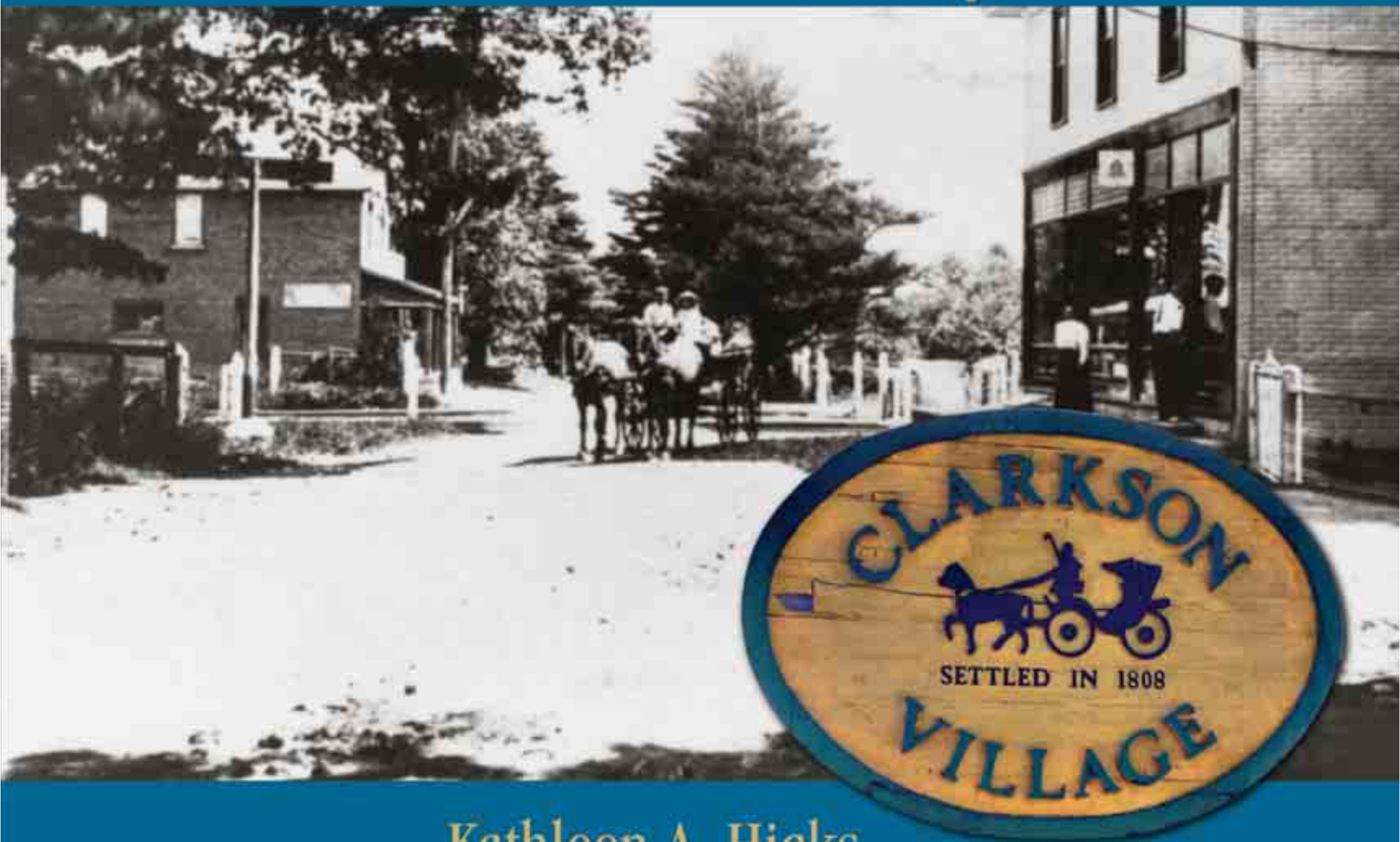


# Clarkson and its Many Corners



Kathleen A. Hicks



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## Clarkson and its Many Corners



▲ Clarkson's Corners, 1915

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

### CLARKSON AND ITS MANY CORNERS

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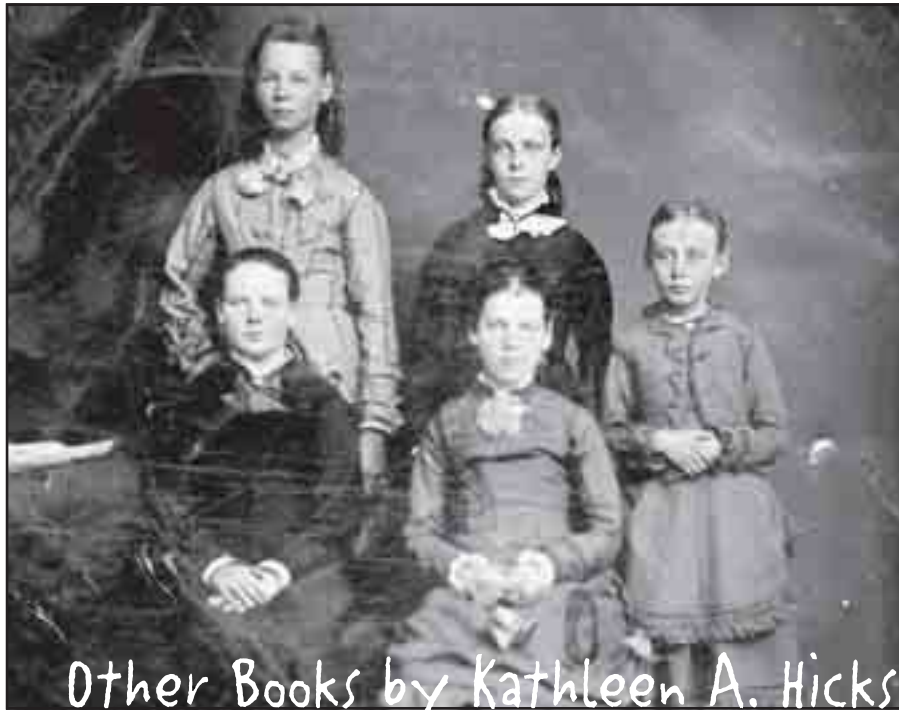
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Kathleen Hicks' V.I.P.s of Mississauga  
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## Video

Riverwood: The Estate Dreams Are Made Of

## Dedication



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)



▲ Lifetime Clarkson Residents with the author  
(Don Mills)

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, archeologist 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 Costanio 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.



▲ Mike Gilbert, Manager of Ontario Power Generation LGS, presents a cheque to Kathleen Hicks  
(Larry Onisto)

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▲ (Hydro One Networks Archives)

**T**he 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.

## foreword

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.



▲ (Bruce Carr)

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



King George III

(Shell Canada Ltd.)



Sir Guy Carleton

(Toronto Public Library)



John Graves Simcoe

(Toronto Public Library)

## Introduction

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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.

◀ The opening of the First Legislature of Upper Canada, 1792

(Confederation Life Collection, Rogers Communications Inc.)

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 Beverly 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 (11,827 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 Sydenham (later Dixie) and Harrisville (later

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◀ 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

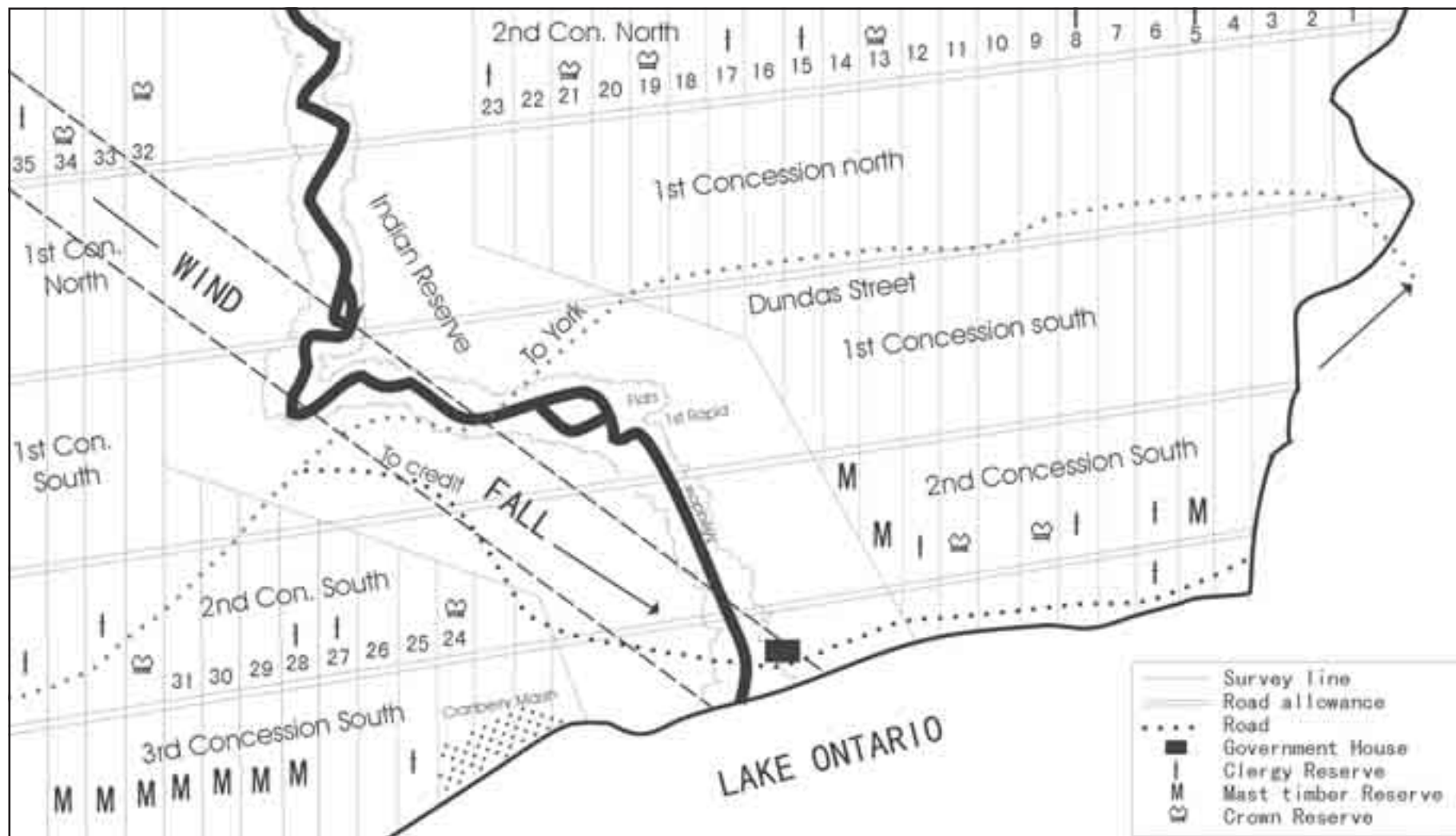
and drawn up the first map in 1805-06, outlining the 200 acre (81 ha) lots that were designated grants to the incoming settlers. It listed the first families as Philip Cody, Daniel Harris, Joseph Silverthorn, Absalom Wilcox, Allen Robinet and William Barber.

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.

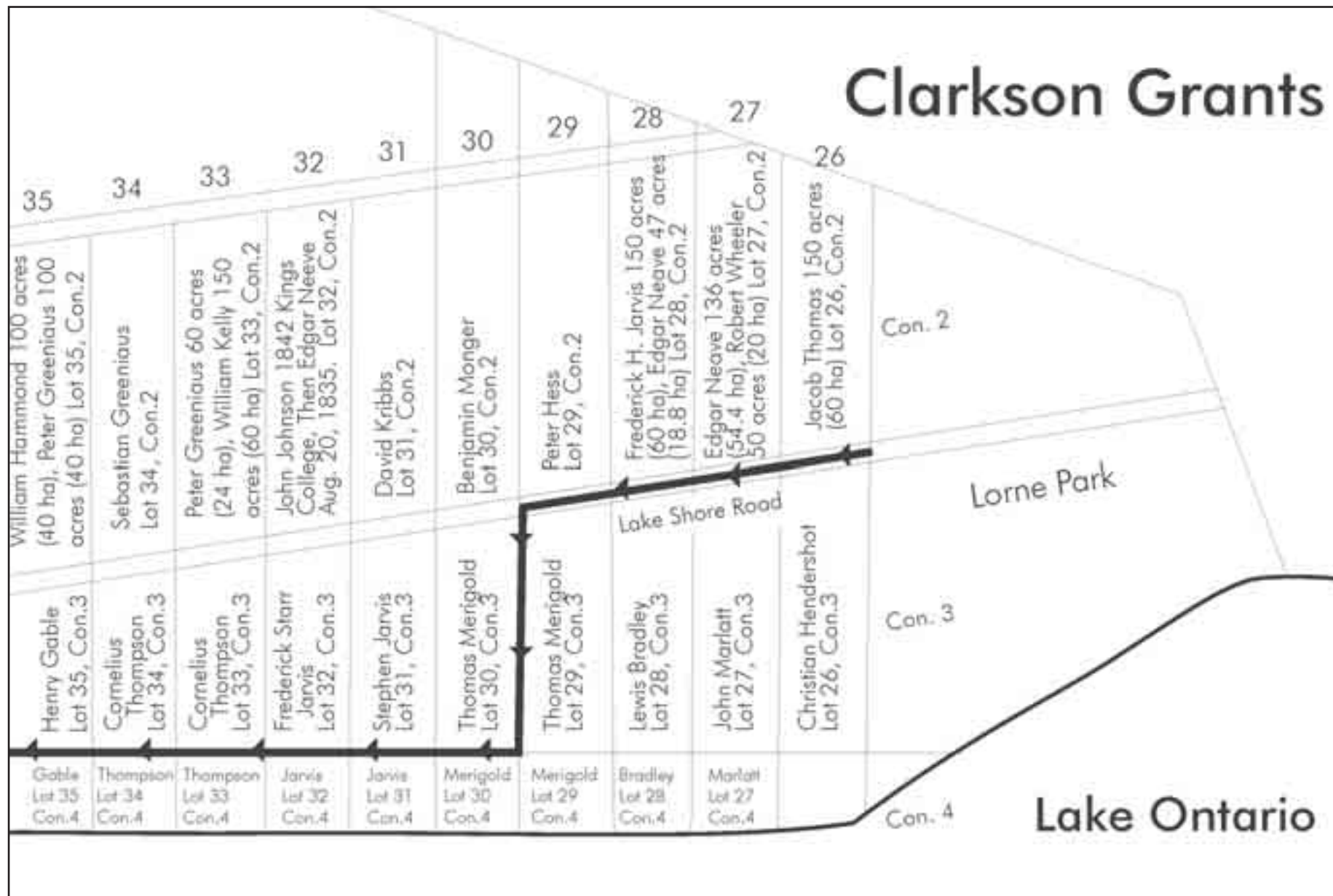


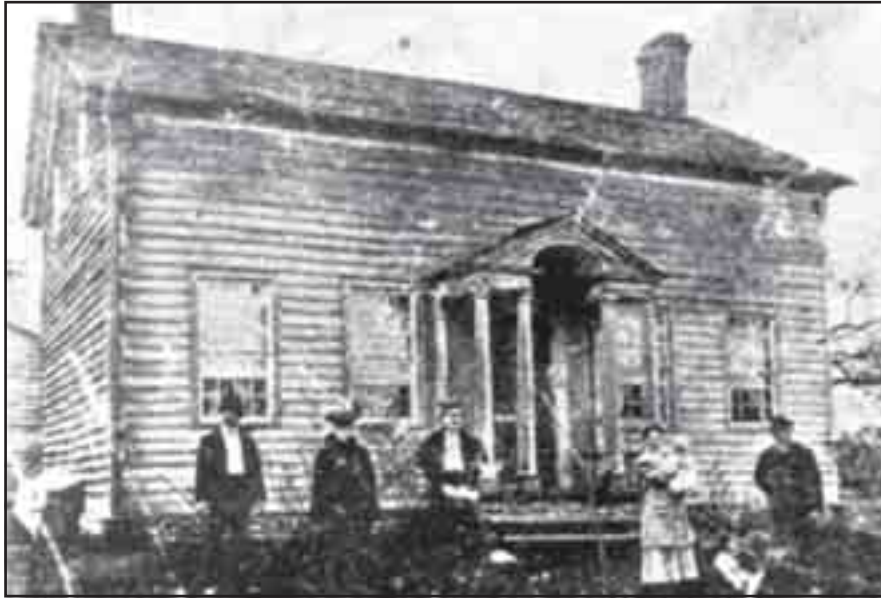
▲ Loyalists drawing lots for their lands, 1784  
(C.W. Jefferys, Rogers Cantel Collection)





▲ Samuel Wilmot's 1806 Map  
(Thompson Adamson)





▲ Clarkson House (Region of Peel Archives)

## A Tribute to Warren Clarkson

**W**arren 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



▲ Smokehouse





### ▲ Clarkson/Barnett Barn

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

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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.



### ▲ Corn crib

(John Barnett Collection)

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.



▲ Store and Station  
(Region of Peel Archives)

## 1835 ASSESSMENT

*In 1835, taxes on a 100 acre (40 ha) farm were assessed at £50 to £60 (approximately \$125-\$150, as York currency was \$2.50 to a pound). Warren Clarkson paid 17 shillings 8 pence (approx. \$2.20, as there were 12½¢ to a shilling) on his farm's assessment of £212 (\$530). Roads — for each assessment of £120 (\$300), a farmer had to do six days labour per year on the roads adjacent to his farm.*

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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.







Cabin being built (Frederick R. Bercham)

## Part One 1807 - 1850



## Gable/Hammond Families — 1807

**H**enry 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.



▲ The Gable House

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

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



▲ Mrs. Jacob Gable



▲ Mr. Jacob Gable (Region of Peel Archives)

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.



## The Greeniaus Family — 1808

**S**ebastian 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, SDS, 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.



◀ Sebastian  
(Edith Nadon)

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 Greeniauses 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.



▲ Sebastian Greeniaus' House  
(Edith Nadon)

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.



► Catherine  
(Wilmer Greeniaus)



◄ Gaylord and  
Selina  
(Wilmer Greeniaus)

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.



▲ Norman and Ethel's wedding  
(Wilmer Greeniaus)



▲ Greeniaus residence  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Wilmer's farm  
(Wilmer Greeniaus)

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▲ Wilmer, Bruce, Murray and Ross, with wagon  
(Wilmer Greeniaus)



◀ Wilmer Greeniaus  
(Wilmer Greeniaus)

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



## The Merigolds and Mongers — 1808

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.



◀ Mary Monger  
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ Benjamin Monger  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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-





▲ Merigold Orchard  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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 Dutchess 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 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 1815, 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, for additional farm land between 1817 and 1826, 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 (\$1,250). A few years later, he moved his family to Lot 3, Con. 3, West Hurontario Street, in the New Survey, where he became known as Squire Monger. He became a magistrate for the Home District in 1829, which he remained until he left the area in 1852 to live with his son, George, in

▼ Gathering Hay  
(Region of Peel Archives)





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.

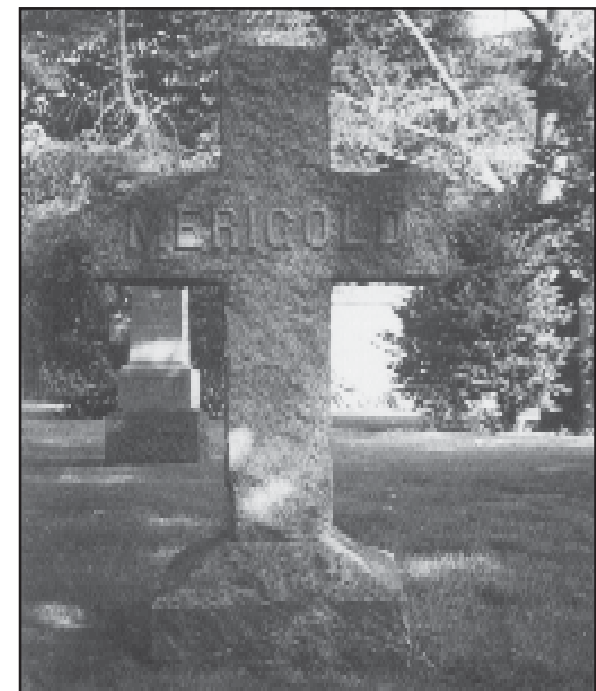
◀ Merigold Farmhouse  
(Region of Peel Archives)

## 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 Down 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

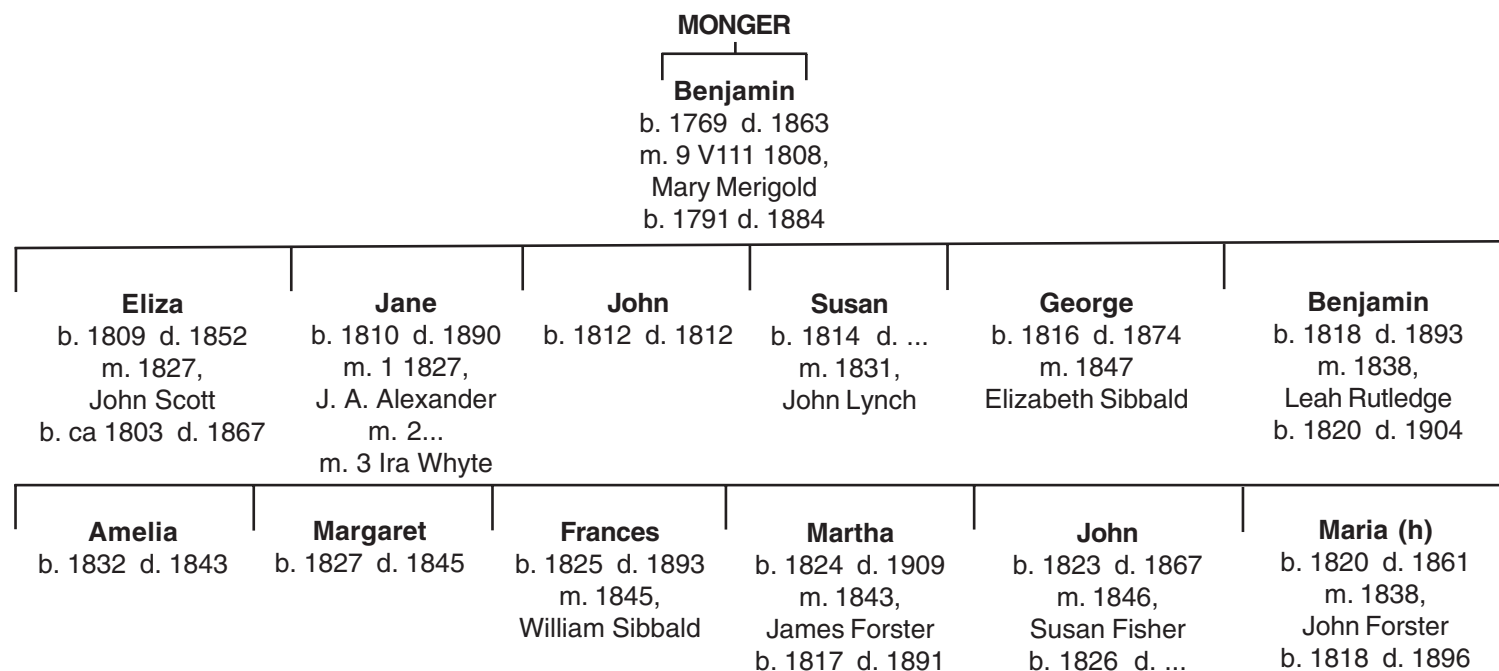
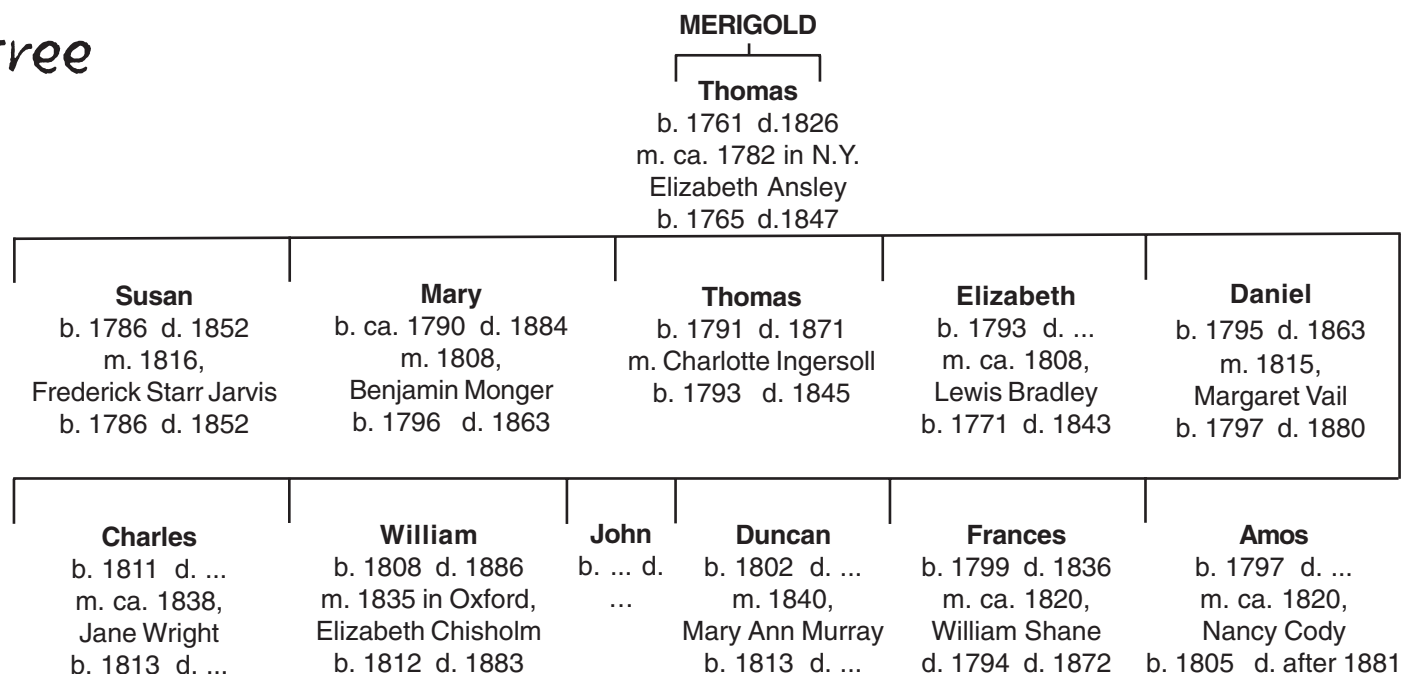
Clarkson and its Many Corners



▲ Thomas Merigold's gravestone,  
Spring Creek Cemetery  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



# family tree



Family tree from *The Families of Merigold's Point*, page 72.

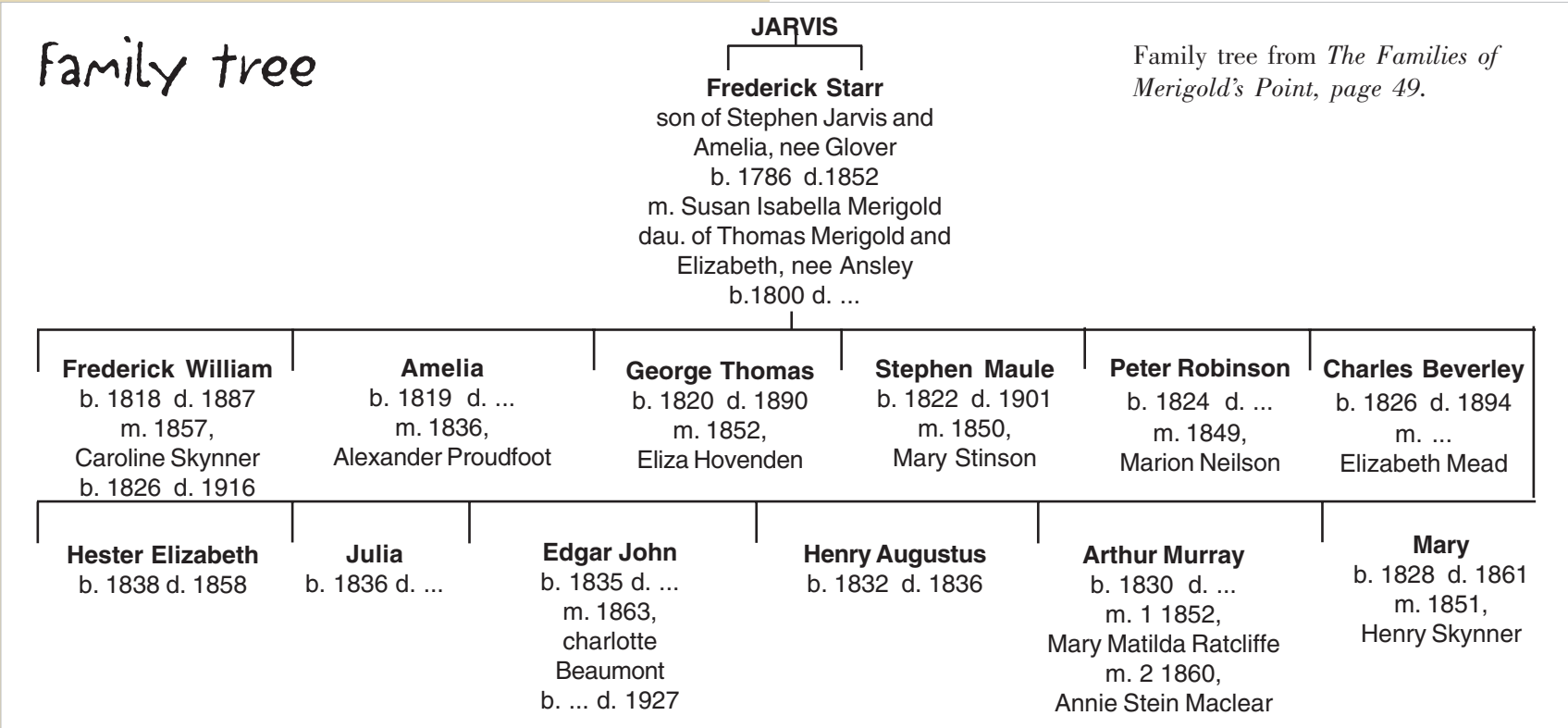
# The Jarvis Family — 1809

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

12



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).

## The Bradley family — 1810

**L**ewis 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.



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.

◀ The original location of the Bradley House  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Richard Bradley  
(Bradley Museum)



▲ Margorie Bradley  
(Bradley Museum)





▲ Moving day  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ After the move  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Interior of Bradley House  
(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-



▲ **The Anchorage**  
(Bradley Museum)

ship 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 Skynner'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.



◀ **Gravestone  
of Lewis  
Bradley**  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Captain William Thompson — 1815

**W**illiam 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.

► Harwood  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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.



▲ Rearview of Harwood  
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ Harwood dining  
room fireplace  
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ Harwood living  
room fireplace  
(Region of Peel Archives)



## The Oliphant Family — 1819

**T**he 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.



▲ Thomas Oliphant  
(Mississauga Library System)





▲ Mrs. Mary Oliphant  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

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.



▲ Edith Clarkson's House  
(City of Mississauga Heritage Department)

## 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.”



▲ A Circuit Rider

(C.W. Jefferys C-96392 Rogers Cantel Collection)

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



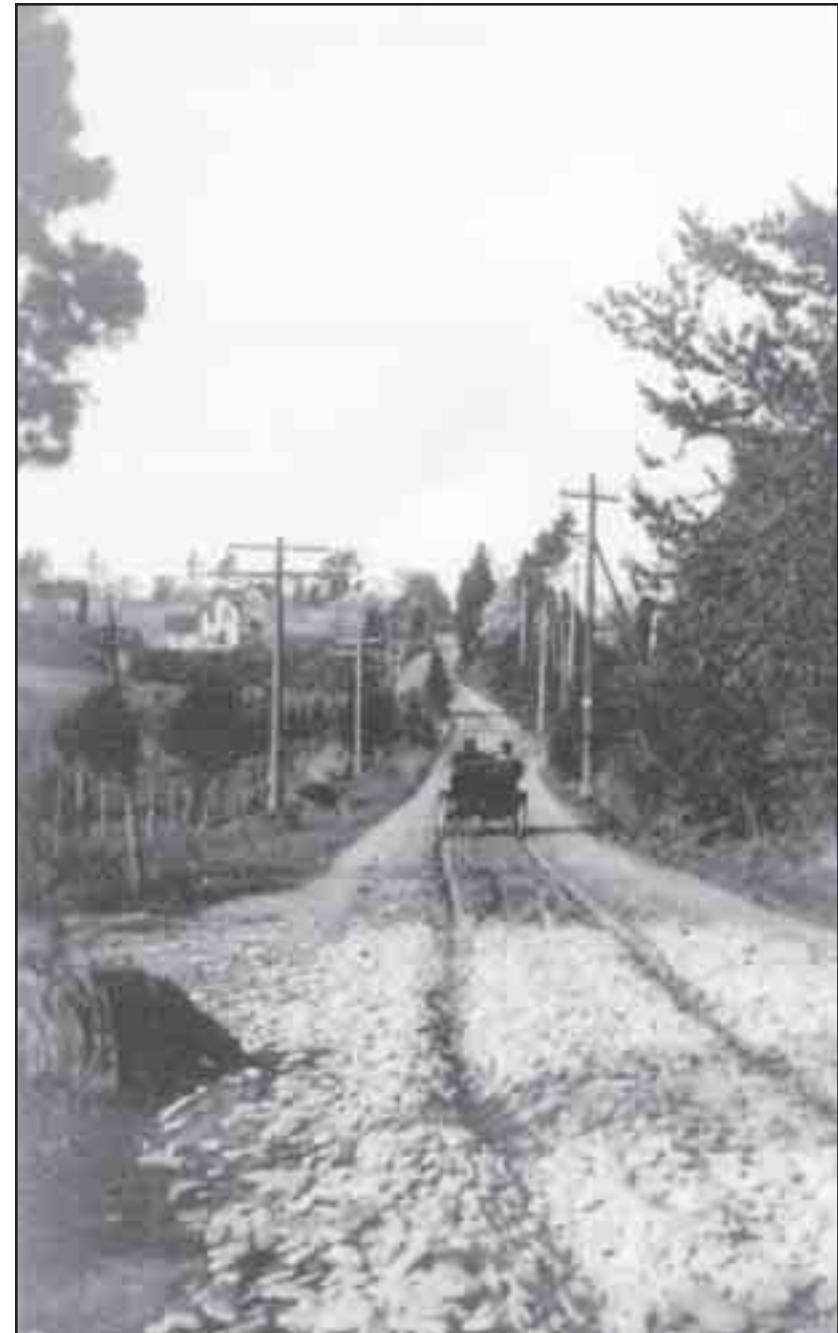
▲ Anson Green  
(Mississauga Library System)

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)



## The Johnson Family — 1825

In 1825, Henry Johnson purchased 100 acres (40ha) 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.



▲ Descendents Daniel and Mary Johnson, 1880  
(David Johnson)

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.

## First Public School, S.S. # 5 — 1826



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 m<sup>2</sup>) 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

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▲ School #5  
(Phyllis Williams)



▲ Miss L. A. Smith with Class of 1896  
(Vera Davis)

\$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.

▼ Hillcrest School, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



## Spring Creek Grave Ground — 1827

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.

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▲ Clarkson Road and Spring Creek Cemetery  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

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 neighbourhood 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.



▲ The entrance to Clarkson Road Cemetery, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ Spring Creek Cemetery 1390 Clarkson Road North  
(Mississauga Library System)



## 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 known as no records are available before 1900, when Miss Jean Smith was the teacher with an annual salary of \$400.

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▲ Clarkson Public School  
(Jane Watt)



▲ School Section #6  
(Phyllis Williams)

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





▲ Miss Annie Hall  
(Phyllis Williams)

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.

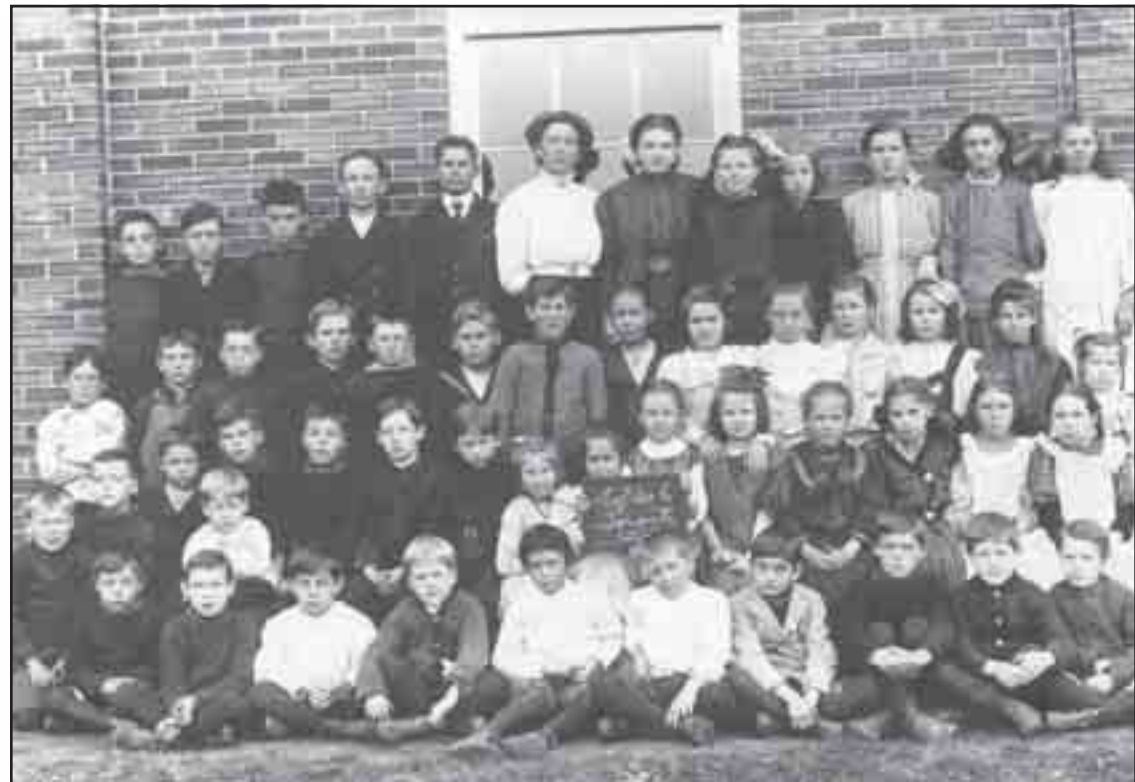
She had graduated from Hamilton Normal School in 1918 and taught in Burlington until 1923, In 1924, she attended the University of Toronto. She met Trustee Fred Orr in his strawberry patch and before several pupils, Doris and Enid Pattinson (Speck) being two, she was interrogated for the

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.

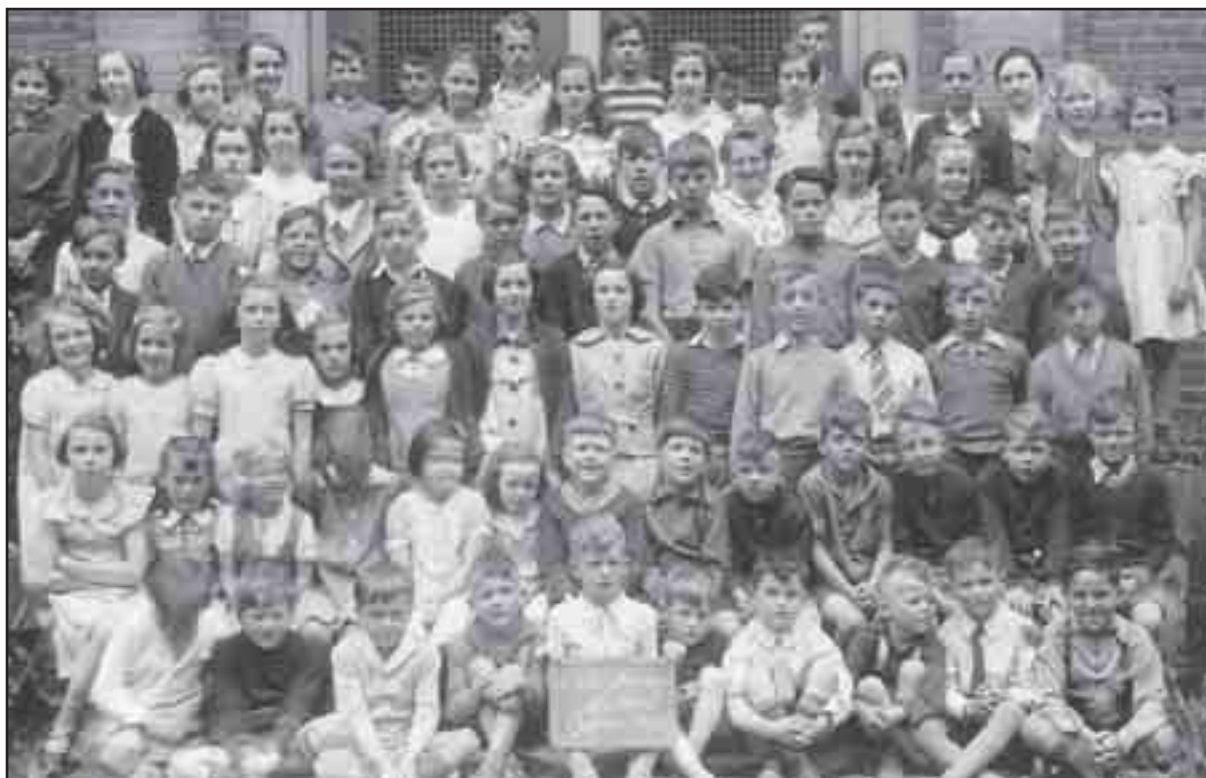
Over the years, the school put on many plays under the directorship of Annie Hall, such as "*The Wishing Moon*," which was a fund raiser for the Red Cross, "*The Hot Potato Inn*" and "*Star Bright*," written by Evelyn Crickmore. These were held in the Carman Church's Community Hall and audiences often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



▲ School Section #6 in 1906-07 (Phyllis Williams)



▲ Clarkson Public School, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ Principal  
Annie Hall (top  
row, fourth  
from left) with  
students, 1938  
(Phyllis Williams)

► Memoirs of Peter  
Robinson Jarvis, age 73.  
Born August 6, 1824, the  
son of Frederick Starr  
Jarvis, son-in-law of  
Thomas Merigold.  
Excerpt from "The  
Families of Merigold's  
Point" Dorothy L. Martin,  
page 133

## MEMORIES

"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 at-  
tending 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 im-  
perfect and the opportu-  
nities 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."

## 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.



▲ Carman Church Picnic, 1912

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-eighths 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





▲ First Church  
(Christ Church)



▲ Church and Community Hall  
(Christ Church)



▲ Second Church  
(Christ Church)

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.



▲ The 1920 School Fire  
(Jean Lindsay)



▲ Clarkson United Church play, 1943



▲ Sunday school concert



▲ Lakeshore Floor Finishers  
(Mathew Wilkinson)

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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



▲ Christ Church, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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's Inn — 1835

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 Merigold, Thomas' son. Amos was married to Nancy Cody, the daughter of Philip Cody from Dixie, who was the grandfather of William F. Cody, the famous showman known as Buffalo Bill.

▼ Back View of Bush's Inn  
Outbuildings  
(Jean Lindsay)



▲ Bush's Inn  
(Misissauga Library System)

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 Weller's Stage Coach Line stopped frequently at the Inn for the horses to be rested or changed and the passengers to have refreshments. Bush eventually added seven stables, a barn and several outbuildings to meet





◀ Captain Sutherland  
(Barbara Larson)

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 Thoms.



▲ Alex Westervelt  
(Jean Lindsay)

## The Oughtred Family — 1835

**R**ichard 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.



► William Oughtred  
(Region of Peel Archives)

▼ Doughtred House  
(Region of Peel Archives)





◀ Oughtred and Hardy families — Top Row: 2nd from left, Wilson, 3rd from left, Art, Bottom Row: Gordon on left, Wally on right.  
(Anson Hardy)

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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 Meth-

odist. 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 out-buildings 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, SDS. 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/



▲ Benares Historic House





► Benares  
(Barbara Larson)

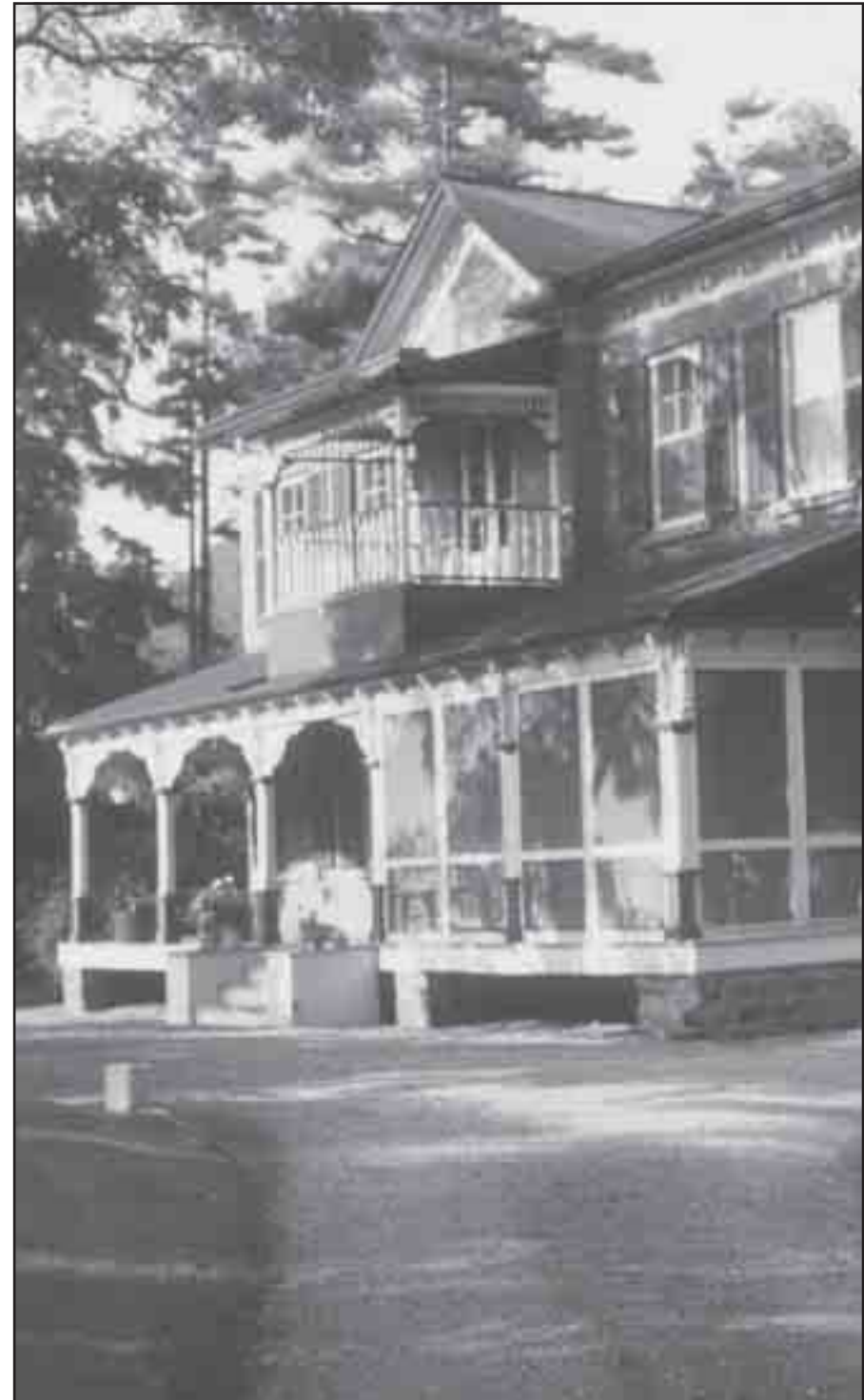
◄ Captain James Harris  
(Benares Historic House)

Erindale) and John Jones (the minister for the Mississauga Indians, whose reservation was where the Mississauga 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.

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▲ Arthur Harris

► Elizabeth Harris



► Mary Magrath Harris

(Photos courtesy of Benares Historic House)

It has been said that Neave named his estate "Benares," as a tribute to the Hindus 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).



▲ Naomi and Anne (Benares Historic House)

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



► Dorothy Livesay, Dora Sayers, Sophia Livesay  
(Barbara Larson)

◄ Mazo de la Roche  
(Benares Historic House)

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.

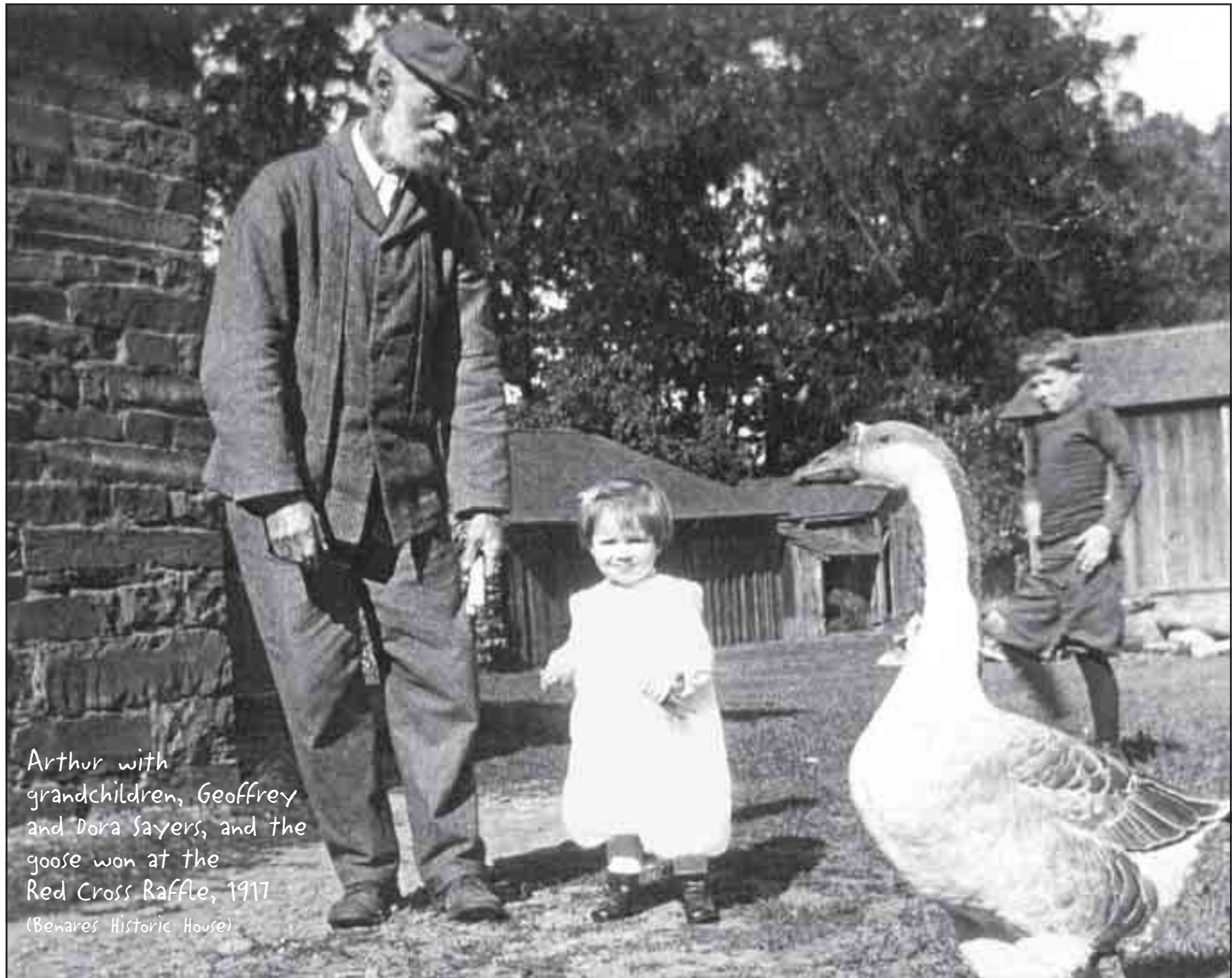
The Harris family did not appreciate the notoriety that transpired when people began to associate Benares with the *Jalna* books. They were invaded by tourists from the first publication. In 1972 when officials from CBC - TV requested permission to film the *Whiteoaks of Jalna* TV series at Benares, 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 m<sup>2</sup>) 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.

▲ Clockwise from top: Benares, 2001 (Kathleen A. Hicks)  
Benares barn, Benares oven (Benares Historic House)

## The Anchorage — 1839

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 Anchorage in its original location  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



◀ Captain John Skynner  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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).





▲ The Anchorage  
(Bradley Museum)

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.

*Author's note: It is thought by this author that the Anchorage was built by Fredrick Starr Jarvis*

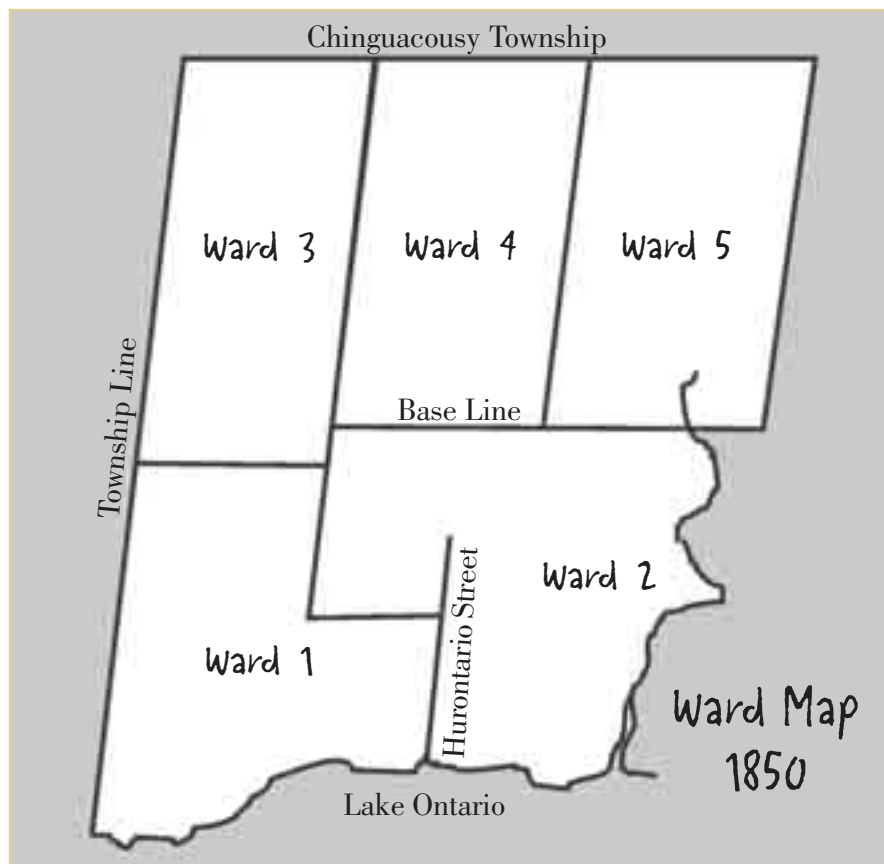


▲ The interior of the Anchorage  
(Bradley Museum)



# Toronto Township Incorporated—1850

IN 1850, TORONTO TOWNSHIP WAS INCORPORATED under the District Municipal Act, which reads: “Incorporated under the Act passed by the Legislature in the Twelfth year of Victoria, Chapter eighty and eighty one; entitled an Act to repeal the Acts in force in Upper Canada, relative to the establishment of Local and Municipal Authorities and other matters of a like nature.”



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.



▲ Charles Romain  
(Region of Peel  
Archives)



▲ Samuel Price  
(Mississauga Library  
System)

## 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.

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(Region of Peel Archives)





▲ Clarkson Road North, 1925  
(Vernon Collection)

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.



▲ Clarkson Road North, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)







**Part Two 1851 -1900**



## 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.



◀ The Robertson Barn, 2001  
(City of Mississauga, Heritage Department)

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 House, 2001  
(City of Mississauga, Heritage Department)

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.

## Clarkson Railway Station— 1855



IT WAS IN 1853 THAT THE GREAT Western Railway representatives came through southern Toronto Township and started buying up property they required for a right-of-way to build a railway across the province. This was

Ontario's first major railroad undertaking. Some of the property in Clarkson purchased from Warren Clarkson was also used for a station and siding.



▲ First Railway Station, Clarkson,  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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



▲ Second Railway Station, Clarkson





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▲ *The morning train and crew at old Clarkson Station (Edith Nadon)*

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



▲ The Poet's House  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

*N*ourished 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*

► Annie Hood  
Turner  
(MLS Barnett  
Scrapbooks)



# The Strawberry Industry — 1855



▲ Young Captain  
Edward Sutherland  
(Barbara Larson)

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 multi-

plied 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.



▲ Catherine (Kelly) Leaman, 1921  
(Edith Nadon)

**T**he 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



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(Photos courtesy Joan Terry Eagle)

### ▲ Strawberry picking on the Terry farm

at the end of the day and they were paid the going price per quart. In 1936 it was  $1\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  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

Massillen, 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 Clarkson's House — 1860s

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▲ Clarkson residence built by Henry Clarkson  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Alex Durie and daughter, Elva, in front of  
Henry Clarkson's House, 1910  
(Phyllis Williams)

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's House — 1865

WILLIAM CLARKSON MARRIED LORENDA 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.



▲ William Clarkson House  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



▲ William Clarkson House, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)

## The Cavan Family — 1862

**I**rish 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.



▲ Harry Cavan Farm, Clarkson Road North  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)





▲ Mrs. Richard Proctor  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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 1880.

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 road side 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 m<sup>2</sup>) 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)

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



▲ Coventry Lane Townhouses, 2002  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Shook Family — 1866

**H**einrich Schuck (Henry Shook, b.1766, d.1839), who was from Rheinbeck, Dutchess 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



▲ Henry Shook Residence  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



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)





▲ Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Shook  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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



▲ The Shook School Bus  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

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.

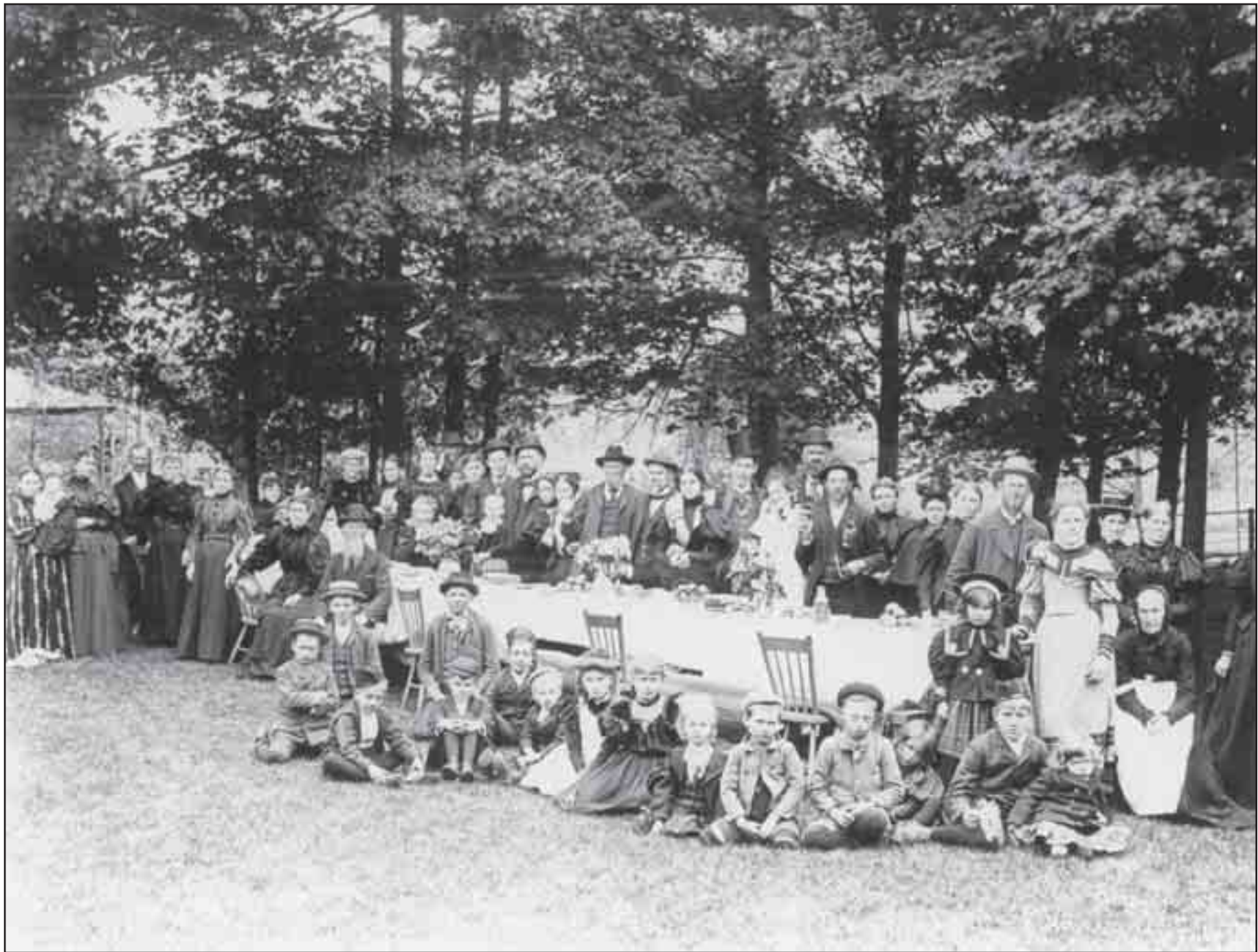
Keeping up the tradition, Robert took over the farm upon his father's death in 1918, along with his brother, William (1878 -1948). When Robert passed away in 1929, he had one of the largest funerals in Clarkson's history. Over 200 cars were in the procession. At the time of his death, he was president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



▲ *David Shook*  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Shook Family Picnic May 24, 1897 (Mary Langstone)

## The Orr family — 1870

**J**oseph 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.



▲ Edward Orr

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.



▲ The Orr House

(Joseph Orr)

WHEN HE RETIRED AND MOVED TO MIMICO IN 1889, HE divided his property between his two sons, Edward and Andrew. He died in 1904 at age 70.

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.

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▲ Hugh Orr  
(Joseph Orr)

◀ The Orr Barn  
(Joseph Orr)



## William Clarkson, Postmaster — 1875

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.

► 1906 stamp

(Canada Post Corp. Ottawa)



▲ William Clarkson's Store and Post Office, 1885

(Region of Peel Archives)

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



▲ Clarkson post office and store interior, 1910  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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▲ Edith and Cora Clarkson, 1910  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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

▼ Clarkson Store and Post Office  
(Region of Peel Archives)





▲ John Bodley (John Bodley)





▲ Post Office, 1955  
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ The Toronto Ability School, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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.



▲ Former Clarkson Store, and  
William Clarkson House, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)



## The Harris/McCord House — 1880



▲ McCord House  
(Phyllis Williams)



(Lush Family Collection)

*Maude married Samuel John McCord on April 11, 1928.*



▲ McCord House and Farm  
(Phyllis Williams)

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-trailor to Bill's Stonehaven Farm in Campbellville.

## The Manleys — 1881

**T**he first Manleys to come to Canada from County Cork, Ireland, were Bartholomew and his wife, Catherine Dempsy, 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 Manley



▲ The Manley farm

(Photos courtesy of Ralph Manley)

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

## *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*

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.



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*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*

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*From Arletta's autograph book  
given to her by her father,  
Gaylord Greeniaus, April 17, 1880*

# Diary of Minnie Armstrong Durie — 1882 to 1930

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82

▲ Minnie Durie  
(Phyllis Williams)

**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 & 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.

**Jan. 12, 1887.** Ernie born. Mrs. Durie my nurse, sick a month.

**Feb. 23, 1889.** Arthur Durie born, sick a long time - caught a

cold. Maid left before well and Ernest took sick.

**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.

**Sept. 19, 1901,** Elva born.

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

**1908,** moved to the store.

**1914.** Arthur went to war.

**1917.** Ernest married. Arthur married in 1922.

**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.**

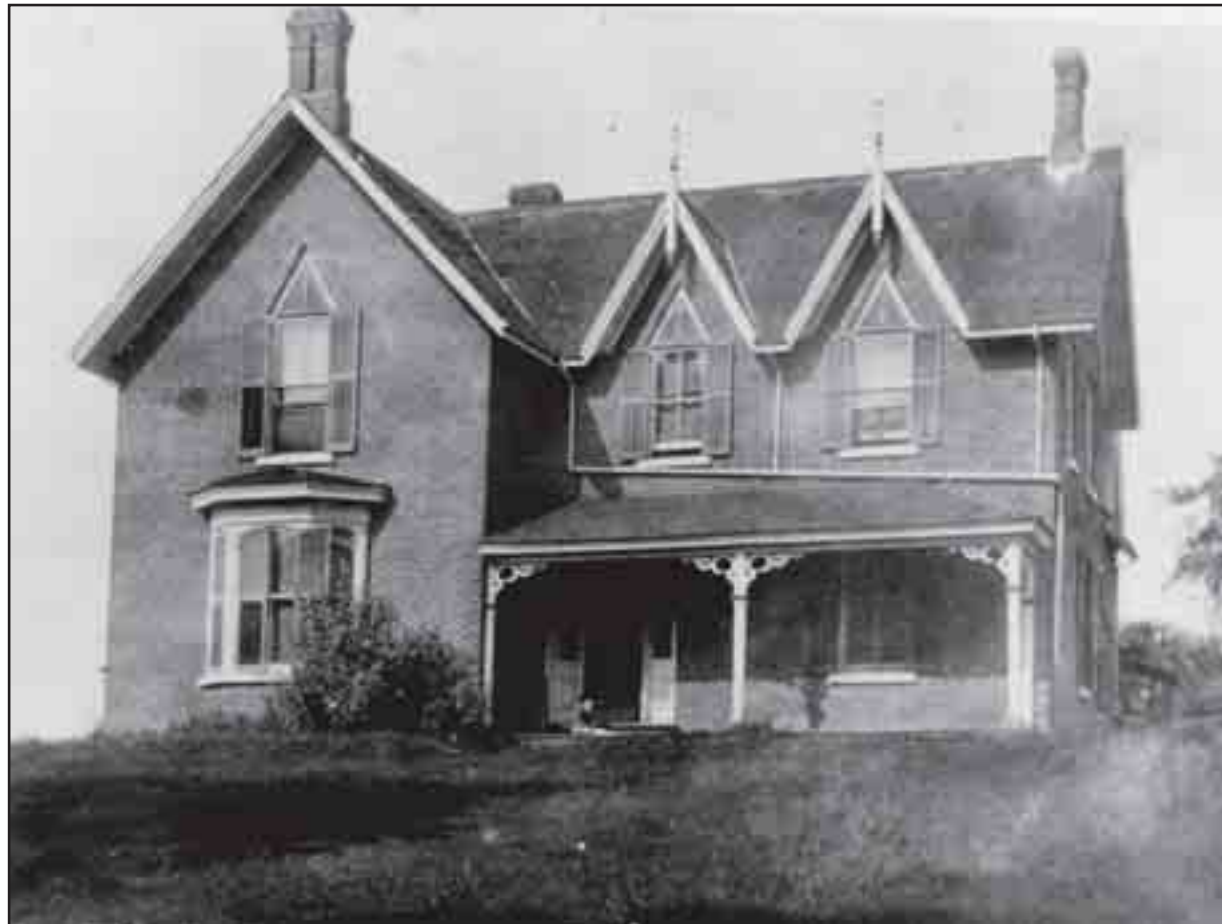
*(Author's note: Minnie's diary filled a lined scribbler – only highlights were used)*



▲ Durie Store and Merchant Bank  
(Phyllis Williams)

## The Pollard Residence — 1884

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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)*

## The Taylor Residence — 1885

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86



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)



## The George Gooderham farm — 1893

**A**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.



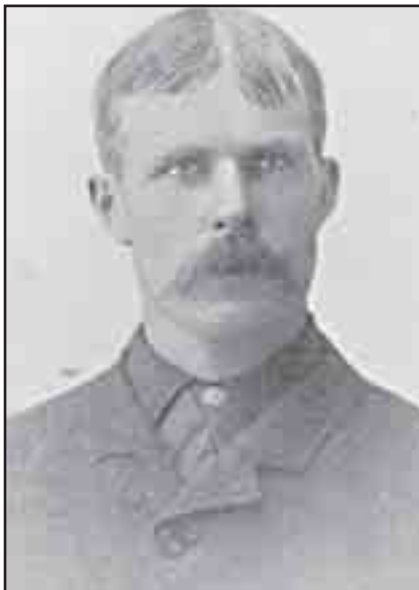
▲ George Horace Gooderham  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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



▲ The Toronto-Hamilton Highways Commission

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▲ Harold Scholefield  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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 Bob-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



▲ The Scholefield House  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Iris and Eric Gooderham  
(Patricia Leaver)



▲ The Manor House  
(Patricia Leaver)

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.



## Alex Durie — 1896

When 29 year old Alex Durie first came to this area from Toronto in 1896, he owned

a farm south of Springbank Road. Oughtreds bought the property and gravel pit and it became a dumping ground for a few decades until it was filled in around 1970. Alex belonged to the Salvation Army Corps and this is where he had met Minnie Armstrong in 1884. They were married on March 16, 1886, and had six children, Ernest, 1887, Arthur, 1889, Nelson, 1891, Etta, 1896, Lottie, 1899 and Elva, 1901.



▲ Alex Durie  
(Phyllis Williams)

IN 1908, HE LEASED PROPERTY FROM HENRY CLARKSON'S daughter, Mildred, Lot 28, Con. 2, that had two old buildings on it, just to the east of the Clarkson Railway Station on Clarkson Road. 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 Ryries, who were living in the old Bradley house. His store was a neighbourhood meeting place where the farmers gathered around the pot bellied stove and sampled from the cracker barrel while they discussed the local news and gossip of the day. As time passed, Alex was called "Dad Durie" by his customers.

He leased the other building to the Merchant's Bank in 1913 for \$300 a year. In 1923, he bought the store from Mildred Clarkson Mitchell for \$3,000 and in 1924 his daughter, Etta, married bank manager, Roy McBain. In 1940, Mildred's husband, Phillip, sold the bank building to James Pengilley and he sold it to Doug Auld in 1947 and he opened a butcher shop.

Alex's daughter, Lottie, married William H. Trenwith in 1926. Their daughter, Phyllis, was born on Trenwith property and still lives there, next door to the boulder stone house her father built.

When Alex retired in 1925, after living in Clarkson for 29 years, he sold the store to George Battersby, which he took back in 1928, probably due to non-payment. On September 25, 1929, his general store and the Merchant Bank were burglarized. The thieves entered the bank through the transom over the door and broke the glass in the door of the





▲ Durie Store and Merchant Bank

(Photos courtesy of Phyllis Williams)

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.



▲ Clarkson Road, 1915



▲ Alex with daughter Etta



▲ Alex at retirement



▲ Durie's Store, 1915



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

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



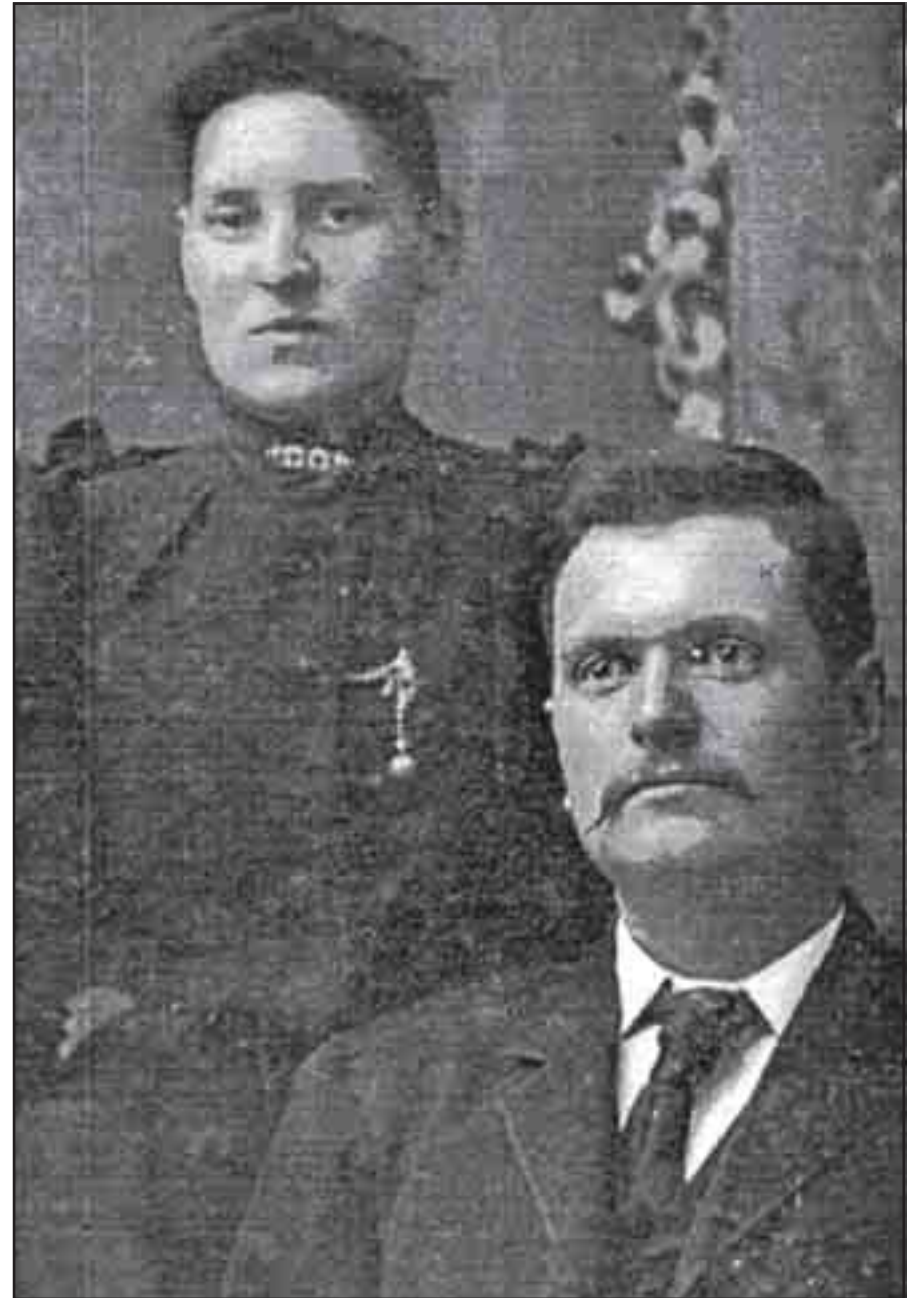
▲ Clarkson Road North, looking north, 2002  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## History of Lushes Corners — 1897

**R**euben 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 Maggie Lush







### ▲ Cuthbert Lush and workers

### ◀ Girl Guides

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





▲ Alex Durie, Ethel Lush and Reuben Lush

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 pur-



▲ The Lush House

chased 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.



## Peer/Harris House — 1898

**J**ames 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.

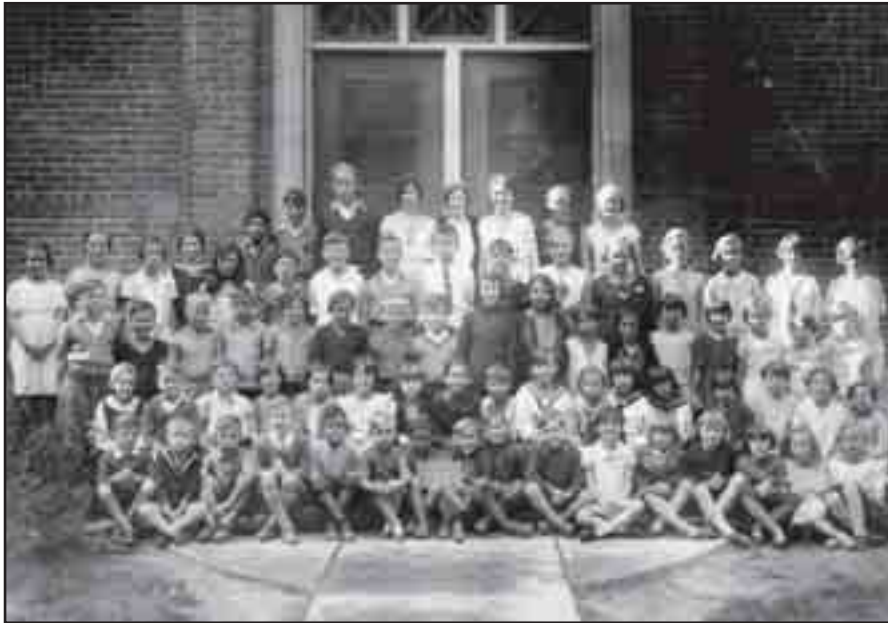
► The Peer/Harris House  
(City of Mississauga Heritage Dept.)



▲ James Harris and sons, Harold and Bill





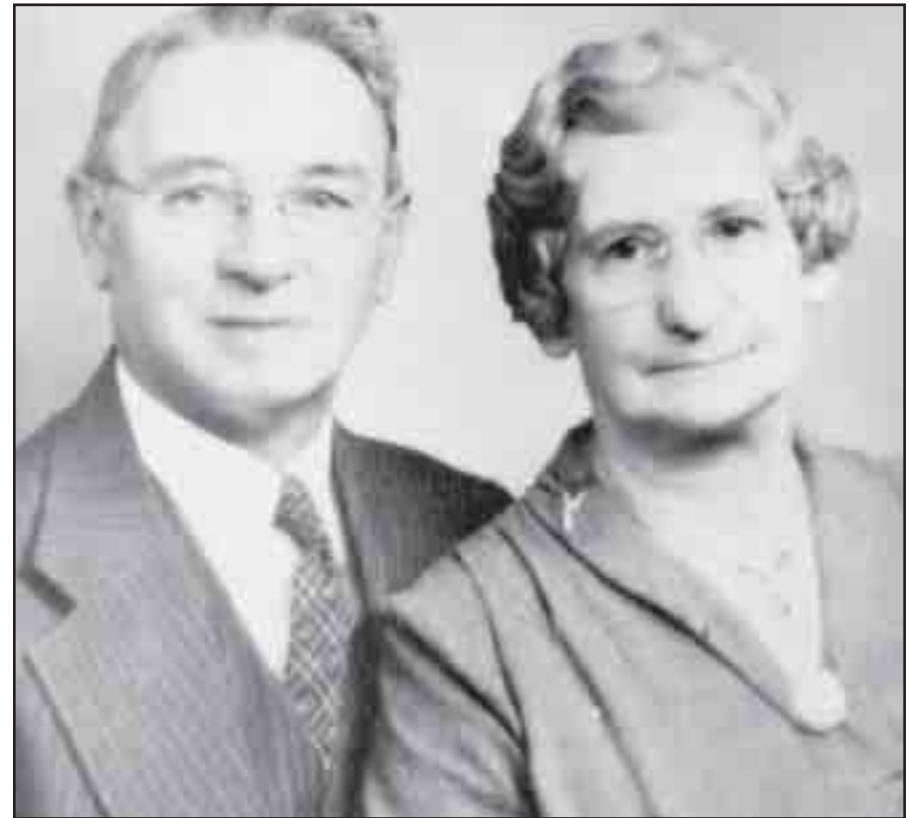


▲ The Harris children attended the three room S.S. #6 School

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



▲ Clarence and Emma Bodley  
(John Bodley)

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.



▲ 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



(Phyllis Williams)

## 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 McCulloch 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 H. Trenwith on tractor (Phyllis Williams)

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



### ▲ Trenwith Stonehaven farm

(Phyllis Williams)

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 Trenwiths.

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.



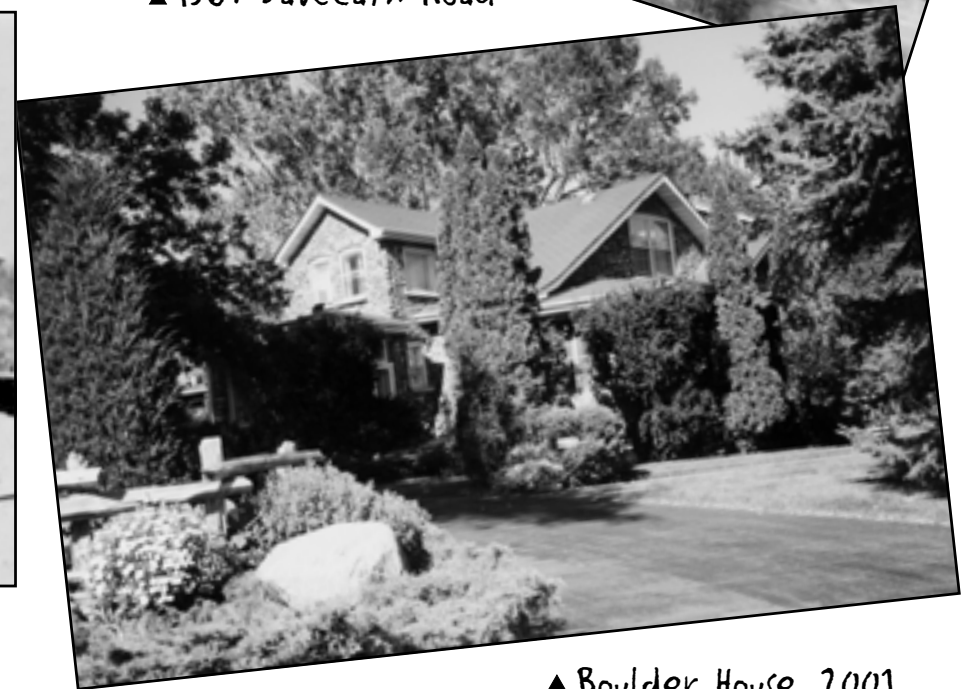
▲ William H., Bill and Phyllis Trenwith



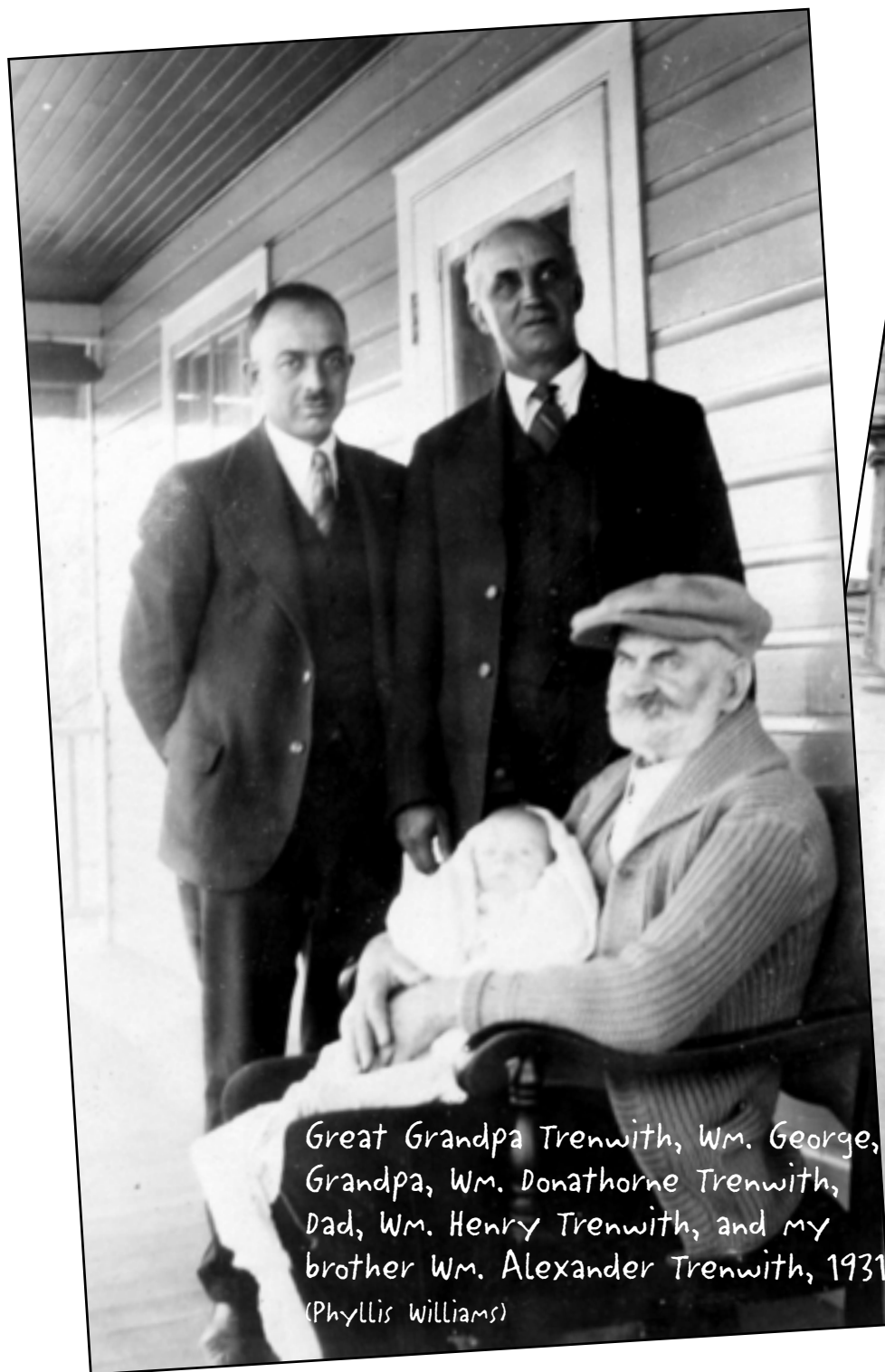
▲ William H. Trenwith's Boulder House  
(Photos courtesy of Phyllis Williams)



▲ 1567 Davecath Road



▲ Boulder House, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)





## The First Automobiles — Early 1900s



### ▲ Ford Plant

(Enersource Hydro Mississauga)

Inset: Henry Ford

(Other photos courtesy of the Ford Motor Company)

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.”



◀ Gordon Morton McGregor, the president of a wagon factory in Walkerville (Windsor), which became the Ford Motor Company of Canada.

The 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.

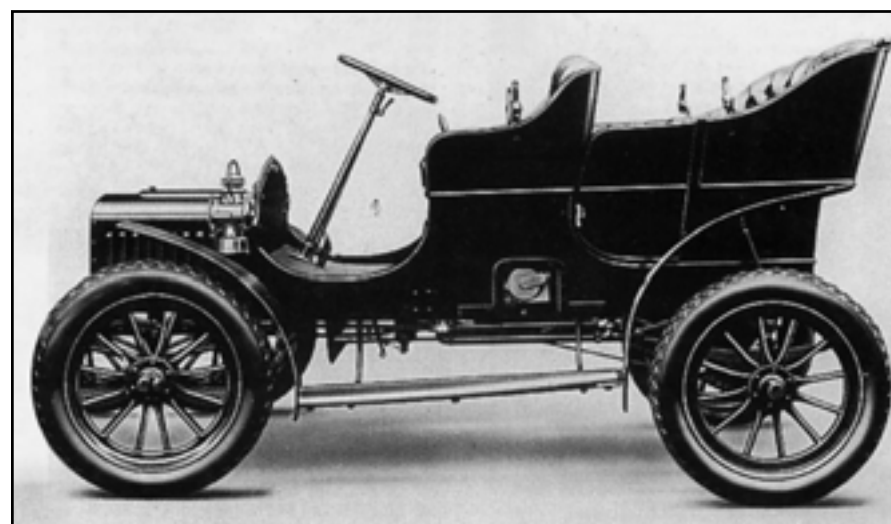
The first car lot to appear in Toronto Township was established in Port Credit by The Ford Motor Company. The first operator's licence was introduced in Ontario in 1927 at a cost of \$1. During the first year, 444,472 licences were issued.

According to the Ministry of Transportation, in 2000 there were 8,121,374 licenced drivers in Ontario.

*"Since I bought a car, I don't have to walk to the bank to make deposits," said one man. His friend said, "You drive there, eh?" "No," he returned, "I don't have any to make."*

*A used car salesman asks his customer, "Well, what's the matter with the car you bought from us last week?" The disgruntled man answered, "Well, every part of it makes a noise except the horn."*

*Author Unknown*



▲ Ford's Model C was the first Canadian built car



(1)



(2)



(3)

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## 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)



(4)





(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)



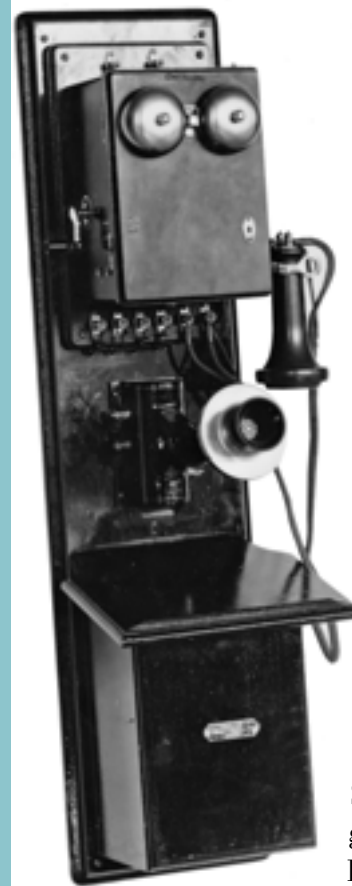
# The Arrival of the Telephone — 1905

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.



Clarkson Switchboard 1935 - Mrs. W. Patchett (right), manager 1931-36, with operator, Betty Adams. (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Alexander Graham Bell  
(Bell Canada Archives)

By 1910, the service was made 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.

## Train Wreck — 1908

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 train heading for Clarkson Station  
(Edith Nadon)

### MY JOB

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

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.

## Ryrie House and Farm — 1909

ON 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.

On 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)



## The Terry Family — 1910

**C**harles 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.



► The Terry House  
(Joan Terry Eagle)

◄ Charles Terry  
(Joan Terry Eagle)

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.

► *David Terry House*  
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ *The Charles Terry Family*  
(Christ Church Book)



## The Patchett Residence — 1910

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► Thompson Patchett House, Lot 31, Con 2. S.D.S.  
(Photos courtesy of Dewart Patchett)



▲ Watson Patchett with his car in front of his parents' home



▲ Mary Ann Johnson Patchett and Thompson Patchett and Children

**T**hompson 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.

## The Hodgetts — 1910



▲ Hodgetts Creek

(Photos courtesy of Jean Hodgetts Lindsay)



▲ Hodgetts House

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)

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.



▲ Jean Lindsay, 1925



◀ Hodgetts House, 1920

## Turn of the Century Trees

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▲ 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*

## Thomas Curran's Smitty — 1911

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*.

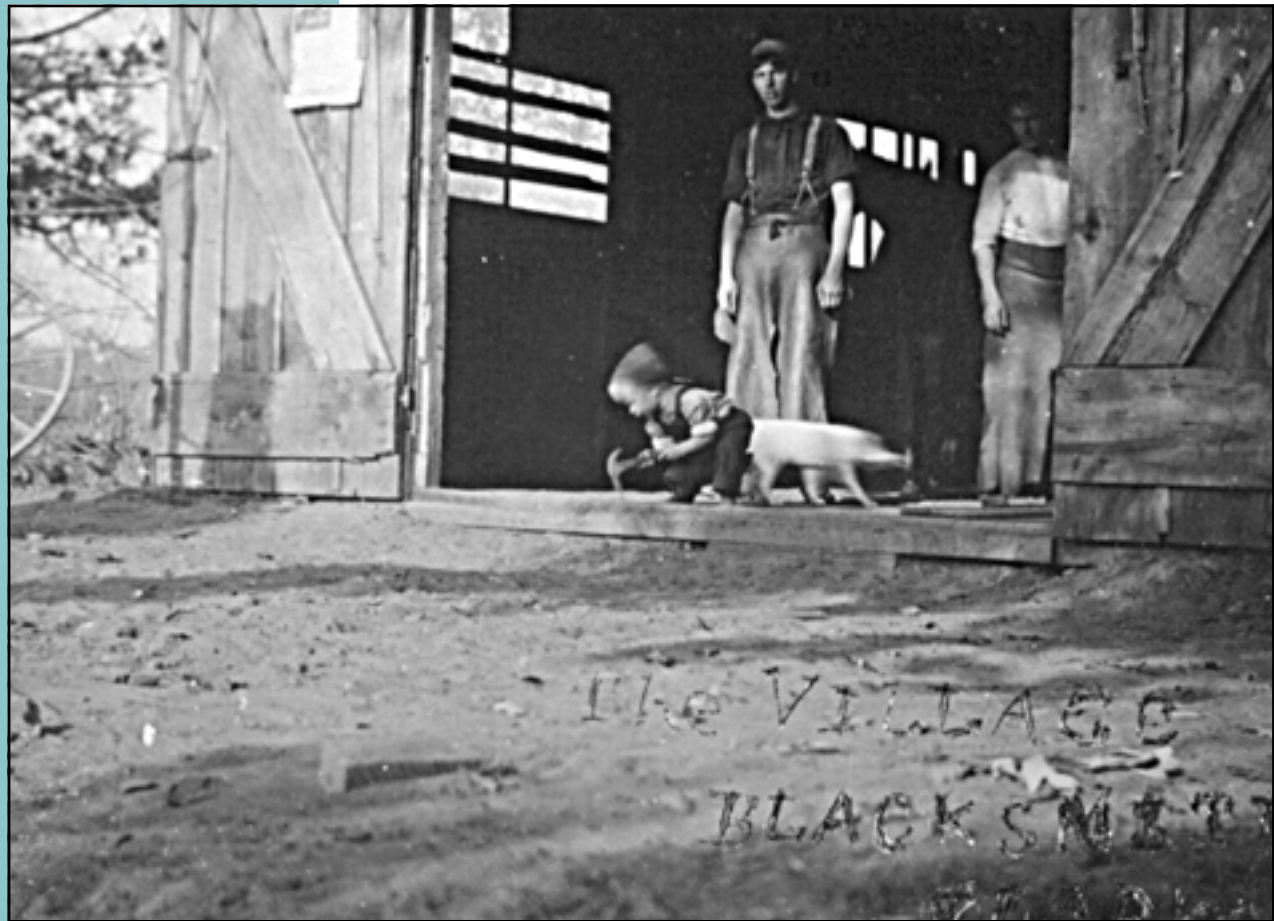


▲ Thomas Curran  
(Phyllis Williams)

► Curran Forge  
(Mississauga Library System,  
Barnett Scrapbooks)



▲ Clarkson Road North Blacksmith Forge  
(Region of Peel Archives)

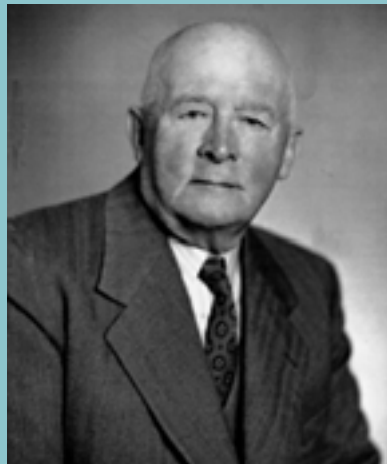


## The fletchers — 1911

W

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.



▲ Morley Fletcher  
(Paul Fletcher)



▲ George Fletcher  
(Paul Fletcher)



▲ Morley Fletcher at work  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

THE FLETCHER FAMILY WAS VERY INVOLVED WITH THE Carman Methodist Church. Morley was a lay preacher and superintendent of the Sunday School and Annie taught Sunday School. They did this for 20 years and the family continued the tradition. (George's son, Paul, who resides in the Erindale area, still attends Christ Church.)

In 1928 when the Royal York Hotel, owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway, opened, the Fletchers secured an arrangement to supply the Hotel with produce, something they did for over forty years. They also sold to the King Edward Hotel and other large establishments in Toronto.

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.





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▲ Harvesting the asparagus

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

► The Rhubarb House  
(All photos, Mississauga  
Library System, Barnett  
Scrapbooks)

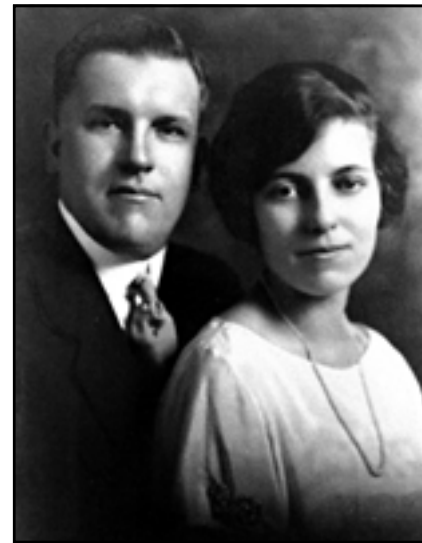


## The Hardy Family — 1912

**E**ffie 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.



▲ Anson, Effie and Allan Hardy



▲ Allan and Madeline Hardy

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.



► Lawn Bowling



▲ 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.



◀ Adam Beck  
(Hydro One Networks Archives)



▲ Beck addresses farmers in Toronto Township, August 28, 1912. (Hydro One Networks Archives)

**R**euben Lush 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.

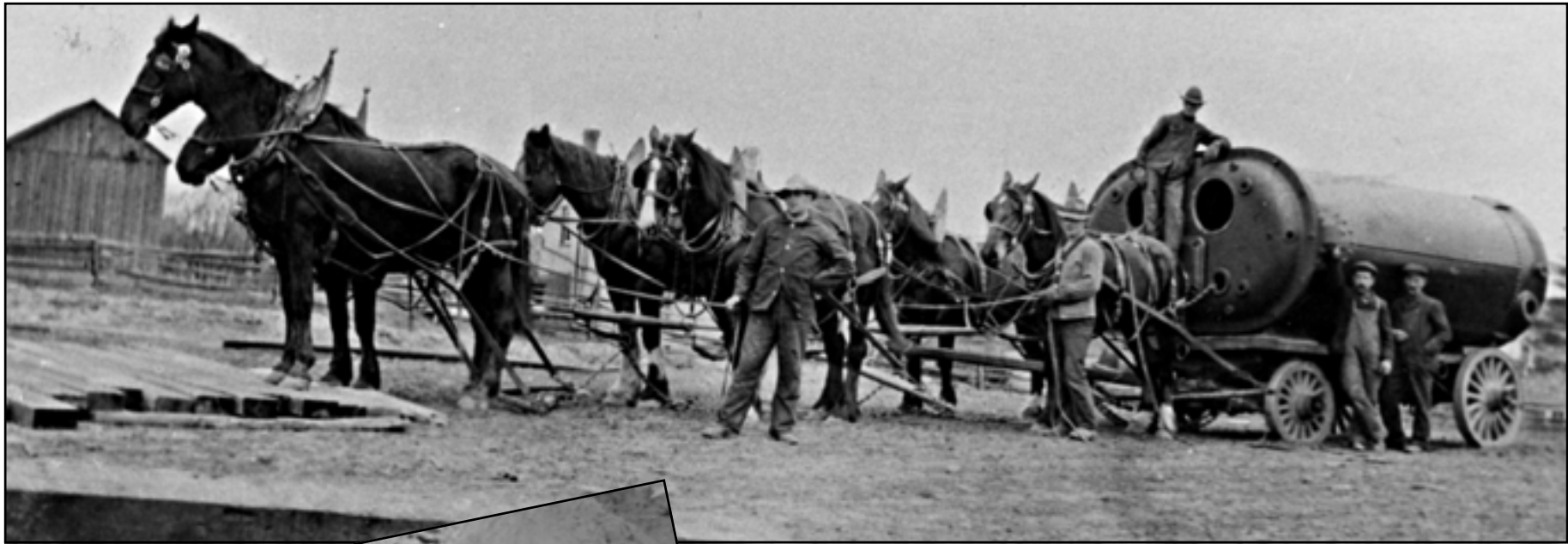
► Lake Shore Road  
(Edith Nadon)



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► Adam Beck's "Circus" demonstration, 1912  
(Hydro One Networks Archives)





▲ 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)



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

## Clarkson Women's Institute — 1913

THE CLARKSON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE WAS BEGUN in 1913 with Constance Hamilton, wife of Lachlan Alexander Hamilton, president of the Mississauga Golf & Country Club from 1906 to 1915, as the first president. The secretary was May Hodgetts. The organization was called the Clarkson-Lorne Park Women's Institute and meetings were held the third Tuesday of each month alternately between the Carman Church in Clarkson and the Lorne Park Mission Hall. The first meeting was held on April 28, 1913, at Mrs. Hamilton's Glen Leven home.

The Women's Institute of Ontario was founded by Adelaide Hoodless of St. George, Ontario, who lost her infant son in 1889 to infected milk. This motivated her to establish the Women's Institute in 1897. Her goal was to

organize rural homemakers and educate them on improving nutrition and health safety in the home. On the 10th anniversary there were 500 Institutes established across Canada.



◀ Constance Hamilton  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Mrs. Morrow's House in Lorne Park, 1914  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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.



▲ ► 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 First Bank — 1913

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)



▲ Merchant Bank (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 Pengilly and it became Auld's Butcher Shop.



▲ William H. Trenwith, 1924  
(Phyllis Williams)



◀ Etta and Alex  
Durie and Bankers  
(Phyllis Williams)

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



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

## Fairbairn's Barn House — 1913

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.



▲ Fairbairn Barn

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



▲ Fairbairn Barn House

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

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

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(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*



## Soldiers March Through Clarkson: W.W.I — 1914



▲ Ernest Durie



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

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▲ 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)

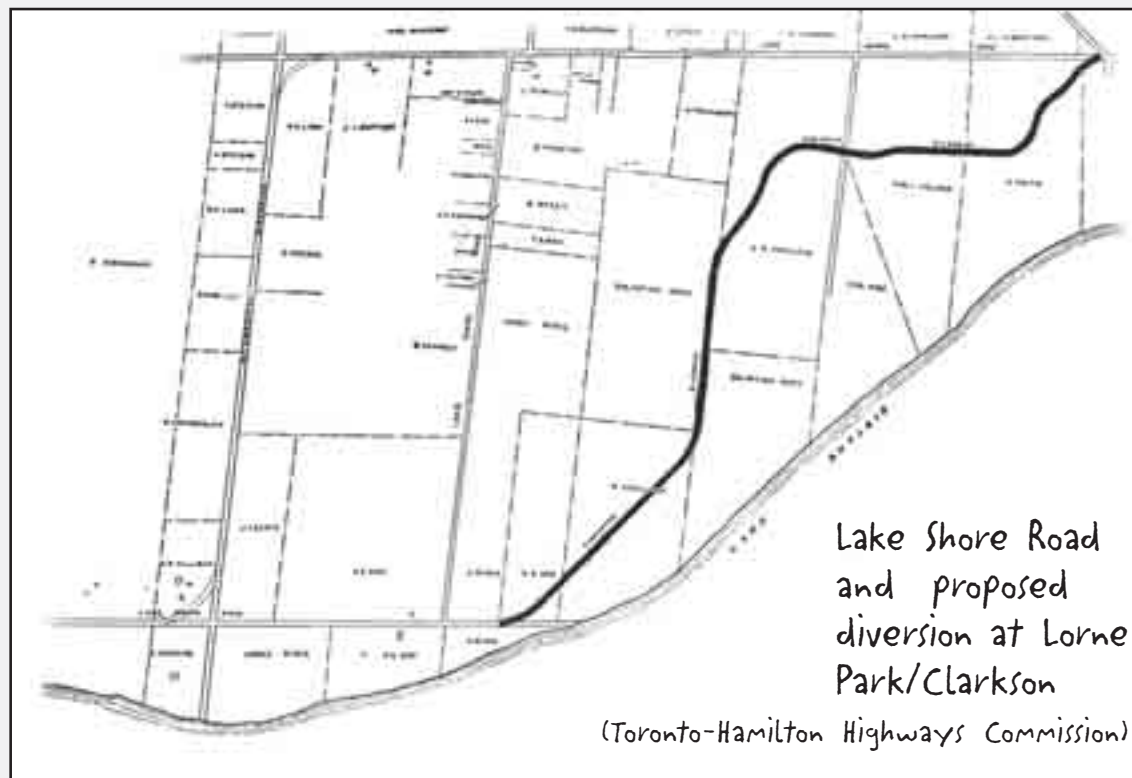


◀ Alex Durie and soldiers from 74th Regiment at a Pie Fest on way from Niagara to Toronto, Clarkson, November 5, 1915  
(Phyllis Williams)



## Lake Shore Road Controversy — 1914

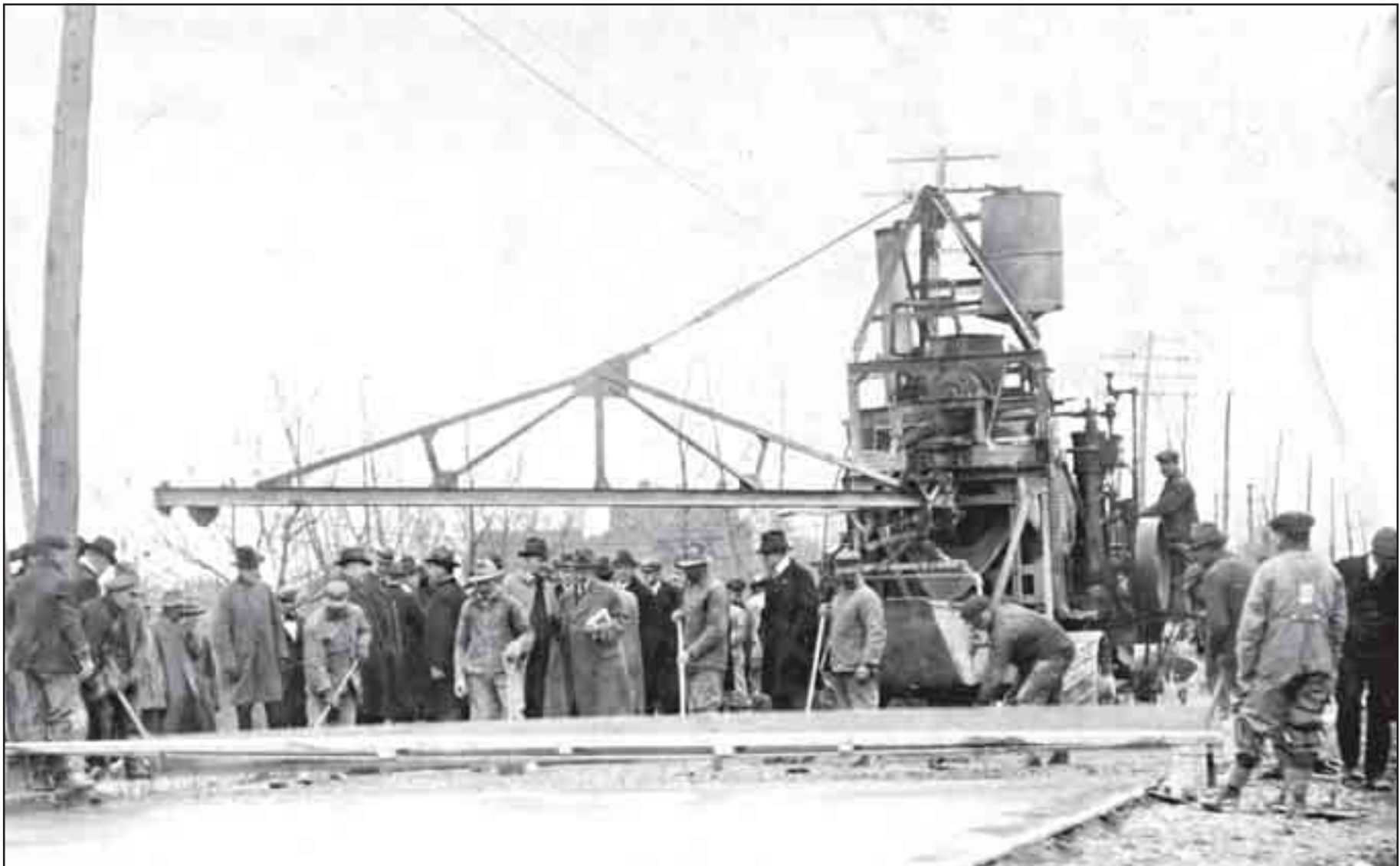
IN 1914, THERE WAS A CONTROVERSY THAT CAME ABOUT FROM the decision to reroute Lake Shore Road when it was going to be paved, the first in the province. The original roadway, now called Clarkson Road South, turned southward through Thomas Merigold's grants, Lots 28 and 29, Con. 3, and ran along the lakefront 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 a Roads Commissioner. His good friend, George H. Gooderham, was chairman.





▲ Commencing work on Lake Shore Road

(The Lush Collection)

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

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*





▲ The Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission

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)





### ▲ Hauling manure at Lushes Corners

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

**T**he 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



▲ Mayor Speck, Marilyn, Paul, Enid, and John  
(Mississauga News)



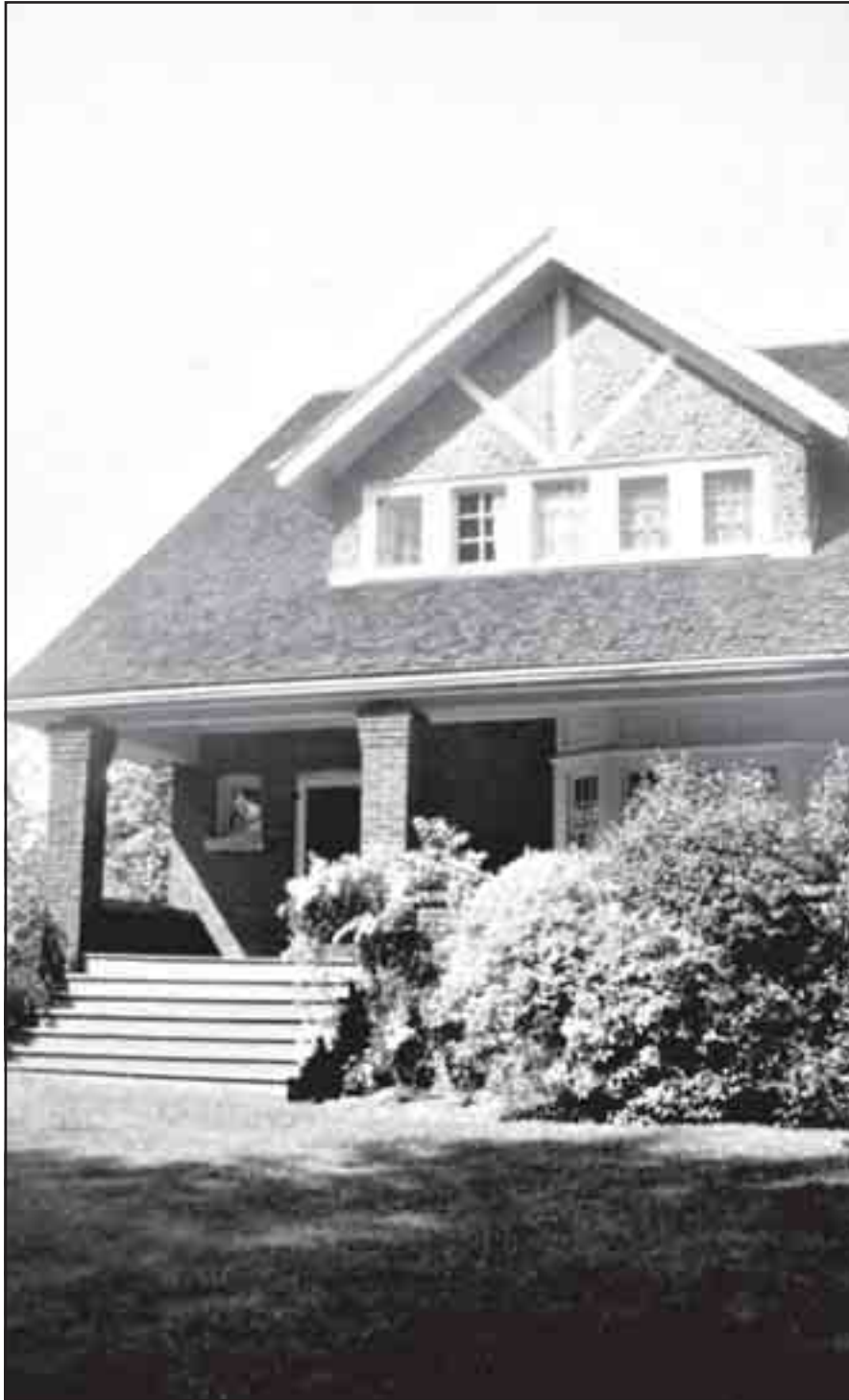
▲ Speck Fruit Market  
(Enid Speck)

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 Reeveship. 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

◀ Pattinson House  
(Enid Speck)



▲ Pattinson Barn, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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.

*He ran through the farm fields of Clarkson,  
Ontario, and rode the hay wagons. He chased  
his dog down to the cool stream that snaked  
through his father's spread and swam be-  
neath the summer sun of his boyhood.*

*"Bobby", echoed across the growing corn. It  
was suppertime and his mother had a hot  
meal ready.*

*He loved his mother's cooking. She was a  
heavy, jolly woman, with flowing brown hair  
and a smile that always warmed his boyish  
heart.*

*The boy grew up to be Robert W. Speck,  
the first mayor of over 64,000 rolling acres  
(25,600 ha) called the Town of Mississauga.*

*Kathleen A. Hicks*

## The First Physician — 1915

**I**n 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



▲ 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.





▼ Edward, Jim and Ida

▲ Howard, Edward, Ida and Jim

◀ The Vernon Family, September, 1916

(Photos courtesy of Dr. Howard Vernon)

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.



## Pattinson/Shoreacres Building — 1915

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 Pattinson  
(Enersource  
Hydro Mississauga)



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

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.



▲ Fred Orr, Gordon and  
Harry Pattinson  
(Doris Speck)

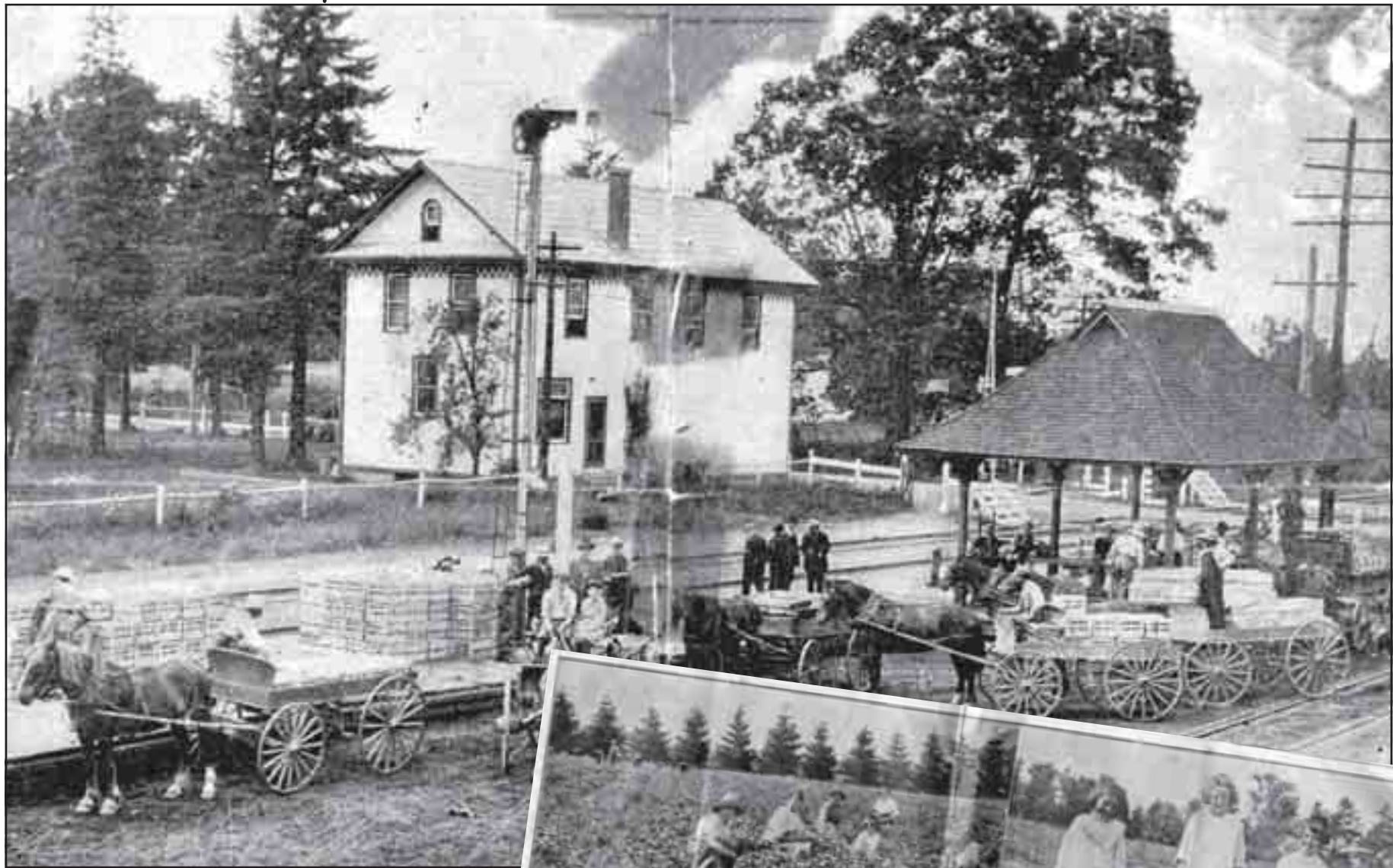
When Gordon passed away on August 11, 1973, in his 89th year, his daughter Kathleen (Kay) inherited the house and remained there until 1985. She had started working as a secretary in the Toronto Township Clerk's Department in 1937 and worked there all her life.

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.



◀ Kay Pattinson  
(Phyllis Williams)

## Strawberry Capital of Ontario — 1915



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▲ Clarkson Station, 1915  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)





## The West family — 1916

**H**oward 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 West  
(Christ Church)



▲ Sunningdale (City of Mississauga Heritage Dept.)

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

#### ▼ The Howard West Family in 1938

Left to right: John, Patricia, Howard, Grace, Bill  
(William West)



## 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*

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.

## Arthur Durie's Letters Home — 1917/18

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.*



▲ Arthur Durie (Phyllis Williams)

*"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."*



# Lake Shore Golf & Country Club — 1918

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.



◀ Lakeshore Golf and Country Club. The first officers of the club were: W. Frank Oliver, president; J. L. Bowes, 1st vice president; W. Frank Morley, 2nd vice; Messrs. S. F. Baulch, Dr. Kinsella, H. Breckenridge, E. Moore, S. Rogers, directors; John B. Robertson, secretary; Samuel Rogers, treasurer.

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.



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



▲ The old Pro Shop becomes a Residence  
(Marion Josiak)

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

◀ Carl Borgstrom  
(Bruce Borgstrom)

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.

▼ Residence, 2001 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



## Clargreen Gardens — 1918

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 South-down 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 m<sup>2</sup>) of back-yard greenhouse and an annual business of over one million dollars.



▲ Lawrence Abbs, Clargreen Gardens  
(Birthe Sparre)

**I**n 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 m<sup>2</sup>) 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 Dytneriski, 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



▲ Sybil and Lawrence Abbs  
(Mississauga News)

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

## 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 gateman, 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.)



## Clarkson Market Antiques — 1918

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 m<sup>2</sup>) 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.



▲ Clarkson Antique Market, 1986  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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 an-





▲ Grace Fairbairn in the Antique Store  
(Mississauga Times)

► Barn  
Antiques  
(Mississauga  
Library  
System)



tiques. 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.



▲ Frank Pleich, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Clarkson Library — 1919

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.



▲ Alex Durie's Store  
(Phyllis Williams)



▲ Clarkson United Church (Christ Church)

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.

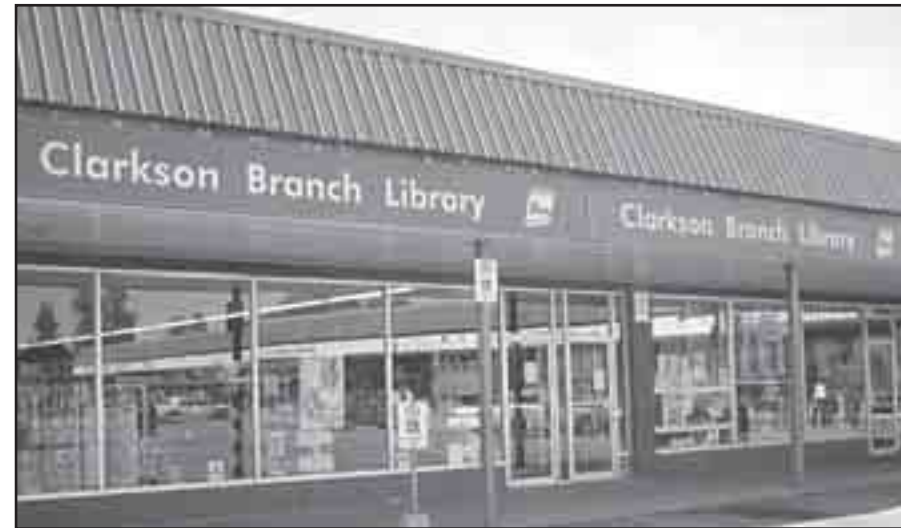
A Board was elected and comprised of: Mrs. H. Kennedy, A.S. Cook, Ross Ryrie, Miss Mary McCallum, Mrs. John Barnett, F. Halliday, with Miss Agnes Fairbairn as Chief Librarian. Interest picked up and in the first annual report in 1940, 254 adults and 54 children were library users.

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



▲ Park Royal Plaza Library  
(Mississauga Library System)



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.

◀ Clarkson Community Centre and the new Branch Library  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



## Sheridan Nurseries — 1920

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▲ Howard Dunington-Grubb  
(Sheridan Nurseries)

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.



▲ The First logo



▲ The Stensson family  
(Sheridan Nurseries)





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.

#### ◀ Past Executives

Left to right: J. V. (Bill) Stensson, K. Fred Stensson, Howard B. Dunnington-Grubb, Albert E. Brown

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**T**hey 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 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.



▲ The Ad Sven Stensson answered



▲ Sheridan Nurseries, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)



► From top:  
Howard Stensson  
William (Bill) Stensson  
Karl Stensson

## 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

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▲ Lake Ontario  
(Jim Dickinson)

Inset: Lake Ontario, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Clarkson Road South — 1920

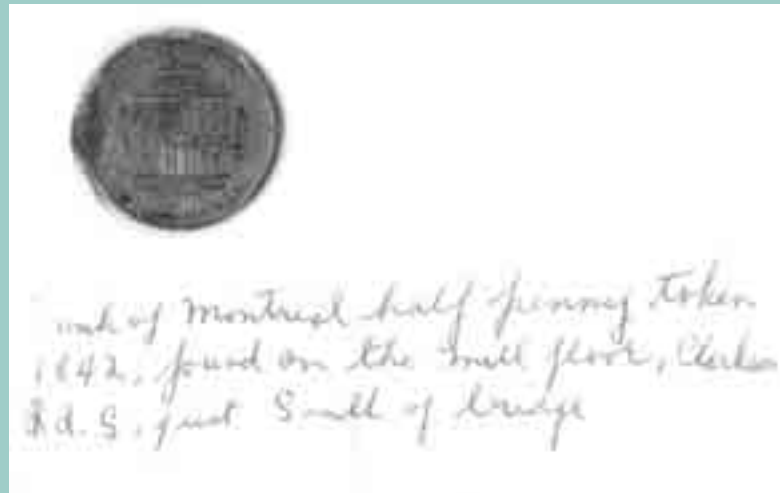


◀ Originally this stretch of roadway was the Lake Shore Road, which ran through Merigold property, Lots 29 and 30, Con. 3. In 1917, it became Clarkson Road South.

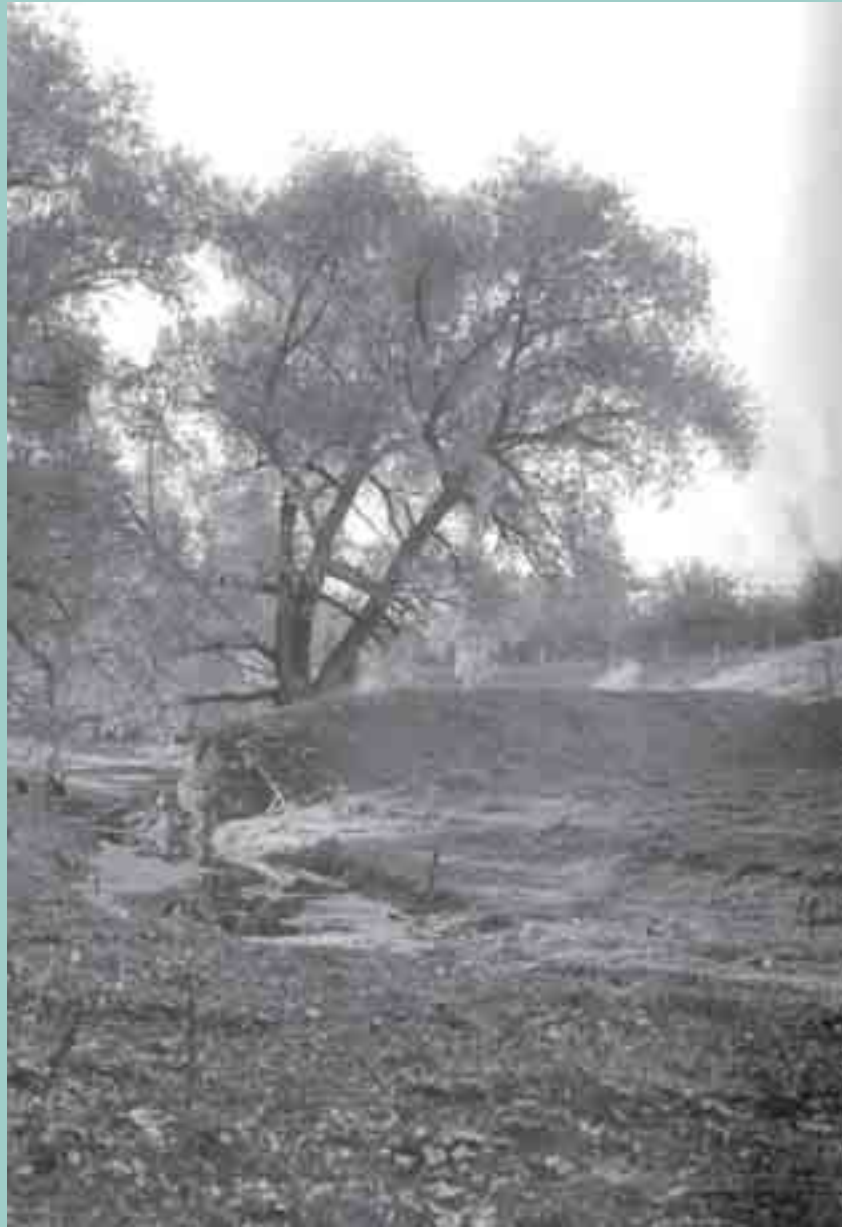
(Jean Lindsay)

▼ 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)

## Peer's Pond Ice Cutting — 1920s

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.

### ▼ Trenwith House, 1950

(Isobel McArthur)



(Region of Peel Archives)

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.



## Prohibition Rum Runners — 1920

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)



▲ Sidney Hunter  
(John Hunter)

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)*



## Trenwith Market — 1920



◀ John and his market  
(Isobel McArthur)

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.



▲ Marion and Don Johnson  
(Marion Josiak)

▲ Jack Trenwith and Leo Johnson  
(Marion Josiak)

◀ Wawel Seniors Residence, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



## Glen Leven Golf Course — 1920



▲ L.A. Hamilton  
(Mississauga Golf Club)

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 Mississauga 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.



▲ farmerettes, 1922  
(Barbara Larson)

# The Clarkson Fathers



## ▲ Edward Orr and the Peel County Council, 1922

(Joseph Orr)

“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.”

by William Shook

## Clarkson Market — 1920



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▲ 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.



▲ Mrs. Florence Randal Livesay  
(Pearl Freeman Photography)



▲ John Frederick Livesay  
(The Canadian Press)

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.”

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.

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





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▲ Florence and children  
(Barbara Larson)



▲ The Livesay house, 2001 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

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



▲ Livesays’ ravine  
(Mississauga Library system, Barnett  
Scrapbooks)



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.

◀ Dorothy Livesay  
(Pearl Freeman  
Photography)

## MEMORIES



▲ Woodlot in winter

*"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"



## Sayers/Larson Log Bungalow — 1922

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.



▲ The log bungalow just finished in 1922  
(Barbara Larson)





▲ Anne, Geoffrey, Dora and Barbara - 1921  
(Barbara Larson)

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.



▲ The Log Bungalow, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Greenwood Garden— 1922



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▲ James Greenwood owned  $4\frac{1}{2}$  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)

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

## 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.

(City of Mississauga Heritage Dept.)





## 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. Gilnin, 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.

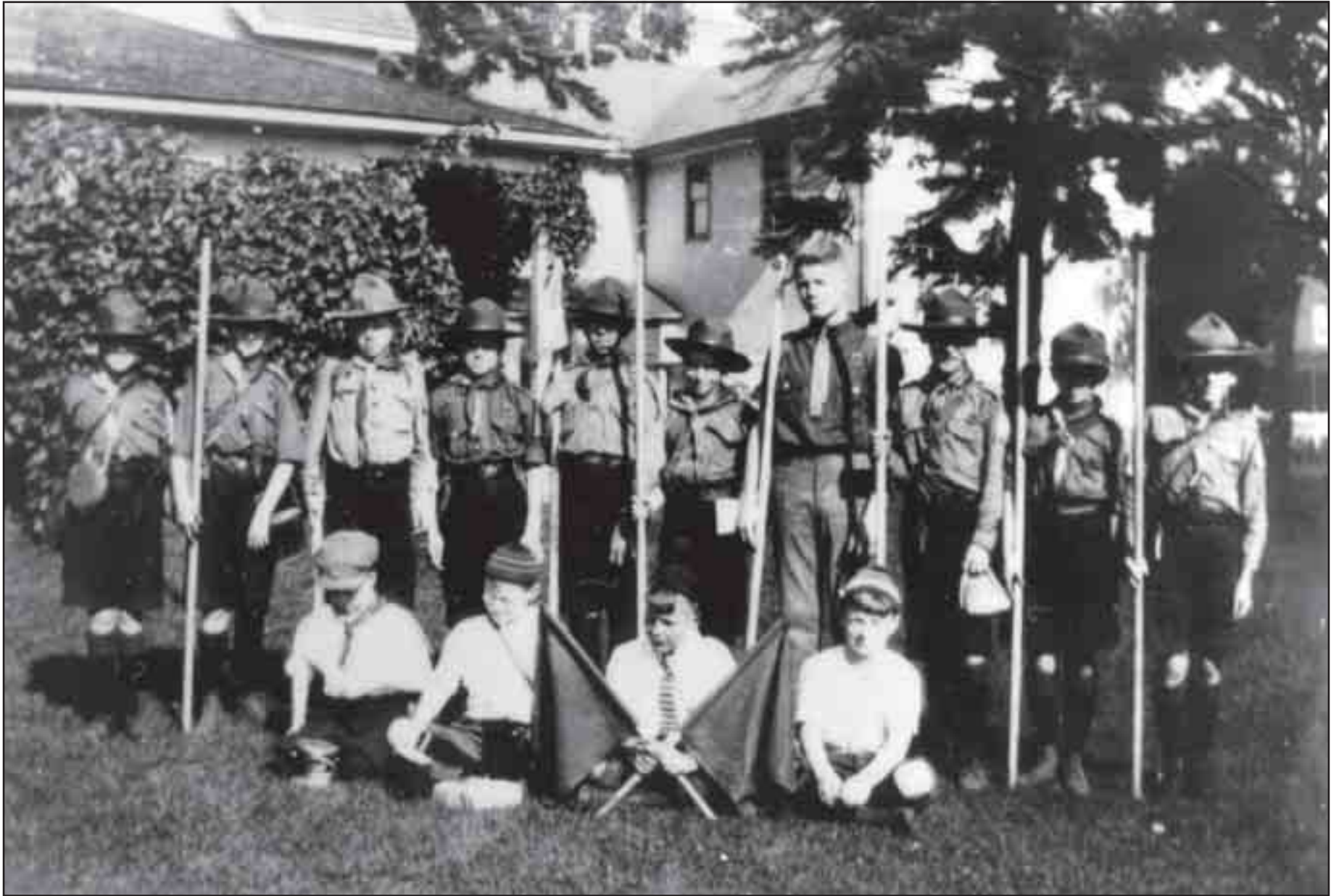
The scouting movement came to Canada in late 1908, having been influenced by Major-General Robert Baden-Powell, who had organized the Boy Scouts in England earlier in the year. By an Act of Parliament, the Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts Association was incorporated June 12, 1914. Scouting 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)



**I**n 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 Quntrill,  
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.



▲ Another early photo



▲ The Gang Show - 1975  
(Phil Frost)



▲ Cubs at play - 1978  
(Phil Frost)

## Clarkson's Famous Author — 1924

**I**n 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.



▲ Mazo de la Roche  
(Benares Historic House)

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.

◀ Mazo and Trail cottage  
(Benares Historic House)





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 Weddells. 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

◀ Mazo de la Roche's daughter, Esme (on right), at the showing of RKO classic, "*Jalna*," November 15, 2002, with actress June O'Brien.





Barbara Sayers Larson, *Mississauga Magazine*,  
July/August 1989

## 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 Bunty. When I went to visit, I was allowed to walk Bunty and this was quite an honour as Bunty 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 Fudgers' 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

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 publically 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

## Clarkson Community Hall — 1924

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 school-house 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.



### ▲ The Church and Community Hall

(Doris Speck)

**A**fter 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



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### ▲ 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.



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



▲ Clarkson Community Hall  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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 build 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.



▲ Phyllis and her brother Bill Trenwith



# 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)



## Justice of the Peace — 1925

**R**euben 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 motor-

cycle 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.”



▲ Justice of the Peace, Reuben Lush, (centre) and Friends Jim Lightfoot, and Mr. Cavell

# Jim Lightfoot's Accident — 1927

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)



## The Blue Dragon Inn — 1929

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.



▲ The First Blue Dragon Inn - burned 1923

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 Apple House





▲ Original Inn and Apple House



▲ Dorothy Livesay

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



▲ Interior of original inn



▲ The original sign

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.

◀ The Blue Dragon Inn, 1929

(Photos: the Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

## 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.



▲ Boulder Villa  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

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



▲ Boulder Villa Cabins  
(Gordon Hatten)



▲ Margaret Pattinson Trenwith, John trenwith, Amy Stevenson Trenwith, Jenni (Muddie) Stevenson  
(Phyllis Williams)

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.



▲ Boulder Villa Cabin, was Gas Station  
(Mississauga Library System)



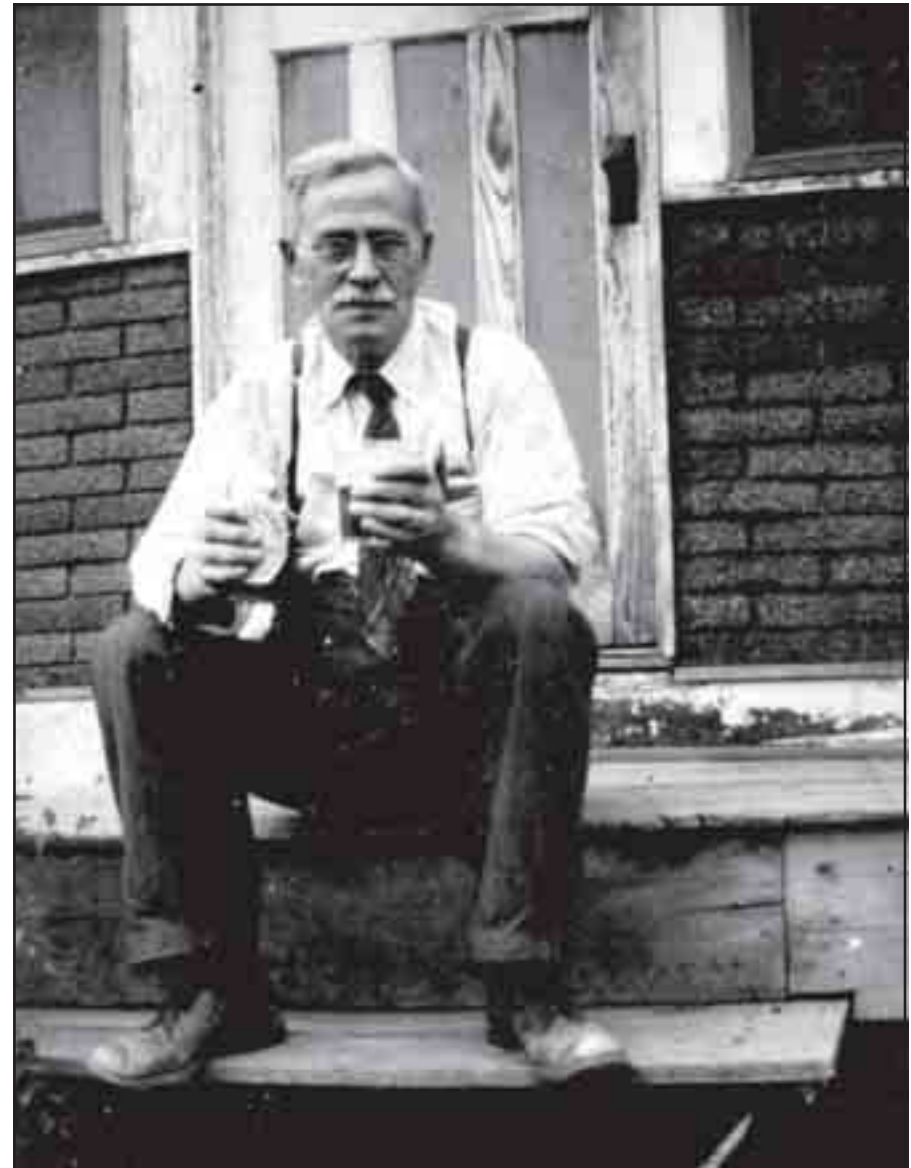
▲ Boulder Villa Cabin and House (Mississauga Library System)



## The Clarkson Basket Factory — 1932

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.



▲ James Izatt  
(Archie Izatt)





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

▲ The Basket Factory (Phyllis Williams)

◀ After the 1941 Fire



▲ James, Helen and Velma  
(Archie Izatt)

► former Basket Factory, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## 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



Factory in August, 1966, and it is the offices of Baragar & Russell Limited. The Quonset hut is now used for warehousing.

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.

## The Barnett Family — 1936

**M**ost 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.



▲ Clarkson Barnett House  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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-

◀ John and Blanche Barnett  
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ The original Barnett House  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



▲ The Barnett House after restoration  
(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

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 Canadiana 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





▲ Jane Barnett  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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)



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

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.



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### ▲ *The Kumeetus Klub celebrates 50 years*

*(Viola Herridge)*

Back Row Left to Right: 1. (Unknown), 2. Margery Duncan (Thompson), 3. Anne Walker, 4. Olga Robinson, 5. Helen Saunders (Orr), 6. Lillian Garva, 7. Dorothy Morris, (Costello), 8. (Unknown), 9. Velma Izatt (Manley), 10. Hilda Oughtred (Fellows), 11. Jean Lindsay (Hodgetts), 12. Pat Berry, 13. Evelyn McGee's niece (visitor), 14. Evelyn McGee, 15. Muriel Hare (Terry), 16. Violet Dalton, 17. Kay Mannell 18. Unknown, 19. Betty Bustard (Cavan) 20. Violet Lowe 21. Peggy Izatt 22. Lottie Izatt 23. Toots Newman (Izatt) 24. Terri Mogk, 25. Margaret Terry, 26. Edna Wilson, 27. Winnie Lightfoot, 28. Becky Burns 29. Etta Bodley, 30. Doris Speck, 31. Gertie Speck, 32. Betty Greeniaus, 33. Aileen Fletcher, 34. Sarah Ehrhardt, 35. Gertrude Parkin, 36. Viola Herridge, 37. Doris Bodley (Harris), 38. Betty Block (Adams) 39. Margaret Duke (Harris)

## Home Town Actress — 1937

**D**ora 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.



▲ Dora Sayers



▲ Joan Bennett



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





◀ Top left: Anne, Dora, Geoffrey and Beverly Sayers - 1919  
(Barbara Larson)



◀ Bottom: (L to R) Dina Merrill, Dora Sayers, Moss Hart and Company on tour with the USO  
(Barbara Larson)

◀ Dora and husband, Ralph Forbes, in "Pygmalion" - 1947  
(Barbara Larson)



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

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- ◀ Clarkson's Roll of Honour
  - ▲ Ration book
  - ▲ Gasoline licence
- (Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

## The Last Station Master — 1942

**B**ruce 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.



▲ Bruce Glover  
(Bruce Glover)



▲ Bruce cuts the "S" off sign, June, 1955  
(Bruce Glover)

"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





▲ Bruce Glover and Station Crew,  
1950

(Bruce Glover)

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.

▲ Clarkson Station  
(Mississauga Library System)

► Station before Fire  
(Region of Peel Archives)



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*



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.



▲ View of Clarkson Station from Durie's Store window, 1920  
(Phyllis Williams)

## Girl Guides — 1942

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/Ratray 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.

◀ Girl Guides at Camp Wyoka  
(White Oaks Area Girl Guides)

## British American Oil Refinery — 1943

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 Ryrle 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.



▲ Clarkson Refinery Office  
(Mississauga Library System)

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





▲ Hugh C. Murphy  
(Eileen Gilroy)

conglomerate operation with numerous refining and storage facilities to keep up with the changing petroleum marketplace.

According to Eileen Gilroy, who now resides in Sarnia, her father, Hugh C. Murphy, started working at the Refinery in June, 1944. He was a pumper and gauger and he had to climb to the top of the storage tanks and drop in the gauge to measure the liquid level in the tanks. He worked shift work there and had odd jobs

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, 1978, 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.



▲ Clarkson Refinery, 1960 (left to right) Ward 2 Councillor Harrison, Refinery reps, W.E. Lundie, L.R. Blaser, and Reeve Robert Speck  
(Mississauga News)





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▲ Petro-Canada Refinery  
(Mississauga Library System)

## The First Subdivision — 1945



▲ Carl Borgstrom  
(Bruce Borgstrom)

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.

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.



▲ Meadow Wood at Walden's Creek  
(James G. Dickson)

## *Building a Heritage . . . .*



100 ACRES OF BEAUTY IN CLARKSON  
*Devoted to FINE HOMES !*

MEADOW - WOOD, LIMITED  
*Land Developments*

BRUCE W. BORGSTROM      REAL ESTATE

PHONE CLARKSON 202

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.

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▲ First Meadow Wood House, 493 Bob-O-Link Road - Dicksons' former home, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

▲ Ad in the Port Credit Weekly Oct. 5, 1950



## Clarkson Music Theatre — 1945



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.

Other productions were *"Hello Dolly,"* 1986, *"Music Man,"* 1987, and in 1989, *"Oliver,"* with Mark Morwood in the lead and Mike Newsome as Fagan. In 1989, a production of *"Anything Goes"* started the group working out of the Meadowvale Theatre, where in 1999 they performed *"Hello Dolly,"* in 2000 *"The Merry Widow,"* 2001, *"Me and My Girl"* and 2002, *"The Pirates of Penzance."*



## Advertisements — 1946



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## Memories



◀ John West  
(William West)

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"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."



(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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.

# Auld's Butcher Shop — 1947

**TURKEYS & CAPONS**

**FREE - RANGE ALL NATURALLY RAISED**

*Taste the difference*  
**ORDER NOW**  
For best selection of  
Turkeys, Capons,  
Ducks and Hams.

**GOURMET ITEMS**

- Crown Roasts of Pork or Lamb
- Prime Ribs • Seafood
- Greaves Jams & Jelly
- Supreme Pierogies & Cabbage Rolls

**Friendly service** is still in style after all these years. That's why people come from as far away as Hamilton to order their turkeys from the Aulds. "We specialize in custom cuts," says Bill. "We do it right in front of the customer." This is why Doug Auld & Son Butchers has lasted 50 years. The shop still looks like your friendly neighborhood store, from the white wooden door to the floors that creak slightly when you enter. Come in and let us show you the quality of our products. All our meat is 100% Guaranteed.

**DOUG AULD & SON BUTCHERS**  
1109 Clarkson Rd. N.  
(just south of the train tracks) Mississauga  
**822-1551**

**BUTCHERS**

A family-operated Old Fashioned Butcher Shop providing quality & personal service for 51 years.

|              |              |                |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
|              | CLARKSON RD  |                |
| SOUTHDOWN RD |              | MISSISSAUGA RD |
|              | LAKESHORE RD |                |

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.

◀ Doug and Bill Auld  
(The Mississauga News)



## CFRB - Radio Transmitting Station - 1947



▲ "Ted" Rogers  
(Rogers Communications Inc.)

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.



▲ CFRB under construction - May 25, 1948  
(Rogers Communications Inc.)

◀ Well testing for capacity - 1948  
(Rogers Communications Inc.)





▲ Clive Eastwood, CFRB engineer, shows singer, Beth Corrigan, parts of the transmitter's directional antennae system.

► Transmitter plant 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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.

## Volunteer Fire Department — 1949



▲ Alex Garva, Sandy Hare, Frank Cowie  
(The Mississauga Fire Department)

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.

Back row (L to R) Alex Garva, Bill Izatt, Frank Cowie, Harry Newman, John Pattinson, Morris Osman, Joe Herod, Art Luker. Front row, Alfie Weaver, Lloyd Owens, Roy Fraser, Leo Johnson, Webe Oliphant, Bud White, Nip Oliphant, Bruce Glover, Ed Josiak.

(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 m<sup>2</sup>) 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.



▲ Cold Storage Facility with Basket Factory Storage shed on left

(Mississauga Library System)

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





▲ Clarkson Cold Storage  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ The Clarkson Rock Health and Fitness Club, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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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.



▲ Inside the  
Clarkson Rock Health and  
Fitness Club, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Canadian Bank of Commerce — 1949



▲ Canadian Bank of Commerce, 1949  
(Mississauga Library System)

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.

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.



▲ Christmas 1951: Betty Reeves, Nancy Van Camp, Martha Van Harten, (standing) and Isabel Trenwith.  
(CIBC Archives)

## Clarkson Christian Reformed Church — 1950



▲ Reverend S. G. Brondsema  
(Clarkson Christian Reformed Church)

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.



▲ Christian Reformed Church

**T**he 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



▲ Frank, Joan, Kelly, Jenina and Reuben De Vries

“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.



### ▲ Church activities

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 Herridge

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 storey red brick house, built in 1912, that now belongs to Van Beek's Garden & Landscaping Supplies.



▲ Original Herridge Fruit Market



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,

◀ Dennis Herridge  
(The Herridge Family)



▲ *Nell, Dennis and Eva Herridge*

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 Cooperative Storage Limited, both in 1949.

Their property was expropriated for the Water Filtration Plant and they had to move their business 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.

### ▼ *The Strawberry Shanty*



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

## 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.)



▲ Herridge boys, Ross, Don and Bruce in pony cart

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▲ Dennis and horses



► Viola Herridge



▲ Herridge Market, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)



## 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 de Boer family  
(Romme Van der Spek)



## 1850 — Toronto Township Centennial — 1950

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, house-keeping, shopping and transportation. That evening there was a musical pageant put on at the Dixie Arena.



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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 (Huronario 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 fire-fighting 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)

## The First Dentist — 1953



▲ Dr. John Williams  
(Phyllis Williams)

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.

HE STARTED HIS PRACTICE IN A TWO STOREY, BRICK building at 1651 Lakeshore Road West that Phyllis' father, William H. Trenwith, and brother, Bill, constructed on property grandfather William



▲ Site of the Trenwill Building, 1950  
(Phyllis Williams)



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.



▲ The Trenwill Building, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



## Party Line News Item — 1953



▲ Leo Johnson  
(Marion Johnson Josiak)

### 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

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*Clarkson and its Many Corners*



### ▲ St. Lawrence Cement Company, 1957

(St. Lawrence Cement Company)

**THERE WAS AN INDUSTRIAL BOOM AFTER WORLD WAR II,** and it did not take long before companies were entering Toronto Township, thanks to Reeve Mary Fix (1955, 1957-59), Deputy Reeve, Robert Speck, and Industrial Commissioner, William Courtney.

One of the first was the St. Lawrence Cement Company, which was opened on November 6, 1956, on 175 acres (71 ha) of Lot 31, Cons. 3 and 4. An impressive \$30 million facility, with a 556 foot (169 m) smokestack, the highest of any cement company in the world, was constructed that would produce 12 million bags of cement a year.

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 CO<sup>2</sup> 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 Hiltman, 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.

# St. Christopher's Roman Catholic Church — 1956

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▲ St. Christopher's Roman Catholic Church  
(Mississauga Library System)

## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

took over the Clarkson United Church building on the Lakeshore Road West in 1956 under the direction of Reverend Louis J. Hickey, who had been appointed the founding pastor.

**T**he 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.

St. Helen School was opened in September of 1969. In November, 1980, Reverend James K. Stevenson replaced Monsignor Hickey. Two years later, St. Luke School opened.

In July of 1992, Reverend Paul J. McCarthy became the Pastor. In 1993, Iona Catholic Secondary School opened. The Church building went through extensive renovations in 1998/99.

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.



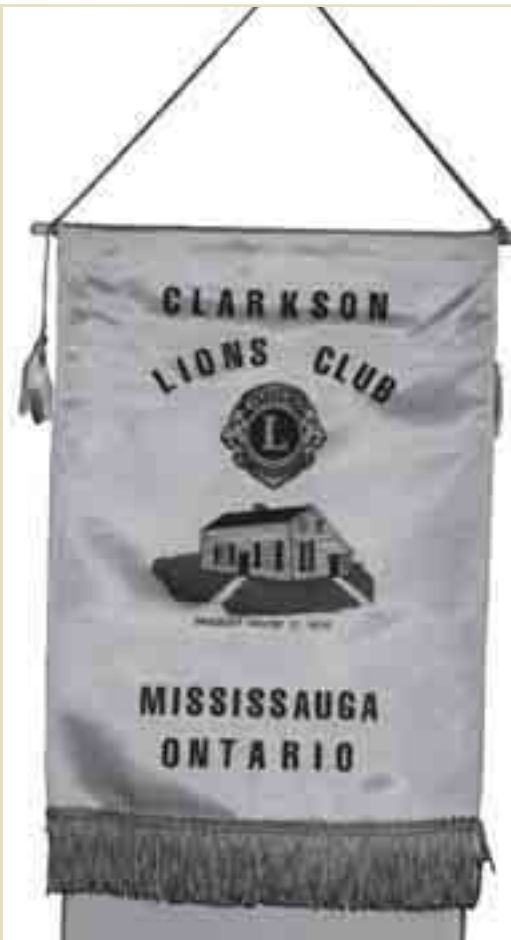
## Clarkson Lions Club — 1956



◀ John Cowieson presents a cheque to Armin Bruer, 1970  
(The Mississauga News)

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.



◀ The Lions Banner  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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.

## Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church — 1957

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.



▲ Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church, 2001

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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.

## Interesting Tidbits — 1957



The Port Credit Weekly had a column called "Clarkson Comment" by Gertude Parkins.

The local telephone exchange was Taylor 2.

Reeve Mary Fix was in her second term.



MacIntosh apples sold for 79¢ a six quart basket and eggs for 35¢ a dozen.

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.

## Park Royal Subdivision — 1958

THE SECOND SUBDIVISION IN CLARKSON was Park Royal, which was developed by the United Lands Corporation on 900 acres (364 ha) of land, west of Fifth Line (Southdown Road) to Winston Churchill Boulevard and south of the QEW (Lots 31 thru 35, Con. 2), purchased from the Manleys, the Johnsons and others. The first sod was turned in September, 1956.



▲ Tom Peebles, Leonard Finch and Peter Blower  
(Tom Peebles)

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.

▼ Installing Hydro in Park Royal, 1957  
(Enersource Hydro Mississauga)



▲ Park Royal Subdivision, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)

## 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.

◀ The Satellite Restaurant, 1980  
(Mississauga Library System)



George, Mike and Katina  
Hantzakos, 1998  
(The Mississauga News)

# Highway Expansion — 1958-59

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.

▼ Middle Road (QEW) early 1930s  
(Edith Nadon)



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 manoeuvre 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.





(Heavy Construction News)





▲ Aerial View, 2002  
(Ministry of Transportation)

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

## Saving Rattray Marsh — 1959

TODAY, THE 36 HECTARE (89 ACRE) Rattray Marsh is a protected conservation area. However, the history behind it becoming protected took some determination on the part of several devoted conservationists.

In Samuel Street Wilmot's first survey of Toronto Township in 1806, this area is noted as "Cranberry Marsh" as there were tall cranberry bushes growing there.



◀ Harry H. Fudger



▲ Barrymede Mansion (Photos courtesy "Rattray Marsh Then and Now")

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.





### ▲ Hannah Fudger's House

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 arch-

way 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

▼ Major Rattray with his beloved dogs, Bluegirl and Simon.



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*



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,



▲ Mr. Burton viewing demolition of Barrymede House



▲ Entry driveway to Rattray Estate  
(James G. Dickson)

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.



▲ *The Former Fudger Gatehouse,  
725 Bexhill Road, 2001*  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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.

► *Rattray Marsh*  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



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

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."



## Church of St. Bride — 1959



▲ St. Bride's Church  
(Mississauga Library System)

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.

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.



▲ Mortgage burning at the 1983 vestry meeting

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*





Aerial View of Clarkson — 1960  
(Tom Peebles)

## Annie Hall Retires — 1962

“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)





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▲ These are the pupils of Clarkson S.S. #6 Public School. Annie Hall, Principal, is on the left, second row from the back. On the right hand side are teachers Myrtle Speck, seated, and Violet McCleary, standing directly behind Miss Speck. This photo was taken in 1941.

(Birthe Sparre)

“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.”

*Excerpt from a letter by John D. Crickmore to his mother, Evelyn Crickmore, author, May 13, 1962.*

*Author's note: Miss Annie M. Hall died in 1987.*

# First Shopping Plaza — 1965

## 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 Sotkow; 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)

## Flyash/Birchwood Park — 1966

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.



▲ (Robert J. Groves)

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."*

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

*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.*



▲ 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 Mississauga Library System)*

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 75¢. 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  
(GO Transit Archives)

► Original rolling stock  
(GO Transit Archives)



► Today's train  
(GO Transit Archives)



# The Clarkson Community Centre — 1971

## THE CLARKSON

Community Centre and Arena at 2475 Truscott Drive, designed by Port Credit architect, Donald E. Skinner, was constructed in 1970 and held its official opening on February 28, 1971. The evening festivities started off with entertainment in the Arena that was filled to capacity. The audience enjoyed the Clarkson Lions Drum & Bugle Corps and Majorettes, the South Peel District Boy Scouts and the Jalna District Girl Guides.



► Councillor  
Lou Parsons, Mayor Robert Speck and  
Howard Burton  
(Mississauga Times)

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 m<sup>2</sup>) 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— 1974

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.



### ▲ Sheridan Villa, 2001

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

**I**n 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.



▲ Clarkson Business Section looking East, 1960  
(Gordon Hatten)

**T**he 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 store fronts 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 motor-cycle 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.

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▲ Clarkson Business Section  
Looking West, 1960  
(Gordon Hatten)

◀ 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



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▲ 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



▲ Bruce Carr  
(Bruce Carr)

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.

► (Robert J. Groves)

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."

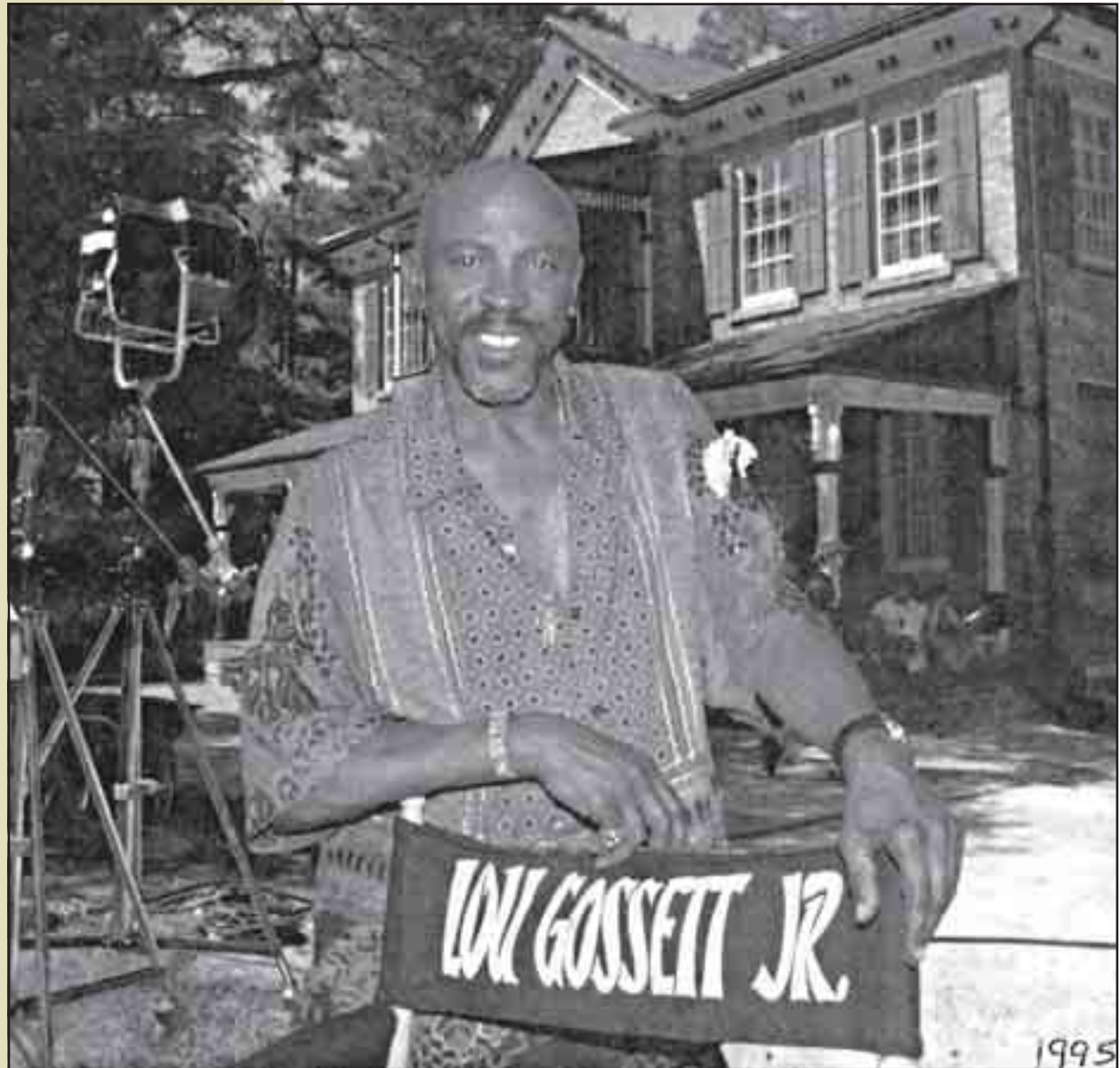
Bruce's signs were removed in May, 2002, and replaced by new ones of equal quality.



## Movies Shot in Clarkson — 1990s

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.

► Louis Gossett Jr.  
(*The Mississauga News*)



## Waterfront Trail — 1995

THE LAKE ONTARIO WATERFRONT Trail was opened in May, 1995. It starts at Niagara-on-the-Lake and when completed will extend along Lake Ontario's shoreline for 350 kilometres (200 miles) to Gananogue. With its constant use, it has managed to create an awareness of the potential for regeneration along the lakefront. The Trail links 28 cities, towns and villages as the asphalt strip weaves its way through 177 natural areas such as Rattray Marsh, 143 parks, 80 marinas and yacht clubs and hundreds of historical places. In the Clarkson area, the Bradley Museum is one.



▲ Bradley Museum (Kathleen Hicks)



▲ Rattray Marsh

(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

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 late 1960s, the startling news went out that Lake Erie was dying. Canada and the United States governments responded with the

# Waterfront Trail



◀ Part of the Mississauga Waterfront Trail

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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

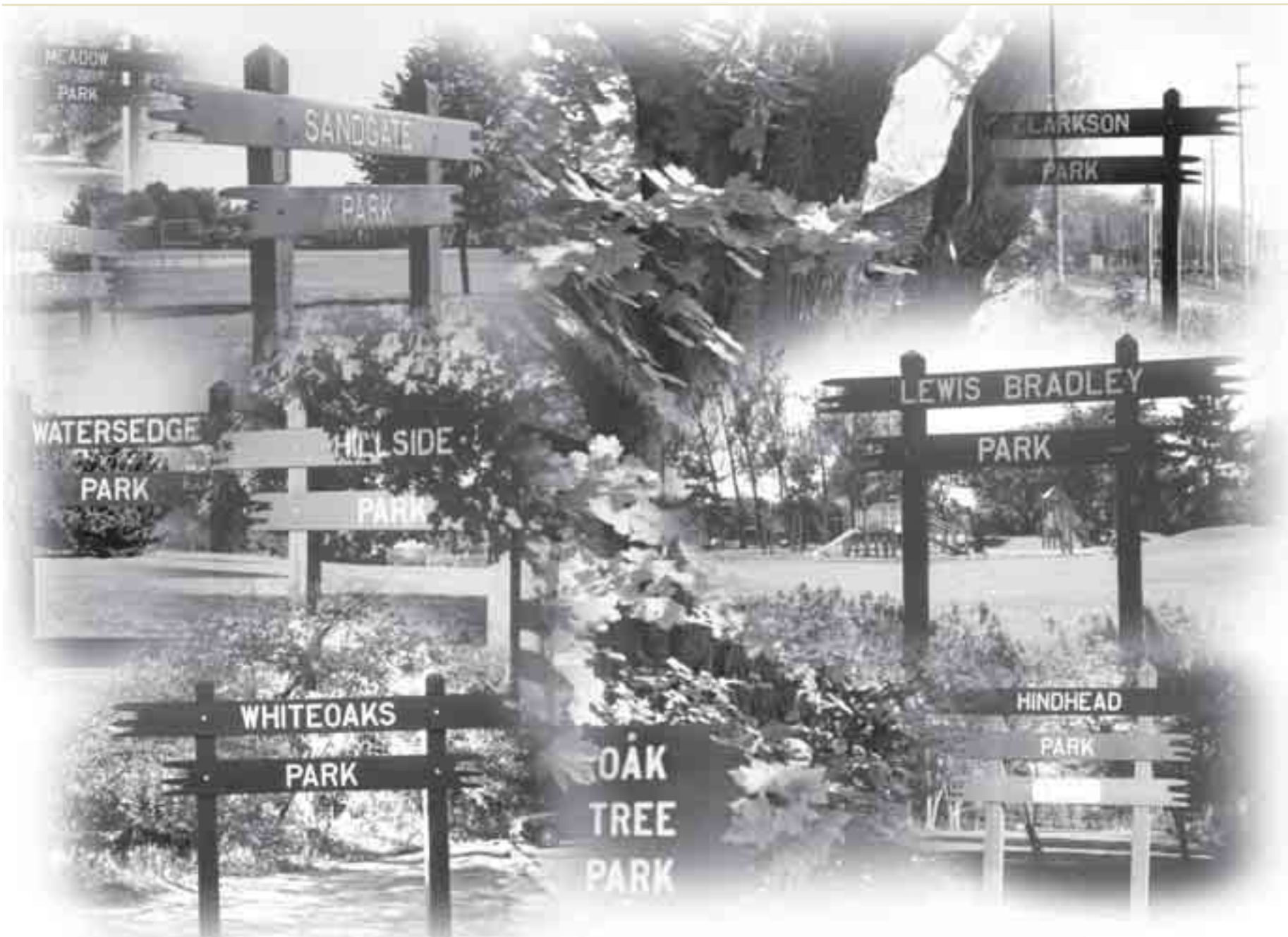
waterfront and municipalities and conservation authorities began to acquire waterfront properties for parkland.

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



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(photos courtesy of Robert J. Groves)

### 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.

### 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.)

### Meadowwood 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.)

### 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.)



## Ward 2

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 80 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.

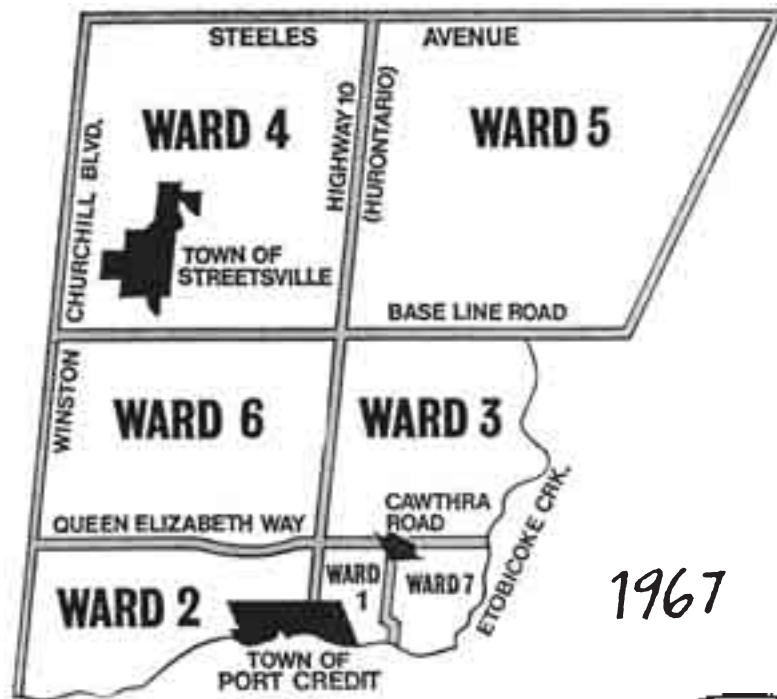


In the early 1900s, in the Council meetings' minutes, the councillors were listed, then they were given the supervision of roads and bridges in five Divisions. Wards were not mentioned. Reuben Lush was supervisor for Division 1 (Clarkson) in 1906. At some point, Wards 1 and 2 (Lakeview) were reversed 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)

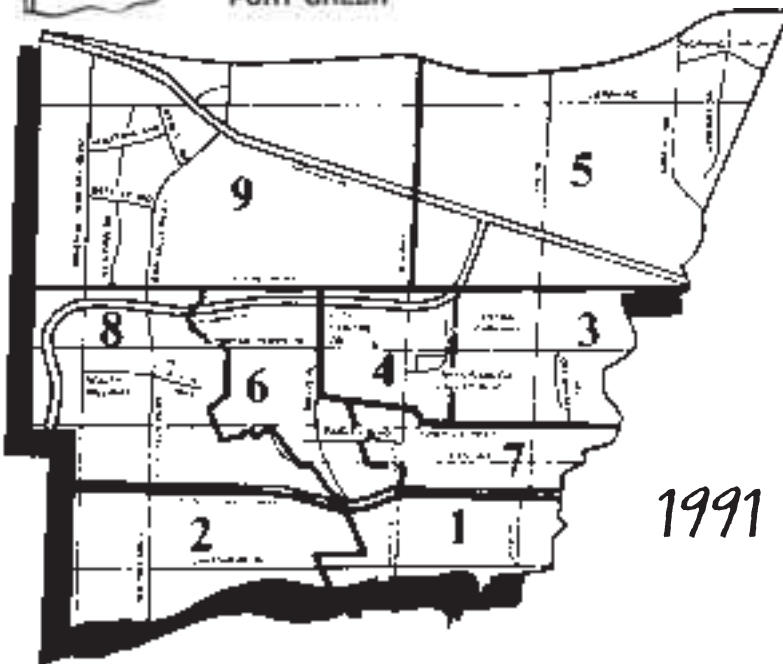
# Example of Ward Changes



1967



1974



1991



2001

Clarkson and its Many Corners



## The Oldest Building

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▲ The Warren Clarkson House, 1084 Feeley Court,  
Warren Clarkson, 1825  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

## Clarkson's Historical Buildings

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▲ Warren Clarkson House

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*



▲ The Anchorage

**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**

1723 Birchwood Drive  
Beverly Sayers, 1922

**Charles Terry House**

1040 Welwyn Drive  
Probably William Bowbeer, 1905

**David Terry House**

1333 Clarkson Road North  
Arthur Durie, 1928

**William D. Trenwith House**

1567 Davecath Road  
William D. Trenwith, 1904

**William H. Trenwith House**

1503 Petrie Way  
William H. Trenwith, 1926

## Clarkson's Oldest Resident — 100 Years



(Isabel Trenwith McArthur)

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**O**n 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.

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.



► Amy and John  
Trenwith

(Isabel McArthur)



## The longest Married Couple — 60 years

**R**uth 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.

► Ruth and Bud Crozier  
(Doctor Howard Vernon)



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

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▲ 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



## SMALL VILLAGES AND HAMLETS

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: A Little Village that Grew

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▲ Marquis of Lorne

**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.

**L**orne 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.



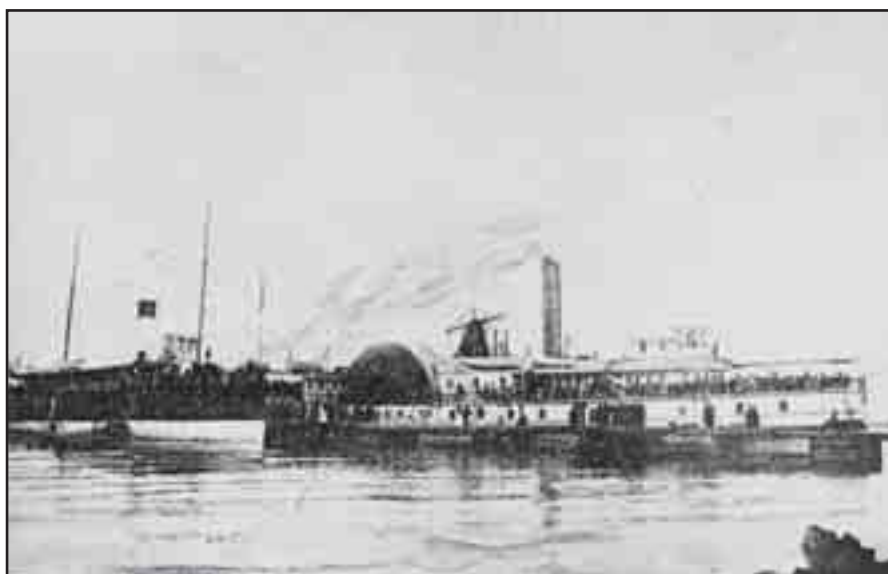
▲ Glen Leven Pond and Hotel on hill



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



▲ Steamship "Rotheway" at Lorne Park Wharf

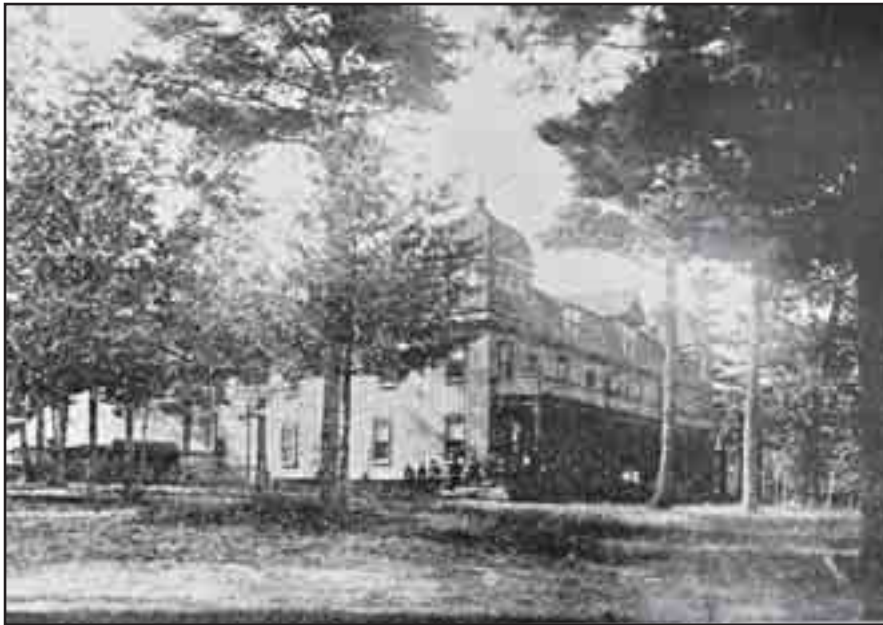


▲ McGill/Luker House (Mississauga Heritage Dept.)

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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



▲ Hotel Louise, 1889

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-



▲ Lorne Park Railway Station, 1910



▲ Post Office, 1900



▲ Albertonia Hotel



▲ Mary Louise Clark and the Girls' Club



▲ L. A. Hamilton

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



▲ Mr. O'Hara's Store



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 Luker, 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



▲ Lorne Park Mission Hall

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)





▲ Jack Darling Park, 2001

(Robert J. Groves)

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 Zyverden, 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)*



▲ Entrance, 2001

*(Kathleen A. Hicks)*



▲ Corner of Sangster and Henderson Avenues, Lorne Park Estates

*(Kathleen Hicks)*



▲ 863 Sangster Avenue, owned by Patricia Roberts

*(Kathleen A. Hicks)*



▲ 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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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kathleen A. Hicks started her writing career in 1962. Since her debut, she has had over 800 items published and three historical books. Between 1972 and 1977, she was an editorial columnist with *The Mississauga News*. She has been published in numerous papers and magazines, including the *Toronto Telegram*, the *Toronto Star*, *The Etobicoke Guardian*, *Today's Seniors*, *Friends & Neighbours Today* and *Mature Lifestyles Magazine*. She has conducted over 1,000 interviews, many of which were cover stories, such as Christopher Plummer, Anne Murray, Pierre Berton, Paul Anka, Al Waxman, the Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, and the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Hilary Weston.

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(Photo by Stephen Wahl)

Kathleen is a third generation Canadian of English descent. She was born in Lakeview, raised in Port Credit, was married in the Trinity Anglican Church on Stavebank Road and has lived in the Cooksville area of Mississauga for nearly 50 years. Although she has been immersed for a number of years in her historical writings, she also writes adult fiction, children's stories, TV and movie scripts.

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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