter months. The refinery was eventually built into a
to support his family of seven children. Between 1945 and 1950, he was the caretaker at the Clarkson United Church. He retired in 1970 and died at 96 years old, on July 26, 2001.

In 1962, the British American Oil Company merged with Royalite. The amalgamation became complete when B.A., Royalite, which had bought out Imperial Oil in 1949, and Shawinigan Chemicals Limited, became Gulf Oil Canada Limited on January 1, 1969. Gulf Oil then owned the Clarkson B.A. Refinery. Gulf Oil experienced two major fires: on June 1, 1973, a blaze started in a pipeway and caused $300,000 damage; on February 27, 1984, a fire resulted in $10 million destruction.

Petro-Canada took over Gulf Oil and the Refinery facility in 1985. It is the largest Canadian owned oil and gas company and the only plant making lubricants using the patented Hydro Treating technology, which was installed in the 1970s. The facility presently produces 800 million litres a year of high quality lubricant base stock and white oils.

The Mississauga Lubricants Refinery, at 385 Southdown Road, that employs over 500 workers, is a proud member of the community. It takes on the upkeep of Lakeshore Road, the green-belt surrounding the plant and the park facilities it has donated to the City and supports many charities and community organizations.

On May 31, 2003, Petro Canada celebrated its 60th anniversary with an open house.
Petro-Canada Refinery
(Mississauga Library System)
The First Subdivision — 1945

The first subdivision in Clarkson was started when the lakefront property that had been The Lake Shore Golf & Country Club was put up for sale in 1944. The Clubhouse had burned down in 1943 and the 102 acres (41.3 ha) was sold to an American conglomerate, represented by James I. Tuckett.

The first plan was granted on September 18, 1945, and registered on March 30, 1946, as Meadow Wood Limited, and Tuckett commissioned landscape architect, Carl Borgstrom, to see to the property’s development. By May 6, 1946, Plan 333, was registered with 87 lots and Borgstrom, who had an international reputation, named the subdivision Meadow-Wood-On-the-Lake. To convince prospects in a visual way, he constructed two lavish houses on 200 foot wide (60 m), well-wooded lots. Carl’s sons, Bill and Bruce, worked with him. Bruce obtained a Broker’s Licence and managed the sales end of the business and sold the homes as well as building lots.

FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II, THERE WAS A building boom all over the Province of Ontario. Small builders would put up two or three houses and within ten years, these contractors had expanded until they were building enormous subdivisions.
In 1950, advertisements boasted 25 completed houses on 100 acres (40 ha). They were selling from $17,000 to $20,000. The subdivision grew in 1953 with the development of a variety of homes west of Watersedge Road and in 1967 east of Bob-O-Link Road as part of the Rattray Marsh Estates. The Meadow Wood Area Property Owners Association (MWAPOA) was founded and had a constitution in the 1950s and was active in local disputes and social gatherings. Robert Mitchell was one of the first presidents.

Located adjacent to the Marsh, the residents formed the Meadow-Wood Rattray Residents Association in 1971, with Paul Moore as the founding president, which replaced the MWAPOA, and were responsible for the preservation of Rattray Marsh as a wetland area. The Ratepayers Association was incorporated in 1996 and covers a community of 450 homes.
The Clarkson Music Theatre was founded as the Clarkson Community Church Choir in 1945 by Frank B. Houston. He was Music Director until 1968. Over the next 23 years, the group was devoted to doing Gilbert & Sullivan comic operas such as “The Pirates of Penzance” and “The Gondoliers.” In an early production of “Pirates,” Ralph Manley was the Pirate King, and he was praised in “Music Notes” by Edward W. Wodson, “He sang and spoke with delightful directness.” Lawrence Abbs was the Sergeant of Police and it was said of his performance, “His singing and declamatory voice arrested attention and held it all the time. His speech and bearing inspired his staff of temperamental ‘Cops’ and that was why their share in the success of the opera was so marked.”

The Choir had a name change to the Clarkson Opera Group in 1963 when it moved its productions from the Clarkson United Church auditorium to the Port Credit Secondary School. In 1969 they offered Frank Lehar’s “The Merry Widow.” Since then, the group has performed the works of Johann Strass and Jacques Offenbach and ventured to such modern musical productions as “Guys and Dolls” and “Carousel.”

The 25th anniversary in 1970 was celebrated by doing two productions, “Oklahoma” and “The Gypsy Baron.” It was so successful, this format was continued for many years. In 1972, their performing location was moved to the Cawthra Park Secondary School Auditorium on Cawthra Road. The group became The Clarkson Music Theatre in 1973 and the following year became affiliated with the City of Mississauga.

Advertisements — 1946

D. AULD
Fresh and Cured Meats
Poultry
Phone 242

CARLOAD GROCERIA
(John L. Bodley—Prop.)
Choice Groceries — Fruits — Meats, Etc.
Are you saving coupons for chinaware?
Phone Clarkson 50
Clarkson, Ont.

CLARKSON HARDWARE
(Jim Vernon)
When painting or decorating, bring your problems to us.
We carry a first class line of all paints and wallpapers.
... Phone 10

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS
The Clarkson-Lorne Park Women’s Institute take your new or renewal subscriptions for ALL magazines and the Port Credit Weekly.
All profits go to the Libraries at Clarkson and Lorne Park.
Visit the splendid library in this Center tonight.

MRS. GOLDHAMMER,
Lorne Park, Phone 2920.

MRS. J. A. COMLY,
Clarkson, Ont., Phone 25J.
“Mr. Jim Pengilley owned a big farm — he had a great apple orchard and he brought Indians in to work for him and he built shacks for them to live in. He also brought berry pickers in and some of them lived in the downstairs of the Merchant Bank (after it closed in 1937). He had a little red house on his property and he brought an Indian, Alvin Peters, and his wife from the Christian Island to work for him and they resided there from around 1946 until Alvin died in 1996. It had no electricity, water or other conveniences. After Alvin died the place was torn down. Pengilley sold his property when he retired. Pengilley Place is named for him.”

Author’s note: Pengilley had purchased 22 acres (8.9 ha) from the Mildred Mitchell estate in 1937, Lot 28, Con. 2, south of the railway tracks, east of Clarkson Road North. He sold the bank to Doug Auld in 1947, and property to the Co-op Storage in 1947 and the remainder to Idlewyld Development Limited in 1966.
When Doug Auld bought the building that would become his butcher shop on June 11, 1947, from James Pengilley, the structure, thought to be built by Henry Clarkson, was around 80 years old. It had been leased by Alex Durie and opened as the Merchant Bank of Canada in 1913. It was taken over by the Bank of Montreal in 1916, which shut down in 1938.

Auld’s opened on September 9, 1947. It was the first butcher business in the area and drew customers from miles around. They would travel long distances to take advantage of the high quality of meats and personalized service.

When the building was a bank it was metal clad and Doug changed it to vinyl siding. He also utilized the bank vault as a cold storage unit. When he first came to the area, it was mostly farm land. The farms were sold off in the 1950s and the community became residential and businesses sprang up for the convenience of the new residents.

Doug Auld and then his son, Bill, who grew up working for his father and learning the business from the ground up, have garnered a terrific reputation. Now called Doug Auld & Son Butchers, it has always been a family operated business and remains an old fashioned butcher shop.

Doug retired in 1990 and now Bill and his wife, Dawn, operate the establishment, but Doug was on hand to celebrate the 50th anniversary in 1997.

“This was a farming community when we moved here,” said Doug Auld. “So I have seen all of Clarkson’s growth – no houses here back then, except on Clarkson Road. The people mostly went into Toronto to work.”

Aulds’ is located at 1109 Clarkson Road North. For a little trivia, the telephone number in the old days was Clarkson 242.
EDWARD SAMUEL ROGERS, at 27 years of age, founded CFRB-Radio on February 10, 1927, in Toronto. CFRB stands for Canada’s First Rogers Battery-less. In 1925, he had invented the world’s first alternating current (AC) radio tube at his new factory, Standard Radio Manufacturing Corporation (later renamed Rogers Majestic Corporation), and introduced the battery-less radio at the Canadian National Exhibition that same year. It was the world’s first electric radio. Before that they were battery operated. CFRB was the world’s first electric broadcasting station. He died in 1939.
The frequency was 860 in 1927 and the transmitters and antenna were in Aurora. It was the first 50 kilowatt station to go on the air in the British Commonwealth.

On November 17, 1947, Rogers Radio Broadcasting Company bought 88 acres (35.6 ha), of Lot 31, Con. 3, in Clarkson from Eric Gooderham and established a transmitting station, which was built in 1948. This building was located on part of the original George Gooderham 360 acre (145.7 ha) estate. The station cost $500,000. The chief operator was James Cooper. On the main floor, the building was divided into reception lobby and offices, transmitter room, tube storage department, tuning or phasing room and living quarters for the operating staff. The official opening took place on September 1, 1948.

Back then Royal Windsor Drive, where the station is located, was a dirt roadway. Broadcasting was done from the station 24 hours a day with eleven engineers, as there was no permanent connection between the transmitters and the Toronto office. Besides broadcasting the music of the era, the station had such programs as the “Teen-age Book Review,” the “Danforth Radio Show” and the “Children’s Hour.” CFRB also sponsored “The Hopscotch” column in the local paper, the “Party Line.”

The staffing of the station was discontinued in 1962 when a remote controlled system was set in place. Today, the 26.5 hectare (65 acres) site is just used as a transmitter plant.
WHEN LLOYD HERRIDGE BECAME COUNCILLOR of Ward 2 in January, 1949, he asked Cooksville Fire Chief Jack Braithwaite to help form a fire department in Clarkson. Braithwaite put things in motion and 20 volunteers were recruited from the Clarkson-Lorne Park area under the direction of the District Chief Albert (Webe) Oliphant. The Clarkson-Lorne Park Fire Department was soon organized and operating out of mechanic Leo Johnson’s garage, Johnson’s Motors, on the north side of Lakeshore Road to the west of where Johnson’s Lane is now, which was named for him. At this time, the population of Clarkson was around 1,500.

Leo built an extension onto his garage to accommodate a fire truck. The Cooksville Fire Department gave them a 1923 open cab Reo with soda acid tanks and a portable pump. It was replaced in 1951 with a 1942 right hand drive Ford. After years of coping with second hand vehicles, the fire fighters bought a new Dodge in 1966.

Some of the original volunteers were Bill Izatt, Bud White, Bruce Glover, Leo’s son, Don, and son-in-law, Eddie Josiak, Harry (Nip) Oliphant and Johnny Pattinson. When there was a fire, the fire siren would sound from Johnson’s garage. Lottie Izatt did the Clarkson dispatching of calls and Pat White did the dispatching for Lorne Park.

The volunteer fire brigades throughout Toronto Township were amalgamated in 1953 to form The Toronto Township Fire Department. In 1954, (opened March, 1955) the Township built a fire station to the east of where Trenwith’s Market had been located on the Lakeshore Road in the area that was nicknamed “Skunk’s Hollow.” Equipment was supplied but the volunteers had to handle the expenses of the station, so they ran dances and bingo games to raise money for uniforms and furnishings. The volunteers were paid $13 a call. Only the District Chief was supplied with gas and insurance money.

In 1956, Bud White, Nip Oliphant, John Hickey and Alex Garva were assigned on a full time basis. The following year, Frank Cowie, Jimmy Lee and Sandy Hare joined them. These men ran a two platoon system, which included a 24 hour Sunday shift. Bill Izatt and Alex Garva retired in 1972, Webe Oliphant in 1978 and Nip in 1982. Don Johnson became a full time fireman and retired in 1994. Jim and Bruce Herridge also joined the Department and Bruce became a District Chief. Bruce retired in 1996 and Jim in September, 2000.

The Clarkson Station service was discontinued when the communities of Toronto Township were amalgamated into the Town of Mississauga in 1968. The Fire Station was then torn down. A new one was built in 1985 on Lushes Avenue at a cost of $460,000.

(Marion Josiak)
Clarkson Cold Storage Facility — 1949

IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN THAT THE CLARKSON Basket Factory, operated by James Izatt out of the old Alex Durie store, became the Clarkson Cold Storage in 1947, but this is inaccurate. The Clarkson Cooperative Storage Limited was some distance behind the Basket Factory building on property purchased from Charles Terry and James Pengilley and it had access by a driveway south of Auld’s Butcher Shop.

It was founded in 1948 by local farmers who built a facility to store their fruit and vegetables for winter sales. The 90 by 90 foot (27.4 m x 27.4 m) two storey cement structure cost $220,000 and was built in 1948 by The Cooper Construction Company of Hamilton. There were 16,000 square feet (1486 m²) of floor space with five separate refrigerated rooms on the lower level and one spacious room on the second level that could hold 60,000 bushels of apples.

The plant was opened on April 1, 1949, at an official presentation. The main speaker was the Director of the Fruit Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, George Wilson. It was managed by Albert (Webe) Oliphant. The Board consisted of Everett Slacer as president, Fred Orr, vice president, Robert Speck, treasurer, with directors, Gordon Pattinson, Lloyd Herridge and David Terry, and 35 shareholders. The growers financed the project with shares that sold for $100 each.

In the winter of 1951, Viola Herridge purchased a carload of Prince Edward Island potatoes through the Co-op and sold them for seed potatoes in the spring and made a fair profit. The following year, she
purchased two carloads. She became called “The Potato Queen” because of this enterprising venture.

There were also cold storage lockers available for individuals to rent through Clarkson Frigid Lockers, which was established in 1944 and operated by Harry Gerhart and located at his Carload Groceteria (the old Clarkson store and post office). Both businesses were handy to the Clarkson Railway Station. The Co-op had a special railroad siding laid next to a loading platform. Sometime along the way, a third floor was added. Although many of the refrigerated rooms were closed off as business diminished, the Co-op was in operation until early 1997.

The property was purchased in November of that year by James Ryan, who did a major renovation of the building, taking out one million pounds of concrete and turning the three floored structure with no windows into one painted blue with 40 - 2.1 m x 2.4 m (7 by 8 foot) windows on all floors. It opened in May, 1999, as The Clarkson Rock Health and Fitness Club at 1101 Clarkson Road North.
On June 15, 1951, it became a full branch and it was this year that John West of J. & J. Taylor Limited installed a bank vault.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Imperial Bank of Canada (founded in 1875) merged in 1961 to become the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, the CIBC. Today the manager at 1745 Lakeshore Road West, is Alison Belec.

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE, founded in Toronto on May 15, 1867, came to Clarkson in 1949 when the population was around 1,500. It opened for business as a sub-branch on December 15 on Lakeshore Road West, the northeast corner at Clarkson Road North. The first manager was A.G. McDermott. Clarkson had been without a bank since the Merchant’s Bank closed down in 1938.
The first few years were difficult, but rewarding as Reverend van Dyk, Reverend Brondesma and Reverend Andre assisted Dutch families with settling in this new country.

A building fund was started in 1949 when the Church Board was headed up by L.van Harten as president, I. Traas, secretary, and J. Quartel as treasurer. The congregation began to grow steadily and by 1950 it became an organized church. A young people’s group called

IN 2000, THE CLARKSON CHRISTIAN REFORMED Church, 1880 Lakeshore Road West, celebrated its 50th anniversary. To commemorate this achievement an anniversary booklet was published called “Faithful Through all Generations.”

The Church was formed in 1948 with the L.van Harten and E. van der Velde families and a few single gentlemen, who held worship services at the Dixie United Church.

\[\text{\textcopyright{} Clarkson Christian Reformed Church}\]
“Onward in Faith” was formed that year with H. van Harten as chairman, as well as Sunday school classes lead by Mrs. Brunemeyer.

The Church was built in 1954 with Reverend S. Brondsema as the first minister and a congregation of 105 Dutch families. The first service was held on Sunday, February 6, 1955. Over the years, nine other pastors have provided spiritual leadership.

In 2003, the interim pastor is Joan DeVries and the current pastor of Youth and Evangelism is Allan Kirkpatrick. The Church, at 1880 Lakeshore Road West, has a congregation of 150 families from mixed cultural and religious backgrounds.
Herridge’s Fruit Market — 1950

LLOYD AND VIOLA HERRIDGE STARTED THEIR fruit market in 1950 with only a small shelter and several shelves. Their first refrigeration was metal washtubs full of ice. Lloyd had been inspired by his involvement with his uncle, Reuben Lush.

They had been farming with Lloyd’s father, Dennis, since they were married in April, 1932. Dennis had purchased seven acres (2.8 ha) of Lot 31, Con. 3, for $7,000, from his Uncle Reuben in 1919. They lived with Lloyd’s parents in the large two story red brick house, built in 1912, that now belongs to Van Beek’s Garden & Landscaping Supplies.

Viola remembers the entire area, owned mostly by Reuben Lush, as being totally strawberry fields. She was involved in the Kumeetus Klub and Canadian Cancer Society work in the community.

Lloyd was encouraged by Gordon Gooderham, of the local Gooderham family, who had a camp near Lake Timagami.

Original Herridge Fruit Market

Original Herridge Fruit Market

Original Herridge Fruit Market
northeast of Sudbury, to truck his produce up there and start fruit boats on the lake and sell to all
the camps in the area. He started this in 1936 and it turned out to be a profitable venture until
World War II made it difficult to have enough gas and good tires. He discontinued this practice in
1941.

They moved across Lake Shore Road, on to property Dennis had owned since 1922, into a
house they remodelled when their family started to expand. They had six children, Lois, Ross,
Don, Bruce, Jim and Jane.

Lloyd was politically involved and was on the Toronto Township Council. He was councillor of
Ward 2 in 1949-50 and Deputy Reeve in 1951-52, when Sid Smith of Lakeview was Reeve.
Lloyd was instrumental in starting the Clarkson Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Clarkson Coop-
erative Storage Limited, both in 1949.

Their property was expropriated for the Water Filtration Plant and they had to move their busi-
ess to the northern section of their property. Lloyd retired in 1969 (he passed away in March,
1988) and their son, Don, and his wife, Patricia, took over the business in 1970 and built the
market that still exists today at 780 Southdown Road.
MEMORIES

“I remember, shortly after I moved here, meeting Alex Wilson, who would drive his old Ford truck to all the small farm growers and he would pick up their fruit and produce and take it into Toronto to the wholesale fruit and vegetable markets. My father-in-law, Dennis Herridge, would send in several wooden crates of raspberries that held 27 quart or 36 pint boxes each and after everyone had gotten their commission, he ended up with about 3¢ a crate. He said, ‘That’s it — no more.’ I had worked picking raspberries all day for nothing.

An interesting happening later on, that always intrigued me, was about the McCords, who were up on the Harris property. Sam McCord married Maud Lush in 1928 and he came from a big family. When there was dry weather, Sam Sr. and his sons, Bill, Norman, Fred, Harry, Sam and Charlie would start a bucket brigade. One person would work the pump and they would pass the pails down the line to water their cantaloupes, potatoes and other plants. They used to hold a corn roast where the old post office building now sits and everyone in the neighbourhood would come. Those were fun times.”

Reminiscing with Mrs. Viola Herridge, who came to Clarkson in 1932 as a bride of Lloyd Herridge

Herridge Trucks
House on east side of Lakeshore Road (Southdown Rd.)

Dennis and horses

Viola Herridge

Herridge boys, Ross, Don and Bruce in pony cart

Herridge Market, 2001
(Mississauga Library System)

Clarkson and its Many Corners
Spinning Wheel Lodge — 1950

Spinning Wheel Lodge
(Romme van der Spek)
THIS ELEGANT RED BRICK THREE STORIED house, once located on Lot 31, Con. 3, across from the Anchorage, was purchased in 1950 by Gosse and Akke de Boer, who had just arrived from Holland. The de Boers had six children, who enjoyed exploring their new residence, which they discovered was called Spinning Wheel Lodge when they found the old sign. It was still intact with remnants of a large spinning wheel behind it.

They were told that it had been built around 1830 and had been a stagecoach stopover. Behind the house was a stable and silo, where the children loved to play. The second level still had room numbers over the doors where guests had stayed when it was an inn. There were four fireplaces that had been the only source of heat in the early days. The basement had a two foot thick natural stone foundation where there was a root cellar, a coal furnace and a coal bin. The third floor had two bedrooms, an attic and a garret.

The de Boers were informed that the house had once belonged to a French silk merchant, who made elaborate improvements such as a stained glass window with colourful birds in the living room, an oak staircase, sliding French doors between the two living rooms and built-in bookcases flanking a fireplace. It is thought that he put in the indoor plumbing and built the detached garage.

The house had previously belonged to Edmond Jarvis (1889-1893), John Lechie (1893-1912), Walter R. Milligan (1912-1933), Chartered Trust (1933-1941), Allan H. Hornsberger (1941-1947) and Charles A. Martin of Martin Transport (1947-1950) from whom the de Boers made their purchase.

The de Boers sold to Parkton Limited in 1963 and two years later John Grant Haulage took possession. The house was used as an office and residence and some years later was demolished when the Lakeshore Road was widened.

Author's note: It is probable that this house was built by Frederick Starr Jarvis in 1835.
THE TOWNSHIP OF TORONTO COUNCIL PUT A committee together to work on its Centennial celebration. The brochure put out for the occasion highlighted the events for the weekend of October 13-15, 1950.

On Friday, October 13, there was an historical display for school children, one display at the Ogden Avenue School in Lakeview in the morning and one in the afternoon at the Cooksville Fair Grounds. Everyday activities of the pioneers were depicted such as farming, housekeeping, shopping and transportation. That evening there was a musical pageant put on at the Dixie Arena.

A Centennial Parade was held on Saturday, October 14th. It left Haig Boulevard in Lakeview at 1:30 p.m. and wended its way to Stavebank Road in Port Credit, north to Park Street and over to Centre Road (Hurontario Street) and up to the Cooksville Fair Grounds. There was a police escort, bands, military and veteran units and commercial floats.

The Co-ordinating Centennial Committee consisted of: left to right, Jack McPherson, Bob Ball, Anthony Adamson, Ken Cross, Jack Cunningham, Jim Mumford, Herb Pinchin and B. C. Smith.

(The Port Credit Weekly)
When the parade arrived in Cooksville, the events planned were of an historical nature: a re-enactment by Town Council of the first Council meeting on January 21, 1850; a ploughing match; soldiers in early militia uniforms; a display of historical floats; a firefighting display; old time dancing; horse shoe pitching; and the Township Tug-of-War.

There was a William Lyon Mackenzie Cross-Country race open to all residents. It started at 2 p.m. at the old Absolum Willcox house, at this time owned by Mrs. L. MacLean, on Dundas Street in Dixie, where Mackenzie had holed up while being pursued by the York Militia in 1837. The route then followed through farmers’ fields to the Cooksville Fairgrounds where the winners received prizes from local stores.

The Saturday celebration ended with a Centennial Ball at the Dixie Arena with the music of Mart Kenny and his Western Gentlemen from 9 to 12 p.m. Everyone was encouraged to attend their local churches to give thanks on Sunday, October 15.

With the 100th celebration of Toronto Township’s Incorporation being held October 13-15 at the Town Hall, Confederation Square, in Cooksville, the Council went all out by dressing in 1850 attire. From left to right, Clerk, Herb Pinchin, Gordon Jackson, Councillor Anthony Adamson, Reeve Doug Dunton, Deputy Reeve Sid Smith, Councillor Alan Van Every, Treasurer, William Courtney, Doug Rowbottom and Councillor Lloyd Herridge. The Township population was 17,000.
(Viola Herridge)
Part Four 1951-2002
Previous page: Reeve Robert Speck at the opening of the Clarkson Lorne Park Branch Library, with Michael and Julie Giguere, 15 October 1967
(Mississauga Library System)
Clarkson’s first dentist was John Williams, who took his dentistry degree at the University of Toronto and graduated in 1951. After practising in Beamsville for a year, he moved to Clarkson, where he married Phyllis Trenwith in May, 1952.
D. and John purchased from Louisa Fitzgerald on July 7, 1953. It became the Trenwill Building, and it is still there today housing the Canadian Sportrent and Pandora’s Box, a florist and gift shop, with apartments on the second floor. John had three generations of Clarksonites as patients. When the Rotary Club of Clarkson was founded in 1965, he was the first president.

Although the Trenwill Building was sold in May, 1968, to Douglas Stanton and has changed owners several times over the years, John practised there for 36 years. In 1989, he sold his practice to Dr. Gabriel Bako and worked with him at the Turtle Creek Dental Offices in Clarkson Village, until his retirement in 1995.

Phyllis, her father, and her children, Michael, Pamela and Dale, were born and raised on Trenwith property. She, John, their daughter, Dale, and four grandchildren still live in Trenholme Estates.
GARAGE OWNER ROUTS MARAUDER

Garage and Appliance Shop owner, Leo Johnson, had a busy day on Sunday. Captain of the Clarkson-Lorne Park Fire Brigade, Leo started off early - at 8 a.m. - to rescue what remained of the greenhouse on the Anundson property, Clarkson Road North, following an explosion in the boiler room. About 10 p.m., after checking his business property, Leo retired – but not for long! The burglar alarm system between the garage and his home announced an alien presence, and Leo took off in the suspected direction, equipped with a .303 rifle. Finding the back door to the garage open, he fired a shot across to surprise the intruder. The intruder took off in another direction and removed himself by means of an old model car. Not to be outdone, owner of Johnson’s Motors fired two shots at the departing car aiming at the front tires, one went through the door near the handle and lodged in the back of the front seat, less than two inches from the driver’s back. The other went between the driver’s feet and lodged in the floor. Johnson jumped in his car and sped after the fleeing vehicle. Neighbour, Charles Rogers, hearing the shots and witnessing the departure, joined in the target practise with his .22, while Mrs. Johnson phoned the police.

In Port Credit, Leo Johnson enlisted the aid of Constable William Brooks, who jumped into his cruiser and gave chase at 85 miles (141 k) an hour. The marauder was finally apprehended in Lakeview. Charles Morgan, 61, of the Lakeview Emergency Housing Camp, was turned over to Toronto Township police, charged with breaking and entering. Small equipment and tools worth about $500 were found to be neatly laid out in the garage ready for removal. Morgan had broken a rear window for entry, as well as forcing the lock of the intervening door of the appliance department. “I guess I scared him with my first shot,” said Leo.

Item from The Party Line Weekly News Digest Friday, February 13, 1953. Combination of two writeups, pages 1 and 5.
St. Lawrence Cement Company — 1956
Its parent company had started in Beauport, Quebec, in 1954. Today, there are three Canadian operational divisions, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, and the United States. The company is recognized as the second largest cement manufacturer in Canada, supplying 23% of Canada’s cement production capacity, and a leading cement producer in eastern Canada and the northeast United States. St. Lawrence Cement’s North American operation can boast four cement plants, that have a total capacity of 3.7 million tonnes of cement, 25 cement distribution terminals, 43 ready-mixed concrete plants, 21 quarries and sand pits and two construction companies that serve 15,000 customers for annual sales of $938 million.

However, it is the Clarkson-Mississauga plant, the first company to take advantage of Clarkson’s early industrial development, that has established worldwide recognition for its technological leadership in the use of alternative fuels and materials which are found in the community. The use of such fuels and materials has multiple advantages: it saves non-renewable fossil fuels; results in major reductions in CO₂ emissions; and allows the safe recovery of materials that must be eliminated. The Mississauga plant, by its management, influences the recycling of products on a global scale.

When the groundbreaking ceremony for the 175 acre (71 ha) facility at 2391 Lakeshore Road West, was carried out on September 22, 1955, little did Chief Engineer, John Hilteman, Plant Manager, Herbert Egger and Sales Manager, James Tweedy, realize the impact this company would have on the country and the world.

St. Lawrence Cement, now occupying 82.4 hectares (226 acres), is also community minded and committed to ongoing financial support on a grand scale to many organizations and assists cultural and educational programs. With its forward thinking corporate philosophy, the company stands behind environmental and community issues.
The first Sunday masses were held on October 14, 1956, with 180 parishioners in attendance.

On December 9, the Church was blessed and opened by His Excellency Bishop Allen. St. Christopher School opened on October 20, 1957, and St. Louis School on September 5, 1961, with students who were parishioners of St. Christopher.

As the congregation grew, it was inevitable that a larger church would be required. A building fund was started and on May 30, 1962, St. Christopher’s contracted to have a church, hall and rectory built on Clarkson Road North. The sod turning took place on June 3. On February 24, 1963, His Excellency Bishop Allen returned to consecrate the new building with his Excellency Cardinal McGuigan investing Father Hickey as a domestic Prelate.


In 2003, there are over 3,000 families registered at the St. Christopher Parish at 1171 Clarkson Road North. The Parish has many activities for its parishioners such as Bible Study, prayer groups, a youth group, New Beginnings for the separated/widowed/divorced and the Knights of Columbus.
THE CLARKSON LIONS CLUB WAS STARTED IN 1956 with Webe Oliphant as the charter president. Service Clubs have been known to do fantastic fund raising events and they use the money to help the less fortunate in their communities.

The Clarkson Lions have held carnivals and parades over the years. They have had draws on trips and sold tickets on the opportunity of winning a new car. One of their big fund raisers has been bingo, which is now held at Bingo City in the Cooksville area. They had their own band for a number of years, the Clarkson Lions Drum & Bugle Corps, and majorettes that were in all the local parades.

In the early days their charities were the Canadian Red Cross and the Milton Farm for Deaf Children. Their biggest and proudest achievement was being instrumental in getting the Community Centre and Arena on Truscott Drive constructed and opened in 1971. They provided wheelchairs for The Credit Valley Hospital when it opened in 1985. The Clarkson Lions have included Doug and Bill Auld, Armin Bruer, Jim Dickson and Donald Cavan on their roster, since its inception.

As the years passed, membership has declined in the clubs and in 1993, the Clarkson Lions amalgamated with the Credit Valley Lions. They meet in the Lions Hall on Rosewood Avenue in the Port Credit area. They are still going strong, assisting their community. They support the Eye Bank of Canada, as sight conservation is one of the big projects of Lions International, minor sports, the Trillium Health Centre and local needy families.

In 2003, Jim Dickson is president with 30 members.
FROM THE FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE on September 15, 1957, in Hillcrest Public School to the publishing of a history of the Church in 2000, called, “Fulfilling the Dream,” the Clarkson Presbyterian Church, at 1338 Clarkson Road North, has thrived and conquered. The book, written by Gordon A. Coyne, states, “The building stands in beauty and in strength as a testimony to the spirit in which the work was done and contributions made.”

Prior to services at Hillcrest, the congregation attended services in Oakville Anglican Church and the Trinity Anglican Church in Port Credit.

In the spring of 1959, two acres (0.8 ha) were purchased for $17,000. The firm of architects, Hanks, Irwin and Pearson of Islington, was put on consignment to draw up the plans for the Church. These were approved in May of 1960. Tenders were put out and the construction contract was awarded to W. J. Lee Construction Limited of Lorne Park. The building cost $100,000.

The sod turning ceremony took place on September 18, 1960, with the honours being carried out by Mrs. John F. Ehrhardt. The cornerstone was laid on November 6, 1960, by Burton Terry and the dedication and first service by Reverend Malcolm Summers was held on February 26, 1961.

On Sunday, March 12, an open house officially launched the Church. Reverend Summers said of this eventful day, “The attendance was beyond expectation; the community was ready for a new beginning and it never looked back.”

In 2003, the minister is Reverend Mary B. Campbell.
The Port Credit Weekly had a column called “Clarkson Comment” by Gertrude Parkins.

The local telephone exchange was Taylor 2.

Reeve Mary Fix was in her second term.

The South Peel Board of Education was chaired by Janet Van Every.

A three year old, seven room custom built bungalow in Clarkson sold for $21,500.

Toronto Township had a booming year for building permits that reached $16 million.

The ford Motor Company unveiled the Edsel, calling it North America’s newest automobile sensation.

Ontario Premier Leslie Frost wanted to save the Credit River Valley from being infringed upon by subdivisions.

By-law was put in force that no apartment buildings or multiple family dwelling were permitted to be constructed in Toronto Township.

Macintosh apples sold for 79¢ a six quart basket and eggs for 35¢ a dozen.
The president of United Lands was Leonard W. Finch, who had earned recognition as the force behind the first Transatlantic undersea cable to Newfoundland in the early 1900s. Leonard Finch was a major force behind the building movement in this area. He was a generous, community minded man, whom everyone respected and admired. He was a mover and shaker, who made things happen – and the Park Royal area of Clarkson is definite proof of that.

The land was selling for $6,000 an acre (hectare). The developer paid $1,200,000 for a water reservoir and giant feeder main and provided a sewage disposal plant large enough to accommodate the acreage. The community plan would also include accommodations for schools, a recreation centre, parks and a library.

On August 8, 1958, Park Royal was opened by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Denis H. Truscott (for whom, Truscott Drive, which runs through the subdivision, was named). It was a grand occasion hosted by Reeve Mary Fix and the Toronto Township Council.

As the subdivision started to fill up with families, the Park Royal Ratepayers Association was formed with 75 members in May, 1958, with Ron Sauder as president. The first meetings were held in the members’ homes, then the new Willow Glen Public School. The group became very active in putting on events for their members. The first was a Field Day, then May 24th fireworks and Bingo Night. They started up Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and Brownies, sponsored hockey teams and held dances, with Tom Peebles as chairman.

The organization, now boasting a membership of 1,300 residents, had a name change to Park Royal Community Association in 1962. In May, 1964, the Association was given the use of a store in the Park Royal Plaza for a Community Centre by United Lands. In June, it was incorporated. In May, 1967, they began operating a Centre out of 2300 South Sheridan Way. The Association held numerous events throughout the year to raise money to build a new, permanent facility. Their activities eventually reached 72 with programs from children to seniors.

Leonard Finch backed the Association completely by offering land with full title for its Community Centre. He said, “Working in close
conjunction with the Campaign Committee, every possible assistance, in addition to further financial support, will be given by the company.” Each year, United Lands matched dollar for dollar of what was collected for membership.

On February 28, 1971, the Clarkson Community Centre and Arena was opened with master of ceremonies, Tom Peebles, conducting the events of the day.

The Park Royal Association is now a caretaker organization with president Judy Lessard at the helm.
The Satellite Family Restaurant — 1958

THIS UNIQUE STYLE DINER, BUILT IN 1958 ON Lakeshore Road West, Lot 30, Con. 2, is one of a kind in Mississauga. When it was completed, it was referred to as “the day the spaceship landed in Clarkson.” The distinctive spherical eatery became a special spot in the hearts of the residents of Clarkson. In its hey day, the parking lot was full to capacity. It was the “in” place where everyone hung out and enjoyed good food and camaraderie.

The present owner, Mike Hantzakos, began his association with Satellite in 1979 as a short order cook, working for Gus Douridis. He immediately loved the history behind the restaurant, which was then owned by Vlado (Wally) Matskovski and his wife, Tina (1975-1996). They also owned the Windjammer Restaurant next door.

Mike says it was originally called “The Mexican Hat.” When the owner, Steve Holowachuk, heard people referring to the place as a spaceship, he changed the name to Satellite. Up went a huge neon sign and a string of lights to encircle the roof, and it became a drive-in of distinction serving delicious hot dogs and hamburgers and later the popular Buffalo wings that Mike introduced that sold over 700 pounds a week!

This was the original location of Kallen Gardens, a motel owned by George and Olga Kallen. The property was part of Warren Clarkson’s acreage. Phillip Mitchell, Mildred Clarkson’s husband, sold it to Colena Aitken in 1939 and the Kallen’s purchased it from her in 1942 and called their business Deluxe Cottage Hotels Limited. During W.W. II, they had a Farmerette Camp for young ladies, who would work on the farms during the summer months. They sold it to Holowachuk and it then changed hands a couple of times before the Matskovskis bought it.

In 1985, Mike took over the lease and has been working for himself ever since. His children George, then 11, and daughter, Katina, 10, started working there after school and later got more involved in the family business.

The Satellite Restaurant, at 1969 Lakeshore Road West, has been used a few times as a movie site. In 1990, “Prom Night III” was filmed there. In 1996, it was used for “Hidden in America,” in which Katina played an extra.

In 1998, Mike celebrated a 40th anniversary of his establishment. All in all, the Satellite is still a throw back to the fifties.

Mike Hantzakos

The Satellite Restaurant, 1980
(Mississauga Library System)
George, Mike and Katina Hantzakos, 1998
(The Mississauga News)
In the early 1950s, when the Department of Highways decided on widening the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW), which was opened in 1939 by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, for whom the highway was named, land had to be expropriated along the thoroughfare. The far ranged plans included a major intersection at the Fifth Line (Southdown Road) with North and South Service Roads to be constructed adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). The rotary interchange was constructed in 1958 and opened in 1959.

In 1965, the QEW was widened to six lanes and in 1974 the exit ramps from the QEW were separated from the rotary and realignment of the service roads and full resurfacing of the highway was carried out.

The Erin Mills Parkway was reconstructed north of the QEW in 1984 to incorporate an additional northbound lane and raised median. The interchange, which was the last interchange of its kind in the province, became a dangerous one to maneuver and many accidents occurred, so the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario decided to reconstruct it into a safe one, removing the rotaries, and replacing them with a network of ramps, some of which would be controlled with traffic lights.

In May, 1999, construction got underway with Graham Bros. Construction as the contractor for the $18.3 million undertaking. The new interchange design was developed by Cole, Sherman & Associates Ltd. The new Erin Mills Pkwy/Southdown Road alignment would go beneath the new QEW post-tension structured bridge.

The interchange was reopened in the summer of 2001.
Part four 1951 - 2000
Aerial View, 2002
(Ministry of Transportation)

Clarkson and its Many Corners
Because of its tall, majestic white pine trees, it was designated land from which would be supplied logs for the British Navy's ship masts. This changed in 1808 when Christian Hendershot, a cooper, was granted the 200 acres (81 ha), Lot 26, Con. 3. He sold the north half of this acreage to David Kerr, then Peter Oliphant purchased it in 1820 for the equivalent of $325 and the south half in 1843. It was then called “Oliphant’s Swamp.”

In 1827, John Peer purchased the north half and farmed it, growing watermelons and cantaloupes on the sunny slopes. In 1855, the Peer family built a substantial brick house which is still in existence today on what is now Bexhill Road.
The south half of the property was sold to Thomas Slade in 1851. Slade purchased part of Lot 27, which became Rattray Marsh Estates in 1967. Most of the Marsh’s conservation area lands belonged to Slade until his death in 1913.

Harris H. Fudger bought Slade’s 100 acres (40 ha) from the National Trust on June 7, 1916, and another 35 acres (14 ha) from L.A. Hamilton on June 17. His family hailed from Bexhill, Sussex, England, and he was born in Toronto in 1851. He became a partner in the purchase of the Robert Simpson Company in 1898 and was president. The marsh became known as “Fudger’s Marsh.” Between 1918 and 1920, Fudger constructed a mansion he called “Barrymede House.” A gatehouse of two cottages joined by an archway over the driveway was built in 1927. Some years later, the archway was taken out and the two cottages were put together to make a substantial house that is located at 725 Bexhill Road. Barrymede House, however, has not survived. When it was to be demolished, the wreckers tried to burn it, but the mansion was mostly fireproof and they had to dismantle it.

Fudger’s son, Richard, built a mansion he called “Bexhill House” in what is now Jack Darling Park. He died in 1918 and his eldest sister, Hannah, inherited the house. This house, a rebuilt version, is located at 1309 Gatehouse Drive and is owned by Michael Eagen.

William Cole, the architect for the Queen Street Simpson’s store, designed and built a bridge over Sheridan Creek at this time. Fudger

\[\text{Hannah Fudger’s House}\]

\[\text{Major Rattray with his beloved dogs, Bluegirl and Simon.}\]
died March 18, 1930, at age 76. His estate totaled $2,063,805. Mrs. Fudger was given disposal of the country estate, Barrymede, and contents and the use for life of the Bexhill Farm life insurance and the income from the residue for life.

The estate was sold to Major James Halliday Rattray on May 26, 1945. Rattray was born in 1887 in Portsmouth, Ontario, to Scottish parents. His father, Reverend James Rattray, was the oldest rector of Queens University when he died at age 90. Rattray graduated from Queens as a geologist. Having served in World War I, he received the Military Cross and came out a Colonel. He was called Major and was a bachelor.

When the Major first came to this area, he rented Riverwood, a luxurious estate at the northeast corner of Burnhamthorpe Road and the Credit River, which was built by his friends, Ida and Percy Parker. (This estate is now being turned into a Garden Park by the City of Mississauga with an opening scheduled for 2005.) He became acquainted with Frank Burton, who worked for Mrs. Parker, who was now widowed. Burton had been one of the labourers who had built Barrymede. He started to work for the Major and became estate manager. Burton and his wife and daughter lived on the estate.

Distinguished guests of Major Rattray included: Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Grand Duchess Olga, playwright, Mavor Moore and singer/actor Robert Goulet.
Frank Burton knew his late employer had desired that his estate be preserved. A small committee was formed and the Department of Lands and Forests was contacted. The Department was asked to purchase the property for a provincial park. Burton and Hussey gave the representatives a tour of Barrymede.

A letter from the committee was dispatched to Premier Leslie Frost. However, the provincial government rejected the purchase. But the Husseys and Burton did not give up.

The executor of the estate, Mr. Brockington, managed to postpone the sale of the property until 1963, with the hope that the committee would succeed with its quest.

The Rattray Estate was also thought to be an ideal location for a subdivision by Clemens Neiman and, finally, a sale was made to him in March, 1963, for $425,000.

This did not deter the committee’s conservation efforts. The South Peel Naturalists Club formed the Rattray Estate Committee with its president, Professor Alan Coventry, as chair. The group took its cause to Queen’s Park for a hearing. Other groups were also represented, such as The

When he passed away at age 72 on September 18, 1959, Burton was the one who discovered him. He left an estate worth $2.5 million, thanks to his involvement with Kerr Addison Gold Mines Limited in Colbalt as a young man.

The Major was only dead two days when his neighbours started talking about a preservation effort. They talked to Bryan and Ruth Hussey.
Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA), headed up by chairman Roy McMillan. The opposition, Neiman, stated his case for luxury homes and a private yacht basin.

The Rattray Estate Preservation Committee was formed and chaired by Dr. William Gunn. Their goal was to purchase the estate and preserve it for prosperity. Funds would have to be raised, so Dr. Gunn founded The Nature Conservancy of Canada for this purpose. The South Peel Naturalists gave support. They managed to raise $158,150. In May, 1965, the Committee’s brief went before Toronto Township Council and after the Council voted down purchasing the property, the group disbanded.

The local citizens groups protested for a few years, but in 1967, Neiman received approval for the first phase of his subdivision, Rattray Park Estates.

When Dr. Ruth Hussey saw an article in The Globe and Mail by Bruce West praising conservation efforts of lands near a major American city, she was prompted to respond to express her devastation over the future development of her beloved Rattray Marsh. Her letter carried a tidal wave of response from conscientious naturalists across Canada. She was so encouraged, she and Dr. Gunn decided to try again. They started a petition that 2,000 people signed. This was sent to Toronto Township Council. Others bombarded Council with letters. With the help of other interest groups in the area, briefs and an alternative plan were presented to Council in March, 1967, the year before Clarkson was no longer a village, but swallowed up in the amalgamation of the Town of Mississauga. The request was declined.

When the City of Mississauga was formed in 1974 with a population of over 200,000, this brought conservation conscious Mary Helen Spence in as councillor for Ward 2. Her interest sparked a meeting before Council and Mayor Martin Dobkin. The Council agreed to recommend that Mississauga acquire the Rattray Marsh under the condition that the Rattray Marsh Preservation Committee raise the funds to match the City’s share. It was resolved that the CVCA acquire the property on behalf of the City and offered $1,050,000 for 56 acres (23 ha). The province approved this price and would pay half. Having acquired 25 acres (10 ha) of the marshland on June 24, 1972, at $9000 an acre this would bring the acreage to 81. However, Neiman had set the price at $3 million and declined the offer. But when he was informed that the Rattray land had been changed from a residential to open space designation by Amendment 248 to the Official Plan in 1973 and that he would be subjected to an Ontario Municipal Board hearing, he changed his tune. When the CVCA proceeded with expropriation in March, 1975, he did not oppose it.

The Rattray Marsh Conservation Area was officially opened on October 5, 1975, by chairman of the CVCA, Grant Clarkson, and Mayor Dobkin. A 16 year struggle was over and satisfaction was claimed by all who had persevered and made it happen.

Information

According to “Trails in Mississauga Walking and Cycling Guide” put out by the City of Mississauga, Rattray Marsh is recorded as “The diverse habitats of beach, marsh, swamp, meadows and upland forest contain rare plant species and provide refuge for wildlife including 428 species of plants, 227 species of birds, 26 species of mammals, 18 species of reptiles and amphibians, as well as 11 species of fish.”
A church was constructed in time for Christmas services in December, 1961, with Reverend Canon Thomas Rooke as pastor. Its cornerstone is from Church of St. Bride on Fleet Street, London, England. Additions were added as the congregations grew. The first was dedicated on November 5, 1971. On February 1, 1983, the mortgage was burned at the annual vestry meeting by Phil Embury, Church Warden, Rev. Canon T. H. Rooke, Rector Elliott Heslop and Church Warden Archie Johnston. The Church was consecrated on January 29, 1984, and the cornerstone for the second addition was laid December 18, 1988.

In 2003, the congregation stands well over 300 families. Archdeacon Harry Hilchey is the present minister. St. Bride is a self-supporting parish in the Diocese of Toronto under Bishop Terence Finlay and the Credit Valley area under Bishop Ann Tottenham.

ST. BRIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH AT 1516 Clarkson Road North, was founded on February 1, 1959, and named for the Irish saint, St. Bridget, on whose saint day it was chartered. It held its first services in a former school portable and Sunday school classes took place in the Hillcrest Public School.
Aerial View of Clarkson — 1960
(Tom Peebles)

Part four 1951 - 2000
So, Miss Hall is retiring! I suppose every community has in its history, those events which mark off each era from the following ones with full clarity. Such will be the event of Miss Hall’s retiring.

“I left Clarkson in 1948. It was then a closely knit community. There is no doubt that during my public school days from 1935 through 1943, Miss Hall filled the role of community symbol. Every community has one. During my years in Clarkson that somebody was Miss Hall. Truly for me, Miss Hall’s retirement marks the final disappearance of the Clarkson I grew up in.

▲ Miss Hall at senior’s graduation, June, 1957

▲ Miss Hall’s retirement
(Phyllis Williams)
“MISS HALL HAD THE ABILITY TO RUN THE SCHOOL AS principal, without neglecting her duties as teacher. She would mobilize the entire school as a general on a familiar battlefield... only better; she would maintain an esprit de corps among them and among her fellow teachers; she would insist on each child’s best efforts and then still have time for care and affection, for kind personal words and sound advise.

“Thank you, Miss Hall. I am proud to be among your alumni. I am certain that you, and your teachers Miss (Violet) McCleary and Miss (Myrtle) Speck, guided me to an acceptance and concern for my world, my neighbour and myself as have none of my later, excellent and learned mentors.”


Author’s note: Miss Annie M. Hall died in 1987.
The First Major Shopping Plaza in
Clarkson was the Park Royal Shopping Centre built in 1964-65 by Dumer Corporation at the corners of Truscott Drive and Bodmin Road, Lot 31, Con. 2. Clarkson’s population was now standing at 13,000 due to all the subdivisions that had been established.

The original shopping plaza

The Park Royal Plaza, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

The Shopping Centre advertisements stated “Ready and Eager To Serve You.” The merchants behind this slogan were: Steinberg’s Supermarket, managed by John Sotkowy; Dixieland Cleaners; Joseph Camenzuli’s Beauty Boutique; Alfredo Mandaririno’s Barber Shop; Star Taxi, operated by Russ Green; Coin Laundry and Cleaners; Saveway Shoe Store; Park Royal Hardware; Park Royal Variety; Cramer Fine Footwear; Clarkson Boutique; Champagne Bakery; Park Royal Restaurant; Toronto Dominion Bank; Liquor Control Board of Ontario; Brewers Retail; Four Corners Fashions; Pay-Less; Keene Pharmacy; Stardust Music Centres; and Bowling & Billiards.

Lyons Home Furnishings, owned by David Lyons, came in 1966. Lyons followed up by opening a store in the Southdown Plaza in 1967.
Clarkson Rotarians — 1965

The Rotary Club of Clarkson was started in 1965 by the Rotary Club of Port Credit. It has had several name changes since its inception, but it is now called Rotary Club of Mississauga-West and its weekly meetings are held at the Faculty Lounge at the University of Toronto at Mississauga every Tuesday evening at 6:30.

The Club started with 25 members, some of whom were prominent Clarkson citizens. The first Dentist in Clarkson, John Williams, was the charter president and Bill West and Gordon Oughtred were charter members. Anson Hardy joined the club in 1969 and is still a member.

The Rotary Club’s focus is divided into four avenues of service: Club Service, which covers its programs, bulletin, membership, social and fellowship involvements; Community Service, which takes in funding and services provided to individuals and many community organizations; Vocational Service, which includes sponsorship of student education, seminars and bursaries; and International Service that covers projects undertaken outside Canada through Rotary International, such as Youth Exchange and numerous worldwide health, hunger and humanitarian projects.

Current President Wayne Fyffe
(Wayne Fyffe)
Over the years, this club has had many fund raising projects, such as the Travelog, a travel and adventure film series, which has run for 30 years, sponsorship of the Peel Region Science Fair, Youth Employment Service and many others. The current largest fund raiser is a weekly Bingo at the International Centre with up to $100,000 raised annually, which is distributed to the World Wide Polio Immunization Program, and to physically and mentally challenged children, The Credit Valley Hospital, the Trillium Health Centre, university scholarships and a youth drop-in-centre.

In 2003, the membership is 40 and the president is Wayne Fyffe, President and CEO of Credit Valley Hospital.

Paul Harris Award to Audreas Kiedrowski by Wes Heald and Pieter Kool
(The Rotary Club of Mississauga West)

Erin Mills Breakfast Club operated by the Erin Mills United Church and the Rotary Club of Mississauga-West
(The Rotary Club of Mississauga West)
ONTARIO HYDRO PURCHASED 18 acres (7.3 ha) of land on February 23, 1966, Lot 27, Con. 2, on the north side of Lakeshore Road West for $96,750 from Max Tyndall, William Campbell and Norman MacPherson, who had formed a partnership when they bought the acreage from John Trenwith in 1964. This property once was part of the John Peer farm that had been in the family from 1854 to 1933.

The site was purchased as a worked out sand pit (sometimes referred to as the gravel pit) that had been the location of John Trenwith’s Clarkson Fill and Loam operation. The Hydro wanted to use the land as one of several disposal sites for flyash from the Lakeview and Hearn Generating Stations. The flyash was deposited here and then covered with loam. The area became called Flyash Park.

The City of Mississauga took over the ownership of the site just prior to the installation of the vegetative cover in 1974 and renamed it Birchwood Park. The Park, now 15 hectares (38 acres), has an enormous sloped hill that is used in the winter for sleigh rides and tobogganing and in summer for strolling, walking dogs and flying kites. The children of the area used to refer the park at 1547 Lakeshore Road West as “Kentucky Hill” because of the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet to the west of the Park.
Memories

“A harmless old black man named Henry Perellette worked as a guard at a gravel pit located on the north side of the Lakeshore Road as you entered Clarkson. He lived in a broken down tar paper shack on the property. He was there to guard the equipment, such as bulldozers, and he took his work seriously.

“One Halloween, some teenagers, wearing bed sheets to resemble ghosts, came along the railway tracks onto the property to scare him. He shot over their heads, but unfortunately hit one of the boys and we were called about the incident and had to arrest him. He said, ‘I knew dey wasn’t ghosts ‘cause one of dem swore at me and ghosts don’t swear.’

“Another time two men came with a truck and told him they were going to take one of the bulldozers as it was being seized for back payment. They started to put in on their truck. Henry said they couldn’t take it and when they wouldn’t listen to him, he jumped in another bulldozer and started to ram the bulldozer and the guy came back at him, but old Henry won. Again, we were called in to settle the disagreement of a bulldozer fight and he had him pinned up against a fence. We had a lot of unusual cases in the pits.”

Author’s note: Henry ended up his life at Sheridan Villa and died in 1986. He is buried in Spring Creek Cemetery. The gravel pit mentioned was where Birchwood Park is now located.

Recolletion of Former Police Chief Bill Teggart
Detective, Toronto Township Police Department (1959-68)

Photos of a young William Teggart and (above) as Police Chief
(William Teggart)
Clarkson GO Station — 1967

THE CLARKSON GO STATION, located west of Southdown Road, north of Royal Windsor Drive, was officially opened in the cool of early dawn on May 23, 1967, when a small group of commuters boarded the first silver coloured, aluminum GO Train, Number 946, eastbound to Toronto. The official opening took place with a low key ceremony, which involved politicians, dignitaries, reporters and photographers at the Oakville GO Station. Ontario Premier John Robarts and Canadian National Vice-President Douglas Gonder read the first GO Train order. This served as the opening of all the stations from Oakville to Pickering. The GO Station and transit service replaced the old train station located at Clarkson’s Corners.

The building of the GO Station had a great impact on the neighbourhood. Construction slowed down traffic and the noise of machinery was disturbing for local residents. But once the GO Station was opened and operating, it was a great asset to the community. In 1967, a one-way fare from Clarkson to Union Station in Toronto was 75c. Today it is $4.15.
The station serves up to 10,000 commuters, two-way ridership, on a daily basis. The parking facilities can accommodate 2,273 cars. From its humble beginnings, as a single, experimental train line, GO Transit had become one of the premier transit systems in North America.
Opening ceremony, 1967

Original rolling stock
(TO Transit Archives)

Today's train
(TO Transit Archives)
Acting Mayor Grant Clarkson gave a poignant speech and Donald Skinner presented the chairman of the Mississauga Recreation Committee, Jim Murray, with the keys to the elaborate facility. Then the Clarkson Lions turned over an $80,000 cheque to Grant Clarkson. Mayor Robert Speck, who was recovering from a heart attack, made a surprise appearance, much to everyone’s delight.

Another event that evening was a National Hockey League Old Timers’ hockey game with such players as Toronto Maple Leaf’s Sid
Smith, New York Ranger’s Ivan Irwin and Boston’s Murray Henderson. Following the game, young and old fans alike lined up to get their favourite hockey player’s autograph.

The Township of Toronto (now the City of Mississauga) had a plan in the works for an Arena in Clarkson in the mid-1960s, but it was not going to be constructed until the mid-1970s at a cost of $400,000. However, the Clarkson Lions, along with the Park Royal Community Association, were anxious to have it much earlier, so in March, 1967, the same month it had been officially announced that the Township would become a Town, their representatives approached the Recreation Director, Bill Hare, to ask if they did a fund raising campaign and raised $100,000 could it get started sooner. The Lions wanted the Arena to be the Lions monument to the Clarkson community.

According to Mississauga’s former Director of Recreation & Community Centres, Jerry Love, there was quite a search for a suitable location. There was even talk of it being located in Jack Darling Park. “The best location at that time was finally chosen,” he said.

So on October 22, 1969, the Ontario Municipal Board finally approved $500,000 required to build the Arena. The Lions were half way to their commitment when the sod turning took place on Sunday, April 22, 1970, with Mayor Robert Speck and Councillor Lou Parsons taking turns at wielding the shovel.

The actual cost of the project was $770,000. The money was raised by the Town of Mississauga ($400,000), a provincial government grant ($20,000) and the United Lands Corporation ($250,000), which also donated the 7¼ acres (3 ha) site and helped promote the project. (The auditorium was named for United Land’s president Leonard W. Finch.) G. V. Kleinfeldt & Associates from Brampton were the consulting engineers, the mechanical and electrical consultants were from P. C. Engineering of Mississauga and the general contractor was C.A. Smith Construction Ltd.

The Arena would have an ice surface of 80 by 180 feet (24.4 m x 54.8 m) with concrete bleachers that would hold 500 spectators. It would have six change rooms and a snack bar. The 4,200 square foot (390 m²) auditorium, with its small, modern kitchen, and a second smaller auditorium, would be ideal for banquets and other group activities. In 1988, an addition was completed, which included special facilities for seniors and youth.

On June 13, 2000, plans for a complete overhaul of the facility were unveiled and Mayor Hazel McCallion presided over the sod turning ceremonies.

The renovated Community Centre, which now houses the Clarkson Branch Library, of the Mississauga Library System, was officially opened on September 21, 2002.

Community Centre and Library 2000
(Kathleen A. Hicks)
SHERIDAN VILLA, A SENIORS’ residence on Truscott Drive, opened on Friday, June 21, 1974, with William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario, cutting the ribbon, and Lou Parsons, Regional Chairman of Social Services and Warden of the Region of Peel, and Kaye Killaby, Social Services Regional Councillor, and guests looking on. The chief administrator was Mrs. Rita Ward. There were 132 rooms to accommodate 248 seniors.

Plans for Sheridan Villa began on December 17, 1971, with architect Donald Skinner chosen to carry out the design. The total cost of construction was $3,371,617.

This facility is under the auspices of the Region of Peel’s Social Services and its staff have always prided themselves in being dedicated to the comforts of the aging adults who inhabit the four storey structure. The activities available are fitness classes, baking, crafts, a greenhouse for gardening, creative writing and flower arranging.

In 1992, a parent/child drop-in-centre was opened, which allowed interaction between the children, mothers and seniors. This innovation was the brain child of Jean Peers and it has been very successful. A therapeutic garden with a gazebo and rock water fountain was established on the Villa’s five acres (2 ha) in 1998, thanks to the Clarkson Kiwanis Club’s help. There is also a music therapist and a horticultural therapist on staff.

In 2003, there are 236 seniors in residence and Mrs. Inga Mazuryk is the administrator.
Clarkson Business District — 1976

It was decided by the Clarkson Merchants Group that the business strip along Lakeshore Road needed refurbishing. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, August 14, 1974, to make plans for rejuvenating “Old Clarkson,” a centre serving a population of 19,000. Mary Helen Spence, the new Ward 2 Councillor, attended and was extremely supportive.

A study carried out by Peat, Marwick & Partners at a cost of $10,000 was presented at the Council’s last planning committee meeting of the year. It was estimated that the overall cost would be around $230,000.

The money was to be raised through the taxation of the 40 Clarkson merchants on a voluntary basis. It was suggested that if the Clarkson Lakeshore Business District formed a Clarkson Businessmen’s Association and designated the area as a business improvement district, it would be reassessed with a special business tax. This was approved in a By-law on December 8, 1975, Section 361 of the Municipal Act.

The Clarkson Business Association held a meeting on March 3, 1976, at the Lorne Park Community Centre to select a board of management for the Clarkson Business Improvement District. On April 13, the public was invited to view the plans at City Hall. Three landscape architectural students from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute were retained by the City to assist in the development process. Many problems, disagreements and concerns arose during the process, when various merchants objected to certain plans that were underway. Letters were sent back and forth between them, the City and the Ward Councillor, until the final work was completed and everyone was happy with the end result. The major changes were done on the storefronts with bright colour schemes, textured sidewalks with potted trees and...
street parking facilities for a pedestrian oriented village-like atmosphere. It became known as Clarkson Village Centre.

The official opening was held on Saturday, October 30, 1976, with a parade down Clarkson Road North, east along Lakeshore to Smith & Savoury’s parking lot, where the official ceremonies took place with Councillor Spence presiding. The parade, with motorcycle police, the C.O.P.S. Band, the Clarkson Secondary School Band, majorettes, the Mississauga Trolley carrying dignitaries and children in costume on decorated bicycles, which were judged by M.P.P. Doug Kennedy, was a big success.

The Lake Shore Road was put through in 1804, having been the long used Mississauga Indian trail that snaked along Lake Ontario from York (Toronto) to Niagara. In 1944, it became known as Lakeshore Road. (Kathleen A. Hicks, 2002)
The International Year of the Child — 1979

The International Year of the Child floral display in front of Clarkson-Lorne Park Branch Library is admired by 5-year old Karen Work.

(The Mississauga News)

Clarkson and its Many Corners
Clarkson Village Signs — 1983

The Clarkson Village signs were installed on August 9, 1983. They were designed by Bruce Carr, a Landscape Architectural Planner for the City of Mississauga, who worked closely with the Clarkson Merchants’ Group during the rejuvenation of the store front business section.

His third year thesis for the Landscape Architectural Technology program at Ryerson was used for the Clarkson Business Improvement District Master Plan.

Bruce Bogden of Rustic Design Limited in Welland built the signs, which were made of pine and stood 12 feet high and were eight feet wide (3.7 m x 2.5 m). They were sandblasted and sealed with epoxy to make them sturdy, weatherproof and easy to repair.

The Beautification Committee, made up of local citizens, financed the signs and the local merchants paid for the planters and shrubbery.

Bruce Carr said at that time, “The signs are significant as a good example of the City, businessmen and private citizens cooperating on a project.”

Bruce’s signs were removed in May, 2002, and replaced by new ones of equal quality.
MANY MOVIES HAVE BEEN shot in Clarkson over the years. A few of the most recent include: in 1990 “Prom Night III” was partly filmed at the Satellite Family Restaurant, as was “Hidden in America” in 1996. Benares Historic House is a popular location for shooting movies: “Captive Heart: The James Mink Story” was filmed there in 1996, with Louis Gossett Jr. and Kate Nelligan; as was “Amanda America Dickson Story,” 2000, Walt Disney’s “The Miracle Worker,” 2000, and Ann Rice’s thriller, “The Feast of All Saints,” 2000.
A re-discovery of the significance of Lake Ontario’s shoreline began in the 1970s when the stories began to spread that the lake was so polluted it was beyond help. Chemicals in the drinking water and fish too contaminated to eat were scary realities discovered back then. Out of the five Great Lakes, (largest to smallest in area) Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, west to east spanning 1,200 kilometers (750 miles), Lake Erie was the first to be reported of oxygen depletion, which was in the late 1920s. By the late1960s, the startling news went out that Lake Erie was dying. Canada and the United States governments responded with the
signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQ) in 1972 for a major cleanup to reduce the toxic substances, such as phosphorous, being dumped into the Lakes. The Ontario government raised its pollution standards and established more stringent regulations on companies that used the lake and rivers for waste dumping grounds and invested millions of dollars to upgrade its sewage plants. In 1978, Canada and the United States signed the second GLWQ Agreement, but things still moved slowly. By the 1980s, there was almost no commercial fishing done in Lake Ontario. Beginning in 1983, closed beaches, with 79 beaches affected, became an annual happening. Toxic hot spots in the Great Lakes were highlighted in a poster map in 1986, noting over 800 chemicals in the Lakes. Over 33 million people now reside in the Great Lakes basin and there are 180 species of fish that are affected by the pollutants.

A long slow process brought awareness to the significance of the waterfront and municipalities and conservation authorities began to acquire waterfront properties for parkland.

In 1988, the Federal government established the Royal Commission, chaired by former Mayor of Toronto, David Crombie, to oversee the future of the Toronto waterfront. This was a beneficial move that stirred up people’s imagination to the point of speaking out on what they wanted the waterfront to consist of. At the termination of the Royal Commission in 1992, the province initiated the Waterfront Regeneration Trust to help put in place the Waterfront Trail. Now it is a reality. In 1997, the Trail won an International Award from the Waterfront Centre in Washington, D.C. for its contribution to waterfront excellence.

The Waterfront Trail Guidebook, published in 1996 by Waterfront Regeneration Trust, explores every interesting aspect of Mississauga’s sites from Lakeside Park on the west to Marie Curtis Park on the east along the 21.5 kilometre (15 miles) asphalt trail.
Clarkson Parks

(photos courtesy of Robert J. Groves)

Part four 1951 - 2000
Oak Tree Park
Oak Tree Park is on the east side of Clarkson Road North, just above the railway tracks. Although it is a small park, it is best known for harbouring one of the oldest trees in the area, a giant, imposing oak that makes this a rare and distinctive historical site. The exact age of the tree is unknown, but its enormous dimension indicates that it has been around for many decades: circumference 4.9 m (16 feet); diameter 1.6 m (63 inches); height 22 m (72 feet).

This tree is the central attraction in this tiny park which is surrounded by residential and commercial buildings, yet retains its old country feeling that some things remain the same.

Clarkson Park
1125 Winston Churchill Boulevard, 4.4 hectares (11 acres)

Forestview Park
2021 Barsuda Drive, 1.1 ha. (2.9 acres)

Glen Leven Park
929 Silver Birch Trail, 2.7 ha. (6.8 a.)

Hillside Park
1311 Kelly Road, 4.6 ha. (11.4 a.)

Hindhead Park
1944 Hindhead Road, 1.5 ha. (3.7 a.)

Lewis Bradley Park
1975 Orr Road, 2.5 ha. (6.1 a.)

Meadow Park
2203 Truscott Drive, 1.4 ha. (3.6 a.)

Meadowood Park
1620 Orr Road, 13.2 ha. (32.7 a.)

Sandgate Park
1650 Sandgate Crescent, 1.7 ha. (4.3 a.)

Watersedge Park
1630 Watersedge Road, 0.4 ha. (1.013 a.)
WHEN IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT TORONTO Township would be incorporated as of January 1, 1850, a special meeting of the Home District Council in Toronto was held on October 2, 1849, to pass By-law No. 220 that divided the Township into five wards, which were designated according to The Baldwin Act 12, Victoria, Chapters 30 and 81. The power of the Province’s role varied over time. Clarkson was originally part of Ward 1 with Colonel William Thompson as the first councillor. At Incorporation, the Toronto Township Council was granted the authority to hold municipal elections and in those early days, elections were carried out yearly on the first Monday in January when the five councillors were voted for. The councillors then chose the Reeve and Deputy Reeve.

In the early 1900s, in the Council meetings’ minutes, the councillors were listed, then they were given the supervision of roads and bridges in five Divisions. Wards were not mentioned. Reuben Lush was supervisor for Division 1 (Clarkson) in 1906. At some point, Wards 1 and 2 (Lakeview) were reversed or it was done in 1951 when Council annexed Toronto Gore, still retaining five wards. In 1959 Council decided to make seven wards, which became official in 1960, Robert Speck’s first year as Reeve. Since that time the wards have been changed in 1970, 1977, 1983, 1990 and 1992, as urbanization dictated. Each time the wards are changed they are established by Municipal By-laws.

The councillors holding office in Ward 2 since the Town of Mississauga was formed in 1968 are: Lou Parsons (1968-72, went on to be Warden for the Region of Peel in 1974 when Mississauga became a city); Richard Withey (1973-74); Mary Helen Spence (1975-78); Margaret Marland (1979-85); and Pat Mullin (1986 to present).

Left to right: Lou Parsons, Richard Withey, Mary Helen Spence, Margaret Marland, Patricia Mullin (City of Mississauga)
Example of Ward Changes

290

EXExample of Ward Changes

1967

1974

1991

2001

Clarkson and its Many Corners
The Oldest Building

▲ The Warren Clarkson House, 1084 Feeley Court, Warren Clarkson, 1825
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)
Clarkson’s Historical Buildings

Warren Clarkson House

Clarkson and its Many Corners
The Anchorage
1620 Orr Road
Probably built by Frederick Starr Jarvis, 1820s

Barn Antiques
1675 Lakeshore Road West

Benares Historic House
1503 Clarkson Road North
Edgar Neave/James Harris, 1835/1857

Bexhill House
1309 Gateway Drive
Richard Fudger, 1916

Boulder Villa
2030 Lakeshore Road West
David Stevenson, 1930

Bradley House Museum
1620 Orr Road
Lewis Bradley, 1830

Bush’s Inn
822 Clarkson Road South
Russell Bush, 1836

Clarkson Store
1130-1132 Clarkson Road North
Warren & Edith Clarkson, 1835/1905

Edith Clarkson House
1160 Clarkson Road North
Edith Clarkson, 1913

William Clarkson House
1140 Clarkson Road North
William Clarkson, 1865

Clarkson Cold Storage
1109 Clarkson Road North
Cooper Construction, 1948

Durie Store/Basket Factory
1115 Clarkson Road North
Probably Henry Clarkson, late 1800s

Alex Durie House
960 Meadow Wood Road
Alex Durie, 1926

Fudger Gatehouse
725 Bexhill Road
Harry Fudger, 1927

Lakeshore Golf Course Pro Shop
1918
1029 Johnson’s Lane

Livesay’s Woodlot
1219 Ravine Drive
John F.B. Livesay, 1922

Lush House
1998 Lakeshore Road West
Reuben Lush, 1919

Merchant Bank/Auld’s
1109 Clarkson Road North
Probably Henry Clarkson

Methodist Church
1764 Lakeshore Road West
Congregation, 1875

Pattinson/Shoreacres Building
972 Clarkson Road South
Gordon Pattinson, 1915

Peer/Harris House
956 Bexhill Road
John Peer, 1855

Preston/West House
831 Sunningdale Bend
Sidney Preston, approx. 1910

Proctor/Cavan House
1404 Clarkson Road North
Richard Proctor, 1853

Robertson Farm House & Barn
381 Winston Churchill Blvd.
Andrew Robertson, 1851

Sayers/Larson Log Cottage
2030 Lakeshore Road West
David Stevenson, 1930

Bradley House Museum
1620 Orr Road
Lewis Bradley, 1830

Bush’s Inns
822 Clarkson Road South
Russell Bush, 1836

Lakeshore Golf Course Pro Shop
1918
1029 Johnson’s Lane

Livesay’s Woodlot
1219 Ravine Drive
John F.B. Livesay, 1922

Lush House
1998 Lakeshore Road West
Reuben Lush, 1919

Merchant Bank/Auld’s
1109 Clarkson Road North
Probably Henry Clarkson

Methodist Church
1764 Lakeshore Road West
Congregation, 1875

Part four 1951 - 2000
AMY AND HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS WENT TO SCHOOL #5. When Amy graduated from high school, she secured a position with Laura Secord Candy Company in Toronto. She met John Trenwith through her brother, George, and they were married on December 2, 1924, at Toronto’s City Hall. Marguerite Stevenson and William H. Trenwith stood up for them. They had two daughters, Jean and Isabel. They lived with William D. Trenwith until John took over the Trenwith Market, at which time he built a boulder house behind the market. Amy was a hard worker, who planted and picked strawberries, and helped in the market. The business continued until the early 1940s.

In 1943, John purchased 35 acres (14 ha) across Lake Shore Road and built three houses. He farmed for some time and then went into the Clarkson Fill & Loam business in 1952. He retired in 1962 and he and Amy spent their winters in Florida.

John passed away in April, 1971, and Amy carried on alone, living in the ranch style house John had built, with daughters Jean and Isabel living nearby.

On June 23, 2003, Amy Trenwith celebrated her 100th birthday with a small gathering of family and friends.

Amy was born in Toronto on June 28, 1903. Her father, David Stevenson, was a tailor, a builder and entrepreneur. In 1913, he brought his wife, Jenni, and eight children to live in Clarkson. He had decided he would like to farm, so he bought property at what was called Lushes Corners, and is now the Lakeshore/Southdown Road intersection. Here, in 1930, David build a two storey house with boulder stones from Orangeville. It became known as Boulder Villa.
Ruth and Bud Crozier celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss in 2002, making them the longest married couple in the Clarkson area. They have resided here all their married life. Ruth is the daughter of Edna and Bert Abbs. Her father started Clargreen Gardens on Southdown Road and her brother, Lawrence, kept the family tradition going.

Ruth was born in the house behind the garden centre, which is still there but stands empty. Bud was born in Toronto and came to Toronto Township to go to Port Credit High School, where they met.

They were married on April 11, 1942, by a minister in Toronto. They do not have a wedding picture because they eloped. They have four children, Jim, Dave, Laurie and Tom and five grandchildren, Douglas, Jocelyn, Steven, Stephanie and Michael.

IN 1992, THEY CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT Christ Church on Mazo Crescent and had a family dinner at a restaurant afterwards. For this milestone of 60 years, they held a family gathering in their condo party room with 30 people. The highlight of the event was receiving congratulations from Queen Elizabeth II, Prime Minister Jean Cretien, Premier Mike Harris and Mayor Hazel McCallion.
Lifelong Clarkson Residents

Top: Back row, left to right, John Speck, Dr. Howard Vernon, Mary Orr; front row: left to right, Pat Leaver, Edith Nadon, Doris Bodley, Ruth Crozier, Irene Dougherty, Jean Lindsay, Doris Speck, Barbara Larson
(Don Mills)

Clockwise from left to right: Enid, John and Doris (Pattinson), Jane Barnett, Phyllis Williams and Isabel McArthur (Trenwith), Don Cavan

Clarkson and its Many Corners
Because of the success in producing this book, *Clarkson and its Many Corners*, the author was given a five year contract by the Mississauga Library System in January, 2001, to write a 10 book series to cover the entire history of the City of Mississauga. This is the first in the series, even though it is not the first community in Toronto Township. Dixie was the first to spring up as the settlers came in along the rutted trail of Dundas Street in 1806/07 and took up their land grants, then Cooksville, Lakeview and Clarkson. With the Second Purchase of 1818, Erindale, Streetsville, Meadowvale and Malton were founded. Port Credit came about in 1834. These nine major areas will make up nine of the books. The tenth will be on how our streets were named.

Throughout Toronto Township, small villages and hamlets sprang up, mostly at the four corners of interchanging roadways. These small communities were usually located as a crossroads hamlet, an intersection that had a small store, a tavern, school and church and was named for the resident or inhabitant who was industrious in his community and had most of the land, which he usually donated a portion of for a school or church. It is only fitting then that these small villages, interspersed throughout the vast countryside of Toronto Township (Mississauga), be recognized.

So in this series of histories is a homage to these small communities that were big in their day. In this book, it is Lorne Park that became a thriving community that unlike the others is still a prominent area of Mississauga today.
Lorne Park is located between Port Credit to the east and Clarkson to the west. It consists of approximately Lots 22 to 25, Con. 2 and 3. Lot 22, Con. 2, of only 65 acres (26.5 ha), because the mile on either side of the Credit River was the Mississauga Indian Reserve, was granted to Esther Borden Denison on October 11, 1811; Lot 23, 100 acres (40 ha) to John Steel, Nov. 30, 1807; Lot 24, Con. 2, 128 acres (51.8 ha), was granted to Kings College in 1822. David Buchanan sold it to Charles Mitchell for £178 ($445 York dollars) on January 30, 1854; Lot 25, 200 acres (81 ha), was granted to Joseph Cawthra, a York merchant and Lakeview grantee, on July 8, 1812. His son, William, inherited the land upon Joseph’s death in 1842. William sold it to George McGill, a Scotsman from Edinburgh, who had emigrated in 1834, for £300 ($750) on April 31, 1851.

LORNE PARK takes its name from the Marquis of Lorne, John Douglas Campbell, who was the Governor-General of Canada from 1878 to 1883. It was reported that on May 24, 1879, he officially opened the 75 acre (30 ha) Lorne Park Estates, Lots 22 and 23, Concession 3, that fronted Lake Ontario. The Marquis was married to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert’s fourth daughter, Louise, who it is thought accompanied him by steamer to the elaborate festivities put on with great fanfare by the Toronto Lorne Park Association.

This Association, which had nine shareholders headed up by Neaven McConnell, was responsible for putting Lorne Park on the map.

Marquis of Lorne

Glen Leven Pond and Hotel on hill
George and his wife, Elizabeth Bishop, built a house and barn and called their estate Glen Leven in remembrance of their homeland. At this time, Lorne Park Road was just a logging trail that ran through their property. The house faced the Lake Shore Road and had a pond alongside it that required a few bridges. George’s farm prospered as did most of the farms in the area. When the Great Western Railway began construction in 1853, George received £48 ($120) for 3½ acres (1.41 ha). When it was completed in 1855, he built a bridge as a pedestrian walkway over the tracks that was high enough for trains to pass under.

When George died in 1861, his sons, Henry and James, inherited the property. Henry received the south section with the house and he and his wife, Margaret, resided there until 1893 when he died. It was sold to James MacKerrow. John Peer bought several acres (hectares) in 1898 and turned the house into the Glen Leven Hotel.

By this time, the Lorne Park Estates had been sold to a group, The Toronto and Lorne Park Summer Resort Company, represented by John W. Stockwell. The other company had put in a long wooden wharf, and steamers came from Toronto’s Yonge Street wharf to Lorne Park. There was a restaurant-bar, a bowling alley, a shooting gallery and a dance pavilion. It had overextended itself and had to sell out. The new group subdivided the acreage into 50 foot (15 m) building lots, which they sold for $100 each. The acreage had originally been grants to Arthur Jones in 1833. He sold the land to entrepreneur Frederick Chase Capreol who also purchased Jones’ Lots 21 and 24, in 1834 for £50 ($125) a lot. By 1878, the property was bought from Columbus H. Greene by The Toronto Lorne Park Association for $7,525. Under new ownership, the resort boasted The Hotel Louise, managed by Thomas Anderton, large, two-storied residences that had broad verandas and spacious balconies, designed by architect Edmund Burke (famous for designing the Robert Simpson building on Queen Street and St. James Cathedral), boating, bathing, fishing, a 25 acre (10 ha) picnic grounds, and numerous amusements such as lawn bowling, tennis, croquet, lacrosse and baseball. The area often attracted up to 5,000 people for events such as the May 24th anniversary celebration. There were travel accommodations available via the railway and steamboat service to Toronto.

In 1889 and 1890 more property was purchased bringing the Estate to 90 acres (36 ha). Roadways were in place and named for the men...
involved in the Estate’s construction, such as McConnell Avenue, Burke Avenue, and others named for poets, Longfellow and Tennyson. This company was also plagued by financial difficulty and a transfer to The Lorne Park Company was made in 1891 with Frederick Roper as president. A new roadway was named Roper Avenue.

By 1909, the Lorne Park group was floundering and the land was sold to William R. Travers and his newly incorporated company, The Lake Shore Country Club Limited, took over ownership. The Hotel Louise was renamed after the company. The ambitious investors mortgaged the property through the Farmers’ Bank, which then failed and by 1912, the Lake Shore Country Club was dissolved. The property was again sold to Sydney Small in January, 1914.

In 1919 there were 25 families living in the Park. A new group, The Lorne Park Estates Limited, was formed from the Cottagers Association and headed by Mary Louise Clarke. The members decided to regain control of the parklands from Small. They managed to succeed and paid him $20,000 for the property. The Lorne Park Estates became exclu-
Part Four 1951 - 2000

sively residential. Mary Louise Clarke died in 1931, but the group carried on through the depression years with financial support from her estate. In April, 1948, the Lorne Park Estates Limited became the Lorne Park Estates Association and the deed for the lands was transferred from the Clarke Estate to the villagers.

Throughout these years, the neighbourhood was changing and growing. The Lorne Park train station was a going concern. Albert Shaver opened the Lorne Park Supply Store in 1892 at the Lorne Park/Lake Shore Road corner, next to the Lorne Park Estate gates. The Lorne Park Post Office opened in 1892 in Albert Shaver’s store with George D. Perry as the first postmaster. Shaver had a small
wooden building put up for dispensing the mail. It opened on October 1, 1900, and Shaver became the post master. When Shaver resigned as post master in 1914, Clarence Albertson opened a post office in his new store near the railway station. (A Shopping Centre now occupies the Shaver Store location.)

James Alberton purchased 25 acres (10 ha) of Lot 24 in 1899 from Clarence McCraig for $6,000 and built the Albertonia Hotel, a three-storied brick and frame structure. In 1927, it was leased to W. J. Bosworth, who changed the name to Lorne Park Lodge. It burned down in 1929 at a loss of $70,000.

Lachlan Alexander Hamilton purchased the McGill/Peer Glen Leven Hotel property in 1902 for $4,500 and lived in the Hotel with his wife, Constance. (It also burned down in 1936.) The pond was an active place where ice was cut every winter and stored in sawdust in sheds for summer use. Not long after the Hamiltons took occupancy, the bridge that George McGill had built over the railway tracks was knocked down when a railroad car with a high projection passed under it. The Railway compensated Hamilton for his bridge, but he never replaced it.

In 1902, the O’Haras took over the Shaver store and ran a general store that sold groceries. They delivered throughout the community. It, too, was destroyed by fire. Wesley Peer helped build the wooden Lorne Park Mission Hall in 1902. David Shook was instrumental in raising funds for the building. It had an open porch and a belfry on the roof, and was fronted by a rail fence and had a driving shed in the rear.

The first library was organized by Robert Taylor in 1903. He started up a sawmill on Indian Road in 1904 that had the finest timber in the area. He gathered donations from local residents and purchased books which he displayed in a bookcase in Mrs. O’Hara’s store. Apparently, a set of leather bound Everyman Library of classics were extremely popular. The first library meeting was held in January, 1904, in the Lorne Park Mission Hall. The Library Board consisted of Robert Taylor, David Shook, Arthur and Richard Laker, George Horne, W. Moore, Henry Pickett, James Ramage and George Weston. The library grew and soon utilized a small room in the Mission Hall. Then it was moved to the Lorne Park School with Annie Ross as the librarian. In 1947, the library was relocated to a small building next door to the Community Hall. A new library, under the direction of librarian Miss Gardner, was opened on April 15, 1953, in the basement of Weaver’s Store. Today, the Lorne Park Branch of the Mississauga Library System is located at 1474 Truscott Drive.

The first church of Anglican denomination was organized in 1906, holding services in the Lorne Park Mission Hall with Reverend H. Thompson officiating. Then in 1914, St. Paul’s Anglican Church was built on Lachlan Hamilton’s Lot 25. The deed was turned over to the church in 1941 by Hamilton just before he died in his 90th year. It burned down on February 6, 1951, and a new church was built that still stands today at 1190 Lorne Park Road.

The Lorne Park Baptist Church started Sunday, May 18, 1919, in the Lorne Park Mission under the direction of Reverend J. Williamson. A temporary building 12 feet by 20 feet (3.7 m x 6 m) was erected in 1920. Oil lamps were used during the first services because the building was not wired for electricity until 1922. In 1925, a new Baptist Church was opened. It prospered over the years with Sunday school, Young People’s Junior Union, the Women’s Sewing Circle and a thriving...
congregation. In 1967, a new Church was constructed at 1500 Indian Road.

The children of Lorne Park had to attend S.S. # 5 and #6 schools until Constance Hamilton promoted the first school in 1923 in what became School Section # 22. Lorne Park Public School was built on Indian Road on two acres (0.8 ha) of Robert Taylor’s property, which was purchased for $2,500. It was a two-storied structure of four rooms and cost $35,000. It opened with 76 pupils. The first school board included chairman William Peer, Mr. R. Colloton and Frank Taylor.

Alfred Weaver Sr. bought Clarence Albertson’s 15-year-old grocery store in 1929, initiating many successful years of business acumen of the Weaver family in Lorne Park. In 1948, the business was operated by Alfred’s sons, Alf and Tom, and they opened a new store in the Bolton-Ellis-Weaver Shopping Centre, which they ran until 1961. Arthur Luker, a mechanic, opened a garage on Lorne Park Road in 1932. By 1936 he was selling Chrysler cars and in 1941, he incorporated a paint shop into the business. In 1933, James Madigan and his wife opened a grocery store in the front portion of their Indian Road home that prospered for many years. In 1950 they had a store built on the property.

A major industry in Lorne Park was Superior Bulb Company Limited, which was established in 1933 at 1155 Birchview Drive. The company built a warehouse in 1946 to store flower seeds and a pre-cooling chamber for the treatment of tulip, daffodil and lily bulbs as well as seed packaging machinery. By 1950, it had over a dozen employees under president, J. L. Van Zuyverden, and manager, Colin Campbell. It remained at this location until 1999 when it was relocated to Brampton. Today, it operates as Ball Superior Limited.

Lorne Park’s unspoiled jewel of nature is Jack Darling Park, which is owned by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy and harbours the Water Purification Plant. The property is leased to the City of Mississauga as parkland. It was opened on December 14, 1970, and named for a prominent Clarkson resident. It used to be called Thompson’s Wood for its former owner, Joseph Thompson, who purchased 86 acres (34.8 hectares) of Lot 23, Con. 3, in 1887. At that time it became the home of his brother, author/artist, Ernest Seton Thompson, who changed his name to Ernest Thompson Seton. Thompson’s $8500 mortgage was foreclosed on and Ernest left for Europe. He travelled extensively pursuing his craft until his death on October 23, 1946, in Sante Fe, New Mexico, at age 86 years.

In June, 1979, a Centennial Picnic was organized to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Lorne Park Estates. It was an elaborate affair that was centered around costumes and entertainment of 1879. The event was described as an anachronism by the Mississauga Times reporter in attendance.

Some of the character of the early days still resides in Lorne Park Estates. Driving through the area, beneath the stately pine trees, you discover houses of exquisite architecture. There are only a few left that were built when the park opened, but they are well maintained in their elegant setting. The narrow asphalted roads are more like driveways and you find your way by reading the road signs nailed to the pine trees. All this lends to an atmosphere of days gone by.
▲ Lorne Park Entrance
(A village Within a City: The story of Lorne Park Estates)

▲ Corner of Sangster and Henderson Avenues, Lorne Park Estates
(Kathleen Hicks)

▲ Entrance, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

▲ 863 Sangster Avenue, owned by Patricia Roberts
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Clarkson and its Many Corners
▲ Sangster Avenue, 1900, looking north
(A village Within a City, The Story of Lorne Park Estates)

▲ Sangster Avenue, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

▲ Then, a cottage on Roper Avenue

▲ Now, 1048 Roper Avenue owned by Harry Saunders
(Kathleen A. Hicks)
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INDEX
(pictures are in bold type)

A
Abbs, Edward (Ted) and Marguerite, 57, 208, Edna and Bert, 156, 295
Abbs, Lawrence, 156, 157, 194, 222, Sybil, 157
Acacia Farm, 19
Adams, Betty, 111
Adamson, Anthony, 16, 241, 242
Adamson, Colonel Peter, 18
Aitkens, Andrew, 49
Albertonia Hotel, 301, 302
Albertson, Clarence, 302, 303, Albertson, James, 302
Alderpark Investments, 91, 204
Allan, William, 3, 18
Allanson Farm, 124
American Revolution, 1773-1783, X, 8, 13, 24
Anchorage, The, 13, 17, 42, 49, 50, 293
Andrews, Keith and Vivian, 180
Angus, Kathy, 161
Armagh, 185
Armstrong, Janet, 161
Armstrong, Kenneth, 16, 113
Auld, Bill and Dawn, 225
Auld, Douglas, 71, 90, 131, 194, 203, 224, 225, wife Elaine, 71
Auld's Butcher Shop, 71, 124, 131, 203, 223, 225, 230

B
Baden-Powell, Major General Robert, 186, 216, Agnes, 216
Bako, Dr. Gabriel, 246
Baldwin Act, The, 289
Ball Superior Limited, 303
Balsam Avenue, 78
Bank of Montreal, 131, 132, penny, 168
Banks, Reverend George, 45
Barnard, Dr. Christiaan, 144
Barnett, Blanche, XVII, 115, 160, 205-207, family, 205-207
Barnett, Jane, XVII, 207, 296
Barnett, Major John, XVII, 42, 205-207
Barrett, Percy, 154
Barrymede Mansion, 261, 262, 263, 264
Barrymede Road, 20, 98
Battersby, George, 90
Beardsley, Bartholomew Crannel, 14, 16
Beck, Sir Adam, 126, 127, 176
Bell, Alexander Graham, 111
Bell Canada, 111
Bell, Percy, 154
Bell Telephone Company, 111
Benares Historic House, 42-43-48, 182, 183, 190, 191
Bennett, Joan, actress, 210
Bexhill House, 262
Bexhill Road, 20, 98, 175, 261
Biggs, Samuel, 114
Bill Elliott's Fruit Market, 65
Birchwood Drive, 45, 182
Birchwood Park, 273
Birk, George, 113
Blower, Peter, 254
Blue Dragon Inn, 133, 150, 158, 198-199
Bob-O-Link Road, 88, 221
Bodley children, 99, house, 100
Bodley, Clarence and Emma, 99
Bodley, Doris Harris, 98-100, 209, 296
Bodley, John, 76, 77, 99
Bolton-Ellis-Weaver Shopping Centre, 303
Book of Knowledge Encyclopedias, 97
Bonter, George and Ethel, 39
Borgstrum, Bill and Bruce, 155, 220
Borgstrum, Carl, 155, 220
Boulder Villa, 200-201, 294
Bourne Family, 79, 111, Mrs. 130
Bourne, Roy Price, 71
Bowbeer, William, 103, 111, 114, 160, 173, 193
Bowes, Mr. J.L., 154
Box, Keith and Margery, 180
Boy Scouts, 97, 186-188, 192, 254, 277, National Scout Week, 186
Boy Scouts Canadian Council, 186
Bradley Family, 14-17, 23, 24, 28
Bradley House, 14, 16, interior, 16, 50, 90, 113, 208, 285
Bradley, Lewis, XIV, 14-17, park, 16, gravestone, 17, Elizabeth, 14, 16
Bradley, Richard and Margorie, 15
Braithwaite, Chief Jack, 228
Brampton Conservator, The, 87
Brash, Bob, 187, Cornwall, 187
Brash, David, 109, 176, Mrs. 186
Britain, X XI, XV
British American Oil Refinery, 16, 17, 113, 215, 217-218-219
British Commonwealth, 227
British War Victim’s Fund, 154
Bromesma, Reverend, S.G., 233, 234
Brown, Arthur, 175
Brown, General Jacob, 18
Bruer, Armin, 251
Brunswick Farm, Jarvis’, 13, Lodge, 13
Bull, William Perkins, 44
Burke Avenue, 300
Burke, Edmund, architect, 299
Burnhamthorpe Road, 263
Burton, Frank, 263, 264
Burton, Howard, 277
Bush, Russell, 38, 61
Bush's Inn, 38-39, 183
Butterfly Landscaping Division, 157

C
Camp Wyoka, 216
Campbell, Colin, 303
Campbell, Reverend Mary, 252
Canada East, X (Lower Canada/Quebec)
Canada West, X, (also see Upper Canada and Ontario)
Canadian Bank of Commerce, 131, 198, 232
Canadian Cancer Society, 143, 235
Canadian National Exhibition, 97, 226
Canadian National Express, 213
Canadian National Railway, 213 (also see the Great Western Railway)
Canadian Press, 178
Canadian Red Cross, 251
Canadian Tire Corporation, 116
Capreol, Frederick Chase, 299
Cawthra, Joseph, 129
Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground, see Spring Creek Cemetery
Cherry Hill House, XVII
Christ Church, also see Methodist, United and Carman Church
Christie Street Hospital, 129
Circuit Rider, 22
Clarke, Mary Louise, 300, 301
Clarkson Aerial View, 267
Clarkson/Barnett barn, XVI, 206
Clarkson Basket Factory, 76, 91, 202, 203, 204, 230
Clarkson Branch Library, 160-161, 278
Clarkson Business District, 280-281
Clarkson Christian Reformed Church, 233-234
Clarkson Cold Storage, 67, 115, 230-231
Clarkson Community Centre and Arena, 161, 251, 277-278
Clarkson Community Hall, 21, 31, 34, 192-194
Clarkson Cooperative Storage, 142, 230, 236
Clarkson, Cora, XVII, 65, 71, 76
Clarkson-Dixie Fruit Growers Association, 71, 97, 142
Clarkson, Edith, XVII, 21, house, 21, 65, 75, 76, 78, 111
Clarkson Family, XV-XVII, 25, 28, 65
Clarkson-Lorne Park Fire Department, 228-229, 236
Clarkson Frigid Lockers, 231
Clarkson Generating Station, 57
Clarkson, Grant, 265, 277
Clarkson, Henry Shook, XV-XVII, 63, 64, 75, 90, 225, house, 64
Clarkson House, XV, 205, 291, 292, corn crib, XVI, smokehouse, XV
Clarkson, Joshua, XV
Clarkson Kiwanis Club, 279
Clarkson Library Association Board, 113
Clarkson Lions Club, 251, 271, 272
Clarkson Lions Drum & Bugle Corps, 251, 277
Clarkson Little Theatre Group, 194
Clarkson-Lorne Park Kiwanis Club, 188
Clarkson Market, 177
Clarkson Market Antiques, 133, 158-159
Clarkson Merchants' Group, 280, 283
Clarkson Minstrel Show, 193
Clarkson Mitchell, Mildred, XVI, XVII, 64, 90, 124, 158, 205, 256
Clarkson Music Theatre, 222
Clarkson Parks, 287, list 288
Clarkson Public School, 30-32, class 1938, 32, 73, 188 (also see S.S. #6)
Clarkson Railway Station, 58-59, 75, 87, 90, 111, 213-214-215, 231
Clarkson Ravines, 169
Clarkson, Richard Rouse, XV
Clarkson Road North, 51, 52-53
Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church, 252
Clarkson Road South, 168, 169

Clarkson and its Many Corners
Clarkson Rock Health & Fitness Club, 67, 115, 231, interior, 231
Clarkson Sewage and Disposal Plant, 88
Clarkson’s Corners, 52, 275
Clarkson Store and Post Office, XVII, 75-76, 77-78, 99, 111, 135
Clarkson United Church, 21, 35, 81, 124, 160, 192, 194, 216, 218, 222, 250
Clarkson Village Signs, 283
Clarkson, Warren, XV-XVII, 23, 28, 29, 42, 53, 58, 64, 70, 71, 205, 256
Clarkson, Warren Frank, XVII, 65, 75
Clarkson, William Warren, XV, XVII, 63, 65, 99, house, 65
Clarkson Water Filtration Plant, 236, 303
Clarkson Women’s Institute, see Women’s Institute
Clarkson’s Fill & Loam, 174, 273, 294
Clarkson’s Roll of Honour, 1939-45, 212
Claus, Honourable William, XI
Clemens, Drusilla, 71, 114
Clement, Caroline, 46
Cleyne Industries Limited, 91, 204
Cline, Miss, teacher, 30
Clinkard, Kathleen, 180
Cody, Buffalo Bill, XII, 38
Cody, Elijah, XII
Cody, Phillip, XII, 38, Nancy, 38
Cole, Sherman & Associates Ltd., 258
Cole, William, architect, 262
Colour & Form Society, 97
Common School Act, 1816, 25
Conaghan, Joseph, 180
Confederation, 1867, 51, 143
Confederation Square, 242
Cook, Andrew, 3
Cook, Captain James, XI
Cooksville, XII, 126, 144, 159, 178, 242, 251, 297 (also see Harrisville)
Cooksville Fair Grounds, 241
Cooksville Fire Brigade, 215, 228
Cooksville Telephone Exchange, 111
Cordingley, Charles, 24, 141
Corrigan, Beth, 227
Cotton, Robert, XVI
Courtney, William, 242, 249
Coventry Lane Townhouses, 67, 68
Coventry, Professor Alan, 264
Cowie, Frank, 228, 229
Cowieson, Lion John, 251
Cox, Peter Henry, 45, 111
Coyne, Gordon A., 252
Credit River, XV, 8, 23, 206, 263
Credit Valley Conservation, 265
Credit Valley Hospital, 251, 272
Credit Valley School of Nursing, 208
Crickmore, Evelyn, 191, 194, John, 269
Crombie, Mayor David, 286
Crozier, Ruth and Bud, 295, Ruth, 296
Curran-Hall Subdivision, 71
Curran, Thomas, 111, 121, 193,
Currency, XV, XVII, 23

D

Davis, William and Agnes, 170
Dayley, Carolyn, 39
de la Roche, Mazo, 35, 45, 46, 180, 189-191
De Vries, Family, 234, Rev. Joan, 234
Deluxe Cottage Hotels Ltd., 256
Dennison, Dad and Babe, 182
Department of Lands & Forests, 264
Department of Transportation, 25
Dickson, Jim, 251, house, 221
Dingwell, Charles, 44

E

Eagen, Michael, 262
Eastwood, Clive, 227
Egger, Herbert, 249
Ehrhardt, Mrs. John F. 252
Ellis and Ellis Architects, 31
Embry, Phil, 266
England, XI
Erin Mills Parkway, 258
Erindale, XVI, 18, 42, 190, 297
Erindale Park, XVII, 206, 207
Etobicoke Creek, XI
Evans, Bruce S., contractor, 17

Part four 1951 - 2000
F
Fairbairn, Agnes, 133, 158, 160, 161
Fairbairn Barn House, 133, 158
Fairbairn, Grace, 133, 158-159
Fairbairn, Margaret, 133, 158, 159, 160, 198
Fairbairn, Mr. R.P., 137
Fairbairn, Reverend John, 133
Fairfield Subdivision, 71
Fairview Farm, 81
Famerettes, 175
Feeley Court, XVII
Feeley, Thomas, XVII
Fenian Raids, 1866, 85
Fifth Line, 23, 25, 27, 114, 254, 258
(also see Southdown Road)
Finch, Leonard, 124, 254, 278
Finlay, Bishop Terence, 266
FitzGibbon, Lieutenant James, 19
Fix, Reeve Mary, 143, 249, 253, 254
Fletcher Family, 122-123, 209, 217
Fletcher, George, 122, house, 123
Fletcher, Morley, 122, Annie, 122, 123
Fletcher Valley Crescent, 122
Flyash Park, 273
Forbes, Ralph, actor, 211
Ford, Henry, 107, 108
Ford Model C, 108, Model T, 97, 110
Ford Motor Company, 108, 253
Ford Plant, 107
Fort York, XI
Fournier, Ronald, 180
Fox, Paul, 155
French Civil Law, X
Frick, Pamela, 161
Froglmore, 73
Frost, Premier Leslie, 253, 264
Fruit Growers Association of Ontario, 41
Fudger, Hannah, 262, house, 262
Fudger, Harry, 157, 216, 261, 262
Fudger, Richard, 262
Fudger's Estate, 157, 186
Fudger's Marsh, 175, 262
Fyffe, Wayne, 271
G
Gable, Elizabeth and children, 3
Gable, Esther Ann, 41
Gable, Henry Sr., XVI, 3, 57
Gable, Henry Jr., 3, 4, Samuel, 3
Gable, Jacob, 3, 4, 28, 29, Jane, 3
Gables, XII, 3, 23, 25, house, 3, 4
Galbraith, Mr. inspector, 31
Garva, Alex, 228, 229
Garvey & Garvey Barristers, 148
Gemmel, Roy, 160
George III, King, X, 49
George V, King, 196
George VI, King/Elizabeth, 122, 258
Gerhart, Harry, 76, 231
Gilbert, Mike, VII
Giles, Elizabeth and Mary, 67
Gillespie, Laurie and Mike Nolan, 201
Gilroy, Eileen, 218
Girl Guides, 97, 192, 216, 254, 277
Givner, Joan, author, 190
Glen Leven Estates, 175, 299
Glen Leven Golf Course, 175
Glen Leven Hotel, 298, 299, 302
Glen Leven Properties Ltd., 175
Glen Williams, Ontario, 163
Globe and Mail, The, 265
Glover, Bruce, 203, 213-215, 228, 229
Gonder, Douglas, 275
GO Station, 116, 275-276
Gooderham, Eric and Iris, 88, 89, 227
Gooderham, George, 137, 139
Gooderham George H. 87-88, 227
Gooderham, Gordon, 88, 235
Gooderham, William, 88
Gooderham, William and Harriet, 87
Gooderham and Worts, 87, 137, 157
Gordon, George, 197
Goulet, Robert, singer, 263
Government Inn, 8
Governor General's Award, 178
Governor's Road, XI, see Dundas Street
Graham Bros. Construction, 258
Grammar School Act, 1807, 25
Grand Duchess Olga, 263
Grand River, 23
Great Lakes, 285
Great Western Railway, XVI, 58-59, 170
Green Glade Senior Public School, 188
Green, Reverend Anson, 22
Greene, Columbus H., 299
Greeniaus, Arletta, 80, 81
Greeniaus, Daniel, 163
Greeniaus, Gaylord, 81
Greeniaus Red Schoolhouse, 22, 24, 25
Greeniaus, Sebastian, XIV, 5, Eve, 5, House, 5
Greeniauses, XII, 5, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 209, Catherine, 6, Norman and Ethel, 6, Gaylord and Selina, 6, 81, Wilmer, 7, Julie, 7, house, 7, barn, 7
Greenwood Garden, 184
Greyshire House, 88
Grimsby Basket Factory, 203
Gulf Oil Refinery, 218
Gunn, Dr. William, 265
Guthrie Muscovitch Architects, 67
Gwilliambury Investments Limited, XVII

H

Hagersville Indian Reserve, 95
Haig Boulevard, 241
Hall, Annie, 21, 31, 32, 99, 194, 268, 269
Halliday, Frank, 160
Halton County, 20, 49
Hamilton, XVI
Hamilton, Constance, 129, 175, 302, 303
Hamilton, Henry G., 154
Hamilton, James, XVI
Hamilton, Lachlan A., 129, 175, 262, 301, 302
Hammond, David, 3, 4, 23, 29, Sophie, 3, 23
Hammond, David Sr. and Rebecca, 3, 25
Hammond, William, XIV, 40
Hammondville, 40
Hanning, George, 50
Hantzakos, Mike, George, Katina 256, 257
Harding, Paul, actor, 190
Hardy, Allan, 110, 120, 124-125
Hardy, Anson and Effie, 124
Hardy, Anson Jr. 125, 271
Hardy Family, 124-125, House, 125
Hare, Claudine, 45
Hare, Harold U., 76, Harold/Gerold, 187
Hare, Sandy, 228
Hare, William, 278
Harris, Arthur, 44, 45, 46, 79, 124, 182, 184
Harris, Captain James, 35, 42-43, 45, 53, 79, 124, 189, Family, 42-48, 191, 209
Harris, Daniel, XII
Harris, Elizabeth, 43, 44, children, 42-48
Harris, James and Margaret, 98-100
Harris, James’ children, 98-100
Harris, Major General John, 43
Harris, Mary Magrath, 44
Harris, Naomi, 45, 124, 130, 191
Harrison, Councillor Robert, 16, 218
Harrissville, Councillor Robert, 16, 218
Harrwood, 18-19, interiors, 19
Hemphill, Alexander, 23, 25, 80
Hemphill, Henrietta, 63
Hemphill, Lorenda, XVI, 63, 65
Hemphill, Nathaniel and Hanna, XVII, 28
Hendershot, Catherine, 20
Hendershot, Christopher, 28, 98
Hendershot, Nathaniel, 28
Hepburn, Katherine, actress, 211
Herod, Joe, 229
Herridge, Bruce and Jim, 228
Herridge, Dennis, 142, 235, 236, 238
Herridge, Donald, 57
Herridge, Eva and Irene, 21
Herridge Family, 129, 236, 238, house, 238
Herridge Fruit Market, 235-238
Herridge, Lloyd, 139, 147, 228, 235-238,
242, 208, 230, 235-238
Heritage Buildings List, 293
Heritage House Antiques-Imports-Art
Gallery, 159
Heslop, Rector Elliott, 266
Hess, Peter, XIV, XV
Hewett, Mr. C. A., 160
Hickey, Reverend Louis J., 250
Highway Legislation, 37
Hilchey, Archdeacon Harry, 266
Hillcrest Public School, 27, 252, 266
Hilteman, John, 249
Hodgetts Creek, 117, 119, 160, 169
Hodgetts, May, 129, 130, George, 160
Hodgetts, Percy, 35, 39, 109, 117-119, 192, family, 117-119, 217
Holling, Stanley Arnold, 35
Holowachuk, Steve, 256
Home District Court of Quarter Sessions, 13, 14, 19, Home District Council, 51, 289,
Home District, 3
Hoodless, Adelaide Hunter, 129
Hord, Lou, 203, 213
Horler, Francis, guides, 216
Hotel Louise, 299, 300
Houston, Frank B., 222
Howson, Albert, 97
Hunkar, Teresa, 21, 78
Hunter, Ian, actor, 190
Hunter, John, 197
Hunter, Sydney, 171, 172, 196, house, 172,
Clarence, 172, 196
Hurontario Street, 144
Hussey, Bryan and Ruth, 186, 264
Hyatt’s Saw Mill, 38, 117
Hydro Electric Power Commission, 57, 126,
127
Hydro One Networks Inc., 57

I

Idlewyld Developments Ltd., 41, 224
Imperial Bank, 198, 232
Ingersoll, Thomas, XI, XII, Sarah, XII,
Ingram, Paul and Ann Martin, 99
Izatt, Archie and Velma, 81
Izatt, Bill, 228, 229, Lottie, 228
Izatt, James, 91, 202-204, and family

J

J.J. Taylor Limited, 150, 232
Jack Darling Park, 262, 278, 303
Jackson, Gordon, 242
Jalna Avenue, 191
Jalna books, 46, 189, 190, 191, movie, 190
James, Francis, 199
Jarvis, Edmund, 93
Jarvis, Frederick Starr, XVI, 12-13, 14, 28, 42, 87, Peter, 12, 32, children, 13
Jarvis, Stephen, XVI, 12-13, 14, 49, 87, family tree, 12
Jarvis, William Botsford, 13
John Robert Custom Framing, 201
Johnson, Daniel, 24, 29
Johnson, Elizabeth Anna, 86
Johnson Family, 24, 25, 70, 254
Johnson, John, XIV, 141
Johnson, Leo, 155, 174, 229, 247
Johnson, Marion and Don, 174, 228
Johnson’s Lane, 155, 170, 174, 228
Johnson’s Motors, 247
Johnston, Archie, 266
Jones, Arthur, 299
Jones, John, 43
Jones, Reg and Beth, 81, 85
Jones, Reverend Peter, 41
Josiak, Eddie, 228, 229

K
Kallen Gardens, 256
Kallen, George and Olga, 256
Kelly, William, XVI, 5, 28, 41, 85
Kendall, Diane, 161
Kennedy, Colonel Thomas Laird, 192
Kennedy, M.P.P. Douglas, 281
Kennedy, Mrs. H, 160
Kentner, John, 80
Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet, 273
Kerr, David, 20, 98, 261
Killaby, Kaye, 279
King Edward Hotel, 122
King, William Lyon Mackenzie, 263
Kirkpatrick, Allan, 234
Kirkus Clarkson, Mary Ann, XVI, XVII
Knowles, Mr. L.M., 178
Kribbs, David, XVI, 24, 25
Kumeetus Klub, 143, 208-209, 235
Kylmore Homes, 67
Kerr, David, 20, 98, 261
Killsby, Kaye, 279
King Edward Hotel, 122
King, William Lyon Mackenzie, 263
Kirkpatrick, Allan, 234
Kirkus Clarkson, Mary Ann, XVI, XVII
Knowles, Mr. L.M., 178
Kribbs, David, XVI, 24, 25
Kumeetus Klub, 143, 208-209, 235
Kylmore Homes, 67

L
Lake Ontario, XIII, XIV, 167
Lake Shore Golf and Country Club, 103, 154-155, 220, pro shop, 155
Lake Shore Road, 137-140, 281
Lakeshore Country Club Limited, 300
Lakeshore Floor Finishers, 36
Lakeshore Road, 280, 281
Lakeside Park, 286
Lakeview, XII, 241, 289, 297
Lakeview Army Barracks, 81
Lakeview Avenue, 91, 155, 185
Lakeview Businessmen’s Association, 143
Lakeview Generating Station, 273
Lane, Peter and Ingrid, 180
Larson, Barbara Sayers, 109, 183, 191, 296
Lawn Bowling Club, 124
Lawrence, Bill, 29
Lawrence, Ferris, 29
Lawrence, Reverend George, 160, 186
Leaman, Catherine, 61
Leaman’s Market, 195, family, 195
Learnd, Mr. I.T., 186
Leavers, Patricia, 88, 296
Lee, Raymond, 155
Lees, George, 49
Legislature, First of Upper Canada, 1792,
X, XI
Leslie, Robert, 44
Lewis Bradley Park, 16, 142
Lightfoot, Jim, 196, 197, house, 197
Lightfoot Shook, Mary, 71
Lightfoot, William, 57, 131, 193, 194
Lindsay, Jean Hodgetts, 117-119, 209, 296
Lines, Ethel, 180
Lismore, Joy, 113
Livesay, Dorothy, 46, 178-179-180, 199
Livesay, Florence, 178-179-180, 189
Livesay house and garden, 180, 181
Livesay, John Frederick, 178-181
Livesay, Sophia, 46, 178-179-180
Lorne Park, XIV, 156, 297-305
Lorne Park Baptist Church, 302
Lorne Park Community Centre, 280
Lorne Park Estates, 298, 299, 303
Lorne Park Estates Limited, 300, 301
Lorne Park Branch Library, 302
Lorne Park Mission Hall, 129, 302
Lorne Park Post Office, 300, 301
Lorne Park Road, 137, 299
Lorne Park Train Station, 300
Lorne Park Wharf, 299
Love, Jerry, 278
Luigi de Benardo Construction, 48
Luker, Arthur, 302, Richard, 302, house 299
Lush, Cuthbert, 93, 94, 95
Lush, Thomas and Margaret, 94
Lush, Margaret Coulson, 93-97, 196, 197
Lush, Reuben, 93-97, 126, 137, 138, 156, 172, 176, 196, 197, 200, 235, house, 95, children, 93-97
Lushes Avenue, 172, 228
Lushes Corners, 93-97
Lush’s Fruit Stand, 96

Clarkson and its Many Corners
MacDougall, Bobbi, 67
MacGregor, Elizabeth, 115
Mackenzie Rebellion, 1837, 13, 19, 39
Mackenzie, William Lyon, 19, 242
Macklin, Mr. E. H., 178
Madigan, Mr. & Mrs. James, 303
Magrath, Charles, 39
Magrath, John Newton, 39
Magrath, Reverend James, 39, 42, 45
Manitoba Free Press, 178
Manley, Bartholemew and Catherine, 80
Manley, Charles, 80, 81, Minnie, 81
Manley Family, 30, 80-81, 194, 254
Manley, George, 80, Arletta, 80
Manley, Myrtle, 74, 80
Manley, Ralph, 80, 81, 110, 222, Eva, 80
Manley, Velma, 203, 204, 209
Manor House and Farm, 87, 88, 89
Marie Curtis Park, 286
Marland, Margaret, 289
Marlett, John, XIV
Marquis of Lorne, 298, Princess Louise, 298
Martin, Dorothy L., 14, 32
Matkovski, Wally and Tina, 256
Mazo Crescent, 35, 79, 191, 194
McArthur, John, 159, Isabel Trenwith, 159, 170, 232, 294, 296
McBain, Roy, 90, 91, 131
McCallion, Mayor Hazel, 278
McCallum, Mary, 159, 160, 198-199
McCaugherty, Reeve David, 127
McCleary, Violet, 269
McConnell Avenue, 300
McConnell, Kevin and Pat, 36
McConnell, Neave, 298
McCord and farm, 79
McCord, Samuel and Maude, 79
McCord, Samuel Sr. and sons, 237
McCord, William Thomas, 76
McDermott, Mr. A. G., 131, 232
McGill, Chief Garnet, 204
McGill, George, 175, 298, 299, 302 family,
Mackenzie Rebellion, 1837, 19, 242
Macleod, J. K., 175
Macleod, Mrs. J. K., 175
Macleod, Pr. J. K., 175
Macleod, John, 175
Macleod, J. K., 175
McGill, George, 175, 298, 299, 302 family,
mccord
McGregor, Gordon Morton, 108
McGuigan, Cardinal, 250
McLaughlin, S. B. & Associates, 144
McMillan, Roy, CVCA chairman, 265
McMullin, Robert, Mrs., Beth, Kitty, 185
McPherson, Jack, 241
Meadow Wood Area Property Owners,
McPherson, Jack, 241
Meadow Wood Area Property Owners
Association, 221
Meadow-Wood Ltd., 155, Ad. 221
Meadow-Wood-On-The-Lake, 155
Meadow Wood Park, 17
Meadow-Wood Rattray Residents
Association, 221
Meadow Wood Road, 91, 103, 155, 170
Meadow Wood Subdivision, 88, house, 221
Merchant’s Bank, 90, 131-132, 203, 224,
225, 232
Merigold, Amos, 38, Daniel, 9, 33
Merigold, Margaret Vail, 33, 34, 36
Merigold, Margaret Vail, 33, 34, 36
Merigold, Mary, 8-10, 13, 14, 23,
28, 70, Family Tree, 11
Merigold, William and son Willie, 10
Merrill, Dina, actress, 211
Methodist Church, 14, 21, 24, 33-35-36,
also see Carmen, United & Christ
Methodist Episcopal Church of Canada, 34,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 316  | Oakville Anglican Church, 252  
Oakville Basket Factory, 202  
Oakville Trafalgar Hospital, 144, 209  
O’Hara’s Store, 301, 302  
Old Survey, 52  
Oliphant, Albert “Webe,” 228, 229, 230, 251  
Oliphant, Elizabeth, 5, 20  
Oliphant, Family, 20-21, 33, 73, 129,  
Oliphant, Harry “Nip,” 228, 229  
Oliphant, Mary, 21, 147  
Oliphant, Peter, 5, 20, 261  
Oliphant, Roy, 193  
Oliphant, Thomas, 20, 30, 147, 193  
Oliphant’s Swamp, 20  
Oliver, W. Frank, 154  
Ontario, 67, 108, 171, 188, 220  
Ontario Agricultural College, 117  
Ontario Dept. of Agriculture, 230  
Ontario Heritage Act, 1974, 17  
Ontario Heritage Foundation, 46, 48, 183  
Ontario Historical Society, 205  
Ontario Hockey Association, 142  
Ontario Minister of Public Works, 137  
Ontario Municipal Board, 143, 265  
Ontario Temperance Act, 1916, 171  
Operator’s Licences, 108  
Orr, Andrew, 39, 73, 95, 217  
Orr, Edward, 28, 73, 74, 108, 157, 176, 192, 217,  
wife Mary Cavan, 73  
Orr, Hugh, 74, 217, Beatrice, 74  
Orr Family, 73-74, 111, 150, 129,  
house, 74, Howard, 109  
Orr, Fred, 31, 74, 80, 148, 230  
Orr, Joseph, 39, 73, Elizabeth, 73  
Orr, Joseph and Sophie, 74  
Orr, Mary, 296  
Orr Road, 17, 74, 142  
Osgoode, Chief Justice William, X  
Oughtred Brothers Limited, 41, 104  
Oughtred, Esther Ann and children, 3  
Oughtred Family, 25, 28, 40, 41, 70, 111  
Oughtred, Richard, 3, 40-41, 70, 163,  
Oughtred, Stephen, 40, 41  
Oughtred’s, Wallace, Gordon, 29, 41, 271  
Oughtred, William, 40, 41  
Oughtred, William, Bill, Richard, 29, Art, 41,  
Wilson, 41, 91  
Owen, Lloyd, 229 |
| 258  | North Service Road, 258 |
| 273  | Park Royal Community Association, 278  
Park Royal Presbyterian Church, 188  
Park Royal Ratepayers Assoc., 254, 255  
Park Royal Shopping Centre, 161, 270  
Park Royal Subdivision, 24, 81, 85, 116, 128,  
254-255  
Parker, Percy and Ida, 263  
Parsons, Lou, 277, 278, 279, 289  
Parzych, Tracy, 201  
Patchett Family, 111, 116, house, 116  
Patchett, Thomas, 24  
Pattinson Crescent, 148  
Pattinson, Doris, Enid Speck, 31, 296  
Pattinson, Gordon, 21, 142, 147-148, 193,  
230, Armadel, 21, 147, Tom &  
Kathleen, 147, 148, house, 143  
Pattison, Harry, 142, 148, barn, 144  
Pattinson, Jeanette, 103, 154  
Pattinson, Johnny, 228, 229, 296  
Pattinson, Margaret, 103, 201  
Peat, Marwich & Partners, 280  
Peebles, Tom, 254  
Peel County, XVII, 73, 207  
Peel County Council, 1922, 176  
Peel Farmer’s Mutual Fire Insurance  
Board, 97  
Peer, John, 20, 98, 170, 175, 261, 273, 299,  
house, 98, Peer’s Pond, 170  
Peers, Jean, 279  
Peer, Wesley, 302, William, 303  
Penglilley, James, 30, 90, 124, 131, 192, 224,  
225, 230  
Penglilley Place, 224  
Perrin, Nancy, 27  
Peters, Alvin, 224  
Petrie Way, 103  
Petro Canada, 218-219  
Pinchin, Herb, 241, 242  
Pine’s Nursing Home, 45, 46, 150  
Pleich, Frank, 159  
Pollard Captain Richard,81,85, house, 85  
Pollard, Joshua, XII, 23, 25, 29, 70, 85  
Potts, Edward, 217  
Port Credit, XVI, 126, 144, 203 |
Port Credit High School, 222, 295
Port Credit Methodist Church, 3, 41, 67
Port Credit Weekly, 76, 121, 215, 253
Powell, Judge Grant, XI, 18
Power Commission Act, 1906, 126
Presbyterian Church of Canada, 185
Preston, Sydney, 133, 150, 151, 158
Price, Reeve Samuel, 51
Proctor, Mr. & Mrs. Richard, 67
Proctor, Anne & Isabelle, 67
Prohibition, 171
Proudfoot, Alexander, 13, 67
Provincial Department of Highways, 172

Q
Quebec, X, 173
Quebec Act of 1774, X
Queen Elizabeth Way, 25, 258, 259-260
Queen's Rangers, X

R
RKO Pictures, 191
Rattray Estate, 186, 216, 221, 262, 263
Rattray Estate Preservation Comm., 265
Rattray, Major James Halliday, 157, 263
Rattray Marsh, 20, 157, 175, 261-264
Ravine Drive, 180
Read, Mr. H.L., 131
Red Cross Branch, 30, 113, 134, 192
Red & White Store, 76
Reid, Kate, actress, 190
Region of Peel Social Services, 279
Ridgeon, Reverend G.G., 36
River Thames, XI
Riverwood, 263

Road Commissioner’s Report, 1822, 23
Roberts, Premier John, 275, 276
Robert Simpson Company, 262
Robertson, Andrew, 57, house, 57
Robertson, John R., 154
Roberts, Patricia, 304, house, 304
Robinet, Allen, XII
Robinson, John Beverly, XI, 13
Roche, William and Alberta, 189
Rogers, Edward Samuel, 226
Rogers Majestic Corp., 226
Rogers Radio Broadcasting Co., 227
Rolph, Frank A., 198
Roman Catholic Diocese, 161
Romain, Charles, 51
Rooke, Reverend Canon Thomas, 266
Roper Avenue, 305
Roper, Frederick, 300
Ross, Annie, librarian, 302
Rotary Club of Clarkson, 271-272
Rotary Club of Mississauga, 271
Rotary Club of Port Credit, 271
Rotary International, 271
Row, Christopher, 51, 52
Rowbottom, Doug, 242
Royal Alexandra Theatre, 210, 211
Royal Canadian Air Force, 99
Royal Windsor Drive, 227, 275
Royal Winter Fair, 39, 117
Royal York Hotel, 122
Ruckus, George, 97
Rural Hydro Distribution Act, 1911, 126
Russell, Honourable Peter, XI
Ryan, James, 67, 115, 231
Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, 280, 283
Ryerson, Reverend Egerton, XI
Ryrie, Harry and Christine, 113
Ryries, 16, 90, 95, Ross, 113

S
St. Bride’s Anglican Church, 266
St. Christopher’s Roman Catholic Church, 36, 161, 194, 250
St. Lawrence Cement, 19, 248-249
St. Paul’s Anglican Church, 302
St. Peter’s Anglican Church, 18, 70, 180, 190
Salvation Army Corps, 90
Sangster Avenue, 304, 305
Saunders, Harry, 305, house, 305
Savage, Solomon, 29
Sayers, Anne, 44, 45, 130, 182-183, 210
Sayers, Beverly, 45, 178, 182, 210
Sayers, Dora, 46, 183, 210-211
Sayers Family, 129, 150, 182-183
Sayers, Geoffrey, 45-47, 48, 183, 187, 211
Schofield, Harold, 87, 88, house, 88
School Section #5, 25-26, 27, 67, 81, 85, 124, 142, 157, 303, class 1896, 27.
also see Hillcrest School
School Section #6, 13, 14, 20, 30-31, 34, 99, 142, 192, 303, class, 1906, 32, class, 1941, 269, also see Clarkson School
Schuck, Heirick (see Shook)
Sears & Russell Architects Ltd., 48
Second Purchase, 1818, 297
Seton, Ernest Thompson, 303
Seven Years War, 1756-1763, 43
Shaver, Albert, 301, 302
Sheridan, 41, 80, 124
Sheridan Creek, 38, 119
Sheridan Methodist Church, 41
Sheridan Nurseries, 4, 5, 162-164
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley, 41, 163
Sheridan Villa, 279
Sherman Sand & Gravel, 175
Shook, Conrad and Mary, 4, 70
Clarks
Shook, David, 3, 70, 302
Shook Family; 24, 28, 69-72, 111
Shook, Henry Jr. 4, 28, 29, 30, 70,
Shook, Henry Sr. XV, 23, 69
Shook Oughtred, Mary, 3, 21, 70
Shook, Robert, 70-71, 176
Shook, Robert Lloyd, 71
Shook, Rosanna, 69
Shook School bus, 70
Shook, William, 99,176,193, Mrs.,130
Silverthorn, Joseph, XII
Simcoe, Lieutenant John Graves, X, XI
Skinner, Donald, 277, 279
Skunk’s Hollow, 173, 228
Skynner, Captain John, 13, 17, 49
Skynner, Family, 49, Caroline, 13
Slacer, Edward, 147, Everett, 230
Slade, Dr. Thomas, 20, 33, 262
Slavery abolished, XI
Small, Sydney, 300
Small, William, 175
Smith, C. Aubrey, actor, 190
Smith, Jean, 30
Smith, Reeve Sid, 236
Smith & Savoury’s, 281
South Peel Board of Education, 25, 253
South Peel Naturalists Club, 264, 265
South Service Road, 25, 258
Southdown Road, named, 23
Speck Charlie, 141, Farm, 24, 141
Speck Family, 111, 141-144, 209
Speck Fruit Market, 142
Speck, Howard, 91, 203
Speck, Mabel, 95, Myrtle, 31, 32, 269
Speck, Robert, Reeve, 45, 127, 141-142-144,
John, 296
Speck, William, 4
Spence, Councillor Mary Helen, 265, 280,
289
Spinning Wheel Lodge, 13, 239-240
Spring Creek Cemetery., XV, 4,5,21,24, 28-
29, 91, 97, 124
Springfield, 13, 18, 42, 44, 75, also see
Erindale
Springwell Avenue, 27
Stanton, Douglas, 246
Stavebank Road, 97, 241
Stensson Family, 162-164
Stensson, Fred, Karl, 164
Stensson, Howard, 4, 164
Stensson, Sven Herman, 164
Stevenson, David & Jenni, 200-201, 294
Stevenson, Reverend James, 250
Stewart, John, 157
Stewart, Wilbur, 142, William, 70
Stonehaven Drive, 104
Stonehaven Farm, 41, 103-104-106,173
Strawberry Industry 61-62, 149, 183
Strawberry Poem, 60
Streetsville, 51, 52, 144, 297
Summers, Reverend Malcolm, 252
Sunningdale, 150, 151
Sunningdale Bend, 151
Superior Bulb Company Ltd., 303
Sutherland, Captain Edward, 39, 45, 61, 183,
Christina, 45
Sutton, Dr. A.B., 180
Sydenham, XI, also see Dixie
Szabo, Stephen, 180
T
Taylor, Frank, 193, 203
Taylor, Robert, 302
Teggart, William, 274
Telegraph Inn, 51
Telephones, first, XVI, 111
Terry Boys, 165, 166
Terry, Burton, 252
Terry, Charles, 91, 114-115, 120, 129,
130,145, 202, 203, 230, Ellen, 114, 130
Terry, David, 76, 115, 230
Terry Family, 114-115, house, 114
Tew, Burt, 154
Thom, Hubert and Katherine, 39
Thom, Murray and Joan, 39
Thompson, Captain William, XV, 13,
18-19, 51, 52, 289, house, 18, 19
Thompson, Cornelius, XIV, 18
Thompson, Cornelius, XIV, 18
Thompson, Joseph, 303
Thompson, Reverend, H.V., 45
Toronto, XVI, 39, 158, also see York
Toronto Ability School, 21, 78
Toronto-Hamilton Highways
Commission, 88, 137, 138, 172
Toronto Lorne Park Association, 298,299
Toronto Star, The, 155
Toronto Township, XI, 8, 16, 22, incorporated,
51, 58, 108, 111, 143, 215, 261, 278, 297
Toronto Township Centennial, 241-242
Toronto Township Council, 51, 52, 73,
126, 127, 155, 241, 254, 265, 289
Toronto Township Fall Fair, 3, 85
Toronto Township Fire Department, 228
Toronto Township Historical Foundation, 17
Toronto Township Hydro Commission, 97
Toronto Township Library System, 161
Toronto Township Recreation Assoc.194
Toronto Township’s First Census, XII
Toronto Township’s First Map, XIII
Toronto’s Rotary Club, 114
Tottenham, Bishop Ann, 266

Clarkson and its Many Corners
Trafalgar Township, XV, 69, 95, 203
Traffic Officer’s Instructions, 1919, 172
Trail Cottage, 46, 180, 189, 191
Travers, William R., 300
Trenholme Drive, 104
Trenholme Estates, 41, 104, 246
Trenwill Building, 245, 246
Trenwith, Amy Stevenson, 173, 201, 294
Trenwith Family, 41, 103-107, 194
Trenwith, John, 103, 170, 173, 174, 201, 273, 294
Trenwith Market, 103, 173-174.
Trenwith, William Alexander, 79, 104, 105, 106, 246
Trenwith, William, 79, 104, 105, 106, 173, 294, house, 105
Trenwith, William George, 106
Trenwith, William H. 90, 91, 103, 106, 110, 132, 142, 173, 245, 294, house, 105
Trenwith’s Garage, 174, 180
Trehyway, William Griffith, 103, 154
Trillium Health Centre, 251
Truscott Drive, 79, 254, 279
Truscott, George, 43, 44
Truscott, Sir Denis H., 254
Tuckett, James, I., 155, 220
Turner, Annie Hood, 60, 191
Tweed, James, 249

U
United Church of Canada, 35
United Empire Loyalists, X, 12, 14
United Lands Corporation, 24, 81, 116, 254-255, 276
United States, 14, 75, 171
University of Toronto at Mississauga, XVII, 271

V
Vanderspek, Rene and Rommy, 19
Van der Velde, E. 233
Van Dyk, Reverend, 233
Van Every, Alan, 242
Van Every, Janet, 253
Van Harten, L. 233, Martha, 232
Vanravinstein, Adrian, 19
Van Zuyverden, J.L., 303
Vernon, Dr. Edward, 114, 145-146, house, 145, Ida, 130, 145
Vernon, Dr. Howard, 145, 296
Victoria, Queen, 39, 51, 298

W
W.E.Lee Construction Ltd., 252
Walkerville (Windsor), 108
Wallace, Stewart, 175
Ward 2, 289, maps, 290, wards, 51
Ward, Mrs. Rita, 279
War of 1812, 12, 13, 14, 18
Waterfront Trail, 285-286, map, 286
Waterfront Regeneration Trust, 286
Waterloo, 43
Watersedge Road, 221
Watson, Melville, 142
Wawel Villa’s Turtle Creek Home, 174
Weaver, Albert Sr., 303
Weaver, Alfie, 229, 303, Tom, 303
Weaver, Phyllis, 208
Weller, William, Stage Coaches, 38
West, Bruce, 265
West Family, 150-151, 194
West, Howard and Grace, 150-151
West, John, 224, William, 271
Westervelt, Alexander, 39, 117
Westervelt, Avie, 39
Westervelt, Mrs. D., 160
Wetson, George, 302
Wheeler, Robert, XIV, 170
White, Joseph, 121
White, Pat, 228, Bud, 228, 229
Whiteoaks Avenue, 191
Whiteoaks of Jalna, 191, 189, 190
Willow Glen Public School, 254
Willcox, Absalom, XII, 242
Williams, Dr. John, 245-246, 271
William IV, King, 39
Williams, Muriel, 39
Williams, Phyllis Trenwith, 90, 103, 105, 110, 155, 194, 245, 246, 296
Williamson, Reverend J., 302
Withey, Councillor Richard, 289
Wilmet, Samuel Street, surveyor, XII, 261, map, XIII
Wilson, George, 230
Windjammer Restaurant, 256
Winston Churchill Blvd., 3, 40, 57, 73, 163, 254
Women’s Institute, 30, 71, 114, 129-130, 160, 206, 216
Women’s Missionary Society, 71
Woniewicz, Richard, 144
Wood, Peggy, actress, 190
Woodburn, 39, 183
Woodlot, 178-179
Woods, William and Janet, 39
World War II, 1939-45, 45, 99, 115, 130,
154, 205, 220, 249, 256
Wortley, Aileen, 161
Wowy Zowy Toys, 36, 194
Wright, Archibald, XV, 9, Malcolm, 9
Wright, Reeve Joseph, 51

Y

Yonge Street, XI
York, XI, also see Toronto
York Militia, 18
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Before her two grandfathers, Thomas Groves and Walter Beeby, passed away in their 90s, she saw five generations on both sides of her family. Her daughter, Kathleen, and son, Martin, have blessed her with four grandchildren, Tracy, Troy, Cory and Samantha. Troy made her a great grandmother to Anthony in 2000 and Tyrese in 2002.

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