



(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.



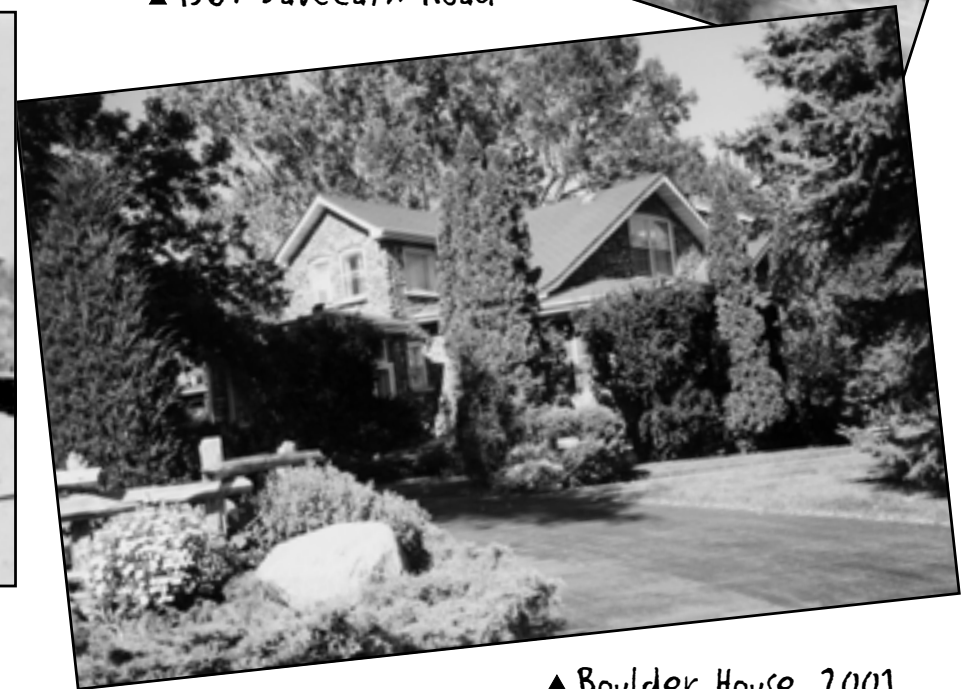
▲ William H., Bill and Phyllis Trenwith



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



▲ 1567 Davecath Road



▲ Boulder House, 2001
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



Great Grandpa Trenwith, Wm. George,
Grandpa, Wm. Donathorne Trenwith,
Dad, Wm. Henry Trenwith, and my
brother Wm. Alexander Trenwith, 1931
(Phyllis Williams)



William H. Trenwith
(Phyllis' father)
(Phyllis Williams)

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.

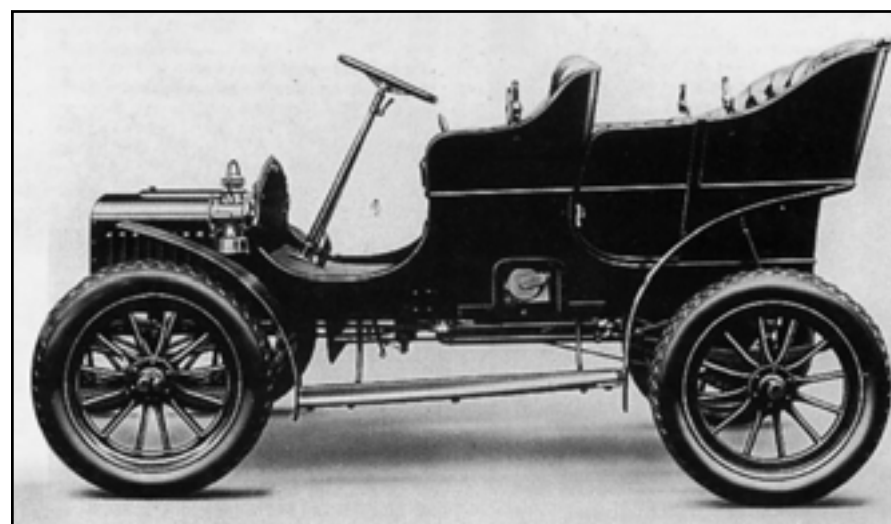
The first car lot to appear in Toronto Township was established in Port Credit by The Ford Motor Company. The first operator's licence was introduced in Ontario in 1927 at a cost of \$1. During the first year, 444,472 licences were issued.

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)



(3)



(2)

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)

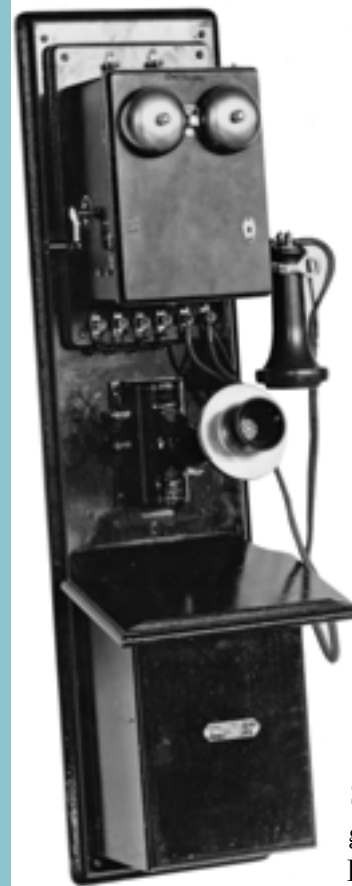
The Arrival of the Telephone — 1905

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

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



► 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

116



► 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

Thompson and Mary Ann Patchett bought 23 acres (9.3 ha) of Lot 31, Con. 2, in 1910 to farm. They were married in 1882 and had 11 children. Thompson built a frame house for his growing family and farmed the land with the help of his sons, Watson, Edward, Gordon, Hank and Miles.

Thompson passed away and Mary Ann carried on alone as her children married and moved away. Only her youngest son, Edward Enoch, known as Pete, had the farming instincts of his father. He married Merle Cummings and they had two sons, Thompson, 1934, and Edward, 1935. Merle died in 1941, leaving Pete to raise his boys. Then he lost his mother, Mary Ann, in 1947 at age 91. In 1956, 21 acres (8.4 ha) of the farm was sold to United Lands for the Park Royal subdivision. The other two acres (0.8 ha) and house were sold in 1967 to the Canadian Tire Corporation. The house was torn down and a Gas Bar was constructed in its place on the west side of Southdown Road above the GO Station. There are no longer any Patchetts in Mississauga who are related to Thompson and Mary Ann. Their grandson, Edward, lives in Oakville.

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

120



▲ 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)



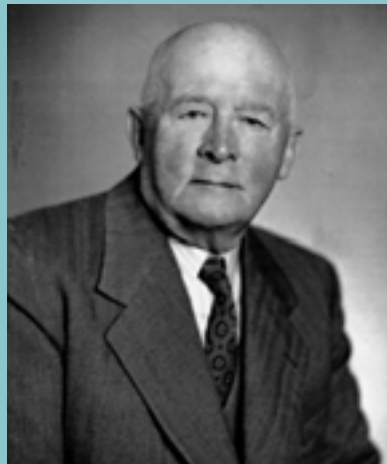
▲ Clarkson Road North Blacksmith Forge
(Region of Peel Archives)



The fletchers — 1911

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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.



123

▲ Harvesting the asparagus

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

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

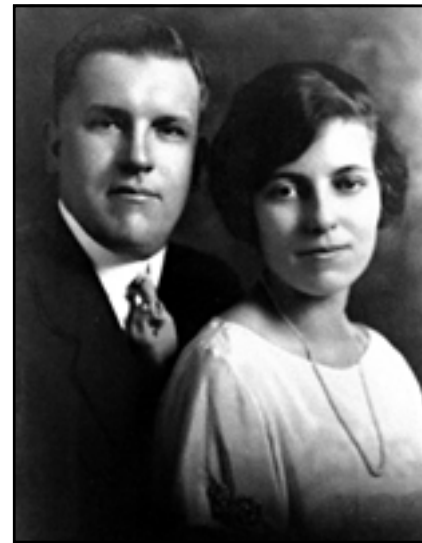


The Hardy Family — 1912

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



▲ 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)

Reuben 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.

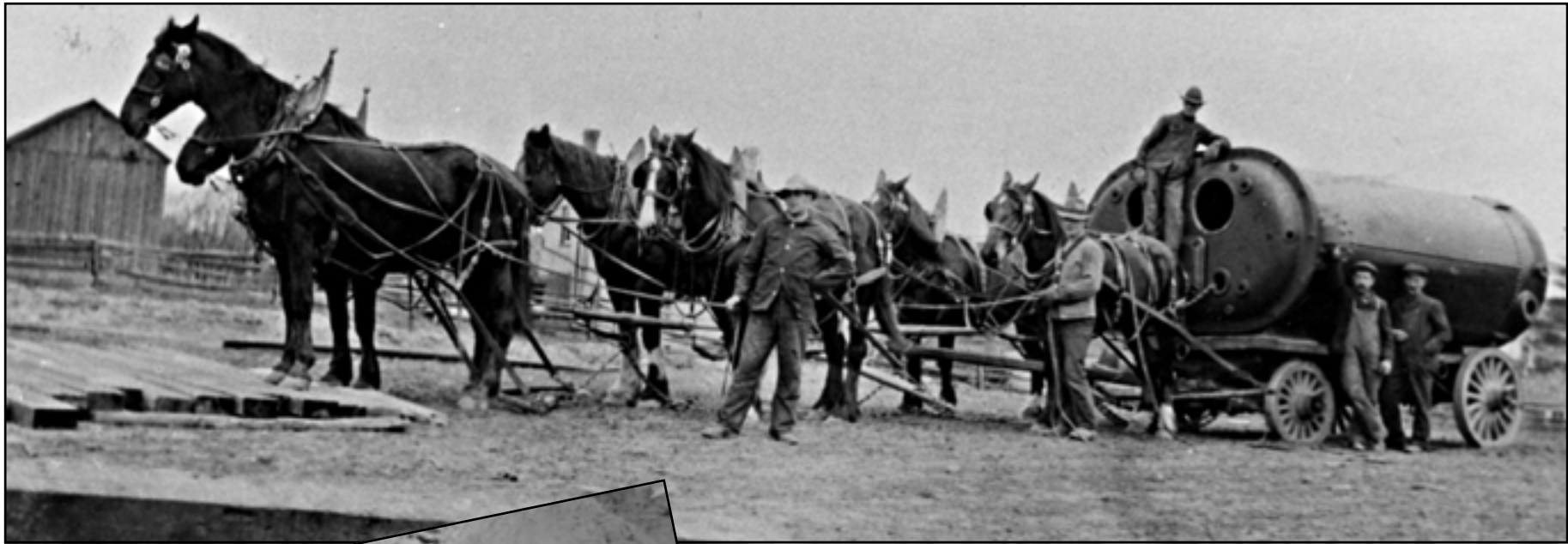
► Lake Shore Road
(Edith Nadon)



127

► 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

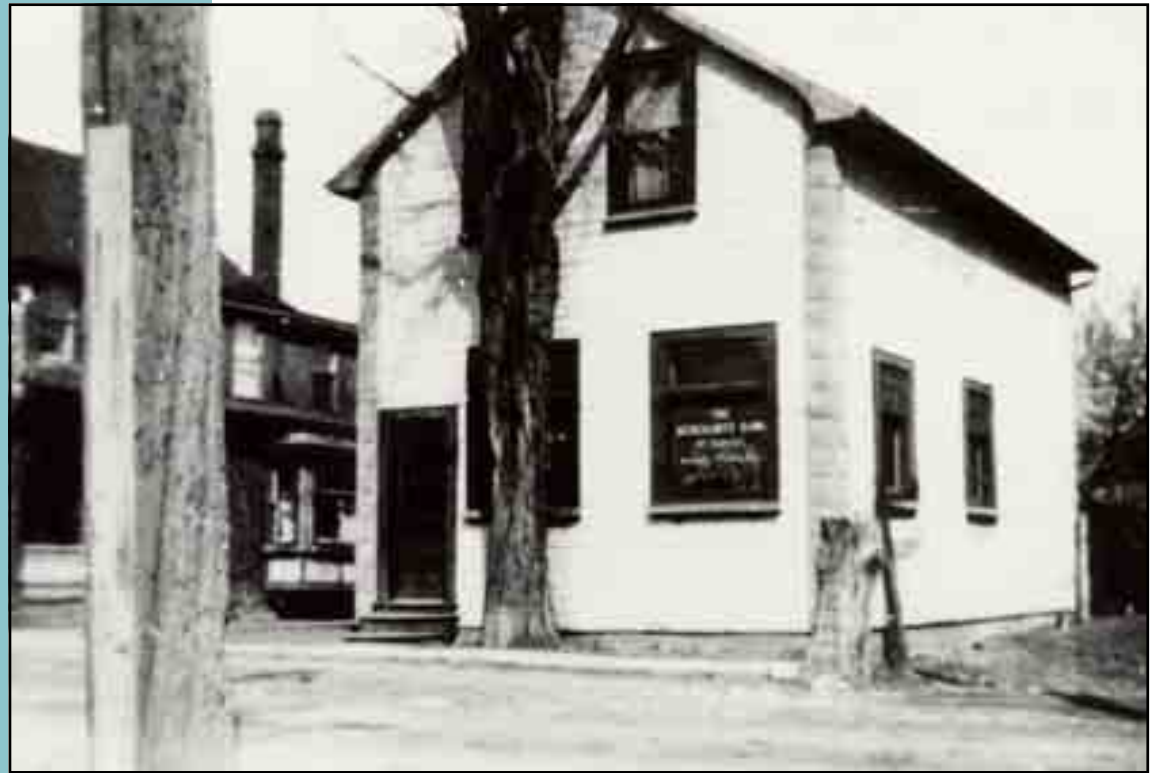
◀ Gathering in 1926:
(Left to Right) Front row: Mrs. Anne Sayers, Mrs. Colloton,
Mrs. Hodgetts, Mrs. W. Shook
Back row: Mrs. Cavan, Mrs. Vernon, Mrs. Terry, Naomi Harris
and Mrs. Bourne
(Barbara Larson)

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)



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

134



(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)

135



▲ 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)

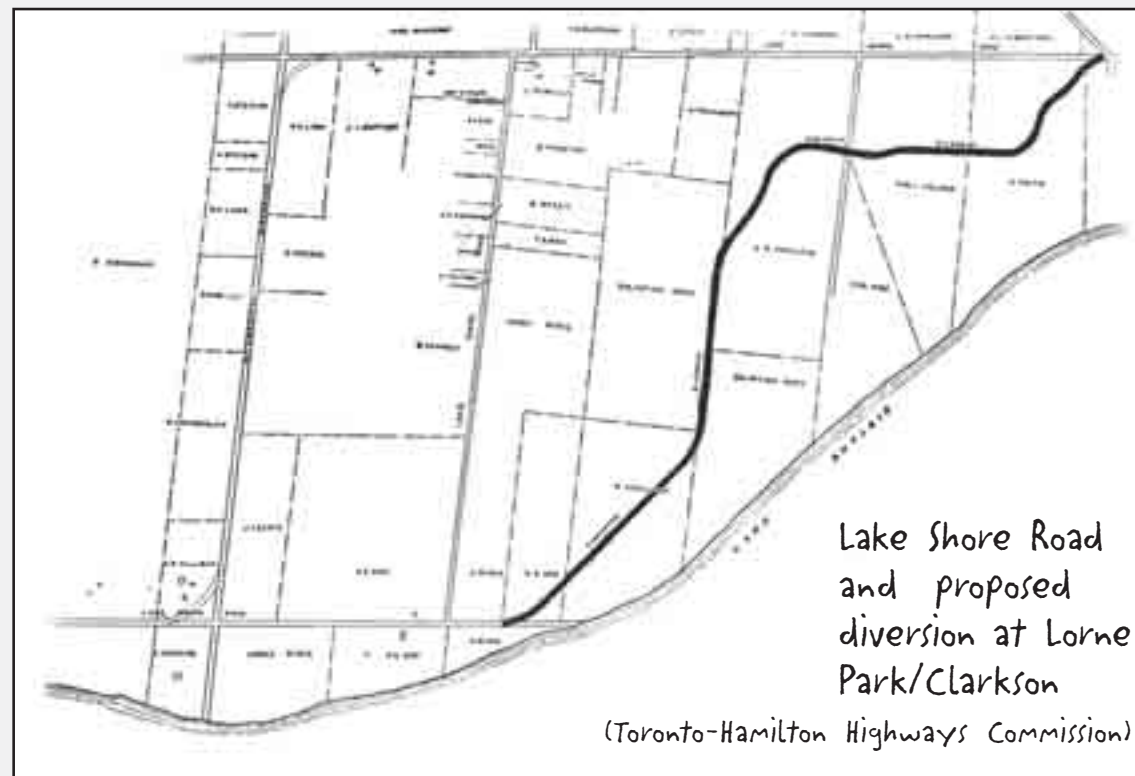


◀ Alex Durie and soldiers from 74th Regiment at a Pie Fest on way from Niagara to Toronto, Clarkson, November 5, 1915
(Phyllis Williams)



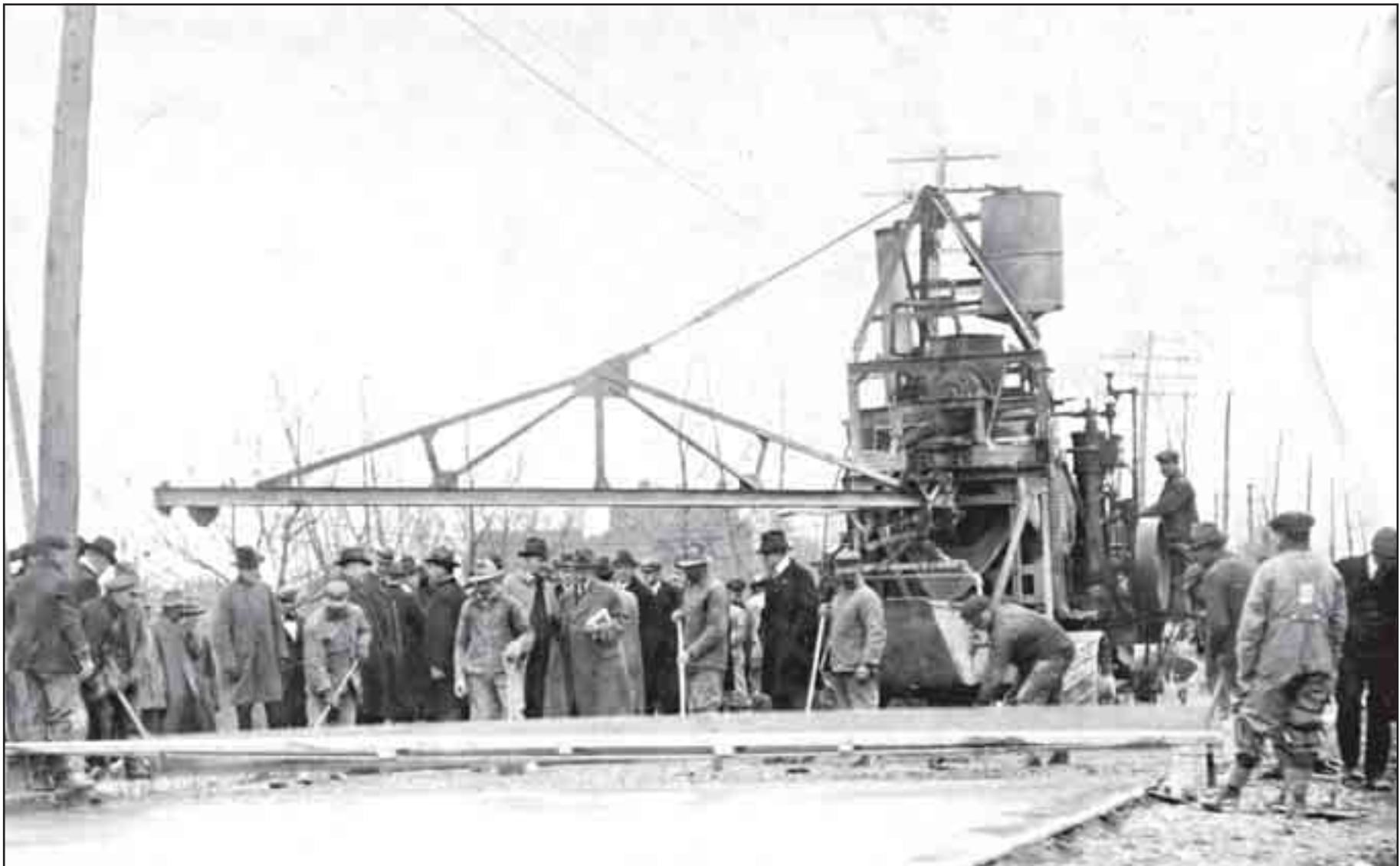
Lake Shore Road Controversy — 1914

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

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



◀ Robert Speck
(Mississauga News)



▲ The Speck Farm House
(Enid Speck)

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

These two youngsters, who would meet and marry, lived only a short distance apart. Bob attended School #5 near his home (now Hillcrest School) and Enid went to School #6 (Clarkson Public School). However, the families both attended the Carman Methodist Church, so they knew each other. When it came time to go to high school, Bob went to Port Credit and Enid to Oakville. Bob was a keen athlete and was very active



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

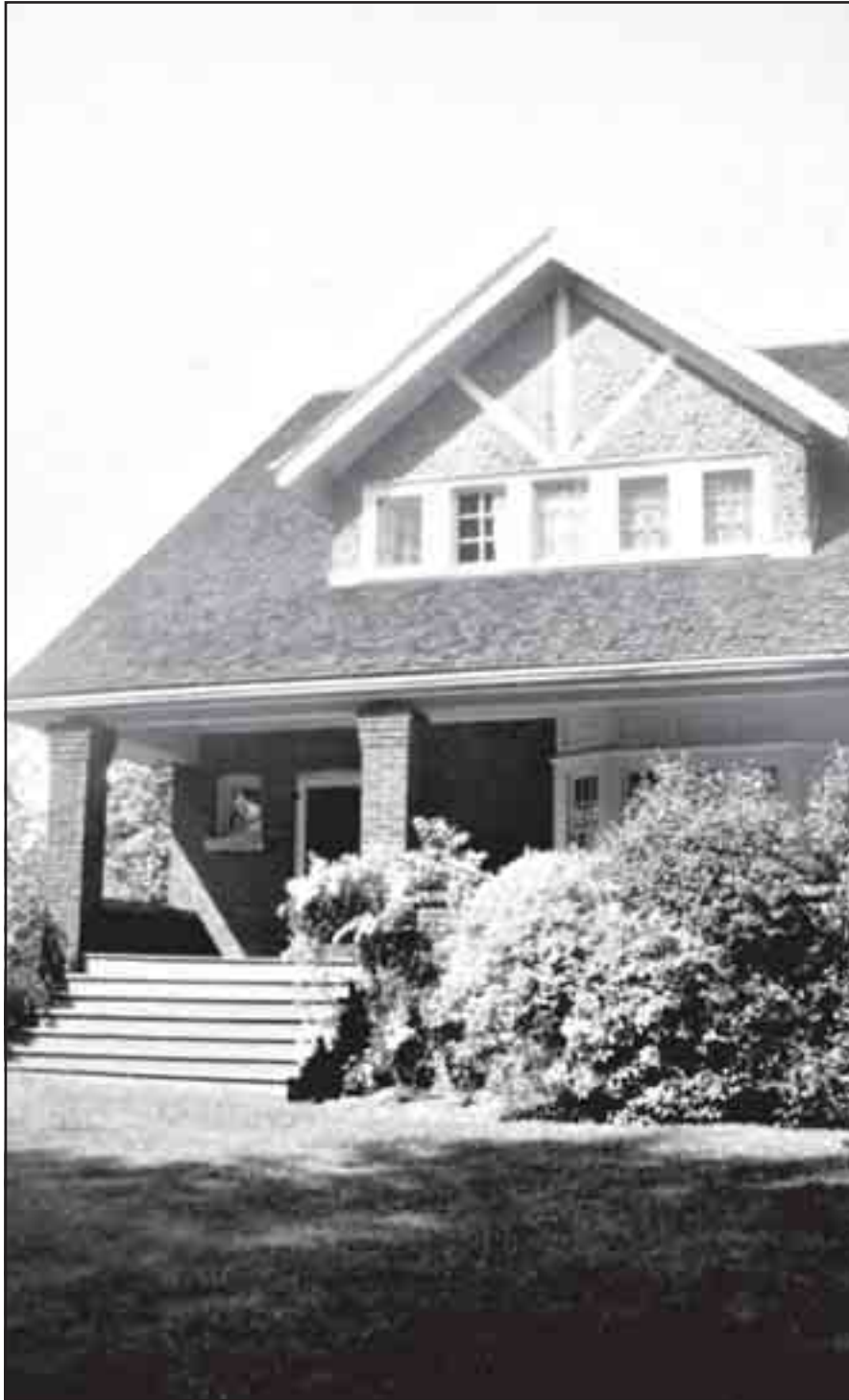


▲ Speck Fruit Market
(Enid Speck)

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

In 1915, when 100 acre (40 hectare) farms in Clarkson were selling from \$10,000 to \$15,000, the first doctor to settle in this area was Dr. Edward Gladstone Vernon (b.1885, d.1956). He and his wife, Ida Mary Thompson (1886-1975), a school teacher, came here from St. Mary's outside of London, Ontario. They purchased half an acre (0.2 ha) of land on the corners of Sayers and Clarkson Road North, Lot 29, Con. 2, from Charles Terry for \$2,500 and built a house. He opened his practice there that year.



► Dr. Edward Vernon



▲ 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)

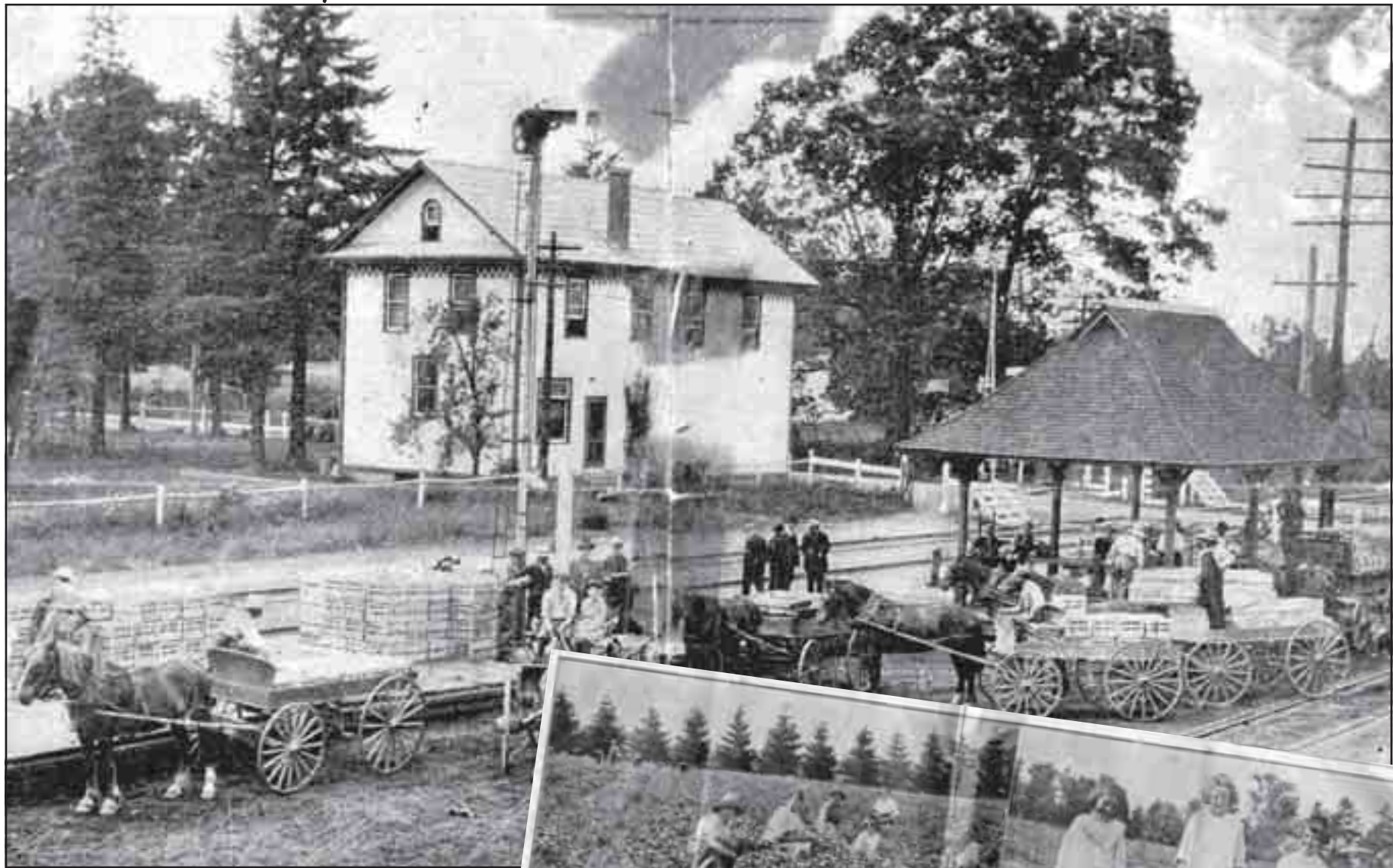
When Gordon passed away on August 11, 1973, in his 89th year, his daughter Kathleen (Kay) inherited the house and remained there until 1985. She had started working as a secretary in the Toronto Township Clerk's Department in 1937 and worked there all her life.

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



149

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



The West family — 1916

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



◀ Howard 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 m²) of backyard greenhouse and an annual business of over one million dollars.



▲ Lawrence Abbs, Clargreen Gardens
(Birthe Sparre)

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

Lawrence retired in 1988 and his daughter, Cathy, and husband, Mike 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 m²) of floor space. The story goes that he rented the property and moved the barn to this location. It was here that Grace sold her first antique for \$5, a pewter jug she had purchased for 50¢ when she was 15. This spurred her decision to use half the barn for antiques. Sydney Preston also had a Toronto branch at 129 Bloor Street West.



▲ 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

162



▲ 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

163

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

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

When 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



167

▲ 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.

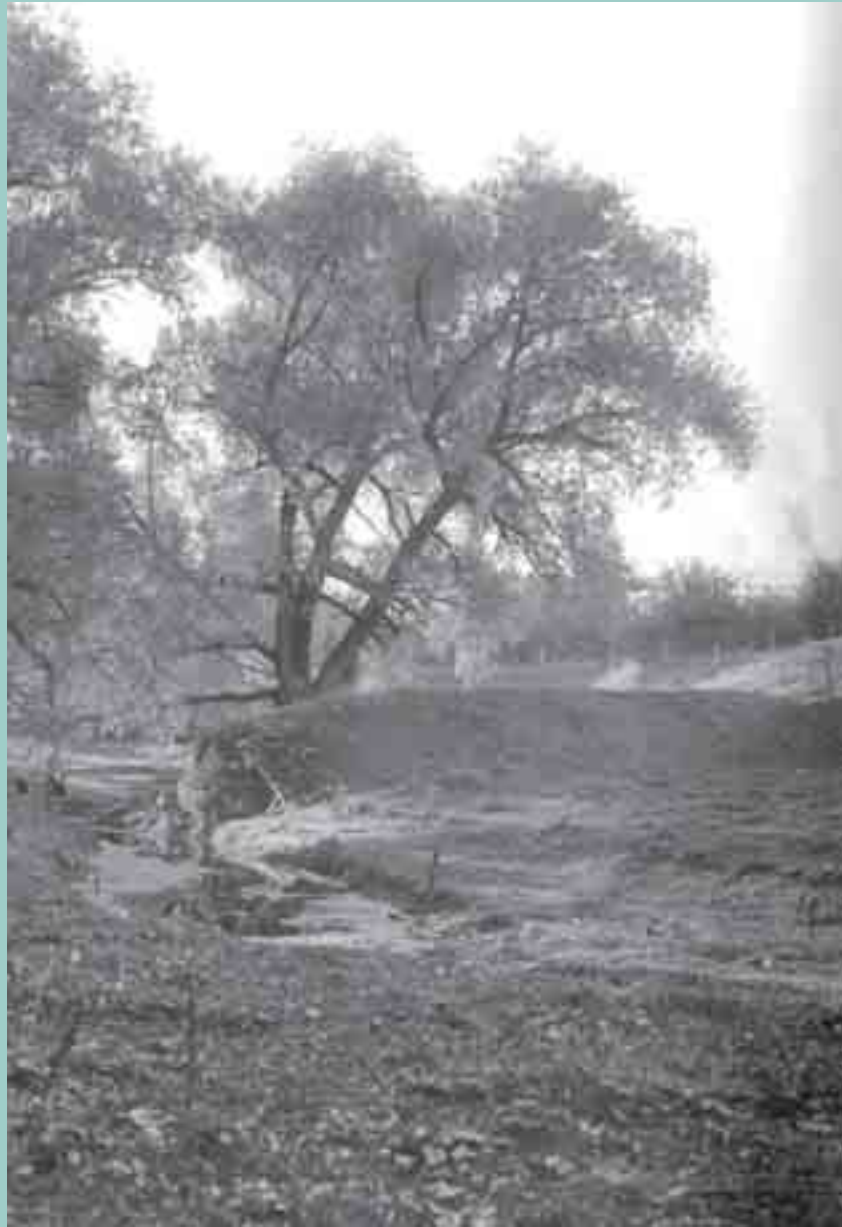
(Jean Lindsay)

▼ 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.

▼ Hunter House, 2001

(Kathleen A. Hicks)



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.

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



177

▲ 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



179

▲ 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



184

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

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)

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

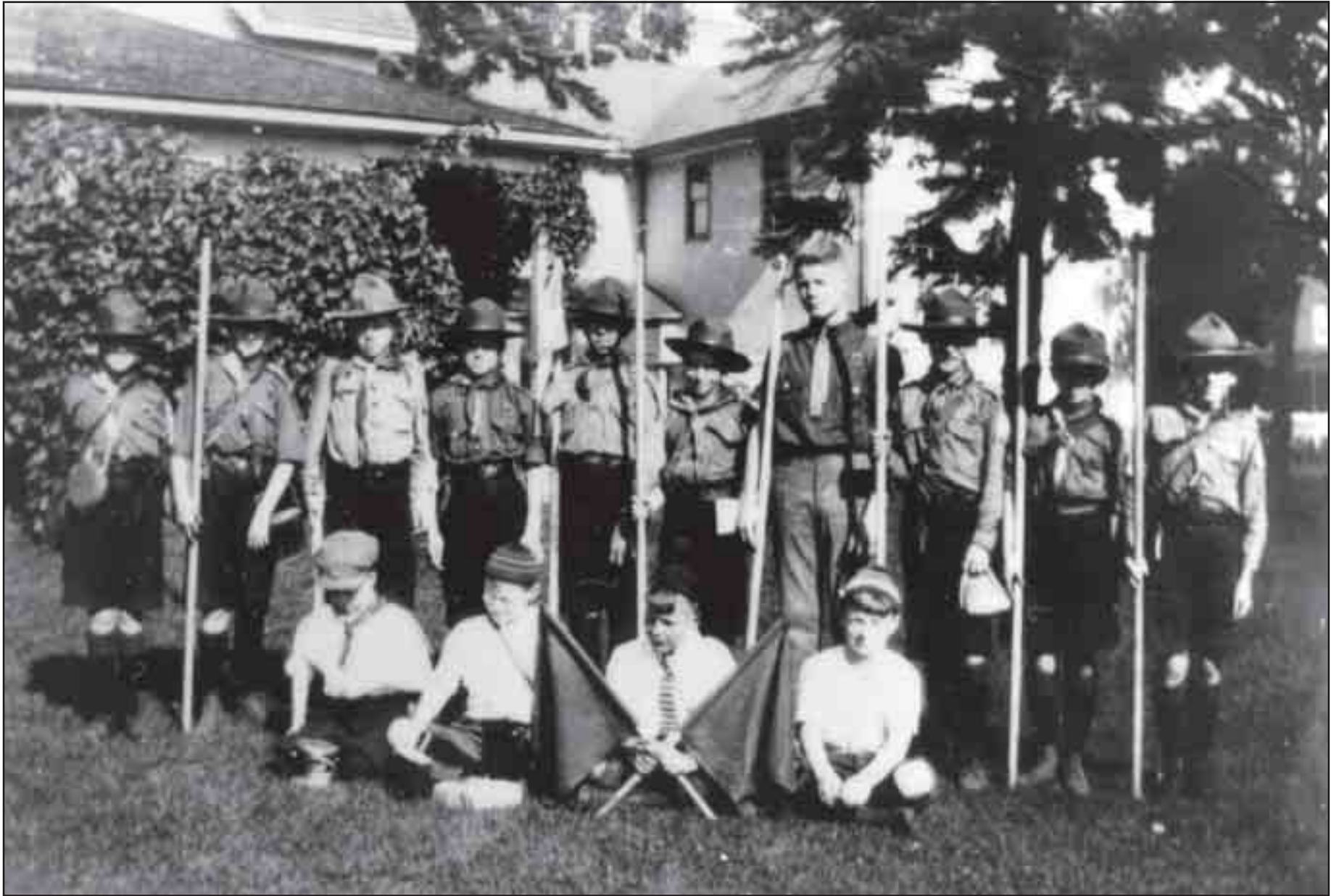
THE REGISTRATION FOR THE 1ST CLARKSON group of Boy Scouts took place from June 15 to June 29, 1923, and 11 boys between the ages of 12 and 14 joined under Scoutmaster I. T. Learnard. William Arneil was the assistant Scoutmaster. The application for the Troop Charter by citizens of Clarkson took place 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)



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



▲ The 1st Clarkson Boy Scouts, 1924
(MLS Harold Hare Collection)

Back Row, Left to right: Gerold Hare, Harold Hare, Graham Black,
Doug Ward, Earl Sawyer, Billy Laurence, Geoffrey Sayers, Art 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

In 1924, Mazo de la Roche purchased two small lots from Anne and Beverly Sayers, which had been part of Captain James Harris' Benares' property.

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

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

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



▲ 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)

After only four years, a new \$15,000 addition was added. The Hall was rented out to organizations such as the Red Cross, Independent Order of Foresters, the Oddfellows and the Women's Institute for meetings.

The Hall had a thriving recreational program and was used for sports, plays, minstrel shows, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Brownies, arts and crafts, musical programs and concerts. Dramatics were popular under



193

▲ 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

Reuben Lush was appointed Justice of the Peace on May 26, 1925, when the population of Clarkson was around 200. One of his duties was to decide on the charges to be laid by the 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)



▲ Boulder Villa Cabins
(Gordon Hatten)

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



▲ 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)

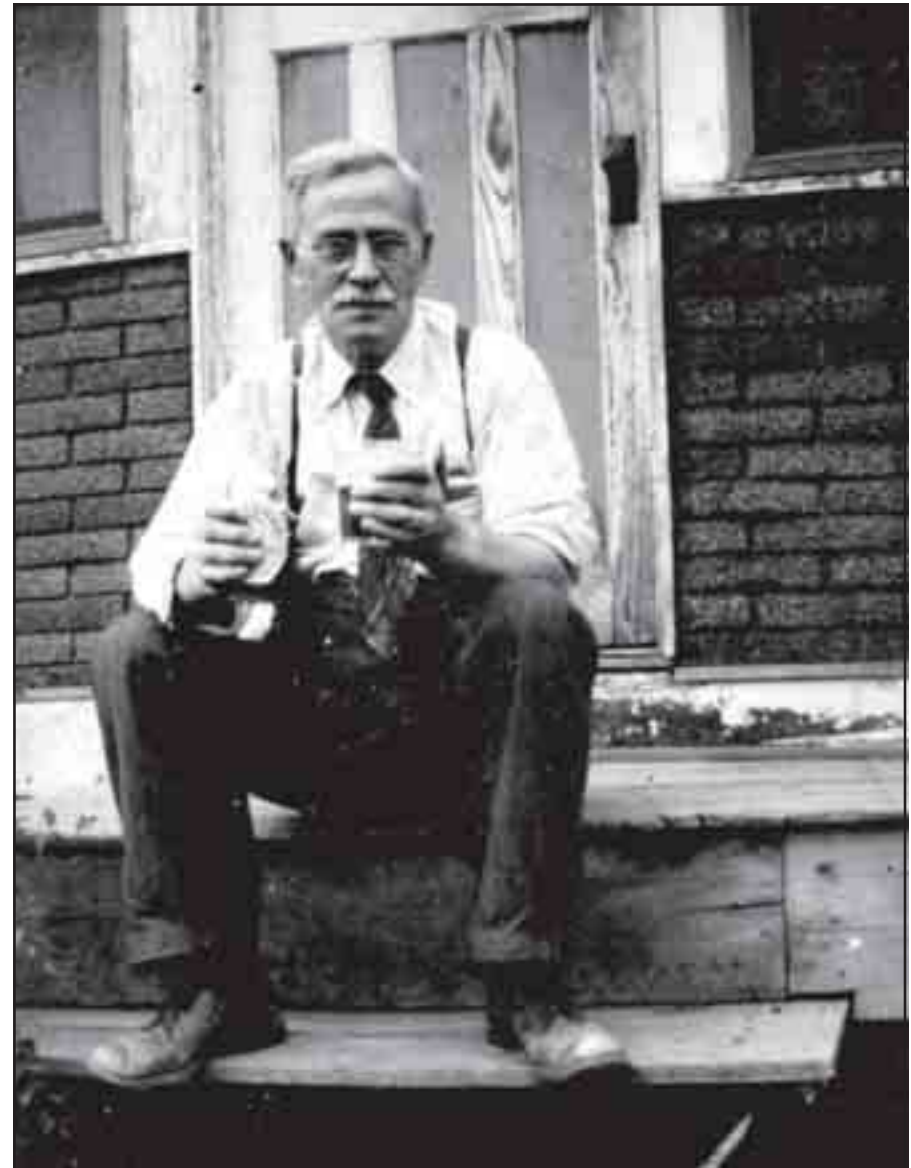


▲ Boulder Villa Cabin and House (Mississauga Library System)

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

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



▲ 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.



209

▲ *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

Dora Sayers, the daughter of Beverly and Anne Sayers and great granddaughter of Captain James Harris of Benares, became a famous actress. She attended Oakville High School, where she was an honour student and involved in drama, and the University of Toronto, where she gained experience at Hart House with Dorothy Goulding's Children's Theatre. While in England in 1933, she became interested in serious drama and studied at Tamara Daykarhanova's school for the stage in Mount Kisco, New York, in 1936.



▲ Dora Sayers



▲ Joan Bennett

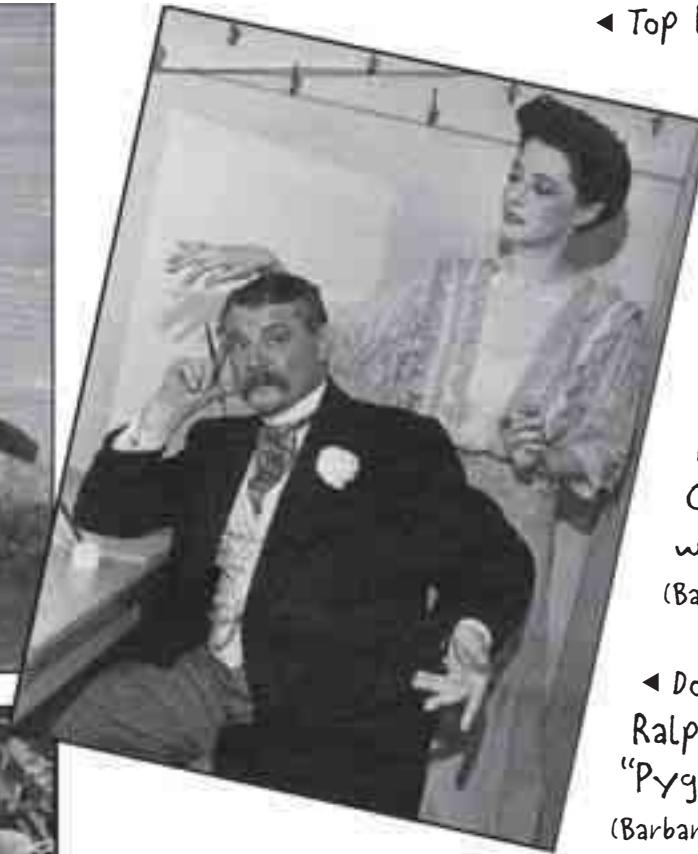


HER FIRST MAJOR STAGE appearance in Ontario was in "*Stage Door*" with actress Joan Bennett, which opened at the Royal Alexandra Theatre

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)

211

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

212



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

The Last Station Master — 1942

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

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



▲ 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 Cookville 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)



219

▲ 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.

221



▲ 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



Memories



◀ John West
(William West)

224

"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 Idlewylde 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	
SOUTHOWN 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



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.

▲ "Ted" Rogers
(Rogers Communications Inc.)



▲ 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 m²) of floor space with five separate refrigerated rooms on the lower level and one spacious room on the second level that could hold 60,000 bushels of apples.



▲ 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)

231

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

The first few years were difficult, but rewarding as Reverend Van Dyk, Reverend Brondesma and Reverend Andre assisted Dutch families with settling in this new country.

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



▲ 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

238



▲ 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.



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)