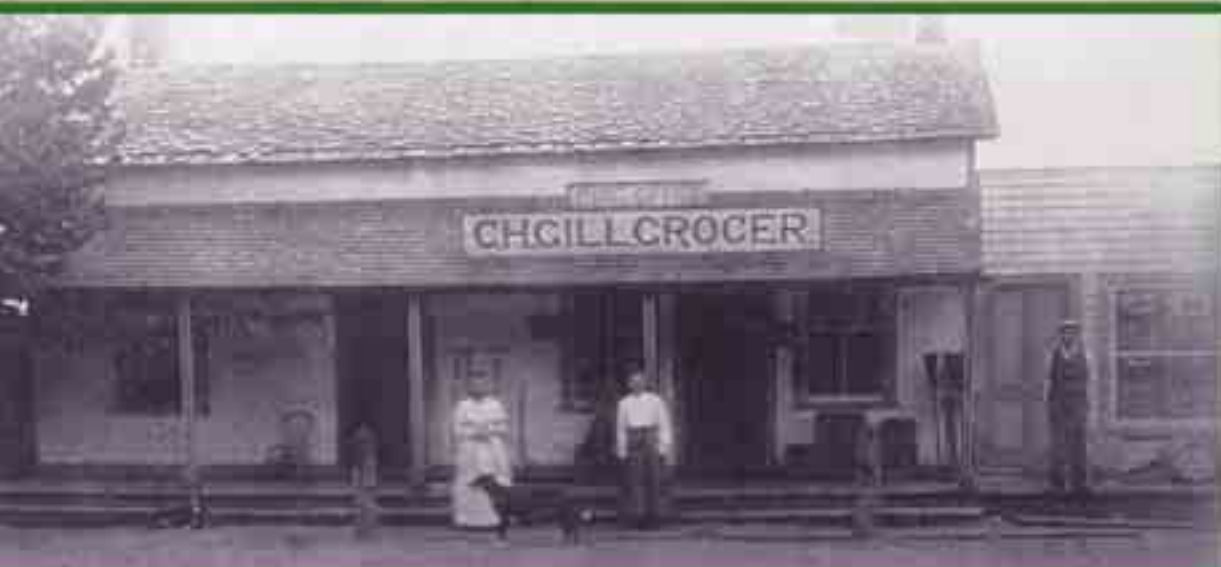
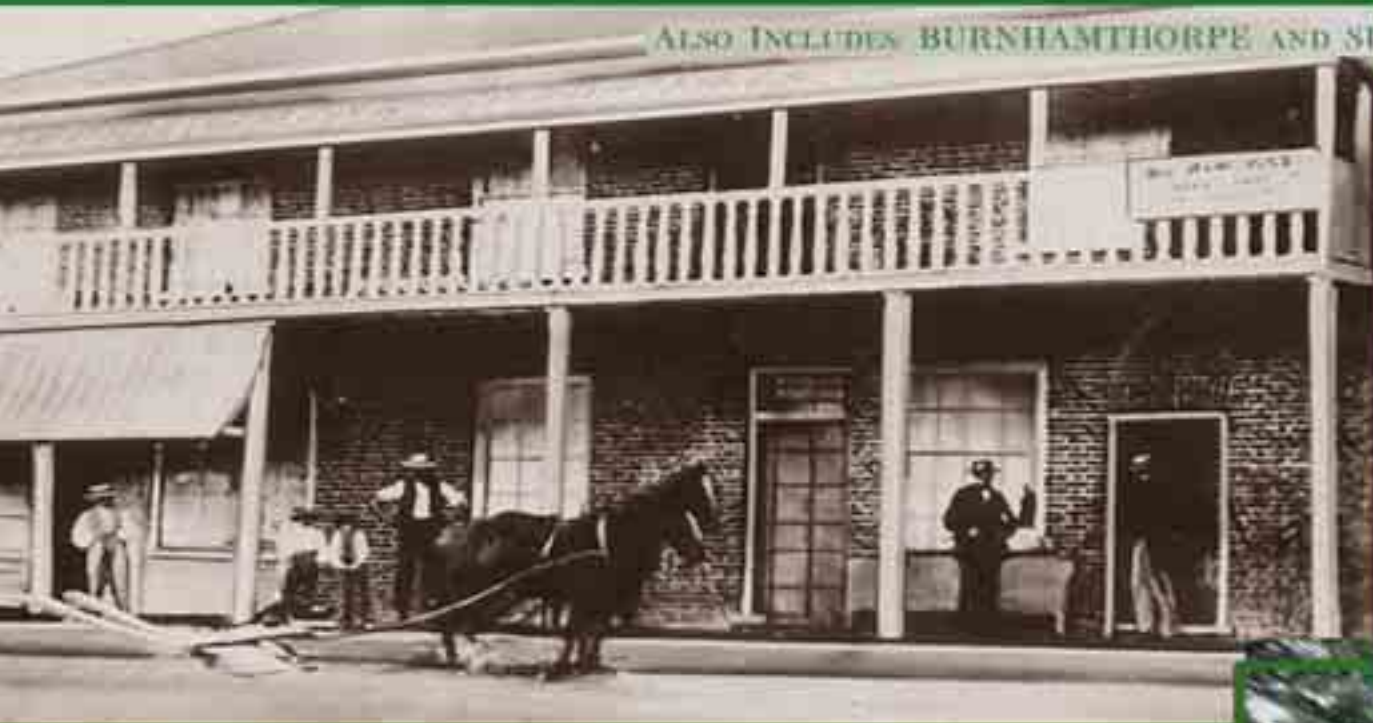


# DIXIE

: ORCHARDS TO INDUSTRY :

ALSO INCLUDES BURNHAMTHORPE AND SUMMERVILLE



KATHLEEN A. HICKS



*Dixie:*  
Orchards to Industry

Kathleen A. Hicks



## Dixie: Orchards to Industry



▲ Upper Canada Map (Frederick R. Bercham)

### DIXIE: ORCHARDS TO INDUSTRY

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Written by Kathleen A. Hicks  
Edited by Michael Nix  
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(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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 Meadowvale: Mills to Millennium  
 Lakeview: A Journey From Yesterday  
 Cooksville: Country to City

## VIDEO

Riverwood: The Estate Dreams Are Made Of

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▲ (Region of Peel Archives)

I dedicate this book to all the people I know and have known who have hailed from Dixie, whom I have shared many interesting stories with over the years and have admired tremendously for their community dedication: William Teggart, the Kennedys, Dave and Laurie Pallett, Jim McCarthy, Colonel Harland Sanders, Gord Stanfield, Mildred and Jack Bellegham and Dave Cook to mention a few.



(Buffalo Bill Historical Centre)

First I want to thank God for setting me on this path of discovery. It has become a fabulous learning experience and an interesting journey covering 200 years of life and history of the city where I was born. To uncover the history down through the years from other generations to today is an incredible opportunity and adventure that few people have. For that I am deeply grateful and I hope my readers benefit from what I have learned and revealed in these books. Thanks to the City of Mississauga, and Mayor Hazel McCallion especially for seeing the historical possibilities of such a marvelous beneficial project. Thank you to my many sponsors who jumped into the void to make this financially possible, especially The Friends of the Mississauga Library System. My appreciation is extended to Mississauga Library Administrator Don Mills for seeing the big picture and supporting this project; to the many Library staffers, who assisted in finding research material and photos; the staffs of the Region

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▲ Harold Shipp, Iggy Kaneff with the Author  
(Stephen Wahl)

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▲ The Kennedy Kids (Art Kennedy)

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I had the great fortune of being born on the McCarthy farm in Dixie in 1930, shortly after my parents arrival from Ireland. The McCarthy family were wonderful caring and supportive people from Irish stock, who knew the plight of the penniless new arrivals. They taught my father the fundamentals of the market gardening and orchard business, which allowed him to raise five sons during the depression.

## foreword

I have fond recollections of travelling to Queen's Park as a young boy with my father to see our neighbour, Thomas L. Kennedy, who was Minister of Agriculture, and discuss with him the farm loans issue. I can recall his welcoming us in a most friendly manner and his giving my father the details about obtaining a farm loan. He was an extraordinary individual and a great Canadian.

Back in the 1930s, many of the orchard farmers in Dixie sold their produce at a large market located on Dundas Street just west of Jane Street opposite the railroad roundhouse. My uncle, my brothers and I went to the market on many occasions to sell vegetables my father had grown and I recall seeing Victor Stanfield selling apples off the back of his truck to the store owners from Toronto. During those depression days, you never could sell all your produce and Vic would end up giving us several bushels of apples. We sold tomatoes six-six quart baskets for a dollar. I remember eating at the Highway Restaurant across the road and paying 25¢ for bacon, eggs, toast and tea.

I recall Gordon Stanfield driving past our place in his milk truck and waving at my brothers and I. I learned later that he was on the Police Force at the time and had two jobs to help support his large family. Little did I know then that Gord would one day hire me as a police officer and be my early mentor and great supporter. He was a wonderful man, who was a great judge of character and ability, and was responsible for hiring some of the future leaders on our Force.

We have lived through an era of the most extraordinary sociological and technological changes in the history of mankind and Dixie did not escape the pressures of progress. I watched as the bountiful orchards and market gardens disappeared and industry and subdivisions were rapidly built. The fruit markets closed and the famous old

Dixie Arena was torn down. There are still a few old apple trees to be seen here and there in the subdivisions, however they are simply remnants and reminders of the past. Sometimes when I drive through my old neighbourhood and turn back the pages of time, I recall this virtual "Garden of Eden" in the landscape of my mind, and I say to myself, "It was Dixie then, it is Dixie now and it will be Dixie forever – the place where I was born."

Over 150 years ago, wise old Longfellow must have been thinking about interesting writers like Kathleen Hicks when he declared, "Books are the sepulchers of thought." The author of this book takes us for a walk through the history of Dixie. She takes us on this walk through the voice of others and tells us who we were and who we are in an extraordinary and candid straightforward fashion.

The much quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson, who obviously did not believe in pseudonyms, also had it right in the same era when he said, "It takes more than talent to make a writer, there must be a person behind the book." As an author, Kathleen works with enthusiasm and conducts her interviews and research with professionalism, good will and good conscience. She is fast becoming one of the most prolific researchers and writers. I had the great privilege of taking research as part of the Police administration course at Northwestern University and have a full understanding of the extraordinary work required to produce her books. I have read the entire series thus far and would like to go on record as saying, "I have learned a lot and could have used her skills and talents on some of my major crime investigations." All who read Kathleen's books, especially students, will be the true benefactors of her skills, diligence and hard work.

William James Teggart  
Peel Regional Police Chief,  
Retired



▲ William J. Teggart  
with the Author  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

# Introduction: The Beginning

A new province was created and called Upper Canada eight years after the English were defeated in the American Revolution (1775-1783). Following the war, over 10,000 British sympathizers poured into the province of Quebec, with 6,000 settling on the Niagara Peninsula, where in 1784 over



▲ King George III  
(Shell Canada Limited)

three million acres (1,200,000 hectares) were purchased from the Mississauga Indians for the purpose of extending land grants to those loyal to King George III (born 1738, died 1820). The United Empire Loyalists, so named by Governor General Sir Guy Carleton (b.1724, d. 1808), who had given up farms, homes, livelihoods, family and friends, settled in to establish a new beginning in a new fertile land.

The province of Quebec was ruled under the Quebec Act of 1774 or French Civil Law, and the English came to resent this. So the Loyalists set about to establish their own laws and thus in 1791, the Constitutional Act was passed.



▲ Sir Guy Carleton

The province was split in two to form Upper and Lower Canada (which would become Canada West and Canada East in 1841 and Ontario and Quebec in 1867).

With the new province of Upper Canada established, a new government had to be put in place. To head up this undertaking, Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe (1752-1806) was appointed Lieutenant Governor. He, his wife, Elizabeth, and two of their youngest children of six, Sophia and Francis, arrived from Dunkeswell, Devonshire, England, on November 11, 1791.

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

The opening of Legislature took place on September 17th and an election for the first parliament was held. During the first session of the House of Assembly, September 17 thru October 15th, the laws of Britain would be adopted, trial by



▲ John Graves Simcoe

◀ Statue of United Empire Loyalists  
(Charles Humber)



▲ *Settlers Select their "Location Tickets," 1785*  
(National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, ON)

jury established and marriages validated. At the second session in the spring of 1793, it was passed that roadways be constructed and slavery be abolished.

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

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



▲ Hon. Peter Russell

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

brought their skills to York and prosperity prevailed.

On August 2, 1805, the Mississauga Indians sold the British Government the Mississauga Tract from the Etobicoke Creek to Burlington Bay, 26 miles of shoreline and five miles inland (43 kilometres/8 km) consisting of 70,784 acres (28,713 ha). The negotiations took place at the Government Inn on the east bank of the Credit River under the supervision of Superintendent of Indian Affairs, the Honourable William Claus. The host was the operator of the Inn, Thomas Ingersoll. Three townships were formed from this transaction, Trafalgar, Nelson and Toronto Township, which were named by the

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▲ *The Signing of the Mississauga Lands Treaty* (Port Credit Weekly)



▲ Honourable William Claus

Honourable Alexander Grant, the administrator of the First Executive and Legislature Council of Upper Canada. Toronto Township came into being, comprising 29,569 acres (11,827 ha) of this transaction, with a mile (1.6 km) on either side of the Credit River designated as the Mississauga Indian Reserve. The Township of Toronto was in the Home District, County of York, Province of Upper Canada.

This agreement brought about the establishment of small communities in Toronto Township. First came Sydenham (later Dixie) and Harrisville (Cooksville) along the Dundas, with Lakeview (officially named in 1922) to the east and Clarkson to the west along the shores of Lake Ontario. Gradually other towns and villages were founded throughout the Township.

The first resident was Thomas Ingersoll (1805), then Philip Cody (1806), the grandfather of the legendary Buffalo Bill Cody, and Daniel Harris (1807). The first children to be born were Sarah Ingersoll, January 10, 1807, and Elijah Cody, November 7, 1807. The first census was taken in 1807-1808 by Deputy Provincial Surveyor, Samuel Street Wilmot, who had surveyed and drawn up the first map in 1805-



▲ Lord Sydenham  
(Other photos courtesy  
of the Toronto Public  
Library TRL)

1806, outlining the 200 acre (81 hectare) lots that were designated grants to the incoming settlers. It listed the first families as Philip Cody, Daniel Harris, Joseph Silverthorn, Absalom Willcox, Allen Robinet and William Barber. Joseph's father, John Silverthorn, was also listed, but he did not reside here. He was a property owner though, having purchased Lot 6, Concession I, South Dundas Street (SDS) in January, 1808. He moved his family to the Etobicoke area in 1810.

The area that became known fondly as Dixie was given several names over the years, Sydenham for Lord Sydenham, Charles

Poulette Thomson, who was the Governor General of British North America between 1838-1841, and nicknames such as Irish Town, for the many Irish immigrants, and Onion Town, for the numerous crops grown there. Then it became Fountain Hill, for a favourite watering

spot, until it was renamed Dixie in 1864 after Doctor Beaumont Dixie of Springfield-on-the-Credit (Erindale).

Dixie was an agricultural centre that flourished in processing fruit, especially apples, and vegetables until trains, trucks, automobiles and progress changed the scene and industry took over.



▲ 8 District Map (Oxford University Press Canada)



(Oakville Historical Society)

## Dundas Street - 1798

**I**n September, 1793, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe set in motion the building of the first major roadway in Upper Canada (Ontario). He called it Dundas Street for his good friend, the Colonial Secretary, Right Honourable Henry Dundas (b.1742, d.1811).

The enormous task was carried out by 100 Queen's Rangers, led by Captain Samuel Smith (1756-1826) and Augustus Jones (1757-1836), the father of Mississauga Indian Chief Peter Jones. They cut the roadway through the bushland from Burlington Bay to the River Thames. When the Rangers were through, it was just a narrow, stump strewn trail that settlers disdainfully called, "The Governor's Road."

Captain Smith, later to be promoted to Colonel, received thousands of acres (hectares) in grants for his tremendous involvement in establishing the province. He was one of the first recorded land owners in Toronto Township, having received acreage, dated August 11, 1806, on the west side of the Etobicoke Creek, in the area that became called Lakeview.



Dundas was not put through Toronto Township until 1798, after Simcoe had returned to England. A meeting on July 21, 1796, held in the Council Chambers at York, states, "The Honourable Peter Russell (1733-1808) took the oath for duly administrating the Governor of Upper Canada in the absence of His excellency the Lieutenant Governor." As the President of the Executive Council and administrator for the province, the following

◀ Colonel Samuel Smith  
(Region of Peel Archives)

accounts were audited: £30.1.6 (\$75.18, with York currency being \$2.50 to the pound), the Queens Rangers for opening Dundas Street between Burlington Bay and the Humber River. In August, 1798, Augustus Jones wrote the Honourable David William Smith (1764-1837), requesting a larger amount of money for the work near Humber Mills. "In opening the road that I am now at, I find it is actually necessary to have two yokes of oxen for hauling the timbers for the bridges, a plough will also be of great use. Should it be in your power to procure the above mentioned, you will much forward the work." Russell, credited for the completion of Dundas Street, functioned on Simcoe's behalf until 1799, when Peter Hunter (1747-1805) was declared Lieutenant Governor.

Simcoe had officially ordered at the outset in 1793 that the highway that went through Toronto Township and across the province would be located several miles (kilometres) inland as a military road, far enough away from Lake Ontario to transport troops safely. Dundas Street was originally a crooked, winding road with the Etobicoke Creek crossing being half a mile (0.8 km) south of its present location.



▲ Rangers opening Dundas Street  
(Toronto Public Library, John Ross Robertson Collection)

After it was officially opened in 1798, the Queens Rangers were constantly working on it, improving its surface and makeshift bridges. In 1806 when Toronto Township was surveyed, it was straightened to accommodate the land grants.

Early in 1812, Joseph, John, Aaron and Thomas Silverthorn, Philip Cody, Absalom Willcox and many other settlers along Dundas Street, put a petition together and presented it to the Home District Court of General Quarter Sessions, requesting that Dundas be corduroyed (logs laid to enable easier passage) and permission for a decent bridge to replace the log and rope one in present use over the Etobicoke Creek. At the beginning of the War of 1812, the government authorized improvements to Dundas Street in order to move the troops without the hindrance of stumps and unruly terrain. The road commissioners were issued the funds and the work was carried out within a year.

Dundas Street was macadamized with crushed stone in 1836 from Toronto to Cooksville, which enabled swifter travel. This was brought about by Act C-37 of Highway Legislation that was passed in 1833, "TO RAISE A SUM OF MONEY TO IMPROVE CERTAIN ROADS IN THE VICINITY OF YORK, provides for a loan of £10,000 (\$25,000) on the credit of tolls on three roads. Dundas, Yonge Street and Kingston Road, all to be macadamized."

Dundas became a toll road that same year, 1836, with two toll stops, one at Dixie Road and one at the Streetsville Road (Mississauga Road) in Springfield (Erindale), with a charge of 15d (10¢, with York currency being 12-1/2¢ to a shilling and 18 pence [d] to a shilling) for a wagon and team and 8d (5¢) for a horse and wagon. In 1850, the Dundas and Lake Shore Roads were purchased by the Toronto Road Company.

Then with a by-law passed on September 27, 1890, Dundas became the responsibility of Toronto Township. It stated, "The said council of Toronto Township hereby assumes all that portion of Dundas Street now owned by the County of York within Toronto Township and hereby relieves the said County of York from all liabilities for the maintenance of said portion of Dundas Street." It was signed W. (Wesley) R. Wright, Reeve (1888-1890).

Over the years, Dundas Street was improved upon, making it a passable thoroughfare through the province, as automobiles came on the scene at the turn of the century. Dundas was worked on from

Summerville to Hurontario Street in 1915, with grading, gravel and ditches dug for run off during rainstorms. It was around this time that oil was first spread on the roadways to prevent dust clouds. Dundas became a cement highway when it was paved in 1921 and was enhanced with 66 foot wide and 48 foot long (20.3 m x 14.4 m) cement bridges over the waterways, such as the Cooksville Creek.

In 1948, Dundas Street was widened to four lanes from the four corners at Cooksville to Crofton Villa and the rest of the highway was macadamized to Brown's Line in Long Branch. In 1951 it was widened west to Erindale with 22 foot (6.2 m) roadway pavement and 10 foot (3 m) shoulders and in 1957 completed eastward. Each time the roadway was widened, property had to be expropriated by the Department of Highways (now Ministry of Transportation), which also



▲ Dundas Street and Cawthra Road, 1950s  
(Mississauga Library System)

occurred in 1962 and 1975. On April 3, 1970, Dundas Street was transferred to the Town of Mississauga from the Crown Department of Highways. When Mississauga became a city on January 1, 1974, the Region of Peel became responsible for the main roadways such as Erin Mills Parkway, Mississauga Road, Dixie Road, Cawthra Road, Britannia Road, Winston Churchill Boulevard, the Queensway and Derry Road. But Dundas is still maintained by the City of Mississauga.

*Dundas Street, looking east ▶*  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



## STATUTE LABOUR

In 1793 the British government introduced “statute labour” whereby landowners had to put in 12 days of labour on roads and bridge building in their community per year. The men had to perform statute labour by maintaining the roads in front of their farms. Because the pioneers were responsible for keeping the roadway clear in front of their homesteads, the roads of the first quarter of the 19th century were almost impassible. As the province matured and required more work, the statute labour laws were expanded to include jury duty and community involvement.

The York (Toronto) government controlled the Home District, of which Toronto Township was under its jurisdiction, and the men had to take part in the Court of General Quarter Sessions and served on the juries they were called for, which required trips into York. They also had to carry out jobs assigned to them, such as assessor, fence viewer (supervise the erection and repair to fences along the highways) pound keeper, town warden, collector and overseer of highways. Justices of the Peace were assigned by the Home District Court to handle marriages, minor misdemeanors, small debts and trivial disputes. Several were assigned to each township and one was given the distinction of being chairman in charge.

Little was accomplished on the roads of Upper Canada and so in 1804, the government began to contribute funds to build roadways. Also in 1804 many changes were made to the statute labour laws. Down through the years, the statute labour laws were amended to allow people to hire others to carry out their obligation or visit the local magistrate and pay a fee in lieu of the work. The practice of statute labour was abolished in 1948, and then these jobs became paid positions.

It took 100 years of planning and work by the Toronto Township Council before it brought about the satisfactory roadway system we experience today.

## A Tribute To The Kennedy Family

One of the most prominent families in Dixie was the Kennedys. William Kennedy (b.1813, d.1869) came from Portadown, County Armagh, Ireland, to York (Toronto) with his parents, John and Jane Kennedy, around 1820 and they worked in a tavern on Niagara Street. William came to Toronto Township in the 1830s and settled in Sydenham (Dixie), where he worked in a blacksmith shop on Dundas Street near Second Line (Tomken Road). On June 24, 1841, he married a local girl, Jane Laird, who was born in 1811 to Andrew (1776-1853) and



Jane Steen Laird (1785-1842). The Perkins Bull Kennedy file at the Region of Peel Archives says she was the first child to be baptized in the Union Chapel by Reverend Charles Stewart, a circuit rider from York. William and Jane had Sarah Jane, 1842, John, 1844, and twins, Maria and

Margaret, 1846. The family resided in a small frame house close to the blacksmith shop.

On October 5, 1850, William purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 9, Concession 1, North Dundas Street (NDS), the east half of Johann Schiller's original grant, from Andrew Laird's son, Hugh (1808-1884), for £150 (approx. \$375.) On the northwest corner of Second Line and Dundas Street, he built "The Atlantic Hotel and General Store" for £750 (\$1,875). The structure was made of handmade bricks from the nearby George Tolman farm that harboured a small brickyard. One source says, he opened the hotel and store in 1857 and he and his wife ran the business, while their son, John, took care of the farm. William also constructed a two-storey brick house on the west side of the hotel for his family's occupancy. According to Mitchell's Gazette of 1866, William Kennedy was the general merchant of the Farmers Hotel, Dixie.

Interestingly enough, there was a Pacific Hotel on the south side of Dundas that was licenced to Francis McKenny in 1873-1874.

Whereas the Atlantic Hotel was known as a Tory stronghold, the Pacific was Grit. The Pacific Hotel was on Lot 9, Con.1, SDS. It was a roughcast building, which was destroyed by fire at the turn of the century. Its last owner was Mathew Heary (1836-1912), who when he carried grain to Toronto in the early morning hours, on the return trip would tie his money to the wagon tongue in case he was accosted by Indians. Wolves and bears often followed him during these trips. He was married to Jane Weldon (1844-1919).

William purchased the south half, 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 8, Con.1, NDS, from John Hawkins on July 25, 1862, for \$6,000. This was the original grant of John Jones. The Post Office opened at the Atlantic on April 1, 1864, with William as the first postmaster and the area received the official name of Dixie.

His son, John (1844-1891), helped him farm the land. John married Mary Elgie on November 2, 1870, and they had six children, Amelia (1872-1873), William (1873-1875), Jane (1876-1965), Thomas Laird (1878-1959), Harriet (1880-1959) and John (1883-1931). When



▲ The Atlantic Hotel and General Store



▲ John and Mary Kennedy

William passed away on August 20, 1869, John took over his father's entire operation, even the postmaster position. His mother, Jane, resided in her home until she died on May 25, 1873. Both are buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery. In 1883, John built a two storey brick house he called "Braeside."

The Kennedy children attended the one room, red brick Dixie Public School on Third Line (Dixie Road), that both William and John had served as trustees. Thomas Laird Kennedy, who had been born on August 15, 1878, was destined for great things. Not only would he grow up to be a devout farmer, taking over his father's farm, Braeside, but he became a prominent politician. His father, John, died at age 47 in 1891, and mother, Mary, remained in her home until her death in 1921. The Atlantic Hotel and Store was sold to Charles Gill in 1906.



▲ Braeside Homestead

Thomas Laird (T. L. to all) was educated in the Dixie Public School and Parkdale Collegiate Institute. He married Armenia (Minnie) Patterson (1877-1959) of Toronto on May 12, 1903. They would have four daughters, Marjorie (1904-1995), Marion (1908-1959), Ruth (1910-1984) and Isobel Jane (1914-1989). He would make quite a name for himself in his community and across the province. Thomas' political career began in 1907 when he became a councillor for Toronto Township. In 1909, he took on the position of deputy reeve, to be followed by reeve in 1910-1911. After service in World War 1 (1914-1918), rising to the rank of major in the Peel Squadron of the Governor-General's Body Guard, he got involved in provincial politics in 1919, as a Member of the Ontario Legislature for the Conservative Party, which he held until his death in 1959, with the exception of one term. He was made a colonel in command of the First Cavalry Brigade, Governor-General's Body Guard, a non-permanent Active Militia in 1923, a title he enjoyed using over the years. He was Minister of Agriculture, in 1930-1934 and 1943-1952, a job he enjoyed because farming was the love of his life. For his second term, a special banquet was held at Crofton Villa on August 16, 1943, in his honour. Then he was interim Premier of Ontario, 1948-1949, which gave him the handle of "Old Man Ontario."

In 1943, Colonel Tom gave property to his daughter, Isobel Hughes, and in 1950, to daughter Marion Chudleigh. The last 165 acres (67 ha) was sold to Applewood Dixie Limited (G. S. Shipp & Son) in 1955. The original Kennedy house, Braeside, built in 1881 and owned by councillor Leslie Hughes, was not included in the sale, but Tom Kennedy's original homestead, built in 1905, was and it was later demolished. Braeside, too, was eventually torn down.

Colonel Tom retired on January 20, 1953, but was still going strong assisting farmers when he died of a heart attack on February 13, 1959. His funeral service, attended by many prominent, political dignitaries such as Premier Leslie Frost, was held in St. John's Anglican Church with Reverend Jeffrey Billingsley officiating. He was buried in the old Dixie Union Cemetery and an impressive gravestone marks the spot. His wife, Minnie, passed away shortly after, on April 10th, having lost her daughter and son-in-law, Marion and Eric Chudleigh, in the Huntsville arena tragedy eight weeks before and her dear husband.

The Colonel's brother, John (1883-1931), and his wife, Evelyn (1890-1985), who were married on August 19, 1912, had seven sons and three daughters (two girls died young). John was a councillor for Toronto

Township from 1917 to 1919, 2nd Deputy Reeve, 1920-1921 and clerk, 1922-1931. Five of their sons served in World War II (1939-1945), Gordon, Douglas, Arthur, Ted and Dick. Two sons, Doug and Harold, followed in their father and famous uncle's footsteps and became politicians as well. Their uncle was a great influence on them, especially after their father's death in 1931. Doug (1916-2003) became a school trustee in 1955, and then Commissioner of the Toronto Township Hydro in 1963. Then he was elected to the Ontario Legislature as a Member of Parliament in 1967. He retired in 1985. Harold, who was born in 1927, began his political career as a Councillor for Ward 1 in 1968. He held this position until his retirement in 1994.

In 1968, the old Kennedy Hotel was torn down to make way for the presence of another colonel - a Colonel Sanders' Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise, operated by Scott's Restaurants, who took out a ten-year lease with Bowles Enterprises on July 15th. Colonel Harland Sanders resided in Mississauga on Melton Drive in the Dixie area for a few months a year from 1964 until he passed away in 1980.

The T. L. Kennedy Secondary School, opened in 1953 at 3100 Hurontario Street, and The Royal Canadian Legion (Cooksville), Col. Tom Kennedy, Branch #582, formed by Harry Hassall in 1960 and located at 456 Hensall Circle, derive their names from the renowned community minded man, T. L. Kennedy.

To commemorate Colonel Tom's dedication and contribution to Toronto Township, a plaque was unveiled by his daughters, Ruth and Jane, on October 4, 1974, at the Dixie Public School, 1120 Flagship Drive. Premier William Davis (1971-1985) commented, "He was the best agricultural minister we ever had." A portrait of him was hung in T. L. Kennedy School, but in the early 1980s, it was stolen and never recovered. In 1981, sculptor, Louis Temporale, did a bust of the Colonel. It was unveiled in May on Heritage Day at the school with MP Doug Kennedy and T.L.'s daughter, Jane Hughes, in attendance. It still stands in the vestibule of the school along with memorabilia on his career displayed in wall cases throughout the hallways.

On May 11, 1983, a 12-storey office building at 801 Bay Street, Toronto, was renamed for Thomas L. Kennedy. The unveiling ceremony was presided over by Premier William Davis, the Honourable Dennis Timbrell, Minister of Agriculture, Art and Douglas Kennedy and other members of the Kennedy family. Tomken Road (Second Line) is named for T. L. Kennedy and Kennedy Park at 3505 Golden Orchard Drive in remembrance of this industrious family.

## INFORMATION

An interesting story about Dixie born Thomas Laird Kennedy was that when he was Minister of Agriculture, he made a request of the French Government that he be allowed to bring cuttings of the former Schiller grape vines back to supplement the Ontario grape crops. His request was granted. In 1933, the Department of Agriculture appointed an Ontario Wine Standards Committee, which supported the development of new varieties of grapes for light



▲ Thomas Laird Kennedy



table wines. Ports and sherries made from labrusca grapes in the mid-1930s accounted for 95 percent of wine sales in Canada, which continued for two decades. In 1946, he approved the purchase of a 34 acre (14 hectare) piece of property on Cherry Avenue in Vineland for a grape substation. This allowed for

expansion of the grape breeding programme. The substation would establish a comprehensive selection of grape varieties for the conditions and needs of the Niagara area. Over 200 vines of each of 35 French Hybrid varieties were imported by Vineland scientists for testing. The Ontario Grape Growers' Marketing Board, founded in 1947, with Horace Kilman as the first president, encouraged this process. A census taken in 1956 revealed that Concord grapes, first introduced by Ephraim Bull of Massachusetts in 1843, dominated the other varieties, which were mostly labrusca and labrusca hybrid grapes. With the changing trends in the 1970s in wine consumption and the health food swing to fruit juices, the labrusca grapes were given a new lease on production.

Excerpt from *The Life and Times of the Silverthorns of Cherry Hill*, page 61



▲ Tom Kennedy



▲ The John Kennedy House



(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Thomas Laird and Minnie Kennedy's 50th Anniversary, 1953  
(Port Credit Weekly)



John Jr. and Evelyn Kennedy



▲ Minnie Patterson



▲ The Kennedy Plaque  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Kennedy Gravesite



▲ Evelyn and her sons



▲ The Tomken Road Sign  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

(Photos courtesy of Art Kennedy)



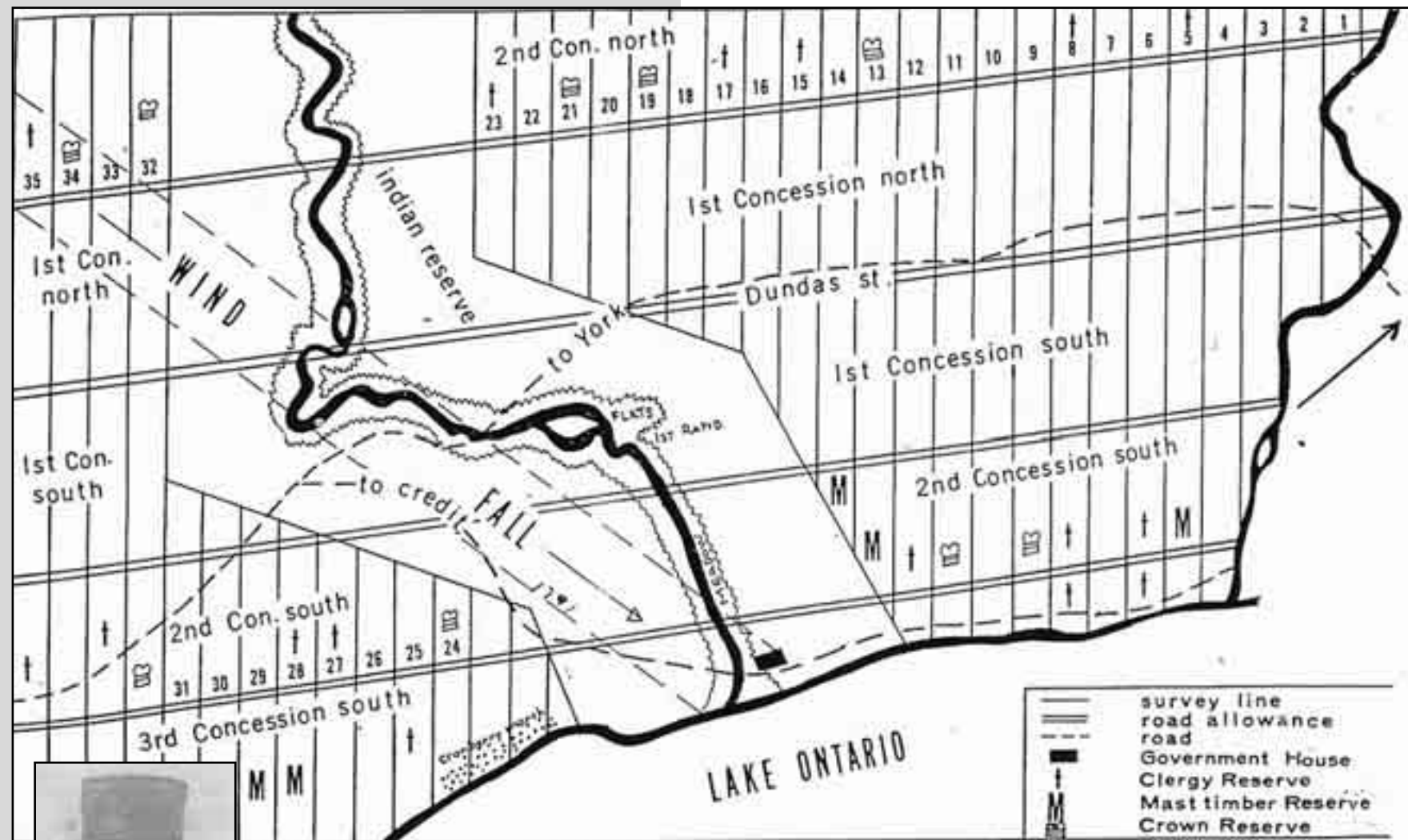
▲ The Kentucky Fried Chicken Outlet and Colonel Sanders  
(Mississauga Library System)



(Bradley Museum/Kathleen A. Hicks)

**Part One 1805 - 1850**

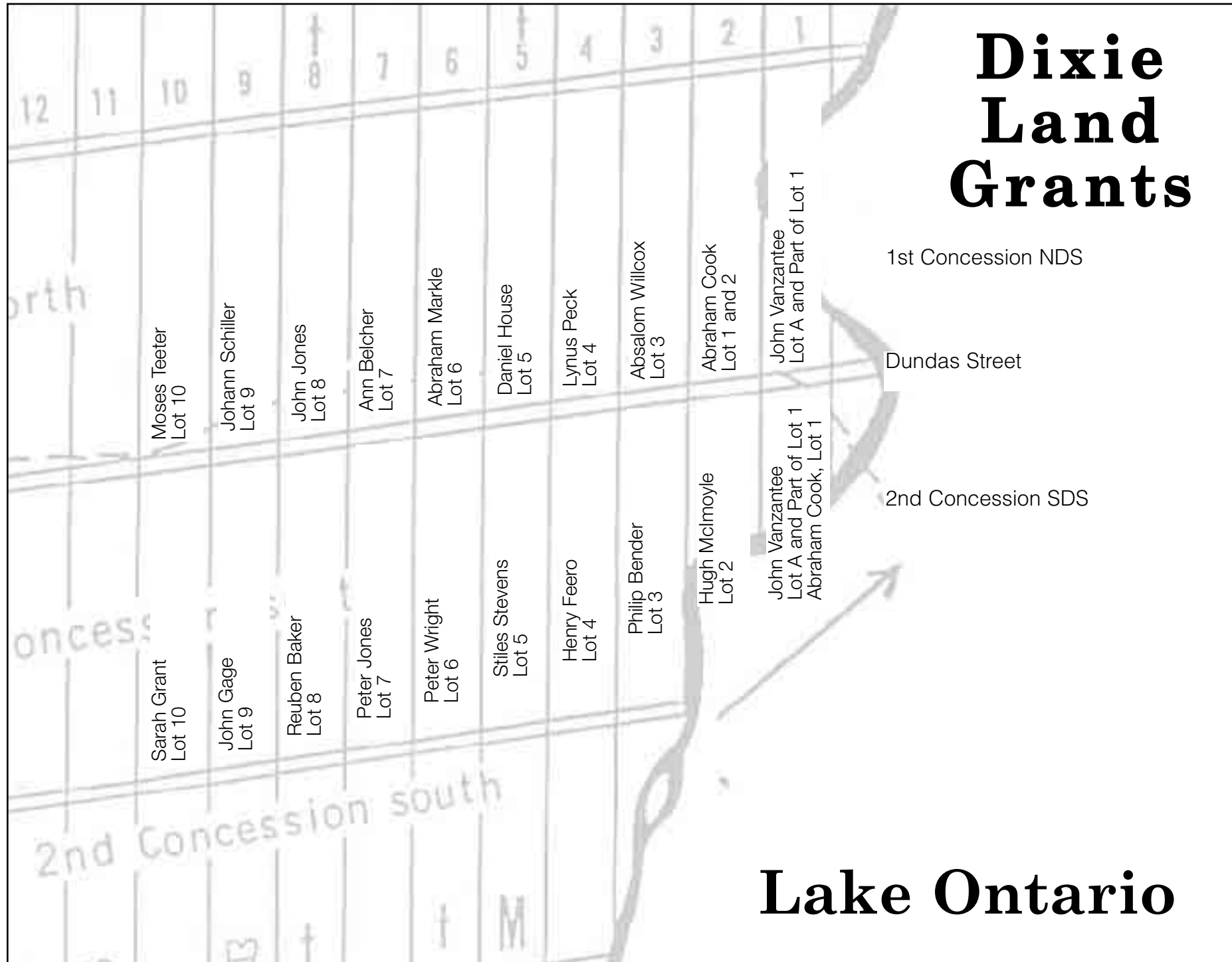
# Samuel Wilmot's Survey - 1805-1806



▲ Samuel Wilmot Map, 1805  
(Thompson Adamson)

◀ Samuel Street Wilmot  
(Association of Ontario Land Surveyors)

DEPUTY PROVINCIAL SURVEYOR, SAMUEL STREET Wilmot (b.1774, d.1856), cousin of Timothy Street for whom Streetsville was named, was the man who carried out the original surveying of the First Purchase in 1805-1806.



Samuel's family originated in England and came to Connecticut in the United States. He was born in the state of New York in 1774. During the American Revolution (1775-1783), his father served under Christopher Robinson, whose son, John Beverly Robinson (1791-1863), became Upper Canada's Attorney General in 1818. After the war, the Wilmots and Robinsons came to York (Toronto). Samuel married surveyor John Stegman's daughter, Mary, and became a surveyor under his father-in-law's tutelage. When John was accidentally killed in 1804, Samuel took over his commission.



▲ Honourable Alexander Grant (Region of Peel Archives)

He drew a map of Toronto Township, named by the Honourable Alexander Grant, administrator of the First Executive and Legislature Council of Upper Canada (1805-1806). Using Dundas Street as a center line, he laid out two concessions to the north and three to the south (a fourth in Clarkson) and divided the land into 200 acre (81 ha) lots that were granted to incoming United Empire Loyalists and pioneers. While undertaking this enormous task, he and his crew stayed at the Government Inn on the east bank of the Credit River, which was operated by Toronto Township's first resident family, the Ingersolls. It took six months to complete the survey of Toronto Township.

Each surveyor required eight axemen and two chain bearers, as lots were measured by chains (one chain equals 66 feet-20 metres). A 200 acre lot was 20 by 50 chains (1,320 by 3,300 feet). Wages for axemen was 1 shilling 6d (18¢) and chain bearers, 2 shillings a day (25¢), plus 1s, 3d, (15¢) in lieu of provisioning. The chain was invented in 1620 by Edmund Gunter (1581-1626), a mathematician. Chain measuring was used on maps from 1785 to 1877. The heavy, cumbersome chain, consisting of 100 links, required two men to carry it. The chain had small metal tags hanging at regular intervals to gauge distance. It was literally dragged across the terrain. Between

every fifth lot would be a five rod (one rod is 16.5 feet or 5.03 metres) wide road allowance of one chain that would be staked out. Concessions were 266 rods in length (4,389 ft.-1,463 m), designated by chains and links. The surveyor took "field notes," a description of the terrain, land, timber, hills, streams, swamps, waterways, etc., which had to be turned in to the British government.

The lots on both sides of Dundas Street were designated in 1806. By the summer of 1807, many were occupied. On the south side, John Vanzantee had Lot A and part of Lot 1 as of July 29, 1806, South Dundas Street (SDS); Abraham Cook had the other part of Lot 1; Hugh McImoyle had Lot 2; Philip Bender, Lot 3; Lot 4 was granted to Henry Feero (John Silverthorn would purchase this lot on February 4, 1809, and sell it to his son, Thomas, April 28, 1817, for £100 - \$250); Stiles Stevens was granted Lot 5, June 20, 1806; Peter Wright had Lot 6 and was in the process of clearing his land (which John bought January 28, 1808, and sold to son, Aaron, on April 28, 1817, also for £100); Peter Jones received Lot 7. (This Peter Jones is not the future chief of the Mississauga Indians for he was born on January 1, 1802.); Reuben Baker, Lot 8; John Gage, Lot 9; Sarah Grant, Lot 10, which she deeded to Philip Cody.

On the north side, Vanzantee also had Lot A and Lot 1, North Dundas Street (NDS); Abraham Cook had the other portion of Lot 1 and Lot 2, also granted July 1806; Absalom Willcox received Lot 3, July 29, 1806; Lynus Peck, Lot 4, June 17; Daniel House had Lot 5 and was clearing his property; Lot 6 was granted to Abraham Markle; Ann Belcher received Lot 7 as the daughter of a Loyalist; John Jones, Lot 8, already had a cleared area and cabin, having received his patent April 8, 1807 (he sold this acreage to Philip Cody on February 2, 1808, for £12,10s, \$31.25); Lot 9 was granted to Johann Schiller on July 22, 1806; Moses Teeter had Lot 10 (which would be sold in part to Philip Cody and in 1810 used for the site of the Union Chapel, now the Dixie Union Church).

Samuel and his wife, Mary, lived north of York (now Richmond Hill). He died in 1856.

## Samuel Wilmot's Census — 1807-1808

The first census in Toronto Township was carried out in 1807-1808 by Deputy Provincial Surveyor, Samuel Street Wilmot, who had mapped out this territory into concessions and lots in 1805-1806. The census showed seven families: Philip Cody, Daniel Harris, Joseph Silverthorn, Absalom Willcox, Allen Robinet, William Barber and John Silverthorn.

John Silverthorn did not actually live here, but he ventured back and forth so much from Niagara that he was included as a resident of Toronto Township in Samuel's census. John did purchase Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, in January, 1808, but he did not come to the district until 1810 when he bought 400 acres (162 ha) in Etobicoke. John often brought his sons, Aaron and Thomas, with him on his visits to see his son, Joseph. John and Thomas signed several oaths for settlement duties for their newly acquired friends and were very well thought of in the community.

The second census was taken in 1809 by Surveyor General Thomas Ridout. It listed 185 residents, 60 of whom were children.

After Toronto Township was incorporated in 1850, the first census was taken in 1851 and was done every ten years thereafter.

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### Information

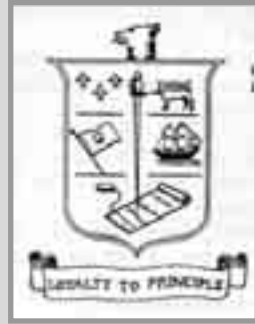
Currency evolved in Canada with the usage of coins from different countries around the world. In 1763, the British administration tried to establish an evaluation of the various coins in circulation. The Spanish dollar in Nova Scotia was worth 5 shillings. In the colony of New York and in Upper Canada and Montreal, it was 8s. These two ways of rating became called York, or New York, and Halifax currencies. In 1796, Acts of Legislation passed by the Upper and Lower Canada governments made Halifax currency the standard of the country and it remained so until 1853, despite attempts to change it. York currency, however, continued to be used in Upper Canada until 1821 when it was demoted as legal tender. Despite this, in the rural areas, it remained a popular unit of account as the French livre did in Lower Canada. Halifax currency was \$4.00 to the pound and York currency, \$2.50 (12 1/2¢ to a shilling). Because Toronto Township was a rural area, York currency is used throughout this book series.

## Philip Cody - 1806

**P**hilip Cody was Toronto Township's second settler, as Thomas Ingersoll, who managed the Government Inn, was the first. He arrived in the fall of 1806, having purchased 200 acres (81 hectares) of Lot 10, Con. 1, South Dundas Street (SDS) from grantee, Sarah Grant, a York (Toronto) resident, who deeded the property to him in March 1807, for £100 (\$250, York currency being \$2.50 to a pound).

Philip had performed her settlement duties that had been established by the government. These were set out in four stipulations: that a settler clear five acres (2 ha) of land; build a 16 by 20 foot (4.9 m x 6 m) log cabin; clear the roadway in front of his homestead; and show proof in the way of a certificate duly signed by witnesses. Until such duties were carried out, the settler would not receive the King's patent. His settlement duties were signed by Absalom Willcox and Thomas Williams on April 16th.

Philip Cody had been born on July 1, 1770, in Oxford, Massachusetts, and had married Lydia Martin from central New York State in 1796.



▲ Cody's Crest  
(Region of Peel  
Archives)

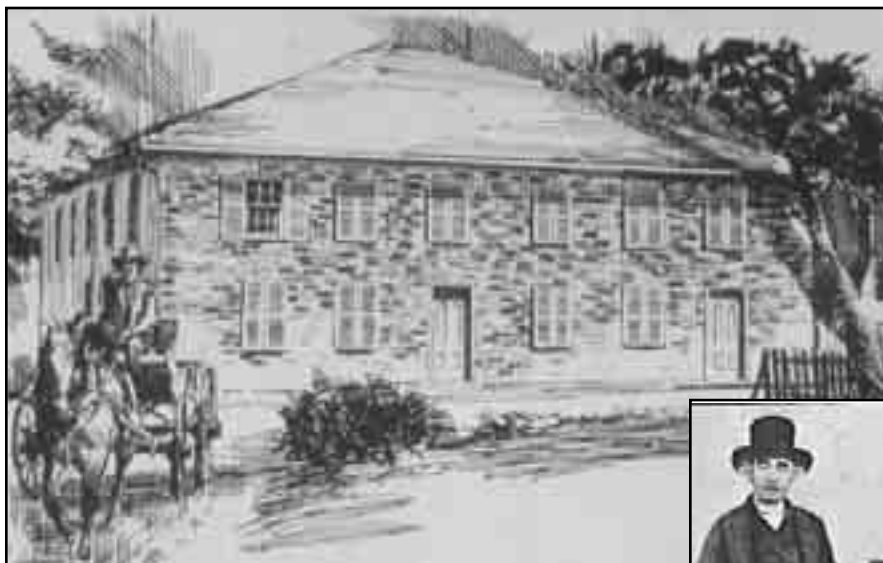
THEY WOULD HAVE ELEVEN CHILDREN, ELIZABETH, 1798, Alice, 1800, Sophia, 1801, Elias, 1804, Nancy, 1806, Elijah, the first Cody to be born in Toronto Township, 1807, Martha, 1809, Isaac, 1811, Joseph, 1813, Lydia, 1814 and Philip, 1816. Philip's grandparents, Philippe and Martha LeCody, had emigrated from the Isle of Guernsey, Great Britain, in 1695 and settled in Beverly, Massachusetts. His parents, Philip and Abigail Emerson Cody, who dropped the Le, were married there around 1756 and Philip grew up on their farm at Charlestown, in a family of eleven children. The farm was sold in 1784, following the American Revolution (1775-1783) and his family moved to New York State, where he met Lydia. His brother, Joseph (b.1757, d.1810) received a 200 acre (81 ha) land grant, Lot 91, west side of Yonge Street, 28 miles (44.8 km) north of York in March, 1799. Philip received 200 acres in February, 1803, Lot 84, County of York, King Township (now Aurora). Philip sold this property in 1806 and moved to Toronto Township to take up Lot 10.

Philip built a substantial building with a comfortable front porch to use as an Inn. On April 20, 1807, Philip Cody welcomed the first guests to his newly opened Inn, newlyweds Jane and Joseph Silverthorn, who had Lot 11, Con.1, North Dundas Street (NDS).

Philip Cody purchased part of Lot 10, Con.1, NDS, from Moses Teeter in 1810 and donated an acre (0.4 ha) for the building of the Union Chapel. This was accomplished the same year when the men of the neighbourhood got together and constructed it out of logs. It became the first Union Church in Upper Canada and the first community hall. It is probably the only church where Indians worshiped and had their children baptized.

With business prospering, Philip built a larger two-storey structure to accommodate his clientele. He was quite involved in the community and carried out his statute labour duties as well as serving as Toronto Township's first constable. In 1817, he was fined £5 (\$12.50) for selling liquor to Indians.

On November 28, 1829, Phillip sold his Inn to Joseph Farr for £656 (\$1,650) and moved his family to Cleveland, Ohio. They owned a substantial piece of property there that is now the City of Cleveland's business section. Philip passed away in 1850.



▲ Cody's Inn (The Mississauga Library System)

Joseph Farr (Region of Peel Archives) ▶

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The Cody family has a coat of arms with the motto, "Loyalty to Principle." This Philip Cody was the grandfather of the famous



▲ Jay and Gerald Cody, 1989 (William A. Pinkney)

William Frederick Cody, known as Buffalo Bill, who was born to his son, Isaac, in 1846.

On Sunday, June 25, 1989, 150 descendants of Philip Cody came from the United States and across Canada to Mississauga for their International Cody Family Convention to attend a special service at the Dixie Union Church. This memorable gathering was highlighted by a business meeting and a barbecue.

Councillor Katie Mahoney arranged for the Union Church and grounds to be cleaned up. William Pinkney was in charge of the event and Grant Clarkson



▲ Cody Lane and Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)

brought a plaque that was proudly attached to the side of the church. It was a very pleasant day in commemoration of Philip Cody, who donated the land in 1810 that the church sits upon.

In 1986, when Dave Cook was Councillor of Ward 7, he had By law 382-86 passed by the Mississauga Council for a street to be named Cody Lane for the Cody Family, which is off Melton Drive, part of Philip Cody's former property.

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## Buffalo Bill Cody

William Frederick Cody, who would become famous the world over as the Wild West showman, Buffalo Bill Cody, was born the son of Isaac Cody. Isaac, who had been born in Dixie, Toronto Township, in 1811, married his third wife, Mary Ann Bonwell Laycock, in 1840 in Cincinnati, Ohio. They would have six children, the third being William F. Cody. He was born in a log cabin on February 26, 1846, in Scott County, Iowa. Isaac, who wanted to prevent the spread of slavery, would be stabbed in 1856 by a man named Dunn at a rally in Kansas. Isaac never recovered from the stabbing and died from his wounds on March 10, 1857, when Bill Cody was only eleven. Isaac unfortunately never got to witness his son's fame.

With his family in need of money, young Bill became the breadwinner for his family. He was a precocious youngster, who could ride, shoot and survive the tribulations of the wild west. His first job was messenger on a wagon train. He received \$40 a month, which was paid to his mother. At age 14, he responded to an ad placed in the



▲ William F. Cody  
(Kathleen A. Hicks Collection)

local papers by a freighting company, Russell, Majors and Waddell, which read, "Pony Express, St. Joseph, Missouri, to California in ten days or less. Wanted: Young skinny wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages \$25 per week." He joined this innovative, experimental means of linking communications from America's east and west coasts. In the next few years, he set astounding riding records, often riding three times the required 75 miles (120 km) per day expected of each Pony Express rider, throughout which he experienced

many harrowing escapes from Indians and other adversaries. His record was 322 miles (55 km) in 21 hours and 40 minutes, which



▲ Isaac Cody is Stabbed at a Rally

exhausted 20 horses. The famous Indian scout and buffalo hunter got his nickname, Buffalo Bill, for having killed 4,280 buffalo in 18 months (1867-1868) to supply meat for the Kansas Pacific Railroad workers.

Bill Cody debuted his Wild West Show in North Platte, Nebraska, July 4, 1882. It travelled about the country by a special train. There is a book out called "*The Beaches in Pictures*," which states that Buffalo Bill gave a three day show in Toronto on August 22, 24 and 25, 1885, at Woodbine Park. A list of other performances, dated May 18, 1897, to September 24, 1910, reveal that Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show toured Ontario and Quebec and played in Toronto July 5/6, 1897, and June 6, 1909. Arthur Clarkson of Dixie went as a kid in 1897. He told his son, Grant, that Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show was held in Rich's field south of Dundas on the east side of Roy Pallett's farm. The big flat field went almost to the Upper Middle Road (Queensway) over to Wharton Way. It was an ideal location for such an elaborate production.

Buffalo Bill took his popular extravaganza, with Annie Oakley and Chief Sitting Bull, to Europe on March 31, 1887, on the *S.S. Nebraska* and arrived on April 16th. This was the only time that the great Indian Chief Sitting Bull toured with the show. He was paid \$50 a



▲ Wild West Show Hand Bill

week. Just before Buffalo Bill's departure, the Governor of Nebraska, John M. Thayer, gave him the commission of Colonel in the National Guard. His first stop was London, England, where he did a special performance on May 12th for Queen Victoria for her Golden Jubilee. They were asked to give a command performance on June 20th and they did not return to the United States until the spring of 1888. He travelled around the world, bringing the life of the wild frontier to the masses. He founded Cody, Wyoming, in 1896.

(Other photos courtesy of the Buffalo Bill Historical Centre)



Buffalo Bill Cody died in Denver, Colorado, at his sister, Mary Cody Dexter's home, January 10, 1917. Over 20,000 mourners attended his funeral. He is buried on Lookout Mountain, Denver, Colorado. New York sculptor, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, created a statue called "Buffalo Bill – The Scout" and it was dedicated July 4, 1924. Bill Cody had met Edward Zane Carroll Judson, a writer who took the pen name of Ned Buntline (b.1823, d.1886), in 1868. Buntline wrote around 1,700 dime novels on Buffalo Bill for Dime New York Library. The first one was called "*Buffalo Bill, King of the Border Men*." Over 800 books have been published and numerous movies made about his illustrious life. His grandfather, Philip, would have been proud.

◀ Buffalo Bill Cody and Sitting Bull

*Sincerely Yours  
J. T. Buntline  
Buffalo Bill*



▲ Buffalo Bill  
Cody

## Information

There are two stories in existence concerning Philip Cody's relationship to Buffalo Bill. Both are inaccurate accounts. One is that Philip's son, William (not listed as one of his children), had a baby boy. He was baptized in the little Union Church and then the parents left for America. The other one says Philip Cody's brother (it has been often said that Philip Cody was Buffalo Bill's uncle), who lived in Iowa, came for a visit. His baby took ill and was quickly baptized. He survived the ailment and the family returned home. This baby supposedly grew up to become the great Western hero of the Pony Express and Wild West Show, Buffalo Bill Cody.

The true story about their relationship was revealed to this author in 1973 by Richard I. Frost, curator of the Buffalo Bill Museum in Cody, Wyoming, established in 1927 with Buffalo Bill's niece, Mary Jester Allen, as the first curator. According to Mr. Frost, "Isaac Cody, Buffalo Bill's father, was born the son of Philip and Lydia Martin Cody in Toronto Township, Peel County, Upper Canada, on Sept. 15, 1811, the eighth of a family of five sons and six daughters. He was married three times. The first two wives died young, though he had a daughter, Martha, by the first wife. He married Mary Ann Bonwell Laycock in Cincinnati in 1840 and she bore him six children, the third being Buffalo Bill or William Frederick Cody. Buffalo Bill was born in a small log house in Scott County, Iowa, on February 26 in 1846."

As to his being baptized here, Philip Cody sold his Tavern and Inn in November, 1829, and shortly thereafter went to live in Cleveland, Ohio, so he was not even living here when Buffalo Bill was born. Bill's father, Isaac, was baptized in the Union Chapel in 1811. When the Codys left, daughter, Nancy, who was married to Amos Merigold of Clarkson, remained behind. Perhaps Isaac visited his sister, Nancy, and brought his son to be baptized in the Union Chapel his father had helped found. A descendant, Jay Cody, of Orillia, second cousin to Buffalo Bill, three times removed, and former curator of the Stephen Leacock House, claims that this did occur in 1847. Local teacher/historian, Mildred Bellegham, said she saw the baptismal record of William Frederick Cody as a young girl. So, we can only speculate. The records were lost when St. John the Baptist Anglican Church burned down in 1924.

There is another story in existence that Buffalo Bill and his close friend, Wild Bill Hickok, visited the birthplace of Isaac Cody around 1877. This could possibly be true, although Mr. Frost could not substantiate this tale. "During the period 1872-1882, Buffalo Bill appeared in a variety of early stage melodramas in the New York area," wrote Mr. Frost. "He had been friends with Wild Bill Hickok for a number of years and Hickok played on the stage with Cody for a short period in the late 1870s." As previously stated, having toured Ontario with his Wild West Show, there is no doubt that he would have visited the former Cody Inn and Dixie Union Church.

## The Willcox Family - 1807

**A**bsalom Willcox (b.1766, d.1841), who was a mason by trade, was one of the first settlers in Toronto Township, receiving a grant of Lot 3, Con.1, NDS, which was actually considered to be in Summerville rather than Sydenham (Dixie). Absalom had been born in New Jersey and came to Canada in 1789 with his parents, Benjamin and Elsie Lanning, who had eight children. They settled in Grimsby. In 1812, Benjamin and his son, Richard, left for Norfolk County near Waterford. He died there in 1816 and was buried at Old Windham.

Absalom returned to New Jersey in 1792 to marry Barbara Hull (1775-1856), and they lived at Trenton on the Delaware River until 1803 when they returned to Upper Canada. At this time, they had Daniel, 1793, Sarah, 1796, James, 1798, and John, 1801. They had Elsie in 1803 and Richard in 1806.

With his grant being designated on July 29, 1806, the Willcoxes moved to take up residency in Toronto Township in 1807 and constructed a log house. They had a son, Allen, in 1809 and he was one of the first white male children born in the township. Absalom and Barbara would have 59 grandchildren.



◀ Allen Willcox

(Region of Peel Archives)

ABSALOM WAS INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE Union Chapel in the spring of 1810 and he was the only casualty during the work. He was the foreman and as he and another man were cutting down a 200 foot (60 metre) pine tree, their timing was off and the tree fell and his leg was broken in the process. He was trekked into Fort York so he could be attended to by an army surgeon. One source says his leg was amputated at the knee and he had a peg leg, but this could not be substantiated. While he was laid up, his neighbours pitched in to help his sons with the plowing and seeding and then the church was completed by fall.

Hannah was born in 1811, Rachel, 1813 and Mary in 1816. The children attended the Octagonal School in the 1820s when Allen Robinet was the teacher. During the War of 1812, Absalom's eldest son, Daniel, served in the York Militia. He not only was a dedicated farmer, but an overseer of highways in 1822, a pathmaster in 1831 and a trustee of Harrison's Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1840.



▲ *The Willcox House* (Mississauga Library System)

Early in 1812, Absalom and several of his friends, the Silverthorns, Philip Cody, John Vanzantee and many other settlers situated between the Etobicoke Creek and First Line (Cawthra Road), brought forth a petition requesting that the Dundas be corduroyed (logs laid to enable easier passage) and permission to build a bridge across the Etobicoke Creek. Only a suspension log and rope bridge had sufficed since Dundas was put through in 1798. The local road commissioners were given the funds as a course of war administrative tactics and the work on a more accessible travel route was carried out within the year.

In 1830, Absalom built a two-storey grey rough-cast house, 22 by 40 feet (6.2 m x 12 m), with a chimney at each end. It had four front windows with a tall dormer window in the centre. The interior walls were lathed with Elm and plastered. There were five bedrooms on the second floor and each bedroom had a window. The basement was mortared fieldstone with 18 inch (45 cm) thick walls. The Willcoxes used their house as a hotel until Absalom died in 1841. All in all, it was a very solid structure, occupied by the family until the turn of the century.

During the Mackenzie Rebellion of December 1837, William Lyon Mackenzie was chased out of Toronto by the Militia. Allen and Richard Willcox were with him along with 14 of his other men and they headed westward on horseback out of the city along Dundas Street. A few drifted off on their own and Mackenzie, eight co-horts and the Willcox boys continued into Toronto Township on foot. One of the first places they took refuge was the home of Absalom Willcox and he hid the culprits. Mackenzie wrote in his journal about that night, “By two next morning, the eighth, reached the hospitable mansion of worthy settler on Dundas Street, utterly exhausted with cold and fatigue. Blankets were hung over the windows to avoid suspicion, food and beds prepared, and while the Tories were carefully searching for us, we were sleeping soundly. Next morning, those who had arms buried them, and after sending to enquire whether a friend a mile below had been dangerously wounded, we agreed to separate and make for the frontier, two and two together.”

Allen, 28 at the time and a bridegroom, having married Daniel Harris’ daughter, Elizabeth (1816-1890), on January 5, 1837, and his brother, Richard, had always admired Mackenzie and they befriended him and became part of his rebellion. Richard had broken his arm during the skirmish at Montgomery’s Inn. One source says he was shot in the arm. He was harboured by Doctor William Crewe in Cooksville and Allen accompanied Mackenzie during his daring escape to the United States.

At one point in their journey, Mackenzie disguised himself as the grandmother of Allen Willcox. They were picked up by a man in a wagon and he was very sympathetic to the two travellers. The conversation was about “Where was William Lyon Mackenzie and what a help the reward would be to the person who found him.” The driver never suspected that the fugitives were in his very own wagon. They parted near Burlington and met up on Navy Island. Then Allen made his way to the United States. While he was in the States, he became ill and took four months to recuperate. But, it is known that he survived the ordeal and returned to Upper Canada about a year later. Upon his return, Allen was pardoned for his indiscretion and lived the remainder of his life on the Willcox farm.

When Absalom passed away on February 20, 1841, Allen inherited what was left of Lot 3, S-1/2 -100 acres (40 ha). He and Elizabeth (called Betsy) had Charles (1838-1917), Candace (1840-1917), Elsie (1843-1919), Absalom (1845-1908), Daniel Jackson (1847-1922), Mary Jane (1851-1914), Alice (1852-1873), Nellie, 1855, and Rachel and Thomas, who died as infants. Candace, Mary and Alice never married and all died at home.

In 1847, Allen was down as a roads commissioner for the Township. The Willcoxes were good friends of the Silverthorns and Allen and his sister, Mary, are recorded in William Thomas Silverthorn's ledger of 1841-1842 for the store he had on his Uncle Joseph's property at the top of First Line (Cawthra Road). Allen purchased 34.9 acres (14 ha) of Lot 4, Con.1, NDS, on October 30, 1860, for \$1,825, from Thomas Robinet and created a splendid orchard. Over the years, he constantly took out mortgages on his property. They were also mentioned in Augusta Silverthorn's diary from 1878-1891.

Allen died on June 17, 1894. All members of the Willcox family are buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery. The property was sold on September 28th to James Clarkson for \$6,200. When William Perkins Bull was researching his books in the 1930s, the last known Willcox descendant in Toronto Township was Allen's daughter, Dr. Helen Willcox (not in his list of children). She was responsible for Wilcox Road, off Burnhamthorpe Road, being named for the family in 1924. In 1950, when the Toronto Township Council celebrated the township's centennial, a mock William Lyon Mackenzie Cross



Country Race from the former Willcox house, presently owned by Mrs. L. MacLean, was one of the events. The Willcox house survived until November 1980, when it was torn down.

◀ Wilcox Road Sign  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Information



▲ William Lyon Mackenzie  
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)

Mackenzie and Willcox made their way northwestward to the village of Barbertown, near Streetsville, where they took dinner with the Comfort family. William Comfort had a gristmill there. He was a Mackenzie sympathizer and by giving the rebels aid, he put his family in great danger. Allen Willcox would later tell of this stopover, "Mackenzie stood before the mirror, his bare neck ready for the lather. Looking in the glass, he turned his head from side to side, projecting his chin and said to me, 'Allen, I am told they are offering a thousand pounds for that neck. I don't think it's worth it, do you?'" A warrant for high treason had been posted on December 7th for William Lyon Mackenzie – £1000 (\$2,500) for his apprehension.

Mackenzie made a successful run to the United States, although his journey was one fraught with devastation, humiliation and fear. He and Allen had trouble at the 16 Mile Creek when armed horsemen approached. They hid in the bushes, then removed their clothing and holding their bundles above their heads, they waded through the freezing water to safety. Mackenzie would later write, "The cold in that stream caused me the most cruel and intense sensation of pain I have ever endured."

As the militia searched for the rebels, friends of Mackenzie sheltered them along the way. They went across the 12 Mile Creek with the help of a tree. A large contingent was scouring the countryside at Burlington Bay, so Mac and Willcox separated. Willcox made his way to the States alone.

Excerpt from *The Silverthorns of Cherry Hill*, pages 170-171, Kathleen A. Hicks

Author's note: In 1932, Allen Willcox's daughter, Dr. Helen Willcox, was interviewed for the William Perkins Bull's books on Peel County. Said to be the only living child of Allen and Elizabeth, she stated that Willcox was spelled with two "l's" that lawyers always spelled it with one. She said that Mrs. Mackenzie was a frequent visitor to her parents' home and brought her daughter. The daughter went with the Willcox children hunting for beech nuts. There were rows of maple trees that beautified the property and trilliums in profusion in the woods. She also said that her mother went to be with her father at Navy Island and one of her children was born there. That would be their first, Charles, born in 1838.

## The Belchers - 1807

JOHN AND ANN Belcher came from Zorra, County of Oxford, Brock District, in 1807 to the area that would be named Dixie in 1864. Ann Green Belcher had received a grant in 1807 of 200 acres (81 ha), Lot 7, Con.1, NDS. She was the daughter of Loyalist John Green of Flamboro West, New Jersey, who was related to Reverend Anson Green (b.1801, d.1879), who as a circuit rider travelled the Lake Shore Road District.

John was the eldest son of John Belcher Sr., who owned property in Zorra, Lot 10, Con.13. He also had a brother Ben, who lived locally and married Sophia Mattice of York Township. John was a blacksmith and no doubt Toronto Township's first.



▲ (Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists)

Once they were comfortably settled in their 19 by 23 foot (5.7 m x 6.9 m) cabin, John opened his blacksmith shop in a shed he had built and began pursuing his craft with the local pioneers, who were also busy clearing their land and completing their settlement duties that had been laid out by the British government. His duties were done by January 12, 1808, and the property was registered on November 14, 1808.

In March, 1809, John was involved in the discussion of establishing a church along with John Silverthorn, Philip Cody, Lot 10, Con.1, SDS, John and Allen Robinet, Lot 12, Con.1, NDS, Abraham Cook, Lots 1 and 2, Con.1, NDS, William Barber, Abraham Markle, Lot 6, Con.1, NDS, Absalom Willcox, Lot 3, Con.1, NDS, and Daniel Harris, Lot 15, Con.1, SDS. Then the construction of it, which began in 1810.

John's business was brisk as the farmers took advantage of his trade. They took their horses to be shod and tools to be sharpened or repaired. One of John's customers on August 2, 1811, was Joseph Silverthorn. Joseph kept a ledger on his business transactions and his first business involvement with John reads: "Indetted to Belcher for sharpping harry teeth (harrow for plowing ground) - 1 shilling (approximately 13¢, with York currency being 12-1/2¢ to a shilling)." September 27th shows, "indetted to Belcher for shuing hos - 2s (25¢)," "for sharpping plow irons - 2s," "for shuing hos - 14s (\$1.75)." The account skips forward to January 8, 1812, when John purchased straw from Joseph for 3 shillings (37¢) and Joseph had a mare shoed and had some gears repaired for a total of 6s (75¢). In March, Joseph made a pair of leather slippers for John, and April through to August, "mended butes (boots)- 3s, 6d (42¢, with 18 pence [d] to a shilling)," "shuing a hos, 2s," "firing plow irons - 3s, 6d," "sharpping plow irons and pint o shears - 2s, 6d (29¢)." The account is open until January, 1813, when a barrel of wheat went to the mill for the Belchers at a cost of 9 shillings (\$1.13) and John received a bushel of oats for 4s (50¢). On March 25th, three bushels of "petators" (potatoes)

went to John for 16s (\$2). The account continues in a similar manner. In those early days, before money was plentiful, there was a lot of bartering done. On many occasions, the Belchers would receive wheat, barley or potatoes in trade for services rendered.

John served in the 2nd Regiment of York as a private during the War of 1812. He was discharged on March 24, 1815. John gave evi-

dence in a case before the Home District Court of General Quarter Sessions in 1838. He was sworn in for Grand Jury duty on January, 9, 1845, for the Queen vs John Evans and other larceny cases. He was a constable for the Township during 1849 and 1850.

John operated his blacksmith shop on Lot 7 until May 3, 1843, when he purchased a quarter-acre (0.1 ha) of Lot 16, Con.1, NDS, facing Hurontario Street, just north of the Cooksville four corners, for £20 (\$50) from grantee Samuel Ogden. The Belchers sold Lot 7 to Francis Logan on April 26, 1848. In 1852, his shop would be responsible for the Cooksville fire.

On Saturday, May 26, 1852, at 2 p.m., a fire started in

John's blacksmith shop and spread throughout the village. People hurried to the center of the village to give aid, but to no avail. John's blacksmith shop was completely destroyed along with 34 other structures. It must have been a devastating experience for him and his family.

Following this tragic happening, the Belchers left the area. When William Perkins Bull was doing research for his books on Peel County in the 1930s, there were no Belchers in Toronto Township.



▲ A Blacksmith Shop (Region of Peel Archives)

## Stiles Stevens - 1807

**S**tiles Stevens (b.1775, d.1844) and his wife, Margaret (1770-1854), arrived in Toronto Township in 1807 to take up his grant of Lot 5, Con.1, SDS, that had been read in Council on June 18, 1806. He was a carpenter by trade. They had a son, Stiles Jr. in 1809. He got his family settled in a makeshift cabin and cleared his land, carrying out his settlement duties. He and Margaret would also have William, Letitia and three other daughters. They were United Empire Loyalists who hailed from Cramahe Township, Northumberland County, New York.

On May 9, 1810, surveyor Samuel Wilmot reported that Stiles Stevens' settlement duties were not completed: 5 acres (2 ha) chopped. Not all logged up. Not fenced. 100 feet (30 m) not cut. Road chopped, not cleared. House partly roofed. Family living on lot. A later report shows, "settlement duties done," and his patent was granted on June 16, 1816.



▲ Family Working Together

(Ministry of Transportation)

STILES WAS A LAND SPECULATOR, KNOWN TO PURCHASE and sell various pieces of property. He purchased Lot 32, Con.1, SDS, from grantee John Utter in 1807. This 200 acres (81 ha) was sold to General Peter Adamson for £300 (\$750) on August 23, 1821. The General was one of the founders of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale). One such transaction involved Lot 15, Con.1,

NDS. The grantee was Lilas Fletcher, who received his grant in March, 1822. He immediately sold to Stiles. In 1823, Stiles sold an acre (0.4 ha) to George Cutter, who had run the Government Inn after the Ingersolls departure in 1817. On March 18, 1828, George sold this property to Jacob Cook, who built Harrisville's (Cooksville) first hotel in 1829.

Stiles also served on jury duty on the Home District's Court of General Quarter Sessions in York on July 13, 1819, that required sorting out problems involving sundry bills of indictment. He was the foreman of the jury that included Joseph and Thomas Silverthorn, Philip Cody and Allen Robinet. On May 8, 1827, he served along with neighbours, Philip Cody, Amos Willcox, Jacob Cook, Thomas and George Robinet and Elijah Harris. They had to try the case of Joseph Wadsworth versus James Graham for assault and battery with Judge Alexander McDonnell on the bench.

When Stiles and Margaret passed away in 1844 and 1854 respectively, they were buried in the Union Church Cemetery in Sydenham (Dixie). On Stiles' tombstone reads, "The voyage of life is at an end, The mortal affliction is past, The age that in Heaven they spent, For ever and ever will last."

Their son, Stiles, purchased Lot 3 in the village of Port Credit and when the Great Western Railway came through in 1855, he took full advantage of this opportunity and constructed the "Railroad Hotel" near the railway depot to accommodate train travellers. In William Perkins Bull's "Booze to Business" file, Stiles Jr. is down for tavern licences from 1843 to 1869. Between 1864 and 1871, the town council often met in Stevens' hotel. When he died in 1871, Al Bleakely took over the business.



▲ *Stevens' Gravestone*

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Johann Schiller - 1807

**J**ohann Schiller, called John on his grants, moved to Toronto Township in 1807 from Niagara Township, Lincoln County, with his wife, Mary Angelique, and children, John (who operated a hotel on Dundas Street that became Irwin's Hardware), William, Michael, Lucinda, Eliza, Charles and David. He had received Lot 9, Con.1, NDS, and Lot 17, Con.1, NDS, 400 acres (162 ha) by Order of Council on July 22, 1807. Deputy Surveyor Thomas Ridout signed his grants. He was German, a shoemaker and a discharged Army Corporal from the British Regulars, 29th Regiment of Foot, having served in the American Revolution (1775-1783). He had received his acreage for his military service.

When he completed his settlement duties on Lot 9, he made the trek to York on May 31, 1810, with his witnesses, John Silverthorn, Allen Robinet and James McNabb, who signed his certificate. The following year on October 12th, James McNabb witnessed that he had carried out his obligations for Lot 17, and accompanied him into York to file his certificate. In 1811, he moved to his Lot 17 property and on April 17, 1812, he sold Lot 9 to James McNabb.



▲ Johann Schiller's Grant Papers for Lot 9  
(Ontario Archives)

WHILE OUT HUNTING GAME NEAR THE CREDIT RIVER IN 1811, John discovered wild grapes growing profusely on its banks, in the area first called Toronto, then Springfield and later Erindale. He took cuttings from the labrusca vines (a native grape to North America) and cultivated them in his garden. The soil of Lot 17 was quite fertile for growing the wild grapes and his vineyard eventually became one of magnitude and flourished with plump Clinton grapes of fine flavour. He had missed the wine of his native Rhineland, and was pleased to be able to promote his wine-making skills until he

attained the wine to meet the quality for which he yearned. He generously extended bottles of his libation to his neighbours for a shilling or two.

Because of this early discovery and the establishing of what turned out to be the first vineyard in Canada, Johann Schiller is noted as being the founder of the grape industry and wine production in the country.

It has been written in some accounts that Johann Schiller provided grape vines that saved the vineyards of France. Johann died in 1816, so it is not possible that this was his doing. The disease, phylloxera, was not discovered until 1863, so it is most likely that it was Count de Courtenay, who ran the vineyard for the Parker family at that time. But it can still be said that nearly all the grapes grown in France are there today thanks to the first vineyard in Canada, founded by Cooksville's Johann Schiller.

Upon the death of Johann Schiller, his sons, William and Michael, took over his vineyard and continued the winery business for a few years. They are on the Land Registry paper for Lot 17, 1824, and the indenture papers, showing the sales of Johann's property. In May of 1824, they sold 66.7 acres (24.6 ha), east part, to Thomas Silverthorn, and part of the southeast and southwest to him in November. Then in December, 66.7 acres of the north part went to Stanous Daniell. Schiller's vineyard thrived under many ownerships over the years.

Michael Schiller was involved in a grand jury trial January 11, 1826, for inciting a riot and assault and battery on John Whiteside. Michael died on September 1, 1828, and was buried in the Cosmopolitan Cemetery adjacent to St. Peter's Church in Springfield (Erindale), which has no church affiliation. It has been said that Mrs. Schiller died at age 96 in March, 1852, and was also buried there, but she is not on the cemetery's list. Several Schillers are buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery.



▲ Schiller's Vineyard  
Makes History

There were Schillers in Toronto Township until the mid-1920s. The last being Johann's grandsons, Thomas, who had a general store and moved to St. Catharines, where he died in 1930, and, James, a barrister since 1915, who moved his practice to St. Catharines.

## Information

When France's vineyards suffered a grape plague called "Phylloxera" Count de Courtenay generously shipped over cuttings from Johann Schiller's vines and helped restore the French vineyards. He was in France for the 1867 Paris Exposition, so it is probable that he heard at that time about his fellow countrymen's plight, which was gradually wiping out their wine production.

Phylloxera is a small yellow insect that attacks the grape vine roots. French scientists had been frantically searching for a solution to save their precious grape crops and grafting was suggested as the cure. Because the Clinton rootstock was a wild native vine, tough and resilient, it was immune to this plague.

No records could be found on this transaction, but records that were kept in later years, show that thousands of cuttings and rootstock were sent over to France from America and it is known that cuttings from Johann Schiller's vineyard were sold to New York, the New England States and Western Ontario vineyard owners. Count de Courtenay was known to sell grape vine cuttings for \$1 per hundred and upon the purchase of over 1000 cuttings, he would give the buyer one of his brochures on how to maintain a vineyard.

Because of this connection, the French vine growers were able to replenish their loss to the vineyards by grafting the cuttings onto the infected vines to secure new life.



▲ Johann Schiller and His  
Winery (Brock University)

## The Copeland Family - 1808

**O**n September 19, 1808, Thomas Copeland purchased 50 acres (40 ha) of Lot 8, Con.1, NDS, from Philip Cody for £25 (\$63), which was located on the east side of Second Line (Tomken Road), south of the Base Line (Burnhamthorpe Road). This had been John Jones' grant. (This Jones was not the brother of Chief Peter Jones as Peter's brother, John, was born in 1798 and Peter in 1802.) Thomas built a crude log cabin, which the family resided in until the early 1820s, when Thomas constructed a vernacular Georgian-style two-storey house of fieldstone that sat upon a course stone foundation. There were three fireplaces to heat the large house. The kitchen was in the basement and it had a large fireplace that had a crane for handling cooking pots.

The Copeland property was a well wooded area with a winding stream running along the west side of the house. By this time, Thomas and his sons had quite a substantial orchard and gardens.



▲ The Copeland House (The Mississauga Library System)

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT MANY INDIANS SPENT THE WINTER months in the Copelands' cellar. In later years, several arrowheads were dug up in the garden.

Thomas' son, Edward, inherited the farm in July 1869, which was now 40 acre (16 ha). He married Lavinia West on April 29, 1879, at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church with Reverend J. S. Humphries handling the nuptials. In 1880, they had William Charles Henry Copeland. Edward passed away in 1898, and William and his mother inherited the farm. She sold her interest to him, but she was to reside there until her death.



▲ Edward, Lavinia and William Copeland  
(Florence Copeland Maynard)

In 1912, William rented out the Copeland farm and he and his wife, Matilda, moved to Cooksville to take over George McClelland's grocery business, located in a two-storey red brick structure built for Jacob Cook in 1853 at the corner of Highways 5 and 10. The store, previously operated by Alfred Scott, was renamed Copeland's General Store and was run as a grocery and feed emporium. William not only stocked groceries, but had fabrics, boots and shoes, ribbons, hardware and sundry items.

The family occupied the rooms behind the store and the upstairs. William and Matilda had five children, Violet (1903-1998), Charles (1905-1984), Marie (1910-1993), who became a prominent Peel County lawyer in 1937, Hazel (1911-1999) and Florence, who was born in this building in 1914. They had a daughter, Lorna, on June 29, 1917, but she died at nine months old.

William was a local constable and a volunteer fireman. He bought many buildings in the Cooksville core such as the old Schiller Hotel and the telephone building behind the Revere House.

On May 11, 1922, with the passing of his mother, William sold the family farm to Henry Morrison for \$8,200 and purchased the corner

lot of Daniel Harris' former grant, which the store sat upon, from George McClelland. Then he applied for the postmaster position, was accepted, and a post office was established in his store on July 17, 1922. William Copeland operated the store for 35 years, and when he passed away on January 1, 1948, his son Charles took over the family business.



▲ Copeland Store, Cooksville  
(City of Toronto Archives James Collection #9158)



▲ Violet, Hazel, Marie and Charlie

William and Matilda ▶  
Copeland  
(Nonie Copeland Wilcox)



The Copeland's Dixie house was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Farquhar in 1957. The Farquhars did some restoration to the over 130 year-old-building. They removed an insert from the parlour fireplace and restored it to its original state and restored the mantle, which had been painted to its natural wood. When they repaired the hearth, they uncovered a jar that contained pennies dated 1901, cufflinks and a note that stated: "Burnhamthorpe, Ont. April 10, 1924, Dear Reader: When we repaired this fireplace it was 111 years old. Family - Husband, Henry N. Morrison; Wife, Susan L. Morrison; Daughter, Glory B. Morrison; Daughter, R. N. Morrison. P.S. Hoping Toronto has reached this farm by your time. It is seven miles away. G.B.M."

Discovering this letter, the Farquhars became very interested in learning more of the history of their house, so they searched the land title to see who had owned it previously. They added a rear wing to the back of the house in 1958.

The Copeland house still exists at 1050 Burnhamthorpe Road. It was designated on May 8, 1978, By law 222-78. This oldest house in the Dixie area of Mississauga is still owned by Ron and Ruth Farquhar and sits on 1.6 acres (0.7 ha) of bush and gardens, surrounded by an Applewood subdivision.

Ron and Ruth Farquhar, 2005 ▶



▲ Exterior window and door



▲ The Copeland/Farquhar House



▲ Morrison Time Capsule



◀ Looking south to Burnhamthorpe

(Photos courtesy of Stephen Wahl)

## The Log Union Chapel - 1810

**I**n March, 1809, a gathering of staunch churchmen, John Belcher, Abraham Cook, William Barber, Abraham Markle, Absalom Willcox and John Silverthorn, congregated on the front porch of Philip Cody's Inn. The Inn had been serving as a place of worship where baptisms and marriages were performed by a circuit rider or travelling minister. Their discussion centered upon the scattering of unmarked graves throughout the community.

John Silverthorn suggested a church be built so the township could have a cemetery. When the denomination of the church was broached and a heated verbal confrontation presented itself, Absalom Willcox suggested, "Why not build a house to the glory of God where any minister who passes this way may preach?" So it was settled.



▲ The Log Union Chapel (St. John's Anglican Church)

ON JUNE 15, 1809, PHILIP CODY AND ABSALOM WILLCOX signed the oath on Moses Teeter's Lot 10, Con. 2, NDS, that stated, "that there are five acres (2 ha) cleared and fenced on Lot Ten, North Dundas Street, in the first concession in the Township of Toronto - that there is a house sixteen feet by twenty (4.9 m x 6 m) erected on the said lot - And that one half of the road in front of said lot is cleared." Philip Cody purchased the south half of Lot 10 from Moses in December, 1810, of which, when negotiating earlier with Moses, he had offered one acre (0.4 ha) of his property for the building of the church. He would eventually purchase all of Lot 10.

With the necessity of a church and with Teeter's cooperation, in the spring of 1810, a "work bee" was held for the construction of the log chapel. The broad axes were whirled overhead and trees began to fall about the lot to the north of Philip Cody's Inn. The group set about firing the debris, levelling everything in sight.

Absalom Willcox, who was a mason, was the foreman of the project and he became the only casualty. During the process of chopping down a 200 foot (60 m) white pine, his timing was off, the tree fell and broke his leg. The distraught crew abandoned their task. A stretcher was fashioned from hemlock branches and a few of the men trekked him by wagon into Fort York to the army medical officer. (One source claims that Mr. Willcox later had his leg amputated at the knee.) Because Absalom was laid up, his neighbours came to his aid and helped get his plowing done and seed in for his crops.

The summer passed before the men gathered and again tackled the job at hand and left not one tree standing. The church gradually took shape. Log upon log, it grew out of the clearing fifty-five feet (16.5 m) long, to be topped with a sturdy roof. Stones were used for the north wall fireplace and the logs were split for flooring, pews and the pulpit.

As of December, 1810, Philip Cody was listed as the owner. However, the property was not registered until December 30, 1815. The transaction was finalized in April of 1816 when he deeded the property for 5 shillings (63¢) to the first trustees, John Silverthorn, Daniel Harris and Allen Robinet. It was called a free church in the deed and was to serve all Protestant denominations. Because of these

varied dates, it has been claimed by some that the chapel was built in 1816. If these men were so fervent in their quest, would they have waited seven years to fulfill it? Some say, it was delayed because of the war, which took up 1812 to 1814. How long does it take for ten or fifteen men to construct a little log church? One source says three weeks. The first burial took place in 1812. The Harrises had a boy in 1809 and called him Philip. He lived only three years. In November of 1812, he became the first to be buried in the Union Chapel cemetery. Daniel got a slab of Credit Valley sandstone from the Credit River and carved a headstone to mark the tiny grave. (It was in the cemetery behind the stone Dixie Union Church, built in 1837, until around the 1950s, when the stone fell apart. A new stone has been installed in baby Philip's memory.) Would they bury someone a few feet (metres) from where the church would be located then work around the little grave? I doubt it. Two sources claim the church was built in 1810 and this writer agrees with them. William Perkins Bull's "*Strachan to Owen*" (page 66) states, "In 1810, when the harvest was finished, a corner of the Teeter's lot was stepped off and the church went up in a trice. Cody got the title papers Christmas eve. He deeded the promised God's acre to the trustees, John Silverthorn, Allen Robinet and Daniel Harris." From the diary of Toronto Township's oldest resident in 1940, Mr. Johnston (born 1846), who was living in Dixie, comes this, "The first church in Dixie was built of logs in 1810, being non-denominational for the Protestants. There was a round school house just back of the church."

This chapel became the first Union Church in Ontario and the first community hall. Eventually the Anglicans, the Baptists and the Presbyterians began to hold services there, each being assigned a different time on Sundays. It is probably the only church where Indians joined in the services and had their children baptized along with white children. It has been said that some Indians were also

buried in the northern section of the cemetery. This occurred in the first years as the Indians became Christians and turned away from their spirit beliefs.

The first minister to officiate at the Union Church was Reverend Charles J. Stewart. He was a circuit rider, or travelling minister, who would visit the



◀ Reverend Charles Stewart (Region of Peel Archives)

church once a year. In 1826, he became the second Anglican Bishop in Quebec City, succeeding Bishop Jacob Mountain.

In 1827, Reverend James Magrath, the first rector of St. Peter's Anglican Church (built in 1827) in Springfield (Erindale), came to give services for the chapel's congregation.

This log church was said to have burned down in 1836 and a chapel of quarried stone from the Etobicoke Creek was constructed in its place. Mr. John Robinson Caven supervised the construction. When the church was completed (minus the front porch), 1837 was inscribed over the door on a chiselled clock with the hands indicating 11:00 o'clock service. Some of the organists down through the years were Francis Morley, Augusta Silverthorn, Mary Louisa Watts, age 14, Sarah Leonard, Annie Wilson, age 12, and Sarah Price, daughter of John.

The iron fence and memorial gateway, designed by Wickson and Graff, were installed in May 1931, according to the will of the late Sir William James Gage (b.1850, d.1921) in honour of his parents, Andrew and Mary Jane, who are buried in the pioneer cemetery. His wife carried out his request. There had also been a bequest of \$5,000 left by Dr. Gideon Silverthorn in 1926 for the upkeep of the cemetery. The Silverthorn monument is the largest in the tiny graveyard.



▲ Dixie Union Church (St. John's Anglican Church)



(Photos courtesy of the City of Mississauga Community Services)



(Other Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

When St. John the Baptist Anglican Church was built in 1870, the Dixie Union Church continued as the Presbyterian Church until 1910, when their church was built north of the cemetery facing Cawthra Road. The Baptists took over the stone chapel and used it for services until the late 1950s when it became a Sunday School. When St. John's burned down in 1924, the little church again was used for worship. Its last use was for the St. John's Nursery School, which operated into the 1970s.

In 1936, when Miles Vokes was secretary of the church's board of trustees, plans were made to restore the church in preparation for its upcoming 100th celebration in 1937. In July, 1937, a Dixie Chapel Centenary was held to commemorate its 100th anniversary. Many descendants of Loyalist families attended, coming from far and wide to celebrate this landmark occasion. Reverend J. Swankhammer, pastor of the Baptist mission gave a short service in the chapel. Mrs. F. Shipp of Hornby cleverly directed a pageantry of bygone days and author William Perkins Bull read a comprehensive history of this historical building. Colonel Thomas L. Kennedy concluded the program



▲ Plaque presentation with Lieutenant Governor John Black Aird and Ontario Heritage Foundation president, Russell Cooper, 1981 (The Mississauga News)

with these words, "The spirit of union exemplified by this building may be recaptured some day with great benefit to all."

On Sunday, October 11, 1981, a provincial historical plaque was unveiled at the Dixie Union Chapel and it was designated an historical site by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The unveiling ceremony was sponsored by the Dixie Union Chapel trustees, Milton Allison (Al) Pinkney, James Allison, William Pinkney and John Pallett. William Pinkney hosted the event as programme chairman. The plaque was unveiled by the Honourable John Black Aird, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario (born May 5, 1923, appointed 1980, resigned September, 1985, died 1995) and the dedication was carried out by St. John's Anglican clergyman, Archdeacon George Banks. Speakers for the event were Mayor Hazel McCallion, Russell Cooper, president of the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Frank Bean, chairman of the Regional Municipality of Peel, Members of Parliament, Douglas Fisher and Donald Blenkarn, Members of Provincial Parliament, Bud Gregory and Douglas Kennedy, and John C. Pallett, chapel trustee. This event was sponsored by the Dixie Union Trustees. The Silverthorns of Etobicoke were also in attendance.

The Cody family held a reunion at the Union Chapel on June 24, 1989, which was also hosted by Trustee William Pinkney. Some of Philip Cody's descendants in attendance were Gerald Cody, of Massillon, Ohio, president of the Cody Family Association, and Jay Cody of Orillia, President of the Upper Canada Circle of the Cody Family. At this time, William Pinkney unveiled a plaque in memory of his father, Milton Allison, and one for John Cameron Pallett, Q.C.M.P. He has been on the board since 1960, following family tradition as Pinkney men have supported the Union Church for over a hundred years. The Cody deed for the land that was in Miles Vokes' possession is now in the hands of Bill Pinkney. This author has had the privilege of seeing this precious document, which is dated Christmas Eve, 1910.

The stone chapel still stands today at 707 Dundas Street East, the northeast corner of Dundas Street and Cawthra Road, flanked by its pioneer cemetery.

## NEWS ITEM

### Cemetery at Dixie is Awarded Title To \$5,000 Bequest

In a judgement handed down at Osgoode Hall today, Mr. Justice McEvoy awards trustees of the Dixie Union Church cemetery \$5,000, as a bequest contained in the will of the late Dr. Gideon Silverthorn, towards the proper upkeep and maintenance of the family burial plot and the beautification of the cemetery.

The Synod of the Diocese of Toronto contested the claim of the cemetery trustees on grounds that an acre and two-thirds of land just east of the cemetery and said to have been part of the cemetery was conveyed to them by the late John Wilson in 1870.

His lordship in judgement states that he is not impressed with the suggestion that the testator was in doubt as to which board of trustees he was leaving the \$5,000.

Deceased died in 1926, leaving an estate of well over \$300,000 of which he set aside \$200,000, the income of which was to be paid to his widow. On the death of his widow he directed that \$250,000 be transferred to his children.

**The Toronto Daily Star**

Saturday, October 12, 1929

## Memories



▲ William Pinkney

"I am the Fifth generation of Pinkneys to serve as a Trustee of the Union Cemetery, which I have done since 1960. In 1981, we celebrated the Church's history by installing Ontario Heritage Foundation plaques at the Dixie Stone Church. The Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable John Black Aird, and Mayor Hazel McCallion were among the guests.

"I was born in Cooksville in 1942 and grew up on Given Road in a new house built by my parents, Allison Pinkney and Wanda Cook, on a bush lot of our family farm. My parents built houses in their development on Maple Grove and Grenville Drive. I was the Fifth generation to raise animals descended from the 1850s originators of the herd, Charles Jackson. I assisted in keeping the family livestock business going until my father's death in 1986. From 1962 to 1966,

"From 1962 to 1966, I attended Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, which was founded in 1838 as a male academy by Charles Frederick Allison, my great, great grandfather's Andrew's brother. I have been operating my own antique business now since 1968.

"In 1976, the Region of Peel advised the Board of Trustees of the Dixie Union Cemetery that they were expropriating part of the Church's property for the widening of Dundas Street as they completed the Cawthra Road subway bridge. The church was already scheduled for demolition and two of our trustees, Al Pinkney and John Pallett, were fighting this at the Ontario Municipal Board level. After three years, they successfully won the battle and saved the church and we only lost the entry access by the Region of Peel closing our entrance gates forever."

William Pinkney  
Pinkney's of Peel Antiques Ltd.

## Recipe for Country Bread

1 1/2 cups scalded milk  
 1/2 cup brown or white sugar  
 1/2 cup butter  
 2 1/2 tsp. salt  
 1 1/2 cups hot water  
 2 tsp. white sugar  
 2 tbsp hops (yeast)  
 6 cups white flour

Mixing: scald milk, add 1/2 cup sugar, butter and salt. Allow to sit at room temperature. Take a large bowl, warmed on the hearth. Pour in hot water, add 2 tsp. sugar, stir. Allow to sit until warm. Sprinkle yeast over water, cover with a clean cloth. Let sit for 5 to 8 minutes. When yeast has foamed, stir with a wooden spoon and add tepid milk mixture. Stir again and add the flour slowly, working with hands until a stiff consistency. Sprinkle flour on table top, knead the ball of dough, turning and kneading for approximately ten minutes. Dough is ready when it is no longer sticky. Grease a mixing bowl warm from the hearth, place ball into bowl, grease top with butter, cover with a cloth and let rise on the hearth until double in size, approximately one to 1 1/2 hours. Punch dough down and fold edges into center, turn over, cover with a cloth and let sit for 30 minutes. Turn out onto floured table top, cut dough into three pieces, mold into balls, cover and let rise for 10 minutes. Press into loaf shape the size of baking pan. Place in pan and brush with melted butter. Cover with a towel and place on the hearth to rise once more, about one hour. Place pans into bake oven. Let bake to golden brown about 30 minutes.



▲ Making Bread  
 (The Toronto Telegram)



▲ Outside Bake Oven  
 (Vernon Mould)



## Making Candles

Support two poles on the back of two wooden chairs. Place candle rods from each pole. (A candle rod holds six wicks.) Melt tallow (solid fat of mutton or beef – strained and resolidified) over a moderate fire on the hearth. Dip wicks into melted tallow. Put across poles to cool and harden. Continue to dip slowly until desired thickness. (The pioneer women would usually make seven or eight dozen candles at a time preferring this method to molds. They would average eleven candles to a pound of tallow.)

◀ Making Candles  
 (Vernon Mould)

# War of 1812

**O**n June 18, 1812, the United States Congress passed a bill, signed by President James Madison (1809-1817), and declared war on Great Britain. Upper and Lower Canada, New York and Michigan States became the battleground.

Sir George Prevost (b.1767, d.1816), the Governor of British North America (1811-1815), immediately spoke of the need of troops and the munitions of war required to defend his government, although he wanted no part of the war, nor did other British officials. So the British used a delay tactic by not signing a declaration of war until January 1813, hoping by this manoeuver that Congress might rescind theirs, but it did not work.

The population of Upper Canada was nearly 80,000, with over seven million Americans to the south, but the armies of both countries were small. At the commencement of the war, Upper and Lower Canada had nearly 6,000 in its militia to guard the 1,000 mile (1,600 km) frontier and defend fortifications across the province; 1,800 were under the forceful and courageous leader of the 49th Infantry, Major-General Isaac Brock. President Madison's U. S. Regulars numbered 6,744 and never surpassed 10,000.



▲ President James Madison  
(Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery)

MANY LOCAL FAMILIES SACRIFICED DURING this war. Men such as Aaron, Thomas and Joseph Silverthorn, James McNabb and Amos Willcox, donned the scarlet uniform of the British Army, York Militia. They went off to fight at Queenston Heights, where Brock was killed on October 13, 1812, Niagara, Stoney Creek, Detroit and York when it was invaded in April, 1813. Some of them fought gallantly until war's end and came home with medals for their bravery as did 19 year old Amos Willcox.

The final bloody encounter occurred in New Orleans in the early dawn of January 8, 1815, when General Edward Pakenham's 5,000 came up against General Andrew Jackson and his 8,000 men. General Pakenham was killed instantly, and the British retreated, leaving 2,036 men wounded or dead to Jackson's 71. But a peace treaty had already been signed at Ghent, Belgium, on December 24, 1814.

The men of Upper Canada left behind their uniforms, their swords and guns and their two wasted years of pain, death and uncertainty, to return to life on their farms and the loving arms of their waiting families.



▲ General Isaac Brock  
(Charles J. Humber Collection)



▲ York Invasion, 1813  
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)



▲ Peace Treaty Signed at Ghent, Belgium  
(National Archives of Canada)

## The First Schoolhouse - 1816

THE FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE BUILT IN TORONTO Township was of octagonal shape. The men of the neighbourhood, under the direction of Joseph Silverthorn, got together in the summer of 1816 and constructed a school behind the Union Church (built in 1810) on Lot 10, Con.1, NDS. It was not authorized by the Home District Council.

How the shape was decided upon is a mystery, but it certainly was a unique structure for the era when most buildings were log rectangles. The octagonal, eight-sided, mode of building was popular around this period and a prominent builder of this type of structure was Mathew Bird.



▲ The Octagonal Schoolhouse  
(Owen Staples, Region of Peel Archives)



◀ The Teacher welcomes students  
(Denise Warren Fortier)

The first teacher was Charles Nicholls, who was hired by Joseph Silverthorn, who was anxious that his children receive a good education. He boarded with the Silverthorns, renting the log cabin that they had just vacated for their new stone house. In 1816, a teacher received 18 shillings (approx. \$2.25) per student per annum. All the local families sent their children to the tiny eight-sided school and they paid for Mr. Nicholl's keen and knowledgeable instructions, school supplies required and his lodging.

Johanna Silverthorn, Elias Cody and Allen Willcox were some of the first students. This school served the communities of Harrisville (later Cooksville) and Sydenham (Dixie), until a log schoolhouse was put up on Third Line (now Dixie Road) in 1846.

The establishment of the log school discontinued the use of the octagonal schoolhouse adjacent to the Union Chapel. It became the church's caretaker's home for a 75¢ monthly rental fee. (It has not been determined when it was torn down.)

## The First Stagecoaches - 1816

**T**he first stagecoaches came through Toronto Township along Dundas Street in 1816. They commenced their journey in York (Toronto) for their 17-hour trip to Niagara. They were operated by George Carey. Dundas was corduroyed at this time and the bright coaches drawn by four sturdy horses rattled as they sped by, their wheels spinning over the corduroyed surface while the horses strained against black leather harnesses, sweating and puffing to pull their great burden behind them.

Passengers, dressed in elegant garb, peered out the small open windows watching the scenery fly by as their luggage on top of the high vehicle bounced about behind a low railing. The driver sitting atop the coach on a wooden seat constantly snapped a long bull whip to keep the horses motivated so he would be on schedule.



▲ The First Stagecoach (C. W. Jefferys, Rogers Cantel)

DURING THE FIRST YEAR, IT WAS A SIGHT THE LOCAL GENTRY along the route thoroughly enjoyed, but they would become used to as it became a daily occurrence. Because the pioneers were responsible for keeping the roads clear in front of their farms – called statute labour – and quite often did not keep up their government obligation, for the first quarter of the 19th century, the roadways were often impassible. So, the stagecoach drivers, who received around \$12 a month, had a lot to cope with as they carried out their driving duties throughout the province. But it has been said that it was an exciting life and for some young men, it was their highest ambition to become a stage driver.

The stage would eventually bring the mail to Jacob Cook's Inn when it opened in Harrisville (Cooksville) in 1829 and then it would be disbursed to the rural areas in Toronto Township, such as Derry West. The cost for a person to take the stage to Toronto was 3 shillings or approximately 38¢.

By 1835, the stages were operating on a daily basis along Dundas, except for Sundays. The 11-hour trip between Toronto and Hamilton cost a passenger 2 shillings 10d (approx. 35¢). In winter, a sleigh cutter stagecoach was utilized.

In the 1850s, when the railroads began to snake across the province, the stagecoach work was limited to taking people to and from the railroad stations. Gradually they were discontinued as the owners could not make a living from the little work involved.

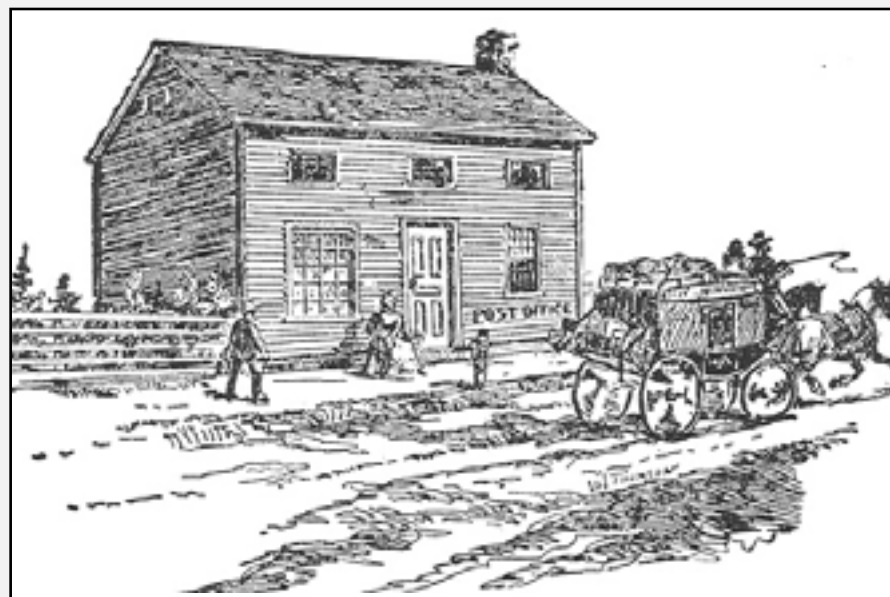


▲ Stagecoach gets Bogged Down (Ministry of Transportation)

## NEWS ITEM

What a scene it must have been in those days of stage-coaching! The great yellow coaches rolling in from the four points of the compass! Horses tramping and jingling their harness, anxious to get to the manger. Drivers giving a blast of their horns before dashing for the welcome warmth of the hotel dining room. Coaches, mud-splashed, pushed out of the road for the next comers. Travellers exchanging gossip of the road over the bountiful meals of the early days. What an array of news of the outside world must have been assembled there on occasions! What notables must have swung along in the old coaches, beneath Canada's giant elms and maples.

*The Brampton Conservator,*  
April 15, 1926



▲ Delivering the Mail (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ A Stagecoach in Winter (Molson Breweries)

## The Price Family - 1822

**T**he Prices can be traced back to Wales in 1600 and then to Antrim, Ireland. In 1798, Major Samuel Price (b.1775, d.1842) who served in the British Cavalry's 22nd Light Dragoons during the Irish Rebellion (1798-1799) married Sarah Charters (1779-1866) on February 4, 1798. They had Samuel Jr. (1799-1891), John (1801-1884), Ann (1803-1841), James (1805-1887), Rosetta (1808-1894), William, 1810, who died in infancy, and Alexander (1816-1896).

Samuel, as a quarter master of the Fencible Regiment of Pembroke Light Dragoons, fought at the Battle of Waterloo on June 18, 1815, which brought about the defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte and the end of the Peninsular War that had begun in 1808. The Price family came to York (Toronto), Upper Canada, in 1817 and once they were settled in a rented cottage, Samuel put in requests for a land grant in December, and again on August 28th, 1820. He was granted Lot 21 and Lot 29, Con. 2, in Chinguacousy, which he sold, not wanting to move his family such a distance.



▲ The Price family - Jackson, Elizabeth, Samuel, Frances and Charles

THEY FOUND YORK TO BE A THRIVING TOWN WITH NO problem in purchasing fertile land, as land speculation was a booming business. Their son, Jackson, was born in 1819 and would grow up to be a strapping farmer and live to the age of 80 years.

On April 21, 1822, Samuel bought 200 acres (81 ha) of Lot 1 Con. 2, East Hurontario Street (EHS), in Toronto Township from Frederick Freitag for £150 (\$375). They made the trip to their property and stayed with neighbours until Samuel and his boys built a small shanty of logs. They called the farm, Ashgrove Place. He and Sarah had Elizabeth in 1822 and Sarah died soon after childbirth.



▲ Samuel Price's Mud House  
(Inset): Colonel Samuel Price

In 1830, Samuel and his sons built what would become called “the mud house.” His acreage was rich in clay and they constructed a two-storey adobe house of mud bricks made from clay, straw and water. It sat upon a 20 foot by 36 foot (6 m x 10.8 m) foundation of fieldstone gathered on the farm. It had a kitchen/dining room, parlor and four bedrooms. A few years later, a large farm kitchen, 16 by 20 feet (4.9 m x 6 m), and a veranda were added on the rear of the mud house.

The farm faired well as did the Price children. The family attended the stone Union Church on Dundas Street and Samuel was actively involved in the Loyal Orange Order. Sam and Sarah's sons started to purchase property, got married and moved off to farm their own land. The Price family owned hundreds of acres (hectares) of farmland in Toronto Township. Samuel Price Jr., bought 100 acres (81 ha) of Lot 2, Con, 2, EHS, on June 4, 1832, and 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 15, Con.1, NDS, in Cooksville in 1852 and another 99 acres in 1853.

Samuel Price Jr. met and married Mary Hawkins (1794-1881) and they had eight children, the first being born in 1824 and the last in

1840. Samuel worked alongside his father and they were very successful in their endeavours. White pine was plentiful in the township and most was commissioned for masts for the British Royal Navy. Samuel was a captain in the 3rd Regiment of the York Militia during the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837 and was stationed at Navy Island, Niagara, while Mackenzie holed up there with some of his followers until January. He was politically inclined and became a councillor on the newly incorporated Toronto Township Council in 1850. He would become the first reeve at Confederation in 1867. Samuel Sr. did not see either of those triumphs as he died in 1842, only having enjoyed his “mud house” for twelve years. Sarah, however, saw most of Samuel's political career but died just before Confederation. Colonel Samuel Price lived in the family's mud house and passed away there in 1899.

Their son, James, married Frances Cooper, the youngest child of Nathaniel and Margaret in 1832 and they had 11 children. In 1839, he bought a farm on the east side of Dixie Road, Lot 4, Con.2, NDS, where he built a substantial house. James also purchased 95 acres (38.4 ha) of the south section of the Ann Belcher grant, Lot 7, Con.1, NDS, from Frances Logan for £1000 (\$2,500) on April 25, 1854, and the north half on October 8, 1856, from Robert Curry for £50 (\$125) and 3 acres (1.2 ha) on Feb. 13, 1861, from Levi Lewis for £45 (\$113). This property remained in the family until 1920.

Son, Jackson, a bachelor, was “Laird of the Manor” for 50 years. When he retired he sold the property to granddaughter, Sarah Cook. The house, renamed “Springloom Farm,” was resided in by the Cook family until the 1970s, when it was abandoned. On October 30, 1977, the “mud house” the Price family had treasured was burned down, when it was used by the Fire Department for training purposes. Then its remains were bulldozed on November 14th. Of all the impressive Price houses built, “Ashgrove Place,” “Fairview Farm,” “Forest Shade House” and “Maple Grove farm,” it had outlasted them all.

Some of the Price family descendants' accomplishments included a suspension bridge and a steam car. The suspension bridge was invented by Bert Price and was patented in Canada on August 2, 1893. The steam operated automobile was designed and manufactured in Toronto by Colonel Samuel Price's nephew, Charles, in 1899. Grant Clarkson's mother, Elizabeth Price, who came into the world on July 1, 1881, was a teacher at the Hanlan Public School. She was the



▲ Maple Grove Farm



▲ The Prices' Forest Shade Farm



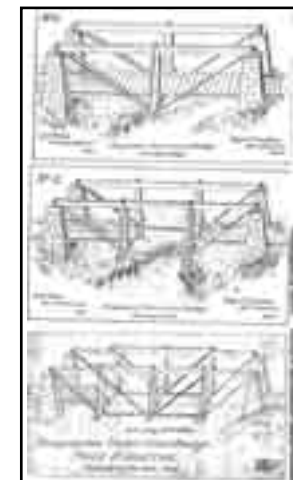
▲ Price Family at Maple Grove Farm



▲ James Price House, 1939



▲ The Prices' Fairview Farm



(Photos courtesy of Grant Clarkson)



▲ The Price Steam Car



▲ The Price Suspension Bridge



▲ John James Price

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youngest child born of Rebecca Irwin and John James Price, who had a farm on the Third Line (Dixie Road) at Base Line (Eglinton Avenue) in Burnhamthorpe. He was Samuel Junior's brother, and was called J. J. Elizabeth's older brother, William, who was born in 1867 and was 25 years her senior, was also born on the first of July.

## The Arrival of the Prices

At the tiny settlement of Summerville on the Etobicoke they made the acquaintance of Thomas Silverthorn, whose father had a saw and grist mill a little up the river. There, too, they met John Vanzantee, who was planning to build a hotel in the village, and peg-legged Absalom Willcox, the first settler in the area. Willcox at this time had lived in the Township for over ten years and had cleared a large farm. On it he had his barn, his outbuildings and a fine home that did double duty as an Inn. He lived here, on the top of the hill just west of the Etobicoke River, with his wife Barbara and ten children.

Willcox advised Sam not to go any further along the Dundas Trail, as it was still too soft for Sam's heavy load, particularly in the artesian pond area a mile farther out, east of Markle's mill. He (Willcox) had cut a bush road through his land and it had been continued all the way up to the Base Line. It was rough but it was high and dry and it was the best route to Monaghan. Sam elected to take Willcox's advice.

The Prices stayed at Willcox's that night and the following morning sent their rented wagon back to York. They loaded their tools and construction materials onto Willcox's ox-drawn sleigh and took off through his bush road. It was, as he had promised, rough. But when they reached the New Survey and turned west on the Base Line (now Eglinton Avenue) the going, if anything, became even worse. Here there was nothing but a trail of ruts that wove around innumerable logs and stumps. They kept on however, and safely forded the little creek with the clay bed, and soon reached Sam's blazed tree.

## The Prosperity of Samuel Price

by Harry Grenville Duff, who married Merna Price

## Accounts state 1822 Prices:

Cambric fabric	– 1 shilling a yard (12 1/2¢)
Handkerchief	– 1 shilling
Note Paper	– 1 shilling for a quire
Mutton	– 17 shillings for 35 pounds (\$2.13)
Potatoes	– 3 shillings (37 1/2¢)
Eggs	– 1 shilling a dozen
A Harness Set	– 16 shillings (\$2.01)
Rent for a Team of Oxen	– 2 shillings (15¢) for half a day
Half a Day's Plowing	– 5 shillings (63¢)



▲ Oxen Plowing (George A. Reid, Region of Peel Archives)

Indians came up to Dixie to purchase sundry items. An old account book names them as Sam the Indian, John Crane, Chief Sawyer, Bill Harksmore, Old Peter, William Jackson, Jacob Brant and William Cashago. The general store had every type of necessity as a department store today, also conducted other services such as sheering sheep, pasturing cows and sheep, hauling with oxen, spinning of wool or allowing the women customers to do it, and kept boarders.

From Perkins Bull Dixie File  
Region of Peel Archives

## Owners of Cody's Inn and Tavern - 1829

JOSEPH FARR (b.1788, d.1870) AND his wife Ann Humphries (1807-1864) purchased Philip Cody's Lot 10, Con.1, SDS, for £656 (\$1,640) from Philip Cody on November 28, 1829, and spent 31 years operating the Cody Inn and Tavern. They were married in 1826 and had no children, but did raise two adopted daughters, Mary Louise and Annie Watts. Joseph had tavern licences issued in 1830 for £3 (\$7.50) and by 1837 it was up to £7.10 (\$17.60).



▲ Joseph Farr  
(Region of Peel Archives)

He had been born in Kent, England, into a family of brewers and maltsters. He emigrated from the United States to Upper Canada in 1822 with two brothers, John and William. They opened a brewery on Queen Street in York (Toronto), which they operated until 1840. He and Ann, who was known to be a refined woman, were well liked in the community.



◀ An artist's interpretation of the Cody/Farr Inn (Mississauga Library System)

Farr was known to have an excellent stock of liquors and the best accommodations for travellers. His stabling was extensive and convenient. His utmost attention was always given to the comfort of his guests.

When Joseph was working alone in his Tavern, if unsavoury characters entered his establishment, he would take his gun from its location in a holster on the wall behind the bar and keep it handy. The men, upon seeing his gun, would soon take their leave and he would nonchalantly reholster the handy weapon.

During the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion, a rebel unit of 100 men were drilling nearby. They arrived at Farr's establishment and demanded dinner. The Farris cooked a great meal and the scallywags took off without paying for the delicious repast.

On April 1, 1860, Jehoida Haines (b.1831, d.1881) purchased the former Cody Inn, which sat on 60 acres (24 ha) of Lot 10, from Joseph Farr for \$4,000 and 50 acres (40 ha) of Lot 9 from Joseph on February 15, 1870, for \$1,600. Jehoida and wife Anna (1838-1890) had nine children, Joseph, Annie, Elizabeth, Louisa, Fred, Charles, Laura, Mary and Florence. The family was quite community minded and helped in the building of St. John's Anglican Church in 1870.

Jehoida died December 2, 1881, and Annie carried on managing the Inn. When she passed away on December 22, 1900, her children inherited the property. Her son, Joseph, sold it on May 15, 1914, to Burton Gardiner for \$1,215.

The Haineses and Farris are all buried in the Dixie Union Church Cemetery. The old Cody Inn survived the Township's growth until the 1950s, when industry came to the Dixie area.



Haynes Road (misspelled) was named for this family on December 4, 1953. Thanks to the last of the Haines family, Edna L. Haines, the spelling of Haines was corrected on June 25, 1962.

◀ Haines Road Sign  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Gage Family - 1830

**A**ndrew Gage (b.1803, d.1868), purchased Lot 7, Con.1, SDS, 200 acres (81 ha) for £200 (\$500) in Sydenham (Dixie) on April 15, 1830, from Charles Depue. He married Mary Jane Grafton (1809-1879), daughter of Stuart Grafton Sr. (1760-1837) and Mary McColl (1770-1855) of Palestine on June 29, 1832. They would have Stewart (1833-1856), Albert Andrew, Rachel (1846, two months) and William James (1849-1921). The Gages were Loyalist descendants and devoted Methodists. They only resided in Dixie until 1845 when the last of their property was sold to Amos Willcox and they moved to Palestine, but the family had contributed so much to the area that this author felt they should be represented here. A William Gage, probably Andrew's father, had purchased Lot 8, Con.1, SDS, in 1826 from George Robinet and sold it in 1831 to George Silverthorn.



William James Gage, who was born in Palestine, was an enterprising young man, who strived to achieve greatness.

◀ William James Gage  
(Region of Peel Archives)

HE WAS EDUCATED AT THE DERRY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL and Brampton High School. He married Ina Burnside (1849-1915) and they had Eva, Irene, Wilhemina and Gladys. He was appointed Ensign No. 7, Coy 36th, Peel Branch Infantry, in 1870, was secretary of the Palestine Public School, 1871, a Bible class teacher at Salem Methodist, taught school for two years at Broddytown, made a second Lieutenant in 1883, belonged to the York Club, National Club and Lambton Golf Club. In 1910, he organized the Ontario Boards of Trade and was the first president. In 1918, having demonstrated prowess in his life, he was knighted by King George V for his work in the campaign against tuberculosis. At this time, he was president of the Victorian Order of Nurses Executive Committee, was honoured by Mount Allison University with its degree of Doctor of Laws and made Knight of Grace of the Order of the Hospitals of St. John of Jerusalem by his Majesty the King.

When he passed away on January 13, 1921, his will bequeathed \$35,000 for the Dixie Union Church fence and gateway, designed by Wickson & Graff, and the upkeep of the cemetery, where his parents are buried. His wife, Lady Ina Grafton Gage, carried out his request.

William had made Brampton his home for many years and Gage Park, the property he donated at the southwest corner of Wellington and Main Streets, is named for him.



▲ Gage Gravestone  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Gage's Memorial Gate  
(Bill and Mary Carr Collection)

## Information

In 1892, a new paper was started and called *The Evening Star*, which would be in competition with the well established papers, *The Evening Telegram* and *The Globe*. It was first published on November 3, 1892, with the slogan, "A Paper For the People." It was four pages and sold for one cent. The first issue of 7,000 papers, published by 21 printers and four apprentices under foreman Horatio Hocken and aided by Harry Parr, was printed on the third floor of *The World* newspaper at 83 Yonge Street. By the third day, 12,000 papers were sold. During the Great Panic in June of 1893, the paper was closed down for a few weeks and then resumed publication under the new owner, William J. Gage. Many owners followed during the next six years. Then on December 13, 1899, the best known manager and editor of *The Star*, Joseph E. Atkinson (b.1865, Newcastle, Ontario, d.1948) joined the paper and on January 24, 1900, the paper became *The Toronto Daily Star*. Atkinson eventually gained controlling interest of the paper and remained at the helm until his death. Two highlights of his illustrious career are *The Star's* 23-storey skyscraper building at 80 King Street West, occupied February 2, 1929, and the successful *Star Weekly* supplement included with the Saturday paper from April 9, 1910, to October, 1968. *The Star* moved to One Yonge Street on September 23, 1971. Since the 1990s, having celebrated 100 successful years, over 200 million copies of *The Star* are sold yearly.

Excerpt from *Silverthorns of Cherry Hill*, page 286

Sir William James Gage intended being a doctor but his health would not permit the close studying. His first business venture, in partnership with Charles McBride, was securing of a piece of timber land, the cutting of the wood into cordwood and selling it. Next he became a clerk in the publishing house of Adam Miller & Co., of Toronto. Later he purchased the business and formed W. J. Gage Co., which for many years published the Ontario school books. In 1910, he organized the Ontario Association Boards of Trade and became the first president.

He was greatly interested in fighting the "White Plague" and gave large amounts of money to establish sanatoriums for the treatment of consumptives: the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium, the Muskoka Free Hospital, the King Edward Sanatorium and the Toronto Free Hospital. He also offered a series of six scholarships of considerable value, together with gold medals to be given in connection with the early diagnosis of tuberculosis. The Queen Mary Hospital for Consumptive Children was another of his undertakings, this being affiliated with the National Sanatorium Association. The King Edward Hospital was the result of a million dollar fund, which he originated and successfully established in 1912, as a memorial to the late King Edward.

The Derry West Women's Institute Scrapbooks  
Region of Peel Archives

## Pioneer Life In Peel

When pioneers wanted to get married they often went on foot dressed in homespun garments to the nearest magistrate and got "buckled" as it was. Grandfather (Stuart Grafton) went on one occasion to York (twenty miles). On his way through the wood he overtook a tall smooth-faced youth (Andrew Gage) walking slowly. After chatting for awhile Grandfather hastened on remarking that he was going to his daughter's wedding (Mary Jane Grafton), but the youth replied, "Don't be in a hurry, there'll be nothing doing until I get there." A son of that smooth-faced youth is now a resident of Toronto and one of Canada's most prominent school book publishers, W. J. Gage.

Country Prize story by Andrew Gage  
*Montreal Witness*, 1889

## The Doherty Family - 1835

**T**he Dohertys came from County Donegal, Ireland, to Upper Canada in 1815. When the second purchase was secured from the Mississauga Indians in 1818, more land became available in Toronto Township. In 1835, Patrick and Charles Doherty settled on 200 acres (81 ha) of land, Lot 3, Con. 2, East Hurontario Street (EHS), purchased from Kings College that would be turned into a working farm with a quarry.

Bernard Doherty (b.1761, d.1851) purchased 200 acres of Lot 4, Con.1, in 1836 and a log cabin was constructed. In 1844, he built a beautiful one and a half storey Vernacular house of Credit Valley stone with a gable roof and three brick chimneys for the interior fireplaces, cornice returns and a five bay facade. It had 24 inch (60 cm) walls, a heavy timbered roof and floors of hand hewn white pine. The following year he had a two-storey stone and rubble barn built to house the many horses and cows he would purchase. Stone pillars graced the driveway leading onto the expansive property. The Doherty estate became called, "The Clontarf Farm."



▲ Charles Doherty  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Manning William Doherty  
(Ontario Archives)

BERNARD'S FARM WAS PASSED ON TO HIS SON CHARLES (1801-1885) upon his death in 1851, and then in 1885 to Charles' son, William, who married Anna Hendley and started a family.

William's son, Manning William Doherty, was born in September, 1875. His early education was garnered in the local one-room school-house. Then, wanting to be a superior agriculturist, he went on to the Collegiate Institute, Upper Canada College, and graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in 1895 with a degree of Bachelor of Science and Agriculture (B.S.A.) His desire to be equipped with the most professional education foundation took him to Cornell University for two more years, and in 1897, he graduated with the degree of Master of Arts (M.A.) in agriculture.

In 1898, he was appointed associate professor of Natural Sciences at the Ontario Agricultural College. Besides his regular classes, he implemented a course in public speaking and taught several young men who went on to prestigious positions in government such as Premier Ernest Drury. In 1902, he resigned his post to take on the development of the Maritime provinces and he was manager of the Maritime Dredging and Construction Company in St. John's, New



◀ Manning Doherty and Cow (Ontario Archives)

Brunswick. Ten years later, having been quite successful in that venture, he returned to his roots to put his training into operating the family farm. He and his wife Dolores Cassidy had Brian in 1906, who became a lawyer, and D'Arcy in 1909, who was a stockbroker and became treasurer for the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Throughout the next few years, he equipped the farm with the best machinery, put his Clydesdales in competition in fairs across the province and sold saddle horses at good prices in New York. He also had a large herd of pure bred Holsteins. He had 75 acres (30 ha) in grain crops and 75 in hay and pasture with 16 (6.4 ha) in peas as a cash crop. Other crops were corn for silage and oats that were mixed with peas and used as feed for the pigs.

He became involved in the United Farmer Movement in Ontario and took on a leadership position. He was also associated with the Canadian Council of Agriculture and other farmers organizations

throughout the province. During World War I (1914-1918), the farmers went to Ottawa to protest about the boys being pulled off the farms for war duty and Manning represented the farmers' plight. It was around this time that he sold his great grandfather's farm.

In 1919, he was chosen by Premier Drury to become the government's Minister of Agriculture. Drury commented, "He's a man who gets things done." His main successes in this endeavour were assisting the United Farmer's party to form cooperatives and being instrumental in convincing the British government to lift its embargo on Canadian cattle.

Manning started Doherty Easson Company in 1929. He passed away in 1936.

In 1981, when the Doherty house and barn were recommended for heritage designation, the property was owned by the Ministry of Government Services and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Price were the tenants. However, with the passing of time, the building at 5650 Tomken Road was demolished in 1986 when Everlast Construction owned it, and the Tomken Business Centre now has that address.



▲ The Doherty House (City of Mississauga Community Services)

## Dundas a Toll Road - 1836

IN 1836, DUNDAS STREET BECAME A TOLL road with two toll stops, one at Third Line (Dixie Road) and one at the Streetsville Road (Mississauga Road) in Springfield-On-The-Credit (Erindale). The charge for a wagon and team was 15d (10¢) and 8d (5¢) for a horse and wagon. It cost 30¢ to travel from the western side of Toronto Township to Toronto. Owen Hickey operated the toll booth at Third Line for Peel County at this time. The revenue was used for improving the roads.



▲ The 407 ETR Express Toll Route (407 ETR)



▲ The last Toll Gate in Ontario (Ministry of Transportation)

Toll road legislation had commenced in 1829 with Act C-15, which stated to incorporate the Dundas & Waterloo Turnpike Company to provide gates, rates of tolls, roads to be widened and bridges built. The first toll road in the province of an independent nature was established in 1805. Yonge Street was made a toll road in 1831. In 1837, Act C-78 stated: "Tolls levied to be sufficient to pay interest and principal in 30 years with deficiencies to be raised by assessment on inhabitants."

It has been recorded that James Beatty owned part of Dundas Street and operated the toll gates for which he received a great profit for his endeavours. A *Globe and Mail* article states: "In 1835, the Legislature made a grant toward the graveling of Dundas Street and the highway was established as a toll-road as far as Springfield. The road was the property of James Beatty and once a week, he drove along the road to collect tolls from the keepers. Payment was, of course, entirely in silver, and when he reached York he had so much money that he sometimes needed assistance to lift the bag from the wagon."

The last toll road in the province was abolished in Sarnia in 1926. On October 14, 1997, the 407 ETR Express Toll Route, located across the top of the Greater Toronto Area, opened as the first all-electronic toll thoroughfare.

## The Mackenzie Rebellion - 1837

Everyone in Upper Canada knew who William Lyon Mackenzie (b.1795, d.1861) was. He had made himself known since he landed on these shores from Scotland in April, 1820. He was the publisher of *The Colonial Advocate*, first published in Queenston Heights on May 18, 1824, and transferred to York (Toronto) in November. He had been the alderman for the St. Patrick's Ward and became Mayor of Toronto at its incorporation in 1834 and had caused numerous confrontations during his political career.

There was gossip about Mackenzie wanting to overthrow the government in power in Toronto. So during the first few days of December 1837, when the Militia rode through the towns and villages asking for volunteers to ward off Mackenzie's attack on Toronto's City Hall, no one was surprised. Those who opposed his underhanded tactics joined in to counter the confrontation.



▲ William Lyon Mackenzie  
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)

MACKENZIE HAD GATHERED HIS MEN – FARMERS, MILL workers and tradesmen – thought to be around 700, at Montgomery's Tavern with the plan of storming Toronto. Montgomery's Tavern had just been taken over by John Linfoot, although John Montgomery (1784-1879) was still on the premises. It was a large white, wooden clapboard two-storey building with gray trim, located just north of where Eglinton Avenue is now, on the west side of Yonge Street (today Montgomery Avenue marks the area).

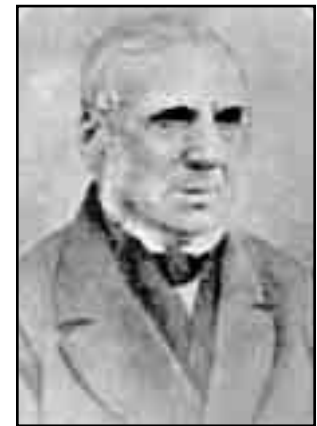


▲ Sir Francis Bond Head (National Archives of Canada)

At 11 p.m. on Monday, December 4th, the rebellion was announced and the bells in the church steeples around the city began to chime and the people, paralysed with fear, kept vigil throughout the night. Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bond Head (1793-1875), an obstinate man with an uncompromising nature, had sent the militia out of Upper Canada. A force needed to be raised to defend Toronto, and Colonel James FitzGibbon (1780-1863) was made Acting Adjutant General.

On the Tuesday, the government buildings were barricaded with planks in defence of the inevitable attack. Early Wednesday morning, William Chisholm, who had founded Oakville and in 1831 had been made a Colonel of the Gore Militia, 2nd Regiment, gathered 200 men at a Dundas Street Inn. Many men from Sydenham (Dixie) and Cooksville and the surrounding area joined his quest, such as William's brothers-in-law, Joseph, George and Aaron Silverthorn, father-in-law, John Silverthorn, and nephew, George. William took his ragtag militia into Toronto on his steamer, *The Burlington*.

Colonel James FitzGibbon ►  
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)



On Thursday morning, Colonel Chisholm and his militia marched to the City Hall on Front Street, where they joined groups led by Sir Francis Bond Head, Sheriff William Jarvis and Colonel Allan MacNab. The militia was split into three divisions and made ready to make the four mile (6.4 km) hike to Montgomery's Tavern. Colonel MacNab headed up the main body of 600 men and started north on Yonge Street with Bond Head and FitzGibbon. Sheriff Jarvis marched his 200 up the east side of Yonge Street and Colonel Chisholm handled the left flank with Justice McLean, taking his group of 200 up College Avenue (now University).

Upon arriving at their destination, the militia charged the Inn, hitting from all sides. Bond Head's men set up two cannons that were under the supervision of Major Thomas Carfrae. When they fired on the tavern, one precise aim of a cannonball through the window of the dining room caused the rebels to run and tumble out of every available exit, scattering in every direction, taking to the hemlock and pine forest, with militia bullets zinging about them, some returning fire as they retreated. The skirmish only lasted about 30 minutes with few casualties. Captain Wideman killed one rebel and four were seriously wounded, and later died in hospital. Three of FitzGibbon's men were wounded.

Mackenzie and his followers fled on horseback and Sir Francis Bond Head ordered the tavern burned to the ground. Colonel Chisholm



◀ Mackenzie and Co-horts Flee During Rebellion (Frederick R. Bercham)



▲ The Willcox House  
(Region of Peel Archives)



Allen Willcox ▶  
(Region of Peel Archives)

was hot on Mackenzie's trail as he hightailed it from one house to another as people assisted in his flight. As he made his escape to the United States, Absalom Willcox of Sydenham (Dixie) harbored him, as did others along the way. Absalom's sons, Allen and Richard, left with Mackenzie, but Richard broke his arm and was left in Dr. William Crewe's care. Allen experienced some traumatic times throughout this adventure, but did return home to live out his life in Dixie. Mackenzie's written account of his escapades during this daring flare-up against the establishment is intriguing to read.

With the commotion having subsided, the farmers were able to return to their homes and family and get on with their farming obligations. It would be the last time that they would have to take up arms.

## The Stanfields - 1842

The Stanfields came to Upper Canada from Bennington, Lincolnshire, England, in 1842 and settled in the area that would become Dixie. Thomas Richard Surgey Stanfield (b.1809, d.1893) had married Ann Flears (1814-1900) in Bennington in 1840, and arrived with one daughter, Ann, 1842. They would have eight more children, Sarah, 1844, Joseph (1846-1919), Richard (1848, died at two days old) Richard, 1849, Thomas, 1850, Mary, 1853, William (1855-1927) and John (1857, died at 6 weeks).

After working for several farmers, Thomas purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 8, Con.1, SDS, for \$3,200 on October 28, 1868, from Richard Church and built a substantial house. He sold off 40 acres (16 ha) to James Hickey to make ends meet. The Stanfields are also mentioned on Lots 2, 3, 5, 6, Con. 1, NDS, and Lot 5, 6, 7, Con. 2, NDS, in the Burnhamthorpe area.



◀ The Stanfield House



▲ Stanfield Family (Mildred Bellegam Collection)

WHEN THE CHILDREN CAME OF AGE, ANN MARRIED JOHN Patchett, Sarah married Robert McCarter, Joseph moved to Burnhamthorpe, Richard to Summerville (Wharton Way), and Mary married George Savage and had two children, George and Emily. William married Rachel Moore (1866-1948), daughter of Samuel Moore, and they had ten children.

Thomas died in 1893 and was buried in the Burnhamthorpe Cemetery. Ann died in 1900 and when her son, William, died in 1927, the 60 acres (24 ha) of Lot 8 were divided between sons, Arthur (1900-1963), Lloyd (1906-1957) and Victor (1908-1970). Each received 20 acres (8 ha) and Victor's included the old home- stead, where the family lived until 1955. Vic, along with former Reeve Les Pallett and Howard Pallett, who ran the W. T. Pallett & Son Fruit Packing Plant until 1985, were instrumental in forming the Toronto Township Hockey League (Mississauga Hockey League) in 1946 and building Dixie Arena, which opened December 16, 1949 (torn down in 1996).



▲ Gord and his Sons (Port Credit Weekly)

In the spring of 1954, the Stanfield farmland was purchased by Toronto Township under the direction of Deputy Reeve Mary Fix, and newly appointed Industrial Commissioner William Courtney. This was the start of the Dixie Industrial area, and the site became the location of the Fruehauf Trailers operation. In 1989, Steve Alosinac purchased the Fruehauf property. One of the Fruehauf buildings covered five acres (2 ha) and it was torn down in 2001 to make way for the Central Regional Office of the LCBO at 2450 Stanfield Road.

Thomas' great grandson, Gord Stanfield (1918-1994) grew up in the Dixie-Burnhamthorpe area, where his parents moved shortly after he was born. Gord attended the two-room Dixie Public School and the Streetsville High School. Gord took over his father Jack's milk transport business and served with the 48th Highland Regiment during World War II (1939-1945) before joining the Toronto Township Police Department in 1946. He spent 32 years on the force and retired in 1978 as Staff Superintendent of the Peel Region Police Department. He and his wife, Betty, had seven sons, Jack, 1943, Fred, 1944, Jim, 1947, Joe, 1948, Vic, 1951, Paul, 1953, and Gordon, 1955, who was killed in a car accident in 1980. They always wanted a girl,

Gord and Vic Stanfield and the famous Stanley Cup (The Mississauga News)



▲ Joe Stanfield (The Mississauga Fire Dept.)

but agreed boys were easier to raise. Several of their sons were prominent in the National Hockey League for a number of years. Jack played with the Rochester Americans and Houston Arrows, and Fred with the Boston Bruins, Chicago Black Hawks, Buffalo Sabers and the Minnesota North Stars, Joe with the Springfield Kings.

Betty passed away in September, 1991, and Gord on October 4, 1994, of a massive heart attack. There were several Stanfield descendants in Mississauga for many years, but now only a few remain such as Jim Stanfield, who still resides on Stanfield Road, and his sister, Anna Carr. Their second cousin, Irene, who owned the Moore-Stanfield heritage house on Burnhamthorpe Road until 1990, resides in Etobicoke. The family is spread throughout North America, but every year, they hold a family reunion to keep in touch.

Rubbermaid (Canada) Ltd., one of the first industries in Dixie, purchased 5.5 acres (2.2 ha) of Stanfield property and opened in 1956. The road, Second Line South, on which the Stanfields lived, now bears their name, as does Palstan Road, named for the Palletts and Stanfields.



▲ Stanfield Road Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Betty and Gordon David, 1955  
(Port Credit Weekly)



▲ The Stanfield House (Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Gord Stanfield  
(The Mississauga News)



▲ The Stanfield Boys and the Milk Truck



▲ Stanfield Boys - Jack, Fred, Jim, Joe, Vic, Paul and Gord. Insert: Jack and Fred  
(The Mississauga News)



▲ A Young Gord Stanfield

## The Dixie Schoolhouse - 1846

**I**n 1846, a log one-room schoolhouse was constructed on the east side of Third Line (Dixie Road) Lot 5, Con. 1, NDS, in the area referred to as Sydenham that discontinued the use of the octagonal school on First Line (Cawthra Road) that had been built in 1816. A Mr. Mosley was the first principal-teacher, and John Hawkins served as trustee. Part of Mr. Hawkins' job entailed collecting money from the parents in the section the school served to pay the principal's wages. He collected £56, 4 shillings and 6 pence (\$140.50) a year. Mr. Mosley received a £100 (\$250) annual salary. A third of this, £70 (\$175), came from the school section and £30 (\$75) was paid by the government. In 1846, the Home District Council divided Toronto Township into school sections and it became School Section #1, although it was not the first official school in Toronto Township. It did, however, become the first organized school board west of Toronto. At a Toronto Township council meeting on April 26, 1850, it was moved by William Thompson and seconded by Samuel Price "that the alteration granted be marked on the Township plan of School Sections by the Superintendent. Carried."



▲ Dixie Schoolhouse, built in 1857

(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

THE LOG SCHOOL WAS REPLACED BY A RED BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE in 1857, and the frame school was used by the caretaker, William Goodison, who paid 75¢ a month rent. This school had a turret on the roof that held a black iron bell that rang out to call the students into class. James Craig was the teacher with 50 students.

In 1862, Mr. Wark was the teacher and he received \$217 a year. The trustees were John Kennedy, John Watson and W. T. Shaver. As the population of the area expanded, a 22 by 27 foot (6.6 m x 8.1 m) addition was added on the back in 1877 at a cost of \$550.



▲ *Dixie Public School S.S.#1*  
(Ronald Watson)

The schoolhouse was used until 1923, when a new beautifully ornate school of buff bricks from the Milton Brick Company, with four classrooms and an auditorium, was opened south of Dundas Street on the west side of Third Line (Dixie Road). The site, Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, had been purchased from St. Patrick's Catholic

Parish in March, 1922, for \$7,488. In 1921, when the building of a new school was in the process of being discussed, many confrontations arose between the parents of the students. The Watsons, Willie, Mel, Fred and Charlie, and the Stewarts, Harvey and Jim, all lived near the Middle Road (Queen Elizabeth Way) and their children had to walk along busy roadways to get to school. They were opposed to their children crossing these dangerous intersections and wanted the school built closer to where they lived. However, their request was defeated and the school was constructed.

Alice Clarkson was the secretary of the School Board. Contracts were secured with architects, Smith & Wright, Sherwood Construction, the builders, J. G. Jackson, who installed the Spencer steam boiler at a cost of \$3,550, and Robert Patterson, who did the plumbing for \$521. The total cost of the brick schoolhouse was \$45,000. Arthur Clarkson, Ken Watson and Harold Pallett were the first trustees. When the school opened in March, Miss Ruby Smith was principal and the teachers were Mamie White and Mrs. Bonner. The school, which was heated by a steam furnace, had Clarkson Grice as the caretaker.

Ken Watson was responsible for removing the bell from the old school and having it installed in the bell tower of the new school. Les Pallett Sr. and several Dixie men organized the first artificially lit ball diamond in Ontario on the Dixie School grounds.

The old school became a residence of the Robert Stanfield family and stood until the early 1970s. Attending school was not compulsory until 1922. That year, Sid Belford, Mildred Bellegham's uncle, was assigned truant officer. He was also appointed Toronto Township's first police chief in 1938, six years before the Toronto Township Police Department was formed.

A school reunion was held in 1929 and several of the special guests were John Clarkson and William Johnson, who had been pupils 78 years



▲ *Former Dixie Public School, 2005* (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ *The Girl's Baseball Team with Dorelle Whaley as Captain*



▲ *Miss Gravelle and Miss Flynn*  
*Miss Gravelle far right*



▲ *Students, Dorelle Whaley, Nora, Harry and Don Watson with Caesar*



before, John Robert Kennedy, an early school trustee, and the 1864 teacher, J. H. Bennett. Miles Vokes was chairman of the reunion committee. John Clarkson commented, "Do I

remember when I went to Dixie School? I should say I do remember. I recall the old frame school on the Third Line with the desks around the wall, the forms with the pupils facing them and the teachers walking up and down between."

In 1933, student May Adelaide Towers was instantly killed when a skidding automobile

#### ◀ *May Adelaide Towers, 1933*

(Photos courtesy of Dorelle Whaley Boyes)





▲ *Dixie Public School, 1963* (Mississauga Library System)

hurled her into an oncoming CNR radial train on the Third Line railway crossing. All the teachers and her friends were stunned by her death and condolences were sent to her parents Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Towers.

The multicoloured brown brick Dixie School was closed down when yet another school was built in Applewood Heights and opened in 1963. The former school was bought from the South Peel Board of Education in December 1962, by the Ministry of Government Services for the Ministry of Transportation's Motor Vehicles Branch. It was utilized as such until July 1982, when it was relocated to the John Rhodes Centre on Airport Road in Brampton. The 60-year-old building at 2520 Dixie Road was purchased in June 1983, by the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church. It was used for services until a tall majestic structure was opened on June 13, 2002. The former school is now used for special events by the Serbian congregation.

A provincial historical plaque honouring Colonel T. L. Kennedy was unveiled on October 4, 1974, on the front lawn of the Dixie Public School, 1120 Flagship Drive, which was originally part of the Kennedy farm. The unveiling ceremony, carried out by Tom Kennedy's daughters, Jane Hughes and Ruth Jackson, was sponsored by the Mississauga Historical Society. President Lorne Joyce hosted the event that was attended by William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario, Lou Parsons, Peel Regional chairman, Archdeacon George Banks,



▲ *Dixie Public School, 2005* (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Inset: T. L. Kennedy Plaque



▲ *James McCarthy and Nora Stewart with the Dixie School Bell, 1997* (Mississauga News)

Caye Killaby, Ward 4 Councillor, Ruth Thompson, Peel Board of Education trustee, Douglas Kennedy, MPP, Mississauga South, and Anthony Abbott, MP, Mississauga South.

The bell and a series of 1976 commemorative plates, were donated to the Peel Board of Education in 1997 by Nora Stewart and are on display in the atrium of the board offices at 5650 Hurontario Street.

## Information

The first Grammar School Act was put through Upper Canada Legislation in York in 1807, which established the construction of grammar schools throughout the province, one to be built in each of the eight Districts. The first grammar school to be built was in York, Home District, and it was under the direction of Reverend George O'Kill Stuart from 1807 to 1812 when Reverend John Strachan (pastor of St. James Church, York) replaced him. As the schools were constructed, teachers were hired. They had to work five days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday mornings in summer months.

During the winter their day started at 9 a.m. and went to 4 p.m. They were paid £5 (\$12.50) a month, plus board and lodging. The school trustees set the teacher's salary.

The parents had to pay for their children to attend school. If they were not satisfied with the teacher's conduct, they could have the person dismissed. By 1816, a teacher was receiving 18 shillings per year per student (\$2.25).

On February 6, 1816, the Common School Act was passed through Legislation and £6000 (\$15,000) was appropriated towards teachers' salaries and supplies. The Town of York was allocated £600 (\$1,500).

The General School Board was created in 1823 with Doctor John Strachan as president. It was abolished in 1832 and Reverend Egerton Ryerson persevered through the years to establish the present school system in 1844, of which he became the first Superintendent of Education (1844-1876). He was also instrumental in providing free, compulsory primary schooling for all children with the Grammar School Act of 1871.

The South Peel Board of Education (now the Peel District School Board) came into existence April 10, 1952.



▲ Dixie Public School Class, 1896 (Region of Peel Archives)



## Memories

"I was a trustee at the Dixie School for seven years (1934-1941). When things are going smoothly, people don't come out to the annual meetings too much. The annual meetings fell on the Wednesday between Christmas and New Years, so if Christmas fell on a Wednesday, it would be held the next day. The meetings had to be at 10 o'clock in the morning, two in the afternoon or seven at night. We always had our meetings at ten in the morning. At one meeting, we were short one for a quorum, so we dressed a broom and stood it in the corner and the kids would pass the entrance just the same.

▲ Jim McCarthy "That school was used for a lot of activities. I used to call off the square dances there. The school had a center hall with a classroom on each wing. At many of the dances there were four hundred people out. Those days certainly were fun. I have a lot of good memories of Dixie."

The Late Jim McCarthy  
Dixie Farmer



"I went to the second Dixie School on Dixie Road and then the new one south of the Dundas. We fished at noon hour in the Little Etobicoke Creek and played soccer against Burnhamthorpe School. We used to walk up Dixie Road for the games and walk back to school afterwards. There were no buses then. My Dad told me a story about when he attended the Dixie School. He liked to go in bare feet and his family said 'You're going to school, so you have to dress properly — wear your boots.' So, he wore his boots to the end of the driveway, put his boots in the culvert and went to school in bare feet and picked up his boots on the way home. No one ever suspected what was going on.

▲ Grant Clarkson "One vivid memory about growing up in Dixie as a kid was swimming in the Little Etobicoke Creek. The creek took a definite turn and came over a hill on our property and it had created a very nice swimming pool. It was quite standard in the summertime for the men and the boys of the neighbourhood to go swimming — skinny dipping — there was no thought of any bathing suits. So my dad, along with Les Pallett Sr. and all the young fellows and older men would go skinny dipping to cool off. I have fond memories of that."

Grant Clarkson  
Former Councillor and Deputy Reeve



▲ School Master and Class  
(Artist Norman Price, Region of Peel Archives)

## Teacher's Pet

If I live forever, I'll never forget  
The day I became the teacher's pet.  
The night before, I worked like a slave,  
Trying to make French verbs behave.

I translated Latin till I looked like Caesar:  
But physics proved the real teaser.  
My duties done, I went to bed,  
An abundance of knowledge stored in my head.

I knew about 'pugno,' I'd read some of 'Lear,'  
My poor brain was stuffed from ear to ear.  
I set out next morn with every intention  
To keep this one day free from detention.

There was no answer I couldn't give,  
The teacher's learned my mind was no sieve.  
My friends disowned me, What should I care.  
I wouldn't let that get in my hair.

When noon rolled 'round, I was being ignored.  
It wasn't pleasant and I was bored.  
In desperation I became  
"Little Hateful" once again.

I banged my ruler on the floor,  
Then shot spitballs out the door.  
Teacher's pet isn't my vocation.  
I handed in my resignation.

Author unknown  
*Port Credit Weekly*  
November 15, 1951



▲ *School's Out*  
(Streetsville Review)

## Rules For Teachers - 1870

- 1: Each day, teachers will fill lamps and clean lamp chimneys.
- 2: Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and scuttle of coal to school each day.
- 3: Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
- 4: Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
- 5: After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
- 6: Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
- 7: Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
- 8: Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
- 9: The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

## Toronto Township Public School Sections

The Home District Council divided the Township into School Sections (S.S.) in 1846

S.S. #1	Dixie, Lot 5. Concession 1, North Dundas Street (NDS), built 1846	S.S. #11	Hanlan, Lot 4, Con.3, EHS, built 1844
S.S. #2	Cooksville, Lot 15, Con.1, NDS, built 1861	S.S. #12	Britannia, Lot 3, Con.1, West Hurontario Street (WHS), built 1851
S.S. #3	Erindale, Lot 20, Con.1, NDS, never established	S.S. #13	Derry West, Lot 11, Con.1, WHS, built 1856
S.S. #4	Erindale, Lot 28, Con.1, NDS, built 1845	S.S. #14	Churchville, Lot 15, Con.4, WHS, built 1845
S.S. #5	Hillcrest, Clarkson, Lot 31, Con.2, South Dundas Street (SDS), built 1826	S.S. #15	Meadowvale, Lot 11, Con.3, WHS, built 1851
S.S. #6	Clarkson, Lot 29, Con.3, SDS, built 1830	S.S. #16	Creditvale, Lot 1, Con.3, WHS
S.S. #7	Lakeview, Lot 12, Con.3, SDS, built 1833	S.S. #17	Eden, Lot 11, Con.5, WHS, built 1877
S.S. #8	Burnhamthorpe, Lot 6, Con.1, NDS, built 1862	S.S. #18	Streetsville, Lot 3, Con.4, WHS, circa 1824
S.S. #9	Elmbank, Lot 6, Con.5, East Hurontario Street (EHS), built 1860	S.S. #19	Riverside, Lot 7 Port Credit Plan, built 1893
S.S. #10	Palestine, Lot 10, Con.2, EHS, built 1842	S.S. #20	Forest Avenue, Lot 15, Con.2, EHS, built 1917
		S.S. #21	Malton, Lot 11, Con.6, EHS, built 1828
		S.S. #22	Lorne Park, Lot 25, Con.2, WHS, built 1923

## The Death Family - 1849

**T**he Death family was well known in Toronto Township and there were several members in Dixie. Abel Death (b.1819, d.1883) and his wife, Lucy (1813-1884), who hailed from Etobicoke, purchased 25 acres (10 ha) of Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, on May 10, 1849, and another 20 acres (8 ha) in 1857 for £225 (\$563). He was the son of Thomas (1788-1845) and Charlotte Death, who came to Canada from England in 1831 and settled in Muddy York (Toronto). He had two brothers, Daniel (1825-1894) and George (1831-1862). His parents had lost three babies, Rachel, 1817, Rachel, 1823, and Charlotte, 1827. His father had a silversmith's shop on the east side of Yonge Street. In 1832, the family moved onto 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 12 on Church Street in Etobicoke, where Abel resided until he came to Toronto Township.

In 1863, Abel sold his property to his brother, Daniel, for \$2,000. On January 4, 1876, Daniel bought part of the north half of Lot 6 from James Volk for \$1,000. Daniel also purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 6, Con. 2, SDS, in what would become known as Lakeview, from Charles Wood in 1874.



▲ Daniel Death and wife Mary Porter

(Photos courtesy of Dorothy Death)

DANIEL WAS MARRIED TO ELLEN THOMPSON (1830-1864) AND they had Frederick (1854-1915), Mary Ellen (1855-1921), John (1859-1926), and George (1861-1948). Ellen died of tuberculosis in 1864 and was buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery, leaving Daniel to raise his four children. He then married Mary Porter (1846-1898), who had been born in England, and they had nine children. Their son, Wesley (1871-1968) helped on the family's Dixie farm until 1914 when he moved to Cordova Avenue in Islington to work for the Township of Etobicoke.



▲ Hector and Annie  
Death

He married Keziah Wing and they had a son, Edgar. Their son Hector (1872-1959) married Annie Sabiston (1881-1945) and they had James Ivan, 1908, Arthur, 1913, and Lindsay, 1915. Hector purchased 15 acres (6 ha) of the family farm in January, 1912, for \$5,000 from his brother, Bernard, and built a two-storey, 10 room-house. He not only took pride in his farm production, but also owned one of the first cars in Dixie. The family belonged to the Dixie Presbyterian Church. Hector was on the Board of Managers and in 1922 was ordained as an elder. His son, Lindsay, would be instrumental in the founding of the Dixie Arena, which opened in 1949.

Frederick Death (1854-1915, the eldest son of Daniel and Ellen Thompson Death) and his wife, Mary Jane Skinner (1852-1920), owned a substantial farm in Dixie. Norman Death (1882-1962) was born on this farm. He was an only child. He graduated in engineering from the University of Toronto and became an insurance adjuster, a position he held for 50 years. Norman married Ida May Watson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. George Watson, of Lakeview, on June 23, 1909. Their children were Muriel, 1912, Dorothy, 1914, Norma, 1918, and George, 1921. In 1950, Norman started his own insurance agency, which he headed up until he passed away in 1962. He and Ida were buried in the family plot at Park Lawn Cemetery.

Fred and Mary Jane Death ►  
and Son, Norman



Charlotte Death (b.1848, d.1919), the daughter of Abel and Lucy, married James Clarkson (1849-1924). They had George Wilbert (1875-1963) and Amy (1881-1897), who died at age 16.



▲ Charlotte  
Death

When they were first married, they farmed in Dixie and then in 1894, they moved to Summerville, where they bought the south half of Lot 3, Con.1, NDS, for \$6,200 from the Willcox family. They had two farmhouses on the property and their's was situated close to the roadway. Son, George, lived in the other house with his wife, Edith Mason



▲ James  
Clarkson

(1877-1967), and they had six children. George's main crops were fruits and vegetables. He also kept a herd of cows to provide milk. They belonged to the Bethesda Methodist Church and James taught Sunday School. After Charlotte died suddenly of a stroke, James lived another five years and was killed when he was hit by a car on Dundas Street in front of his home. Both were laid to rest at Park Lawn Cemetery in Etobicoke.

George had been maintaining the farm for his father for sometime, then he inherited it upon his father's accidental death. It has been said of George that "he was a good farmer, a great family man and a wonderful church worker." When George and Edith retired, they sold the farm and moved to Stanfield Road, where they enjoyed a leisure life and spent time at their daughter Amy's summer cottage in Tobermory. They had seven grandchildren. They celebrated their 60th anniversary on March 28, 1959, and died in 1963 and 1967 respectively. They had 14 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Hector's son, James Ivan, grew up on his parents' farm on Dixie Road, just north of the Middle Road (Queen Elizabeth Way - QEW). He and his

Dorothy and Ivan Death ►



brothers attended the Dixie Public School and Port Credit High School. He married Dorothy Cowieson (b.1913) on June 9, 1937. They had Robert, 1941, and James, 1944, and lost a baby in infancy. In 1951, Hector sold some of his land for the QEW overpass and in 1953, 11 acres (4.4 ha) to G. S. Shipp and Son for the Applewood Acres subdivision. When he died in 1959, Ivan inherited the house. He worked for the Imperial Life Assurance Company until 1973 when he retired. He and Dorothy resided on Dixie Road until 1963 when they sold the family home and moved to Orchard Heights. Ivan passed away on December 14, 1996. Dorothy Death still lives in Mississauga. She has four grandchildren, Corina, Jason, Michael and Shaun.

The two-storey, 10 room Death house, built by Hector in 1913, is still in existence at 2116 Dixie Road, set amongst stately trees and secluded behind a hedge that shuts out the busy world. It was used by two nurses, Mary Pettigrew and Carol Jereb, for a nursing home from 1963 to 1975, when they sold it to Angelo and Nancy Battista. Anthony passed away on May 2, 2004, and Nancy has moved, but still owns the house today.



▲ Hector Death's House, 2005 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

## NEWS ITEM

### Watson-Death Wedding

A very pretty wedding took place at 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon on the lawn of Silver Birch Fruit Farm, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. George Watson, of Dixie, when their only daughter, Ida May, was united in marriage to Norman P. F. Death, B.A. Sc. of Toronto. The bride wore a gown of mousseline de soie adorned with Venetian lace with tulle veil and orange blossoms, and she carried a shower of white roses and lily of the valley.

The bridesmaid, Miss Bessie Watson, cousin of the bride, was attired in pink and carried a shower bouquet of pink roses. Little Miss Faye Neal, of Newmarket, made a very pretty flower girl, carrying a basket of sweet peas which she scattered before the bride. The groom was supported by a brother of the bride, Mr. Charles Watson. The bride, who was given away by her father, approached through an aisle of white ribbon and smilax held by her four brothers, the arch of flowers, ferns and evergreens, where the ceremony was performed by Rev. G. Sydney Smith, assisted by Rev. T. W. Neal.

After the congratulations, the bridal party and guests sat down to a wedding breakfast. Among the gifts was a silver service of six pieces, presented to the bride by the choir and members of Bethesda Methodist Church, as a slight token of their esteem and in recognition of her service as organist for the past five years. After the toasts were drunk, Mr. and Mrs. Death left in a taxicab for Toronto, and then to Buffalo and points east.

*Streetsville Review*  
Thursday, June 24, 1909

## John Wilson - 1850

JOHN WILSON (b.1817, d.1873) EMIGRATED from England at an early age and settled in Toronto. He was trained to be a butcher by his adopted father, Mr. Dunn. He moved to Chinguacousy, where he worked for John Craig, Lot 18, Con.2, EHS. He helped raise and ship sheep and cattle. This job worked out so well, he became a partner and made quite a fortune at his trade.

John bought 18.5 acres (7.5 ha) of Lot 9, Con.1, SDS, in Sydenham (Dixie) on March 12, 1850, from Samuel Mills. He and his new wife, Sarah Ann Pimlott (1828-1905) moved there and he built a modest house. They had Frederick (1851-1855), George (1853-1865), Annie (1855-1856) and Robert, (1861-1863). He purchased several acres of Lot 9 in 1856, 1863, 1866 and 1867 until he owned 100 acres (40 ha) of the former grant of Johann Schiller. The Kennedys owned the south half, where the Atlantic Hotel was located.

On November 13, 1856, he purchased Peter Romain's property, Lot 16, Con.1, NDS, in the village of Cooksville for £300 (\$750), built a butcher shop and worked plying his butcher trade.

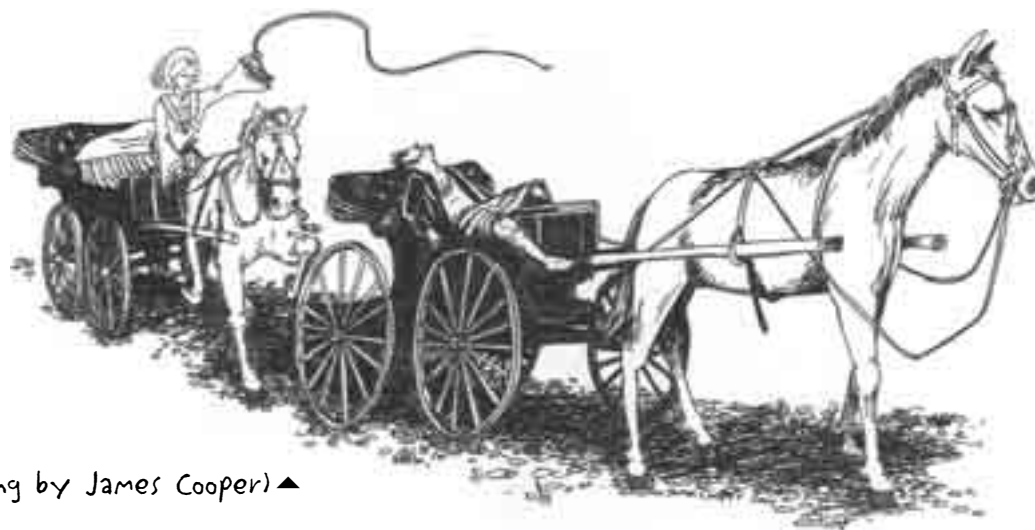


▲ The former Wilson House, 883 Dundas Street East (Norma Peabody)  
Inset: John Wilson (Region of Peel Archives)

John and Sarah were notable residents of the area. They were a flamboyant couple, about whom everyone passed on tales of their antics. Sarah enjoyed new clothes and dressed with a flair for elegance, which earned her the name of “Belle of Dixie.”

John, on the other hand, had a penchant for alcohol and many times his swankily dressed wife had to go to the tavern to bring him home.

Being financially secure, they each had their own carriage. When Sarah was summoned to pick up her erring spouse at the tavern, she would have him thrown into his buggy and leap into her own and then urge the horses homeward-bound, occasionally lashing her whip over her husband's inert body all the way home.



(Drawing by James Cooper) ▲

When her husband was under the influence, Sarah would hide his clothes, so he couldn't go out, but he would rifle through her closet and don her garments, which once was a red petticoat, and leap out the bedroom window. Dressed in women's clothes, he would run through the village, dropping in on one tavern after another, causing a riot everywhere he went.

On April 4, 1863, John purchased 148 acres (58.2 ha) of Lot 10, Con.1, NDS, from Thomas Newlove, and here he built an elegant mansion and when it was completed called it "The Manor." The Wilsons held elaborate garden parties on their veranda, which was festooned with Chinese lanterns. Next door, he put up a building, which became a tavern named "Rat's Castle." He put a manager in charge and continued to operate his butcher shop. When people began to comment that Sydenham, now Fountain Hill, should receive a new name, his neighbours suggested Wilsonville. But he turned down the honour and said it should be named for his good friend Dr. Beaumont Dixie. So it was called Dixie in July 1864, and the post office, located at Kennedy's Atlantic Hotel and Emporium, was changed to the Dixie Post Office.

He donated a piece of his Lot 10 in 1869 for the St. John the Baptist Anglican Church to be built. He made a condition with this deal that no pews were to be rented. Sarah played the organ at St. John's Church as did her daughter, Caroline.

It has been written that when John died in 1873 at age 56 a piece of property was given to his old retainer, John Bell, but this could not be substantiated. Bell, like his longtime friend, was also a comical and notorious gentleman. One of his trades was making coffins, which he did for his deceased client.

The widow Sarah married Francis Silverthorn, of the Summerville Silverthorns, at St. James Cathedral in Toronto on June 16, 1880. On January 14, 1892, Sarah sold Miles Cook nearly an acre (0.4 ha) of Lot 10 to add to the Dixie Union Chapel's Cemetery. Her husband, Francis, died in December 1894, making her a widow for a

second time. Sarah passed away in 1905. She, John and their children are buried in the Dixie Cemetery. A John B. Wilson, said to be John and Sarah's son (but not listed), who had become a Texas oil baron, sold the Lots 9 and 10 property that was left to Thomas McCarthy on October 10, 1907, for \$7,250.

The Wilson house at 883 Dundas Street East was later owned by the Aikenheads, then the Grebeldingers, who ran a second hand shop out of it. John Price bought the house and tore it down and had an apartment building constructed, which is now a Peel Living building at 880 Riley Court.



▲ The Wilson Gravestone  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Clarkson Family - 1850

**W**illiam (b.1808, d.1892) and Sarah Clarkson (1818-1905), who hailed from Yorkshire, England, came to Toronto Township in 1850 from Lambton, where they had lived since 1843. After residing on Third Line (Dixie Road) for a few years, William purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, for £250 (\$625) on September 8, 1853. He cleared the property to enable him to build a stone house. Many of the oak and pine trees were sold for ship building. He was a farmer his entire life and farmed the land with much pride. The Clarksons had eleven children, four boys and seven girls. William was a lay preacher and the family attended local church meetings and then the Burnhamthorpe Methodist Church and later Bethesda.

William was instrumental in working to improve Dundas Street. He used his team of horses to plough up the old corduroy from the roadway. He and William Shaver were said to be the only farmers in the area to have a good team and they were involved in forming bees to build the Bethesda Church in 1863, which opened in January, 1864. On January 4, 1873, he bought 60 acres (24 ha) of Lot 5, Con.1, NDS, on Dundas Street from Robert Craig for \$2,400.



▲ William, Sarah and Family  
Top Left: William. Lower Right: Sarah

HE BUILT A HOUSE HERE AND AGAIN SOLD ALL THE LUMBER from the massive trees. When William retired, he and Sarah moved to Islington, where they resided until their deaths in 1892 and 1905, respectively.

Their son, John (1845-1933), who took an active part in agricultural affairs in the community, bought 60 acres of Lot 4, Con.1, NDS, on April 6, 1877, from Thomas Elgie for \$3,200 and 65 acres (24.2 ha) of Lot 2, Con.1, NDS, in 1905 for \$6,500 from Victor Alderson. It was part of this property that he sold on September 23, 1914, to trustee William Watson for the expansion of the Bethesda Church. He married Mary Ann Pallett, from the Pallett family of Dixie, in 1882 and they



◀ John Clarkson



William and Sarah's sons ▲

(Photos courtesy of Grant Clarkson)

▲ Mary Clarkson



took up occupancy on his Lot 4 property, where John started to farm in earnest. Arthur Wilmot Clarkson was born in 1884. His middle name comes from the surveyor Samuel Street Wilmot. He grew up to become a successful operator of market gardens on the Dundas highway. In 1894, John purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 3, Con.1, NDS, from Candace Willcox for \$6,200, the former home of Absalom Willcox, who harboured the rebellious William Lyon Mackenzie during his Rebellion in 1837. Under John Clarkson and Sons, John, who raised Holstein-Friesian cattle, won many prizes at the Canadian National Exhibition for his general purpose horses in the early 1900s. He later purchased the Alderson estate, where he and Mary Ann

resided with their son, Norman, until their passing, Mary in 1922 and John, 1933.

Arthur met Elizabeth Alice Price (1882-1956), who was the assistant principal at Annette Street Public School on Annette Street in Toronto. She was the daughter of Rebecca Irwin and John James Price, who had married on September 21, 1866, and had seven children. Elizabeth was their baby. She was born July 1, 1881, and her oldest brother, William, had also come into the world the day of Confederation, July 1, 1867. Arthur and Elizabeth were married in 1910 and they lived in a roughcast house built by Arthur's father. Here their first child, Irwin, was born in 1911 (died 1975). Arthur bought some adjoining property on Dundas, Lot 4, Con.1, NDS, and built a two and a half storey red brick house, where three more children were born, Grant, 1915, Betty (1917-2003) and Margaret, 1919. The old homestead was used to house their workers.

In 1919 and 1922, Arthur purchased more property between Bloor and Dundas Streets, Lots 2 and 5, until he was operating 300 acres (122 ha), with 50 acres (20 ha) in sweet corn and an apple orchard. His fruit and produce were sold to Toronto outlets. He had a herd of high quality Holstein cattle and sold milk to a Toronto dairy.

The Clarkson children went to the small one-room red brick school-house on Dixie Road, and then to the new school below Dundas Street. Mail was delivered from the Islington Post Office to a mailbox on the roadway. They used the Royal Bank in Islington, managed by a Mr. Hodson. They went to Summerville to a general store for their sundry items. Mr. Halsey, a butcher from Cooksville, stopped by regularly to bring their meat supply. Groceries were delivered by Mr. Mickey and although the Clarksons didn't require milk, it was available to their neighbours from Cooksville Dairy.

Grant worked alongside his father from a very young age. His first task was picking peas. He also had to milk cows in the evenings. He can remember the family having a telephone party line and their number was 31 ring 1-3, which was one long and three short rings.



▲ Grant, Irwin and Betty Clarkson

The Clarkson family attended the Bethesda Methodist Church (became United in 1925), which was located on property Grant's grandfather had owned. They were involved with most of the church's activities. When Grant grew up, he taught Sunday school and was chairman of the building committee when they added a section to the back.

Grant never considered going into farming, so he did not follow in his father's footsteps when he graduated from the University of Toronto as a mechanical engineer in 1938. His first job took him to Sault Ste. Marie, working for Algoma Steel. He was then interviewed in Sudbury for a job in the aeronautical inspection directorate for the British Air Commission, which brought him to Malton, where he inspected the construction of aircraft. He was then assigned to Douglas Aircraft in Santa Monica, California. He had met Janet Johnston (1921- 2004) in Sault Ste. Marie and they corresponded. They decided to get married which took place at her family home in Windsor on December 29, 1940. She accompanied him to California. They returned to Canada in 1942 to Montreal, and then Edmonton and on to Winnipeg, where Barbara was born. Then they moved to Islington for Grant's job at Brazilian Traction in Toronto. Son, David, who became a doctor, was born in 1945 and Phillip in 1950. David operates his practice at Creditview Medical and works out of the Credit Valley Hospital.

In 1950, they moved to the family farm in Dixie, where Grant became a leading figure in the development of the apple growing industry in southern Ontario. At this time, the Toronto Township Council decided to create a planning board and there were not too many people with engineering experience, so Grant was appointed as part of a committee to create the new board. Then he was elected to the Public Utilities Commission to establish a public works commission to run the waterworks. Anthony Adamson was the first president and Grant the second.



▲ The Clarkson House and Barn



In 1956, his mother, Elizabeth, passed away and in 1964, Arthur began to sell off the farm to developers, one being S. B. McLaughlin Associates. Grant bought a farm on the south side of Eglinton and had a house constructed by Glenn Grice. In 1964, he purchased 85 acres (34 ha) on Barbertown Road where he planted an orchard and numerous trees. His father, Arthur, died on May 17, 1971, and was buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery with his wife. He was survived by three children, 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

When a municipal election was called in 1959, Grant ran for councillor of Ward 4 and lost out to Roy McMillan. When McMillan became Reeve in 1968, Grant won as councillor, which he held until 1971. He became deputy reeve in 1971 until 1974. He was acting mayor in 1971 when Mayor Robert Speck was ill and reeve for the last seven weeks in 1973. He also joined the board of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority in 1968 and served as chairman from 1975 to 1980, when he retired.

He and Janet had a lovely ranch-style bungalow constructed on their Barbertown Road property and moved there in 1981. He sold off

most of the property over the years, but still maintains three houses on 17 acres (7 ha) that harbours an apple orchard and lovely gardens.

In 2003, Grant was honoured by the Etobicoke Collegiate Institute during its 75th anniversary reunion, by being inducted into the Etobian Gallery of Distinction in recognition of "his career achievements and meritorious contribution to his country and community." On June 30, 2004, Janet Clarkson passed away. Grant still resides in the family home.



▲ Arthur and Elizabeth Price Clarkson



◀ Grant and Janet in California



▲ Grant Clarkson during his Football Days



▲ Janet, Grant, and children Philip, Barbara and David, 1967



▲ Grant, Don Pallett, Archie Turner and Morris Magwood



▲ The Credit Valley Conservation Board



◀ The Clarkson Family



▲ Grant and Janet, 2001

## Andrew Allison and Family - 1850

**T**he Allison family came to the United States from County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, when Andrew Allison was a young man. He had been born there in 1802 and graduated from Edinburgh University with an engineering degree. Once settled in their adopted homeland, Andrew worked in New York State for a time on the Erie Canal, which opened in 1825.

Shortly after this historical involvement, he came to Upper Canada on his own and settled in York, where he purchased property on the waterfront. He traded this acreage for property in Toronto Township, Lot 2, Con.3, EHS.



▲ The Allison House

(Photos courtesy of William Pinkney)



▲ Andrew Allison



▲ Sarah Moore Allison

HE BUILT A LOG HOUSE IN 1825 AND IN 1826, MARRIED SARAH Moore (b.1802, d.1875). Sarah had been born in Onatonabee Township near Peterborough. They had six children, Mary Ann (1830-1905), Henry (1831-1951), James (1833-1916), Andrew (1834-1914), Samuel (1836-1928) and Thomas (1837-1913). By 1835, the family was ready for a larger house and Andrew built one of bricks, which he made on his own property.



▲ The Allison House

In October, 1850, Andrew purchased 189 acres (76.6 ha) from David Culp of Lot 10, Con.2, NDS, which had been the 1808 grant of Elizabeth Eastman. He built a stone house, a sizable barn and numerous outbuildings and the family settled in to raise livestock. The family joined the Presbyterian Church that held services in the Union Chapel.

His first business enterprise was a brickworks, which he operated in partnership with George Tolman. They supplied bricks for the Kennedys' Atlantic Hotel and Store and other buildings around the area, such as the former Cook/Copeland Store that was built in 1853 and still stands today at 14 Dundas Street East.



▲ Fairview Farmhouse and Outbuildings

When his son, James, married Mary Ann Madden (1849-1940) in 1874, they resided in a small house on the family farm and then he built a two-storey brick house with a slate roof and elegant gingerbread trim that he named Fairview Manor. James and Mary Ann had Sarah (1875-1966), Thomas (1877-1943), Minnie (1879-1978), Margaret (1880-1971), Annie (1881-1882) and Henrietta (1886-1981). James' only son, Thomas, would grow up to enjoy working on the farm and he raised and trained the colts and horses.

The Allison family bought other property, one of which was where the Pucky Huddle Hotel was located, west of Second Line



▲ James Allison

(Tomken Road). This property would be farmed until 1975, with the last owners being Jim and Gwen Laurence. It was sold to Gordon S. Shipp & Son for a subdivision in 1965.

Andrew passed away in 1866 and was buried in the Streetsville Presbyterian Cemetery. His wife, Sarah, joined him in 1875. Their son, Thomas, took over the family residence and farmland. He was married to Lucinda Cook, who was the daughter of Jacob Cook, for whom Cooksville was named. They had a daughter, Sarah Lucinda,



▲ James' Children

and a son, Andrew. Sarah became a nurse and worked in Peterborough. When she retired, she moved back to the family home- stead. She then spent her time caring for family members during their various maladies. She was the last remaining Allison to live in the house before it was demolished in 1969, when it was torn down to make way for present day development. Sarah passed away in the Bahamas. Andrew married Golda Elliott and they had two sons, Thomas and Jack.



▲ Allison's Three Seater Wagon



▲ Billy, Jim and Helen



▲ Thomas Andrew Allison

James and Mary Ann's oldest child, Sarah, married William Pinkney (1873-1957) in 1906. The Pinkney family owned Lots 12 and 13, Con.1, NDS. They had two sons, Allison (1908-1986) and James (1911-1999). James became a veterinarian, having graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph. Both boys took to raising cattle and won numerous prizes for their livestock at the Royal Winter Fair. In 1936, Dr. Jim was a champion of the agronomy division, champion of the stock division and grand champion showman at the "College Royal."

When James Allison's son, Thomas Andrew, and his wife, Nellie Price, were residing at Fairview with their three children, Jim, Helen and Billy, a terribly brisk wind storm came up. In the backyard was a tall windmill. As the children watched the windmill from an upstairs bedroom window, the wheel spun around crazily as the wind picked up. It went faster and faster until the windmill broke free of its base

and flew up in the air and landed in the orchard. Of course, the children had to scramble downstairs and tell their father that his windmill had blown away.

The family owned a three seater wagon called a "Democrat." It was mostly used to get the family to church on Sundays.



◀ Fairview  
Farm  
Backyard

James and Mary Ann Allison moved to Toronto in April, 1915, and before they left, the Dixie Presbyterian Church presented them with a certificate for their dedicated service from 1878 when the church was formed. They had been instrumental in the building of the church in 1910. James died at his residence, 19 Hurndale Avenue, Toronto, on May 3, 1916. His service was held in the church that had been like a second home to him and his family. Allison Park at 575 Willowbank Trail is named for the family.

Sarah and William Pinkney's son, Allison, who died in 1986, was the father of William Allison Pinkney, who is the last in a long line of the Allison family.



▲ Allison Pinkney



▲ James Pinkney



▲ William Allison Pinkney



▲ Sarah Allison at the original homestead

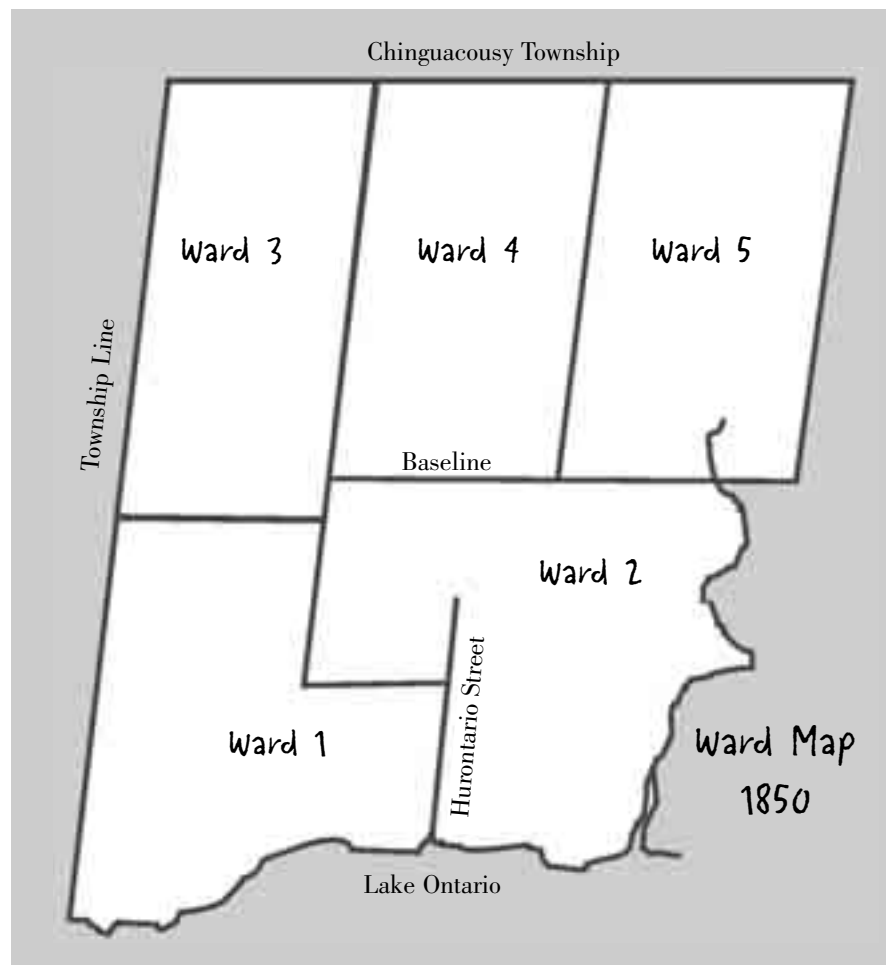


▲ William and Sarah Pinkney

# Toronto Township Incorporated - 1850

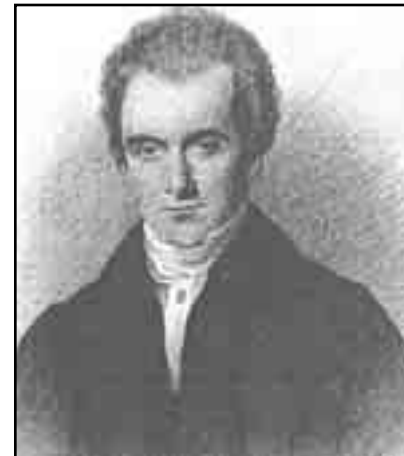
IN 1850, TORONTO TOWNSHIP WAS INCORPORATED under the District Municipal Act, which reads:

Incorporation under the Act by the Legislature in the Twelfth year of Victoria, chapter eighty and eighty one; entitled as Act to repeal the Acts in force in Upper Canada, relative to the establishment of Local and Municipal Authorities and other matter of a like nature.



The Baldwin Act of 1849 brought about the reformation of municipal self-government in Canada West, a democratic system of government. Robert Baldwin (b.1804, d.1858), a lawyer and politician, was the leader of the movement for representative government in Canada. He had been a Member of Provincial Parliament (1829-1830) for York and Hastings, Attorney General of Upper Canada, Executive Council (1836 and 1841), Solicitor General (1842-1843) and was co-premier of the United Canadas with Louis LaFontaine (1848-1851). He abolished districts and developed counties. He established police villages, of which Port Credit and Malton became.

This process had started through the appointment of Lord Durham (John George Lambton, 1792-1840) by the British Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne, as Governor-in-Chief of British North America in 1838. It was through the workings of this very industrious gentleman,



▲ Robert Baldwin



▲ Lord Durham

(Photos courtesy of the Toronto Public Library TRL)

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Lord Durham, who realized that the Canadian people were outgrowing the existing colonial system. The District Municipal Council Act was first proposed on January 31, 1839, by Lord Durham in a letter to Queen Victoria (reigned, 1837-1902), and his plan, passed in July, 1840, finally came into being in 1850, ten years after his death.

The townships across Canada West (Ontario) would now handle their own business of tax levies, school ordinance, road maintenance and administrative duties. Also passed was The Stamp Act and the English pound system being converted to Canadian currency (the decimal system was adopted January 1, 1858). An Act that revised the judicial system was put into effect, and an Act to transform Kings College into the nonsectarian University of Toronto.

The Township was divided into five wards with the passing of By-law 220 at a meeting of the Home District Council on October 2, 1849, which went into effect on January 1, 1850. At an election held

the first Monday in January, the councillors for the year of 1850 were decided upon: Ward 1, William Thompson, Ward 2, Charles Romain, Ward 3, Christopher Row, Ward 4, Joseph Wright and Ward 5, Samuel Price. John Embleton was the town clerk. The council now had the jurisdiction to hold municipal elections and control its own governmental undertakings.

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

The population of the Township at this time was nearly 7,000.



▲ Charles Romain  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Samuel Price  
(Mississauga Library System)



▲ The First Stamp, 1851, 3 pence,  
designed by Sir Sanford Fleming  
(Canada Post Corp. Ottawa)



(Nonie Wilcox)

Part Two 1851 - 1900

## St. Patrick's Catholic Church - 1856

**S**t. Patrick's Catholic Church's Dixie congregation was formed by Bishop Charbonnel in 1856 and they held their first services at the Mission Church on the Fifth Line at Elmbank. Down through the years, the Mission Church would have names such as St. Bernard's, St. Kevin's, Sacred Heart and Elmbank, but the favourite was "The Fifth Line Church." Father John McNulty handled the services. The first recorded marriage was on October 20th of Joseph Lamphire of Burnhamthorpe to Jane Doherty of Hanlan's Corners. The first baptism was of Thomas Hickey. The Fifth Line Church was torn down in the 1930s, but its cemetery remained until



2001, when the graves were exhumed and moved to the Roman Catholic Assumption Cemetery at the southeast corner of Dixie and Tomken Roads.

◀ *The First St. Patrick's Catholic Church* (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ *St. Patrick's Catholic Church Interior* (William A. Pinkney)

THE DIXIE CATHOLICS HAD BEEN SERVED SINCE 1829 BY the Wildfield Church in Toronto Gore Township when it got its first resident priest. Services and other church business were held in the home of Owen Hickey, one of the first toll-gatekeepers at the four corners of what would become Dixie in 1864. More Catholics had begun to settle here after Ireland's potato famine of 1847. So when St. Patrick's congregation was formed in 1856, the Fifth Line Church at Elmbank was already 27 years old. In the early days of this church, in the church's documents, it was referred to as Toronto Township Church, Fifth Line.

Father Patrick Conway took over the Catholic congregation in 1858, when the Dixie area was nicknamed Irishtown. The name suited the Catholic community. Father Conway only remained two years and

Father Jon Shea followed in 1860 and Father William Flannery in 1861. The Priests were housed at Owen Hickey's residence. Father Flannery managed to succeed in having a presbytery built in 1866 on Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, the southwest corner of Dundas Street and Third Line (Dixie Road). He had purchased ten acres (4 ha) in 1863 from a John Ryder for \$1,000. The priest had raised the money from lecturing in the United States. He, too, was transferred in 1867.

One priest fondly remembered is Father John McEntee, who penned upon his arrival, "Began my missionary labours in this Parish April 11, 1872, and hereby certify that the following children mentioned have been duly baptized by me." He was instrumental in the building of the Victorian Gothic red brick St. Patrick's Catholic Church in 1872. The church, with its stately steeple, was named for the patron saint, who had been born in Bannavem Taberniae, Britain, around 385 A.D. He recorded, "On Sunday, the 13th of October, 1872, the new church of St. Patrick's, near the presbytery, was dedicated to divine worship by His Grace Archbishop Lynch. The sermon was preached by Very Rev. Archdeacon Northgraves of St. Michael's Cathedral." Rev. McEntee sang the mass. The church served the Catholics of Dixie, Summerville, Burnhamthorpe, Cooksville, Malton and even Etobicoke and Islington.

The history of the church has been recorded in two precious volumes that are now treasures to behold. They contain the baptisms, marriages, names of ministers and other historical data about the church's growth down through the years. The first entries are from the hand of Father McNulty, a hard working, dedicated man, who was instrumental in the construction of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Streetsville in 1858.

The church was renovated in 1908 when the priest was Father David Tracey, who had been appointed in 1904, following the death of Father William Bergin. The church opened to services on November 8, 1908. Vicar General McCann delivered a moving lecture and the choir outdid itself with musical vespers. In 1922, a piece of the Church's property to the south was sold for the construction of the new Dixie Public School, which opened in 1923.

In 1940, serious restoration took place and St. Patrick's was reopened in October. Reverend John Moss was the priest (1938-1946) and he wrote a history of the church which appeared in the *Port Credit Weekly* on October 31st.

On May 8, 1946, a play called, "*Saved By The Belle*" with Frances Trachsler in the lead role as Rita, was performed and said to be, "something worth waiting for." She "played the difficult role splendidly." Rita was supported by Helen Pashak as Ginnie, Eileen Pashak as Mrs. Fish and Christine McPherson as Pudge. This performance started off the Forty Hours Devotional in honour of the Blessed Sacrament, which had its first service on May 19th. A Retreat for Young People concluded the Devotional celebration on May 26th.

The McCarthy family donated the land for the new St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, at 945 Flagship Drive, which was opened on June 16, 1971, by His Grace Most Rev. Philip Pocock. Father John Buckley was at the helm with 10,000 parishioners. The new St. Patrick's Church was built in two sections. It had a sacristy at the back, a room for sacred vessels and vestments and a vestry. The former St. Patrick's on Dixie Road was demolished in 1973 and a plaza now occupies that location.

In 1981, the congregation celebrated St. Patrick's 125th anniversary. Many events were organized by the Catholic Women's League and the Social Action Committee and a plaque was unveiled by Reverend M. Pearse Lacey, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop for the Western Region of the Archdiocese of Toronto. The new St. Patrick's Church's 25th anniversary was celebrated in 1996 and a commemorative historical booklet was produced.

On July 11, 1999, the congregation of St. Patrick's held a rededication of an historic bell that had been manufactured by McNeely Bell Company of Troy, New York. The bell had been installed in the bell tower of St. Patrick's Church in 1899. It had disappeared and was recovered by parishioners, Pat Gunning and Frank Walshe, in 1997. Frank had been going through some old papers and found a bill of sale for the bell and altar rail to Mr. and Mrs. John Parzych of Caledon. The Parzychs donated the bell back to the church.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church Offices, 2005  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



Volunteers cleaned the artifact and it was erected on a stand on the lawn of the church, where it sat for two years. Bishop John Knight, West Pastoral Region, dedicated the bell, while Reverend Fr. Rudy Volk and guests Carl DeFaria, MP Mississauga East, Ward 3 Councillor Maja Prentice and James McCarthy, looked on along with members of the church. The bell was installed in the tower in 2001. Jim passed away on January 1, 2003.

In 2006, St. Patrick's Church congregation will celebrate its 150th anniversary. For this auspicious occasion, Father Rudy Volk, who has been the Priest there since 1996, says they will celebrate all year long with a Gala Dinner and Dance, youth days, a picnic and a variety of ethnic dinners and dances. The major event will take place on Trinity Sunday, June 11, 2006, when Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic will bless the new glass mural.



▲ The McCarthy Family, Jim's mother third from the left  
(Peter McCarthy)



▲ St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 2005  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Jim McCarthy  
(The Mississauga News)

### Memories

"My mother belonged to the Women's group at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. On the third Saturday in July, the church would hold its annual picnic and my mother and sister, Oghlyn, would bake 22 pies and they sat on the kitchen table ready to be transported to the church picnic that was held on the church grounds. One year, a rain storm came and the picnic was postponed for a week. So we ate pies every day that week. When the next Saturday came around, another 22 pies were baked and ready."

By Dixie born Jim McCarthy

## The Palletts - 1858

One of the most prominent families to make a name for themselves in Toronto Township was the Palletts, the agricultural specialists of the area. The Pallett family came to Upper Canada from Aston, Hertfordshire, England, in 1835. It was a 13 week ocean voyage.

William Pallett (b.1789, d.1862), son of Robert and Elizabeth, settled at Hoggs Hollow near Yonge Street, Toronto. William, his wife, Mary Godfrey (1801-1870), and their seven children, Robert (1828-1906), Henry (1832-1911), Thomas (1834-1909), Mary (married John Clarkson in 1882), Martha, Alfred (1844-1909) and Charles (1848-1926), stayed there for 23 years. They moved to Sydenham (Dixie) in 1858 and rented farmland.

Once settled, the Palletts began to acquire land. William died in 1862 and his sons, Robert and Thomas, purchased hundreds of acres (hectares) north and south of Dundas Street and they began to farm in earnest. In 1873, Robert sold 1.1 acres (0.5 ha) at \$70 an acre to the Credit Valley Railway for the proposed railroad.



▲ Thomas Pallett



▲ William Pallett

◀ William and Annie Pallett

(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)



▲ William Pallett's House



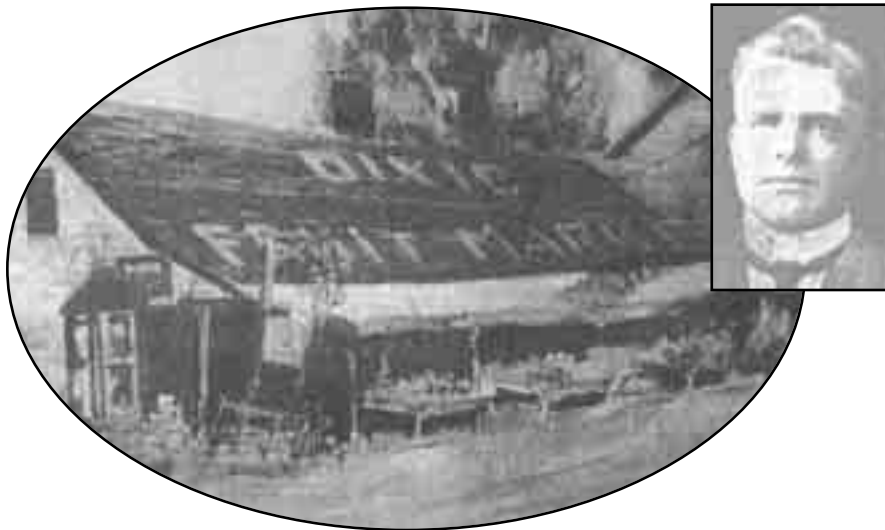
▲ Thomas Pallett's House

ROBERT MARRIED MARY ARMSTRONG AND THEY HAD FIVE children. Their son, William (1850-1917), married Annie Watson, and they had Viola (1881-1900), George (1882-1910), Ethel (1884-1892), Roy (1886-1931) and Leslie Howard (1888-1963), who became a prominent politician. Roy Pallett was a dapper showman, who always had the best horses and carriages. He was a poultry breeder, and had been the choir leader at the Bethesda Church. Because of his dedication a Roy E. Pallett Music Fund was set up to encourage young people to participate in music. It is still presented today.

The Palletts helped build the Bethesda Wesleyan Methodist Church in Summerville in 1864-1865. Robert and his son, William, hauled the bricks. William and Robert were also members of the Sons of Temperance, which promoted refraining from imbibing alcohol.

Much of the Pallett property stayed in the family for generations. They built up the Dixie farmlands on Lot 4, Con.1, SDS, which was east of Third Line (Dixie Road). They bought up other property along the Dundas and Third Line and their orchards were landmarks for decades. (Charles Pallett owned Lot 6, Con.2, SDS, where Dixie Outlet Mall is located.)

Leslie Howard Pallett, who took on the nickname of “Mr. Dixie,” had the Dixie Fruit Market on Lot 4, Con.1, NDS, which he opened in 1918. He was quite politically inclined and started his political career as a councillor in 1913. He became deputy reeve in 1914-1917 and was reeve, 1924-1925 and 1931-1937 and warden of Peel County in 1925. As he pursued his political ambitions, he rented out the market and at one point it was to the Indovina family. He also had a second market called the Highway Market in the 1950s and Steve Stavro of Knob Hill Farms got his start there. In 1950, he sold the Dixie Market to the Indovina family and they tore down the old building and put up a modern facility. They went bankrupt and the building sat empty until



▲ Dixie Fruit Market  
Inset: Leslie Pallett (Streetsville Review)



▲ Indovina Market, 1950 (Region of Peel Archives)

1963 when The Brick took it over and remodelled it. Leslie Pallett also bought part of Lot 7, Con.1, NDS, and on July 17, 1952, he put in a plan for a subdivision. He and Clarence Stanfield sold 4.3 acres (1.7 ha) to the Dixie Curling Club on July 19, 1956.

Les and his wife Gladys Grace Leslie (1892-1960), had George Leslie (1913-1979), Grace (1914-1979), Margaret (1917-2003), who married Newman Silverthorn in 1940, and John Cameron (1921-1985), who became a lawyer and member of Parliament. Their son, George Leslie, served in World War II (1939-1945) and was wounded in the battle of Ortona. He was a member and master of the Cooksville Orange Lodge L.O.L. 1181 and was president of the Credit Valley Golf and Country Club. He opened a law practice with his brother, John, called Pallett and Pallett in 1949. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1959. He died October 14, 1979, in Florida. He was survived by his wife, Lavinia, and son, John Leslie, of Vancouver.

John Cameron was one of the movers and shakers behind the fund-raising and construction of the South Peel Hospital (opened in 1958, now the Trillium Health Centre), as well as solicitor for



▲ John Pallett  
(Region of Peel Archives)

the hospital for 32 years, 1953-1985. He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1941 and served in the Canadian Army during World War II. Upon his return he went to Osgoode Hall to receive his law degree and set up his practice in Port Credit in 1949 with his brother, Leslie. In 1954, John became a Member of Parliament following Gordon Graydon, who had just passed away. His career as MP for the Conservative Party included being parliamentary secretary to the minister of Trade and Commerce in 1959, and in 1960, parliamentary secretary for Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, which lasted until 1962 when he was defeated by Liberal Bruce Beer. The cancellation of the Avro Arrow project in 1959, sealed Pallett's electoral fate in the 1962 election. While he was a Member of Parliament, John wrote a column for the *Port Credit Weekly* called, "Keeping Peel Posted." He returned to his law practice, but never lost his love of politics. When his brother Les died in 1979, John became a partner in Pallett, Valo, Barsky and Hutcheson, with their offices at the Shipp's Mississauga Executive Centre in the Cooksville area. He died in 1985.

Thomas' son, William Thomas Pallett (1880-1968), who had married Isabella Sabiston of Summerville in 1908 and resided at 1286 Dundas Street East, started W. T. Pallett and Sons, a fruit growing and packing business. In the beginning of the wholesale operation, they sold their own apples, but as development encroached they ventured more into packing and buying their apples from the Georgian Bay area. They sold to the Dixie Fruit Market and other outlets in Toronto Township and Toronto. When W. T. passed away in 1968, sons,



▲ Dixie Men. L. to R.: Lindsay Death, Grant Clarkson, Ken Pallett, Oliver Pallett, Jack Goddard, Bruce Pallett, James McCarthy and Don Pallett (Grant Clarkson)



▲ Howard and Doris with Gayle, Keith, Marilyn and Elaine (Photo courtesy of Gayle Pallett Rutledge)

Howard (1914-2002) and Ken (1919-1999) continued with the business their father had founded. Howard married Doris Sherman (1912-2003) on November 16, 1940, and they had four children, Gayle, 1943, Elaine, 1944, who both married hockey players (Ron Rutledge and Bryan Lewis), and twins, Marilyn and Keith, 1951. They had seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Ken married Jeanne Mutter (b.1917) on November 27, 1943 and they had two children, Sandra, 1944, and Bill, 1951.

Les Sr. and Howard Pallett encouraged the formation of the Toronto Township Hockey League in 1946, which became The Mississauga Hockey League that is still functioning today. They were instrumental in the construction of Dixie Arena in 1949. Les was the first president of Dixie Arena and Howard was a director and ran the Dixie Beehives hockey team, which was founded in 1952. Howard owned the Dixie Beehives from 1954 to 1986, when the team disbanded. Howard was a dedicated volunteer at St. John's for 50 years. He retired in 1992, but he remained a director of the Dixie Growers Ltd. Cold Storage. Doris was very actively involved with the St. John's Ladies Auxiliary for years. In 1999, they moved to Guelph. That year, he was presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship award from the Mississauga-Dixie Rotary Club. He died in 2002 and Doris in 2003.



▲ Don Pallett and family, 1950 (David Pallett)

Roy and Lily Dooks' son, Don (1915-1991), started by selling fruit and vegetables at roadside outlets and markets in Toronto, and through his hard work put his brother and sisters through college. He wanted to join the armed forces during World War II, but was encouraged by Colonel T. L. Kennedy to provide food for the fighting men, so he created a camp for farm workers on his property and brought students from northern Ontario as farm labour, mostly girls who were called Farmerettes. As an alternative to the military, he joined the Lorne Scots Reserve, which lasted 22 years and he left with the rank of major and received a Canadian Forces decoration. He married Mary Turner (1910-1959), a South Peel public health



▲ The farmerettes

nurse, in 1940 and she blessed him with five children, Stephen, 1941, David, 1942, Susan, 1944, Nancy, 1948, and Joan, 1952. She had an operation and passed away on January 15, 1959, leaving Don to raise his family on his own.

In 1962, he married a widow, Pauline Barber, who had two children, William (Bill), 1946, who was the curator of the Peel Museum in Brampton from its opening in 1976 until 1995, and Sandra, 1948.

Don was instrumental in the formation of the Dixie Fruit and Vegetable Growers in 1949, a chairman of the Dixie Public School board of trustees, a charter member of the Dixie Curling Club in 1956, one of the first members of the Credit Valley Golf Club, a member and president (1964-1965) as well as a Paul Harris Fellow (1981) of the Dixie Rotary Club, and

president of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers. He founded Pleasant View Farms on Lot 4 and moved to Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, west of Dixie Road in 1984. Don died April 13, 1991, of a heart attack at age 76 and was buried at St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery. He was survived by his children and 18 grandchildren.

Don's son, David, married Laurie Stewart in 1969. Laurie was the organist and choir leader at the Bethesda Church for 25 years. She and her father-in-law, Don, started the Bethesda Concert Series, which ran successfully for over 12 years. Laurie was the executive director of the Mississauga Arts Council from 1982 to 1999. She is now a Justice of the Peace.



When his father passed away, David continued with the operation of Pleasant View Farms, located at 1409 Tonolli Road.

The joining of the Pallett and Stanfield names brought about Palstan Road in 1952, in remembrance of these two impressive families.

◀ Palstan Road sign  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ First Location (Dave Pallett)

**PLEASANT VIEW FARMS**  
Don W. Pallett Fred R. Pallett  
DUNDAS HIGHWAY - DIXIE  
Phone Cooksville 1524

S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS B. P. ROCKS  
YORKSHIRE HOGS  
Eggs - Baby Chicks - Dressed Poultry  
Feed - Hay - Straw - Poultry Equipment  
FRUIT - VEGETABLES

**PLEASANT VIEW FARMS**

**BABY CHICKS**  
W. Leghorns, B. Rocks, N. Hampshires  
and Hybrids  
DON PALLETT  
Phone Cooksville 1524  
Dundas Highway at Dixie

▲ Pleasant View Farms Advertisements, 1948  
(Port Credit Weekly)



▲ Dave Pallett's Pleasant View Farms (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ John Cameron Pallett and Family (Port Credit Weekly)

## John Cameron Pallett

On October 3, 1985, the City of Mississauga lost a truly community minded citizen and great promoter of causes, lawyer/politician, John Cameron Pallett, a man who made a name for himself in Toronto Township.

He had been born in Dixie, coming from a pioneer background. His ancestors, who contributed to the Township's growth, took up Lot 4, Con.1, SDS, in 1868. Over the years, they became the agricultural specialists of the area.

John became a Federal Member of Parliament in 1954. His political life lasted until 1962. During this period, he accomplished many things, but the most prominent one was the founding of the South Peel Hospital (now the Trillium Centre, 100 Queensway West.) It was officially opened on May 3, 1958, with 115 beds.

In 1971, John founded "Friends of the Mississauga Hospital Foundation." He guided this project from the heart, taking on the position of director and president until his death.

From the mural in the Trillium Hospital's lobby called "Reflections."

It was donated by his family in May, 1992. It has a likeness of him done in acrylic and hand dyed wool by artist, Joanna Staniszkis.

## NEWS ITEM

### Dixie Youngsters Cheer as Coach Elected MP

There is no prouder or happier group in Peel County this week than the Dixie pee wee hockey team. Their popular coach, John Pallett, on Monday was elected as Peel County's new Member of Parliament.

Mr. Pallett, 33 year old Port Credit lawyer, retained the seat for the Progressive Conservatives with a landslide victory over Liberal and C.C.F. candidates. His 4,611 vote majority was one of the largest ever accorded a first run candidate, and was 458 votes greater than the majority given the late Gordon Graydon in the August 10 general election.

Although most veteran observers predicted Mr. Pallett's election, few, if any, expected such a large majority for the Dixie native.

A large crowd of South Peel residents was on hand at the *Weekly* office on Monday evening to learn the election results. Right up front were members of the Dixie hockey team, cheering loudly as their coach, Mr. Pallett, addressed the gathering.

*Port Credit Weekly*  
March 25, 1954



▲ Reeve Leslie Pallett

### Township Council Minutes, August 6, 1932

For dog owners unable to pay dog taxes, it was cited that 10 men out of 28 worked on Township construction to pay the tax. The remainder were told to get rid of their pets.

Deputy Reeve R. S. Whaley said he was not in favour of giving any man relief work to pay his dog tax when they had to give direct relief to feed them.



▲ Jeanne, Ken, Bill and Sandra,  
1954 (Gayle Pallett Rutledge)



▲ Ken, Jeanne, Isabella, W. T., Sandra and  
Bill, 1958 (Gayle Pallett Rutledge)



▲ David and Laurie Pallett  
(David Pallett)



▲ Roy Pallett House (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Pallett Gravestones  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Leslie Pallett House (Region of Peel Archives) ►



## The Post Office - 1864

**T**he Post Office at Fountain Hill (Sydenham-Irishtown) officially opened in William Kennedy's Atlantic Hotel on April 1, 1864. It had been made a sub-station on July 31, 1861, with William Kennedy as the first postmaster. It became the Dixie Post Office on July 1, 1864, after the area was named for Dr. Beaumont Dixie of Springfield (Erindale), who practiced throughout Toronto Township.

William retired in September, 1871, and his son, John, took over the position on October 1st. On March 12, 1882, John resigned, and the postmaster became Albert Tolman. He handled the duties until July 17, 1884, when John Kennedy again took over. He carried on until July 12, 1890.

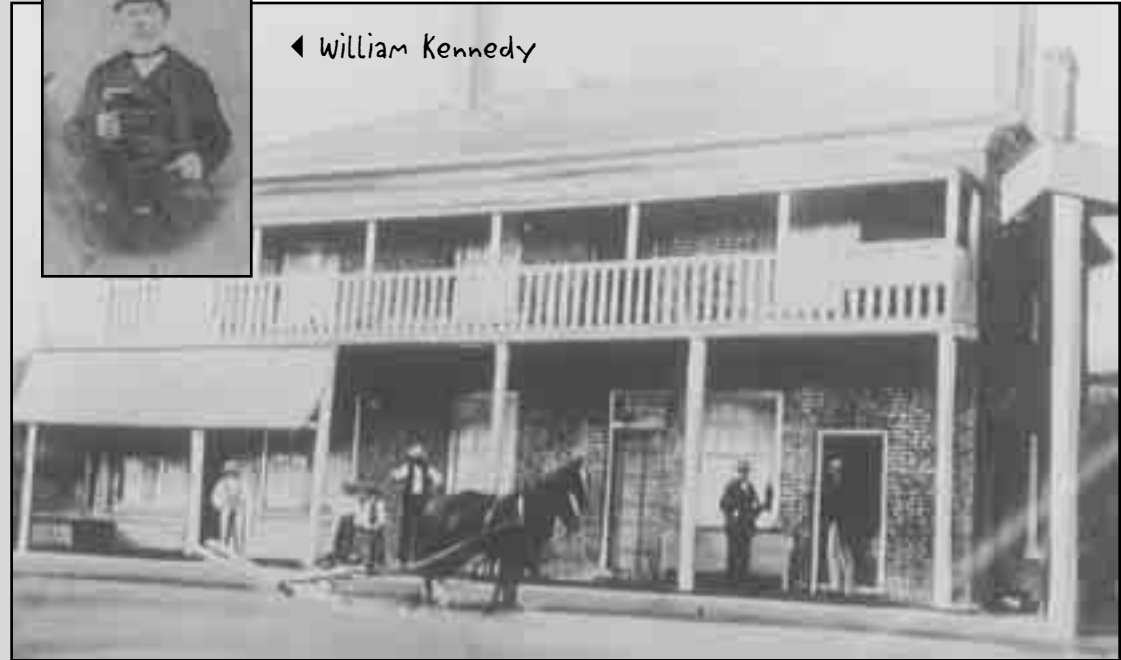
Charles Gill became postmaster on August 1, 1890, and the post office was moved across the street to the Gill store. Charles was born in 1861 in Kennelworth, England.



◀ John Kennedy  
(Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel Archives)



◀ William Kennedy



▲ The Atlantic Hotel and General Store

HE CAME TO CANADA AT AGE 16 AND RESIDED IN ERINDALE with his family. Then the family moved to Burnhamthorpe where they resided for the rest of their lives. His brother, Fred, operated a grocery store there. Charles was the Toronto Township clerk from 1898 to 1921. On February 12, 1906, he purchased the Kennedy hotel for \$1,800 and they moved into their new residence.

On November 9, 1922, Charles passed away, and his 55-year-old wife, Mary, continued running the family business and post office and was fondly called, "Ma Gill." She



Charles Gill ▶

was known to carry the key to the store on a leather belt around her waist and apparently it was a good sized key, over seven inches long, which amused the children as she hustled about her work and they watched it bounce around on her apron. It was quite a conversation piece. This key had been cast in 1850 by hand for William Kennedy. It was made of iron, 7.5 inches long, 2 inches wide and five-eighth of an inch thick (17.5 cm, 5 cm, 2 cm).

One of Ma Gill's popular customers was William Stanislaus Romain, the actor, who owned the Silverthorn's estate Cherry Hill. When he was home from his world travels, he would walk to Gill's store to get the mail.

Mrs. Mary Gill passed away on February 3, 1946, and the Gill's Dixie store and post office was handled by Mary's 48-year-old nephew,



▲ Gill Stores and Post Office

George Frederick Gill. He was the acting postmaster until he sold the old building to Mr. and Mrs. William J. Gilmore, who had resided for over 40 years in the stucco-covered house that was attached to the two storey structure, once the Atlantic Hotel. They opened for business on May 6th and Mrs. Gilmore was proud to carry the nearly hundred-year-old key. William became the official postmaster on December 20, 1946. He kept things going smoothly until August 29, 1954, when he resigned.

Charles Cromwell Martin, who had served overseas during World War II (1939-1945), became the acting postmaster on August 30th and it became official when he was appointed on December 20th. He put in his resignation on August 13, 1958.

On September 1, 1958, Oscar Shank became postmaster and the post office was operated out of his grocery store. In January, 1959, he announced that he was closing down his grocery business to become the full-time postmaster. A larger post office had become a necessity due to the new subdivisions put in by Gordon S. Shipp and Son and

other developers and would require his full attention. Shank was a 30-year resident of Dixie and attended St. John's the Baptist Anglican Church.

In 1961, when Miss Isobelle Ironside was postmistress, home postal service was initiated by Canada Post with mail delivery from the Cooksville Post Office, and the Dixie Post Office was closed down after 100 years of service. A Cooksville Substation #5 was put in at 3665 Cawthra Road and 3661 Dixie Road. It was changed to Mississauga Substation in 1968.

## NEWS ITEM

### Dixie Postmistress is Some Sprinter



▲ Mrs. Mary Gill

Four young lads who visited Dixie on Monday for the purpose of stealing vegetables and fruits, found to their surprise that there were still some sprinters in Dixie. When these men passed along the Dundas Highway earlier in the morning, Mrs. C. Gill, Postmistress, thought that they looked rather suspicious and were evidently up to mischief, and she telephoned Mrs. Pearson, who lives up the road a short distance and told her to be on the lookout as she considered they were out to steal.

Mrs. Gill certainly made no mistake as she had hardly communicated with the Pearson home when these young thieves deliberately went to the market stand in front of the house and started to fill their bags with corn etc. They ran away but later Mrs. Gill spotted them on the Gordon property just next to the Post Office where they were sailing into the pears. Mrs. Gill called to the boys to drop the stuff which they had taken, but they did not respond at first, so she decided to chase them; by the time the chase had started Mr. George Pearson had arrived and after he had followed them a short distance he was able to corral two of them on the Second Line. He brought them back to Dixie where after some questioning they gave their names and street addresses of all four members of the party. It is understood that their parents will be communicated with and advised to keep their children home in the future.

*Port Credit News*  
Thursday, August 30, 1929

## Dixie is Named For Doctor Beaumont Dixie - 1864

**D**octor Beaumont Wilson Bowen Dixie would have the honour of having the community of Fountain Hill (Sydenham) named for him in 1864, thanks to the suggestion of his good friend, the local butcher, John Wilson. John ran his butcher shop in the Cooksville Village and owned 148 acres (58.2 ha) of Lot 10, Con.1, NDS, in the newly named Dixie.

Doctor Dixie was a horse-and-buggy doctor, who had been born March 27, 1819, in Kidwelly, Carnarvonshire, South Wales. He came to Canada with his parents in 1831 and settled in Stamford Township, Niagara. He studied for his medical career at Upper Canada College in Toronto and in 1842, received his licence to practise “physics, surgery and midwifery.” That same year, he married Anna Skynner. He practised for awhile in Oakville and two years in Grahamsville before coming to Springfield (Erindale/Mississauga) in 1846. He purchased Sir John Beverley Robinson’s summer cottage (The Grange), but they found it a draughty abode and sold it to John Irvine and rented another house, said to have been located in Sydenham. In 1854, he inherited his Dundas Crescent home, built in the late 1820s, from Aunt Christina Wilson of Stamford.



▲ Dr. Beaumont Dixie  
(Region of Peel Archives)

HIS RESIDENCE WAS REFERRED TO AS A REGENCY COTTAGE. (The Dixie house was still around until 1983 and was more often referred to as the Demeter House. Peter Demeter, a Mississauga builder, had his wife, Christine, murdered in their garage on July 18, 1973. The arresting officer was Superintendent of Detectives, Bill Teggart, who says, “Demeter had a professional hit man kill his wife while he was 20 miles [32 km] away from the crime. He also tried to kill his cousin and kidnap his lawyer’s daughter. This was the longest single murder trial in Canadian history. Demeter is presently in prison serving five life sentences for murder conspiracies. On August 15, 1983, he had the house burned down by an arsonist so he could build houses on the property and sell them, which he did. He was charged with three counts of arson and one charge of conspiracy on October 19, 1983.” The only sign left of Doctor Dixie’s homestead, at 1437 Dundas Crescent, was an old cement curb, and even it has been replaced.)

During the diphtheria epidemic of 1853-1854, Doctor Dixie lost four of his children, Anna and Harriet Eleanor on July 15, 1854, eight-month-old Wolston on August 9th and five-year-old Richard, on August 13th. They were all buried at St. Peter's cemetery. They had Mary Amelia in 1857 and Christina Wilson in 1860.

Doctor Joseph Adamson, the incomparable physician of his time, died in July of 1865. He no longer would blaze the trails on horse-back, his ever present hatchet prepared to cut the way. During his professional career in Toronto Township, he had witnessed the pioneer physicians' hardships, the constant travel, the demands made on

them for lack of doctors, to the point of each community having its own practitioner or two. He had pioneered the way. Now, Doctor Beaumont Dixie, who had been one of Doctor Adamson's consultants, would carry on in his place.

Mrs. Dixie passed away on May 15, 1867, at age 49. Within a year, Dr. Dixie married Elizabeth Blakely (b.1834, d.1913). A daughter, Bertha, was born to them on October 19, 1869. (Bertha would reside in the family homestead until her death on March 22, 1951.) The well liked Doctor died on his birthday, March 27, 1898, at the age of 79. He was "regarded as one of the leading physicians of the province."



◀ Christine Demeter



◀ Peter Demeter

▲ Dr. Dixie's House in Erindale (Photos courtesy of William J. Teggart)

## The Blacksmith Shop - 1867



IN 1867, JAMES VOKES CONSTRUCTED A blacksmith shop for 47-year-old Isaac Willcox in Summerville, on the north side of Dundas Street, west of Aaron Silverthorn's Mill Farm.

### ▲ The Willcox Blacksmith Shop (City of Mississauga)

**I**saac, who had worked his trade as a blacksmith for some time, was the son of Amos Willcox, who owned Lot 16, Con.2, NDS, where Mississauga Civic Centre is located today. It was a one-storey structure made out of Etobicoke Creek stones, with two windows siding a smithy's door of vertical wood sheathing.



▲ The Willcox  
Blacksmith Shop  
and House  
(Mississauga Library  
System)

This property was the original land grant of John Vanzantee, Lot A, Con.1, NDS. The 200 acres (81 ha) were sold on April 22, 1817, to Samuel Lawrence and then to John Scarlett on April 15, 1829. George Silverthorn, Joseph's brother, bought it on that same day. (Following George Silverthorn's devastating experience with the 1837 Mackenzie Rebellion, on March 25, 1839,

he took out a mortgage on the 200 acres with the Bank of the People for £1,000 [\$2,500]. The Land Registry papers did not show any disclosure on this mortgage or George's name again other than the sale of two acres [0.8 ha], to Peter Collum for £50 (\$125) on July 13, 1842.)

To follow the ownership succession of the blacksmith property down through the years, the registration dates go like this: George sold one acre (0.4 ha) to George Smith on June 15, 1835, for £25 (\$63); to William Thompson, March 29, 1841, £125 (\$313); to Thomas Spotswood, March 24, 1843, £181 (\$453); to Robert Sargent, February 23, 1852, £125 (\$313); Sargent to Isaac Willcox, July 14, 1858, £250 (\$625). Aaron Silverthorn purchased the blacksmith shop on November 6, 1868, for \$1,400. When he passed away in 1872, his son, Newman, inherited the property. On December 7, 1888, Newman finalized a deal with John Craib for \$2,000. Mr. Craib died and on May 21, 1926, his widow, Mary Craib, sold to Robert P. Parton for \$2,000. (In past writeups on the blacksmith shop, it has always been written that Robert Parton purchased this property in 1907, but the Land Registry papers state otherwise. He bought the business from the Craibs in 1916 for \$200, leasing the shop and then purchased it along with nearly 8 acres [3.2 ha] that John had bought in 1906 from Patrick McCartney.)

Mr. Parton ran a successful business there for a number of years, turning from shoeing horses to repairing farm machinery and welding as the change in transportation came about. As business declined, he closed down in 1958. That same year, on June 18th, it was designated an heritage site. The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation



▲ Parton Shoeing Horses



▲ Blacksmith Robert  
Parton

Authority held a ceremony with Mrs. G. Klinch reading the history of the 91- year-old structure. Toronto Township Reeve Mary Fix was presented with a plaque by the reeve of Swansea Township, Dorothy Hague, which was affixed to the building. (Mrs. Fix was reeve in 1955; Thomas Jackson was reeve in 1956; then Mrs. Fix from 1957 to 1959.) Gideon and Nell Silverthorn and their son, Donald, attended this presentation. The plaque read:

## THE SUMMERVILLE SMITHY

ABOUT 1816, TEN YEARS AFTER THE OPENING OF DUNDAS STREET FOR SETTLEMENT, JOHN SILVERTHORNE BUILT A SAW AND GRIST MILL ON THE ETOBICOKE CREEK. FROM THIS BEGINNING THE COMMUNITY GREW AND BY 1857 WAS A POST VILLAGE WITH INDUSTRIES, INCLUDING A STEAM GRIST MILL, TWO CHURCHES, TWO TAVERNS AND A SCHOOL. IN 1867, THIS PRESENT BUILDING, RECONSTRUCTED WITH LOCAL STONE FOR ISAAC WILCOX, REPLACED ONE OF TWO OLDER BLACKSMITH SHOPS. IT HAS REMAINED CONTINUOUSLY IN USE, ONE OF THE OLDEST SMITHIES IN THE TORONTO REGION.

THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO & REGION  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
1958



▲ The Smithy Plaque, 1958

Grace Chappell, wife of Member of Parliament Hyl Chappell (1968-1972), who was a member of the Mississauga Historical Society, wrote an article in the 1970s about the blacksmith shop and interviewed Robert Parton. In it, she said that over the front door of Parton's stone house, beside the smithy, was a stone plaque that stated, "In 1867, Isaac Willcox, had this house erected with the help of master builder, Mr. Vokes." This would be James Vokes, who owned Lot 1, Con.5, EHS. In Augusta Silverthorn's diary on October 4, 1880, she states, "Vokes the mason came and got 2 one horse waggon loads of gravel." The Silverthorn ladies had a gravel pit to the west of the house. Vokes' son, Miles, had the original deed for the Dixie Union Church, which has been in the hands of William Pinkney for many years.

Parton sold the 8 acres (3.2 ha) for \$7,000 in 1950 and the last mention of him in the Land Registry papers is August 8, 1969, when he sold the blacksmith shop to Radcliffe Investments.

The historical structure at 2199 Dundas Street East remained standing, unoccupied, until 1978, when the property was purchased by the La Castile Steak House & Tavern owners, Peter and Ted Traiforos. It was going to be moved to the Meadowvale Conservation area, but this did not come about. The City dismantled it and stored it in one of its warehouses. There was talk of it being taken to the Bradley Museum for reassembling, but it never was. Instead some of the stones went to Black Creek Pioneer Village and were used in the foundation of the Taylor Cooperage. A piece of our pioneer history was carelessly handled and no one has any answers as to why. The Traiforoses still operate La Castile.



◀ Blacksmith Shop,  
1978  
(The Mississauga News)

## St. John The Baptist Anglican Church - 1870

By 1869, the Dixie Union Church's congregation was overcrowding the small stone chapel and it was decided to construct a larger church on property to the east. The property was generously donated by John Wilson that year. A large red brick church, 100 feet by 35 feet (30 m x 10.5 m), was built in 1870 at a cost of \$3,400 and became St. John the Baptist Anglican Church. The congregation organized working bees to carry out the building of the new church. Bricks, stone, lumber and lime were brought to the site by horse and wagon, much of it donated. Some of the local families involved in this labourious venture were the Silverthorns, Cooks, Goldthorpes, Palletts, Kennedys, Griffiths, Grahams and Haineses. When the church was opened, it was consecrated by Reverend A. Neil Bethune, Bishop of Toronto.



▲ Dixie Union Chapel and First St. John's Church



▲ St. John's the Baptist Anglican Church and Interior

THE DIXIE UNION CHURCH AND ST. JOHN'S Church were part of the St. Peter's Anglican Church of Erindale circuit from 1827 to 1951. The first incumbent in 1870 was Reverend William E. Cooper. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pallett were the first couple to be married in the new church. Rev. Cooper was replaced by Reverend John Carry in 1873 and during his three year stay, he had an organ installed.

From 1876 to 1885, Thaddeus Walker was in charge of the parish; 1885-1906, Ralph W. Hindes; 1907-1931, Hedley V. Thompson. Lorne Park was added to the parish in 1911 and Port Credit in 1914.

*The Dominion Churchman* newspaper reported on January 8, 1880, that a concert had been held by the choir of St. John's Anglican Church, Dundas Street, on December 19, 1879. The article applauded the Christmas decorations as being superior to other churches in the area, with a special tribute going to Miss Augusta Silverthorn, Mr. Griffith and others.



▲ Reverend  
Thaddeus Walker  
(St. John's the  
Baptist Anglican  
Church)

On October 5, 1881, Janet Silverthorn, who was 62, married a young man named Wilder, who was an artist, at St. John's Church. Augusta Silverthorn was a great organist and pianist and had carried out being organist for the church for many years. During the summer of 1908, St. John's held a garden party at Cherry Hill and Augusta hosted it. This was her last party for she died on December 18, 1908. Many picnics were held at Cherry Hill house, especially by the Junior Auxiliary Group. Mrs. Gussie Stewart Birket, Theodore Silverthorn's granddaughter, was the group leader and enjoyed showing off her Aunties' charming estate.



▲ *The Aftermath of fire, 1924*  
(Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel Archives)

In 1919, the church was enlarged at a cost of \$8,700. Then during an electrical storm on Saturday, June 21, 1924, at 1:30 a.m., the center of the roof of St. John's Church was struck by a bolt of lightning. It caught fire and within minutes was burning rapidly. The Port Credit Fire Department was soon on the scene, but the building was beyond help so they concentrated on saving the Dixie Union Church. Needless to say, the congregation was devastated. While a new red brick edifice was being built, they returned to the stone Union Chapel to hold services. The present ornate church was constructed in 1924-1925 by contractor Andrew Robertson. Bricks were purchased from the Cooksville Brick Company and the cost of constructing the church was \$32,246. Jack Goldthorpe and Henry Belford built the steeple and Henry shingled the roof. Mrs. Charles Pallett was the first to be buried when the new church was completed. The first service was held on June 20, 1925, and the church was dedicated on December 20, 1925, by the Lord Bishop of the Toronto Diocese. In January, 1938, the congregation burned the church's mortgage papers in a delightful ceremony carried out by Reverend Derwyn T. Owen, Primate of Canada, and Reverend George Banks, who was the pastor from 1932 to 1951.

The carillon bells (Schulmerie Electronic Bells) were a gift from Colonel and Mrs. Thomas Kennedy. They always chimed out the noon



▲ *Building St. John's Steeple Jack Goldthorpe and Henry Belford*  
(Mildred Bellegham Collection)



▲ *The Kennedy Window, 2005* (Kathleen A. Hicks)

hour and 6 p.m. (They have been replaced now, but the bells of St. John's still chime twice a day.) The Kennedys also donated a large, stained glass chancel window in 1953, as a memorial to early pioneers of the district, Hugh and Jane Laird, William and Jane Kennedy and John and Mary Kennedy.

According to Mildred Bellegham's book, *"And the Mill Stone Still Turns"*, "The altar was given in memory of John and Hannah Goldthorpe by their children. The communion gates in memory of Augusta Van Every Goldthorpe by her parents and family, John and Rachel Goldthorpe. The alms basin in memory of Fred Erington by Charlotte Goldthorpe R.N. The water pitcher at the front by Charles and Minnie Goldthorpe Shaw in memory of their infant son, John Charles Shaw. The collection plates for Sunday school in memory of William Edward, Ronald and Sharyn Belford by the Belford family. (The father and two children, who died tragically in a fire June 1, 1949. This author was their babysitter.) The stained glass window, depicting St. John the Baptist, in memory of Joseph and Martha Goldthorpe and their children, William and Matilda Belford and their children, donated by their grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

St. John's had a Willing Workers' Association that held dances and garden parties to raise money to maintain the church. The Ladies Auxiliary was also a busy group within the church.

In January, 1951, the 124-year-old parish that had been part of St. Peter's Church of Erindale was split, and for the first time in 19 years it was not handled by Reverend George Banks, who was retiring. Reverend Frank Lockwood was the new St. John's minister. In 1955, an auditorium was added on the east side of the church to accommodate the congregation's many activities.

According to a *Toronto Star* article in April, 1977, St. John's celebrated its 150th anniversary with Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbon and the Anglican Primate of Canada, the Most Rev. Edward Scott, attending the celebration. Mrs. McGibbon read the scripture lesson and the sermon was preached by Archbishop Scott. Fred Ketchen was chairman of the anniversary committee. This article stated that William Cody, Buffalo Bill, had been a member of St. John's, which is an inaccuracy. The Codys had already left Dixie before Bill Cody was born in 1846 in Iowa.



▲ Reverend Frank Lockwood  
(St. John's Church)



In 2006, St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, 719 Dundas Street East, has a congregation of over 200 families and the minister is Reverend Robert J. Payton.

### Heritage Prayer

Father God,  
We keep forgetting all those who lived before us.  
We keep forgetting those who lived and worked in our communities.  
We keep forgetting those who prayed and sang hymns in our churches before we were born.  
We keep forgetting what our fathers have done for us.  
We commit the sin, Lord, of assuming that everything begins with us.  
We drink from wells we did not find.  
We eat food from farmlands we did not develop.  
We enjoy freedoms which we have not earned.  
We worship in churches we did not build.  
We live in communities we did not establish.  
This day, make us grateful for our heritage. Amen.

Adapted from a prayer in the Old Covenanter's Church, 1884, Grand Pre. Nova Scotia.

### NEWS ITEM

The summer vacation school at St. John's Church, Dixie, will commence on Monday, June 29, and continue until Friday, July 10, with the exception of Dominion Day, July 1.

In addition to worship and game periods there will be instruction in the following crafts: flower-making, weaving, clay modeling, leatherwork, construction of models and various group projects.

Transportation will be provided from the Cooksville Corners and from Applewood Acres, leaving at 9:15 each morning and returning at noon. On Sunday, July 12, there will be a special service at 11 a.m. for all the children of the Vacation School, their parents and friends.

*The Port Credit Weekly*  
Thursday, June 25, 1953

◀ St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, 2005 (Kathleen A.

## Dixie Presbyterian Church - 1878

THOMAS ROBINET, SON OF ALLEN, who had Lot 12, Con.1, NDS, had established the Presbyterian congregation in Sydenham (Dixie) in the 1820s and held services in the Robinet homestead. With the Upper Canada government only recognizing the Church of England, other denominations such as the Methodists and Presbyterians did not receive land grants. Usually a local farmer would donate a piece of his property so a church could be constructed.

When the Robinets no longer resided in the area, others followed suit. Bi-weekly services were held in parishioners' homes and then weekly services. In 1878, Alex Robinson and Reuben Dunn, farmers from the Lake Shore Road area, discussed the opportunity of the Presbyterian congregation holding services in the stone Union Church with the church trustees. They were accepted and shared the building with the Baptists. Some of the other families connected to the church were the Allisons, Johnsons, Millers, Rosses and Montgomerys.



▲ Dixie Presbyterian Church  
(The Mississauga News)

The inaugural celebration was held on June 16, 1878, with Reverend James Breckenridge from Streetsville conducting the service. Back then, services were held every second Sunday and the congregation numbered 21. Rev. Breckenbridge left in 1880, and until 1892, the church was part of the Toronto Junction Victoria - Royce Presbyterians. A travelling minister from the Toronto Junction, Reverend James Grant, provided his services when he was covering his district.



(Mississauga Library)



Dixie Presbyterian Church

(City of Mississauga Community Services)

In 1892, Dixie Presbyterian joined with two other congregations to form the Port Credit-Dixie-Malton pastoral circuit and a student, Reverend John Little, held services in Dixie and Malton. When the circuit became too large by 1947, Malton dropped out and Dixie was on its own.

In 1910, property was purchased north of the Dixie Union Chapel, Lot 10, Con.1, NDS, for \$300 and a church was built at a cost of \$10,000. The building committee was H. K. Bowden, treasurer, James Allison, secretary, and John Craib, R. Halliday, Charles Watson, William Pinkney and Walter Death. The architect was Herbert G. Paull of Toronto and the contractor was Edward C. Doole, also of Toronto.

The cornerstone for the Dixie Presbyterian Church was laid at 2:30 p.m. on July 23, 1910, by Lieutenant Governor John Morrison Gibson (b.1842, d.1929), while the devoted congregation looked on. Rev. George Duncan, pastor of the church, chaired the event. John Wanless, a prominent Presbyterian elder in Toronto, donated a 200-pound (80 kg) steel alloy bell with all the fittings for its bell tower. By September, the building was up and the interior work was being done.

Lieutenant Governor Gibson who laid the cornerstone, was a former resident of the area, having been raised at Hawkins Corners with James Allison. He was in office from 1908 to 1914 and was knighted in 1912.

The church was constructed of Milton red pressed brick. It has a corner tower, front entrance and two rear exits and seats 350 people. It has a 40 by 60 foot (12 m x 18 m) cement foundation with a nine foot (2.7 m) ceiling.

The first service was held on December 11, 1910. The congregation comprised mostly farmers from the area. There was a grass tennis court in the backyard that is now a parking lot. A Women's Association was founded in February 1910, and the first president was Mrs. George McClelland of Cooksville, the treasurer was Mrs. H. Bowden and Miss Allison was the secretary.

Reverend H. V. Thompson, who had come to Dixie in 1906, remained until August 18, 1931, when he was given a fond farewell at the home of Mr. Thomas Stewart with Colonel Thomas Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture, as chairman of the event.

In February 1922, the church's mortgage papers were burned by Mrs. James Sabiston and Mrs. William (Sarah Allison) Pinkney, who had been one of the church's organists. She retired in 1906 to marry William Pinkney of Lots 12 and 13 Con.1, NDS. In June, property was purchased to build a manse for the pastor, Reverend George Rowland, who got an annual salary of \$1,800. It was sold in December, 1940, and still stands to the north of the church. Anniversaries of the church's formation were celebrated, but the 50th on June 16, 1928, was more lavish and so was the 70th in 1948 when Reverend J. V. Mills was the new pastor.

Other churches have used the Dixie Presbyterian Church to get their congregation going, such as the Christian Reformed Church, which now has a lovely facility on the Lakeshore Road in the Clarkson area, and the Korean Christians.

The Dixie Presbyterian Church thrived through the years with devoted volunteers keeping its activities interesting and the membership grew. In 1963, the congregation decided on giving the church a major expansion, and a wing was added adjacent to the sanctuary, which included a modern kitchen. For the church's 98th anniversary

in 1976, the sanctuary was renovated and redecorated and stained glass windows were dedicated to the glory of God.

A centennial committee was formed in 1977 to plan the church's 100th celebration and when 1978 arrived, many special services were held throughout the year, an historical booklet was printed, a centennial plate was produced and a centennial garden was planted. Allison descendants, Allison and Jim Pinkney, unveiled two stained glass windows in the chancel and sanctuary in memory of one of the founding families.

As the congregation multiplied, another service was added in 1971 at 9:30 a.m. Attendance peaked in the 1980s and has now declined. In the past few years the congregation has become more integrated with the international flavour of multicultural people coming into Mississauga.

The Dixie Presbyterian Church at 3065 Cawthra Road celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2003. Reverend Harry Klassen has been the minister since February 2004, and the church's congregation now stands at 100 persons.



▲ *Drawing of Choir*  
(*Port Credit Weekly*, 1943)

The choir of Bethesda United Church, Dixie, under the direction of Mrs. Nellie Leuty, with Tony Brooks as organist, led the song service, with appropriate anthems and a male chorus. Mrs. Leuty was soloist of the occasion. A large congregation attended.

*Streetsville Review*  
March 18, 1937

## NEWS ITEM

"Uselessness is the rent we pay for room on earth," declared Leslie Pallett Jr., president of Table 18, K.R.T., in preaching the sermon at the annual church service of his group in Dixie Presbyterian Church Sunday Night.

"How much are you worth to your fellowman? What are you doing for him? How much better is society for you having lived?" asked the youthful speaker. "We should be helpers of our fellowman – not his oppressor."

"There is unrest today that cannot be solved in dollars. But when you hear young men get up and stress service and spiritual things: things with eternal values, it augurs well for the future of this country. I am one of those men who has a 100 per cent confidence in our youth," commented W. Earle Gordon, founder of the movement.

Don Pallett, vice president of K.R.T. and farm director, gave a concise outline of the development and aims and purposes of the order. Lindsay Death presided. Jim Sherman read the scriptures and Norman Clarke led the prayer.

## The Credit Valley Railway - 1879

**T**he Credit Valley Railway (CVR) came into existence in 1871 when the City of Toronto was allotted a \$350,000 grant to construct a railway. The provincial government presented a charter to the Credit Valley Railway on February 15th to construct a rail line from Toronto to St. Thomas.



▲ George Laidlaw  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

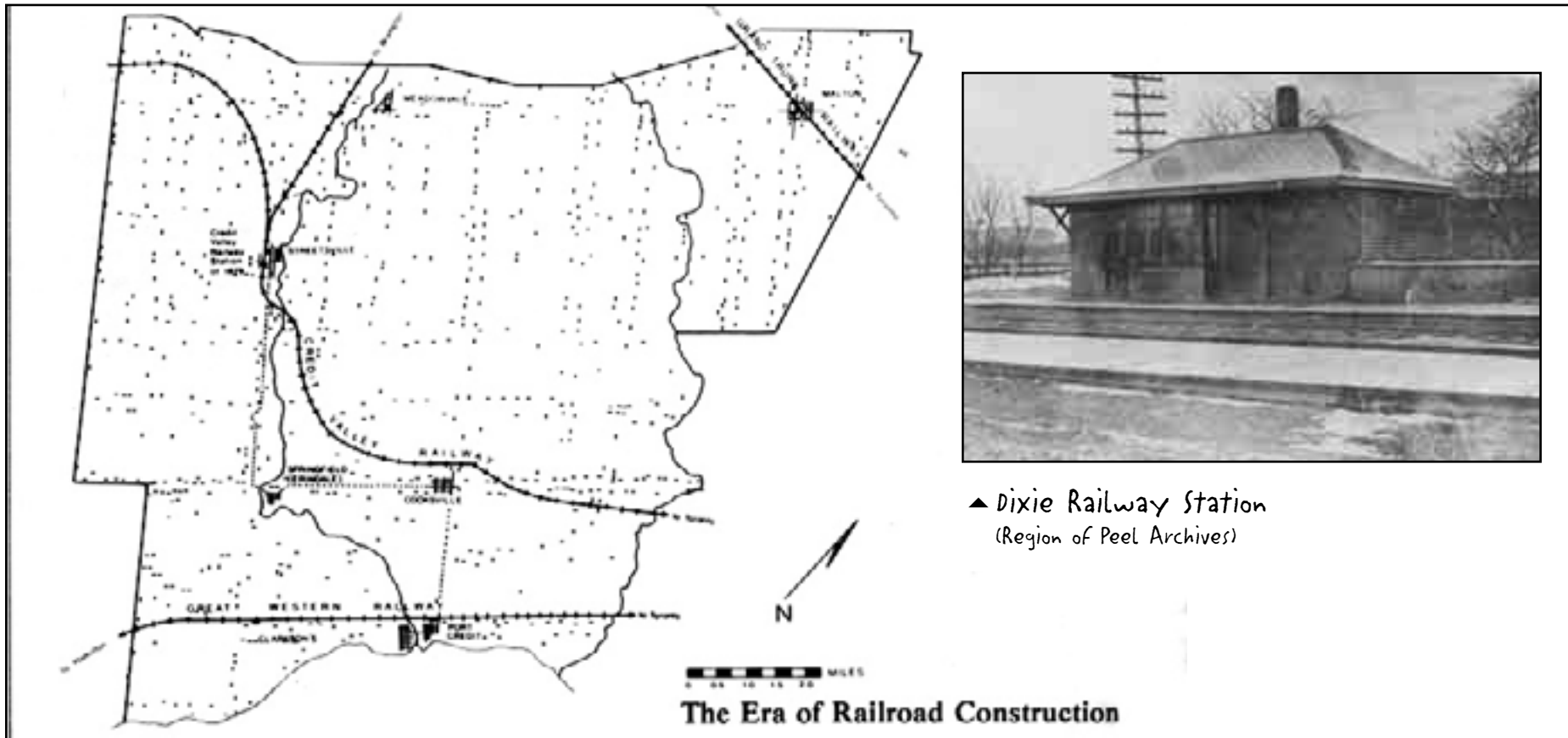
George Laidlaw, who had been the moving force behind the charter, became the first president. Farmers were paid \$70 an acre (0.4 ha) for land purchased for the right-of-way.

Surveying for the rail line commenced on March 13, 1873, which was supervised by C. J. Wheelock. The railroad employees blazed a path and laid the glinting tracks for the wood burning trains to travel upon. The first train passed through Toronto Township on December 6, 1878, but the official opening of the line was held in Milton, Ontario, on September 19, 1879, with the honours being carried out by the Governor General of Canada, John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, the Marquis of Lorne (1878-1883), who was married to Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise.



▲ Governor General of Canada,  
Marquis of Lorne  
(Region of Peel Archives)

AT THE STREETSVILLE JUNCTION, WHERE THERE WAS A major train station, a line went to St. Thomas and one to Orangeville, 167 miles (264.5 km) of track that linked Toronto far afield. The Orangeville rail line ran along the west side of Meadowvale, but a station was not built until 1900 to accommodate the residents of the village.



### ▲ Railway Line Map

The farmers were now able to ship their produce and milk by train. Stores could have supplies shipped in from Toronto wholesalers, which made for more variety for their customers. The grist mills got more business with wheat being sent in by train and flour, barreled and loaded onto wagons, was returned to train depots to be transported to distant points of Ontario.

The CVR was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) on January 4, 1884. By this time, the train went as far as Owen Sound and there were two passenger trains in the morning and two in the evening. This continued into the turn of the century. Then as cars and trucks came more into use, the service was dropped to two trains a day, then every other day.

On April 14, 1917, the Toronto-Guelph Radial Line was founded. Tracks were laid along the proposed route by Mann and Mackenzie. The Radial picked up local students and transported them to the Islington Continuation School on Canning Avenue and Etobicoke High School on Montgomery Avenue. A ticket for one month cost \$4. The Radial was discontinued in 1931, due to the number of accidents where seventy people had been killed, including Etobicoke Reeve Charles Silverthorn on August 25, 1917. The Ontario Hydro bought the Toronto-Guelph Radial Line, which had gone into receivership, and the tracks were torn up in 1935.

The Canadian Pacific Railway still owns and operates the old rail line and GO Transit, officially opened in 1967, also utilizes the route that travels through the former Toronto Township villages of Dixie, Cooksville, Erindale and Streetsville.

## NEWS ITEM

Broken axles and sheared off trucks were scattered throughout the wreckage along the CPR right-of-way when 27 freight cars of an eastbound freight were derailed about one-half mile (0.3 km) east of Dixie Road North yesterday. Marks on the railway ties just east of Dixie Road point to some breakdown in one of the freight car trucks and gradually deepened marks continued to the point of derailment. Cars were upset or accorded into rows of smashed steel frame and rails. No member of the train crew was injured, but damage will be high. Careening cars ripped up rails and completely blocked both the east and westbound lines. Wrecking crews, arriving quickly at the scene, pressed hard to clear the lines. Just 80 yards east of Dixie Road, part of a freight car's truck lay just off the railbed as indication of the breakdown.

*Port Credit Weekly*  
Thursday, April 9, 1959

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## Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gill - 1883

CHARLES GILL, THE SON OF CHARLES HENRY and Hannah Drury Gill, was born in 1861. Charlie came to Canada from Kennelworth, Warwickshire, England, with his family when he was 16 years of age. They settled in Erindale and then moved to Burnhamthorpe, where Charlie's brother Fred, who was born in 1868, arrived in 1882. Fred became a storekeeper and postmaster at Burnhamthorpe. He died in 1951.

In 1882, Charlie married 17-year-old Mary Watkins of Burnhamthorpe, the daughter of Mary and Richard Watkins. They had two children, Charles Henry and Mary Gertrude. They started up a grocery store in Dixie in 1883. It was a storey and a half stuccoed building that had a front porch and was located on the south side of Dundas Street across from the Kennedys' Atlantic Hotel. To the east of the Gills' Store was the MacDonald's Blacksmith Shop and the Pacific Hotel.

On August 1, 1890, Charlie became the postmaster, taking over from John Kennedy, who resigned. The post office was moved over to the Gill store on Lot 8, Con.1, SDS. He was also the Toronto Township clerk from 1898 to 1912.



◀ Charles H. Gill



▲ Gill's Store, MacDonald's Blacksmith Shop and the Pacific Hotel

On February 12, 1906, Charlie bought the Kennedys' former Atlantic Hotel for \$1,800. He moved his business, including the post office, across the street to the elegant two-storey structure with its wonderful verandas stretching across the front, the upper one trellised. The hotel had been discontinued in 1900, when a man named Henderson had been the last proprietor, and a substantial ballroom was put over the store, which was much enjoyed by the locals. In 1909, the Gills were the first people in Dixie to get a telephone. Charlie sold his old store that sat on 3.7 acres (1.4 ha) for \$3,000 in 1917 to Joseph Pickett.



▲ The former Atlantic Hotel

▲ Mary Gill

Mrs. Gill was so well liked that she was called “Ma Gill.” Charlie died on November 9, 1922. His obituary stated that he was an outstanding figure in all his associations, a big man, faithful in all his deeds and to his friends and his trust, a man whose life had been an exemplary one and an influence for good. His widow continued to run the store and handle the postal duties.

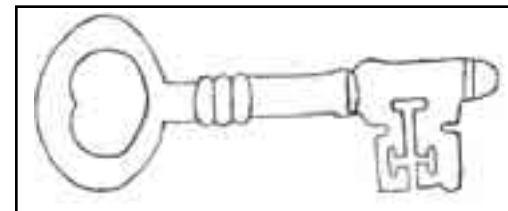
In 1928, while tearing out an old fireboard of the fireplace, Mrs. Gill discovered a pair of spectacles, the key to the front door and a pair of fancy scrolled iron fire dogs. The key to Atlantic Hotel was 7.5 inches long, 2 inches wide, five-eighths inches thick (17.5 cm, 5 cm, 2 cm), weighed 12 ounces (340 g) and was made of iron for William Kennedy in 1850. While discussing her discovery with a local paper, Mrs. Gill divulged that she also had a coin dated 1745 and a velvet vest that had belonged to John Wilson, the local butcher, who died in 1873.

His widow Sarah married Francis Silverthorn of Summerville.

Mrs. Gill ran the store and post office until February 3, 1946, when she passed away, which made for 63 years the Gills had served the community. Mary’s nephew, George Frederick Gill, was acting postmaster until May 6th, when Mr. and Mrs. William Gilmore took over the ownership and operation of the Dixie General Store and Post Office. Mary’s children had predeceased her.

Down through the years, the former Kennedys’ Atlantic Hotel had many interesting people work on the premises such as Charlie and Violet Martin, who handled the task from 1954 to 1958.

The Gills left many fond memories with those they served over the years. Grant Clarkson, who was born in Dixie, remembers coming into Gills’ store as a youngster for binder twine, which was used during the grain harvest. Mrs. Gill kept it in the living room. He would have to sidle past the men, Harold Pallett, Arnold Guthrie and Lloyd Stanfield, gathered around the potbellied stove and cracker barrel, discussing the events of the day.



▲ Drawing of Key, traced from actual key



▲ The Gill Grocery, 1905



▲ Potbellied Stove



▲ Barn



Pump ▶

**C. H. GILL**  
 Clerk of Township of Toronto.  
 Office—Dixie, Ont.  
 Will be at home every Monday for the  
 transaction of public business.  
 Agent for the York Mutual Fire Ins. Co.  
 A Commissioner in the H. J. C., &c.

**C. H. GILL**  
 Clerk of Toronto Township.  
 A Commissioner H. J. C.  
 Conveyancing, Deeds, Mortgages,  
 Leases, Wills, Typewriting a Specialty.  
 Agent for the York Mutual Fire Ins. Co  
 Township, Office days, each Monday  
 Office and residence—Dixie, Ont.

▲ C. H. Gill Advertisements,  
 1905 and 1910  
 (Streetsville Review)



▲ The Gill Store and Post Office, 1960  
 (Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel Archives)

## The Grice family - 1889



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IN 1889, FREDERICK GRICE (b.1866, d.1942), who had been born in Toronto, came to Toronto Township and began working on Doctor Moses Aikens' farm on Burnhamthorpe Road. He got to know Sarah Cawthra Murray who had purchased a farm on Third Line (Dixie Road) from George Hornby in 1886. When she passed away in May, 1902, her executor, the Honourable William Mullock, sold Fred the farm, which was 100 acres (81 ha) of the north half of Lot 5, Con.2, NDS.

### ▲ The Grice farm

(Photos courtesy of The Grice Collection)



▲ Grice House, sideview

The Grice house was a one-and-a-half-storey brick surrounded by orchards and wheat fields. Fred and his wife, Sarah Tilson, had Toyne (1894-1974) and Jessie, who never married.

The first Grices to arrive in Canada were William and Mary Roadhouse Grice, who had ten children, Mathew, Albert, Fred, Wesley, Clarkson, Rachel, Emily, Charles, Leonard and Norton. They hailed from Yorkshire, England, and the family settled in York (Toronto) in 1832. Mathew married Hannah Clarkson and had nine children, Fred being the fourth son.



▲ Fred and Sarah Grice's Wedding

Although Fred's farm was on Third Line just above the village of Burnhamthorpe, their address was R.R. #2, Malton, and the phone number was Cooksville 34 ring 1-3 (one long ring and 3 short rings on their 12-family party-line). On January 18, 1937, Fred turned the farm over to his son, Toyne.

Toyne had married Ethel Steen (1904-1978) of the Meadowvale Steens. Their son, Glenn, was born in the Brampton Hospital on May 31, 1926, and daughter, Joan, on December 23, 1928. They were educated at the two-room Burnhamthorpe Public School that had nearly 80 students during their growing-up years. Port Credit High School followed, which Glenn left in 1941 to help on the farm when the hired hand, Lewis Wilson, was drafted into the Army during World War II (1939-1945). In 1943, Glenn was drafted, took his physical and was exempted as a farmer and told to "grow food."

Following the War, Toyne began to sell off his farm property. The first piece was to Daniel and Christine Bears on May 1, 1946, and another on May 19, 1947 to William Driedzic. Only the family house and a few acres were left. Toyne purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 2, Con.1, WHS, on March 29, 1950, from William Jackson for \$4,000 and called his new farm Hawthorne Valley, named for the many hawthorne trees that inhabited the acreage. The Grices moved to the Hurontario Street location and rented the house on Dixie Road, which was sold in 1954 along with the remaining property.

Through Junior Farmers and the 4 H Club, Glenn began to compete in agricultural exhibitions and competitions and did livestock judging around Ontario and the United States. He took many prizes for his cattle and sheep. This led to his taking cattle buyers to Pennsylvania,

New York and Ohio on buying excursions. In 1948, he was the president of the Cooksville Fair.

In 1949, he married Barbara Lightfoot (b.1929, divorced, 1976). They had Mary, 1951, Janet, 1954, Martha, 1957, Mark, 1959, and Elizabeth, 1963. In 1950, he and Barbara moved onto his father's new farm. Toyne sold 10 acres (4 ha) to Glenn on October 23,



▲ Grice family, 1950

1952, which had a stone house, barn and a chicken coop on it. Glenn did some major renovations before moving in and then added an addition, which gave him a six bedroom house. On December 8, 1954, Toyne sold another 60 acres (24 ha) to Glenn for \$35,000. That same year, his parents moved to Streetsville.

Glenn and his brother-in-law, Jack Williamson, built houses in Lakeview and Streetsville and then constructed houses for Robert Watson and Grant Clarkson. He took a course in Real Estate Law at the University of Toronto to help him in his land dealings. He and Barbara were leaders of the Cooksville United Church's Hi C Club and Glenn became chairman of the Board of Stewards. In 1954, Glenn became a charter member of the newly formed Cooksville Rotary Club (became the Rotary Club of Mississauga) and in 1996 received the coveted Paul Harris Award for his achievements in this service organization.

Glenn was impressed with his friends, Bob and Ross Watson, Grif Adamson and Ken Harmer, who with others, developed the Trafalgar Golf Course in Oakville in 1958. He thought that he could do the same with his property, and so the 2,500 yard (2,285 m) course, Hawthorne Golf and Country Club, was designed and shaped by Lakeshore Landscapers and construction started in 1959. The address was R.R. #6, Brampton, tel: 277-0848.

On opening day, Saturday, July 15, 1961, Reeve Robert Speck cut the ribbon with Glenn and Barbara's daughter, Mary. The course was well received and quite successful over the years.

In the 1960s, Glenn was elected to the South Peel Board of Education, which spanned a 20-year involvement, was co-chairman of the Red Cross financial campaign, chairman of the Christ Church Building Fund in Clarkson and served on the Heart and Stroke Fund for Peel County. He ran for councillor of Ward 4 in 1960, which he

achieved and went through seven elections successfully. In September, 1973, Glenn declared he would not run for reelection on October 1st and his political contribution came to an end.

In 1984, Glenn sold the course and managed it until 1986 when it was closed down. He had purchased a farm at Kilmanagh, on Dixie Road, in 1979. He built a Royal Home and moved there in August 1990, with his new bride, Shirley Parkinson Clarkson. Glenn passed away on December 10, 2002.

At the location of the former golf course there are now townhouses and apartment buildings and a road has been named Glenn Hawthorne Boulevard, in remembrance of the owner and the golf course that once was located on the west side of Hurontario Street, just above Eglinton Avenue.

The Canada Post Gateway Postal facility at 4567 Dixie Road now occupies the former Grice farm, having been built in 1973 at a cost of \$63 million.



▲ Glenn Grice Campaigning



▲ Hawthorne Valley Golf Course

## Dixie - Spicy Neighbourhood News - 1894

A certain man, unknown in the village, while driving along the street a little east of the village, happened with an accident, which might have proved very serious. His horse took fright and preferred the ditch to the road, how he got in the ditch without upsetting is a conundrum. With the exception of breaking some pickets of a fence, and a platform in front of Mrs. Neil's house and the shafts of the buggy, no damage was done that was serious. The occupant was a little broke up, but no bones were broken.

A large load of folks drove through our village last Friday evening to attend the temperance lodge at Summerville.

A certain man, sometime ago, while the worse of liquor, put his wife out of doors and caused quite a commotion generally. This happened a short distance from our village.

I hear, and from good authority, that Henry H. Shaver has been appointed a J. P. Congratulations Mr. S. It is not before one was needed in our locality.

Mr. Wm. Pallett and wife entertained quite a number of guests one evening not long ago and I hear they were entertained right royally. I would have liked to be there.

*Streetsville Review*  
Dixie weekly column  
March 1, 1894



(James Cooper)



(Florence Maynard)

### **Part Three 1901 - 1950**

## The First Automobiles - Early 1900s

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.”

The first gasoline-powered automobiles were invented by Americans Charles and Frank Duryea in 1893. They started manufacturing at their Duryea Motor Wagon Company factory in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1895. The brothers built a four-cycle engine they used to power a car that won the first American automobile race that year. The following year, Frank Duryea travelled with the Barnum & Bailey Circus and drove his car around the ring.



◀ Henry Ford



▲ The Original Duryea Car, 1893

(Natural Museum of American History)

**H**enry Ford (b.1863, d.1947), who had been a machinist's apprentice at 16 and a chief engineer at the Edison Illuminating Company in Detroit, put the world on wheels and began to manufacture cars in Detroit, Michigan, in 1903, and others followed. The Ford Motor Company was worth \$100,000 U.S. in 1903 and by 1927 had escalated to \$700 million. The first Model T advertisement appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post* in 1908 with a price tag of \$280. 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 and Henry Ford became an automatic millionaire.



▲ Henry Ford and his Quadricycle, 1896



### ▲ The Ford Plant

(Inset: Gordon Morton McGregor)

The right to manufacture Ford cars in Ontario was acquired in 1904 by 31-year-old Gordon Morton McGregor, the president of a wagon factory in Walkerville (Windsor). The Walkerville Wagon Company became the Ford Motor Company of Canada with McGregor as founder and general manager. The company was incorporated on August 17, 1904, with a capital of \$125,000. The first car rolled off the assembly line in September and 20 had been built by year's end. In the first year of operation, its 17 employees turned out 117 Model B and Model C Ford automobiles that had the steering column on the right side of the car. One Model C is displayed at the Ontario Science Centre. The first car lot to appear in Toronto Township was Moore Motors, which was established in Port Credit in 1909 by Fred J. Moore. It became an authorized agent for the Ford Motor Company in 1914.

After World War II (1939-1945), Ford expanded its operation to plants and parts-distribution outlets in Oakville, St. Thomas, Niagara Falls and Brampton. By 1950, 36 million cars and trucks had been made. The Ford plant in Oakville was opened in 1952 with a 1,400,000 sq. ft. (130,000m<sup>2</sup>) factory sitting on 32 acres (12 ha). It was the largest factory in Canada. In 1990, Ford had 15,000 employees with an \$800 million payroll and made 600,000 cars annually.

In the beginning of the automobile era, people did not require a licence to drive. It was hoped that drivers would be cautious with their new fangled contraption. However, this was proved otherwise and a law was passed in 1909 to licence chauffeurs. Because they drove someone else's vehicle, they were thought to have "negligent driving habits." In 1913, it was revised to require a competency test. Finally, in 1927, the "operator's licence" was instituted at a cost of \$1 each. The first year, 444,472 licences were issued in Ontario. In June 1994, the Ministry of Transportation incorporated the GI licence permit into the road test, written test and licence, validated over five years for \$100. According to the Ministry of Transportation, as of December 31, 2004, there were 8,655,597 licenced drivers in the province.

In 2003, the Ford Motor Company of Canada Limited celebrated its 100th anniversary with 16,000 employees, as the 100-millionth Ford V8 engine rolled off the assembly line at the Windsor plant.



### ▲ The Canadian Built Model C Ford, 1905

(Photos courtesy of Ford Motor Company Archives)

## NEWS ITEMS

### 250,000 MOTORISTS SECURE LICENSES

Announcement was made last evening by Hon. George S. Henry, Minister of Highways for Ontario, that up to yesterday a total of approximately 250,000 drivers of passenger motor cars in the Province had taken out drivers' licenses in accordance with the recent legislation compelling every motorist to have a license and the required motoring ability involved in securing such papers.

From the head office of the Highways Department in Toronto alone, 40,000 licenses have been issued. The number of passenger cars in Ontario last year was 344,000. Reports on the issuance of licenses, it was pointed out by the Department, would be slow in coming in from some of the more outlying sections of the province, and in addition to the 250,000 licenses already reported issued, there would be a considerable number of reports in the mail in transit to the Highways Department headquarters in Toronto.

It was pointed out by Hon. George S. Henry that one month's grace had now been allowed the motorists of the Province in which to secure their drivers' permits. He said he hoped there would be no further delay on the part of the motorists still lacking licenses in securing the necessary papers.

*Port Credit Weekly*

August 5, 1927

### 59 Killed in Month by Ontario Motorists

Toronto – Motor traffic in Ontario took a toll of 59 lives last month, 16 of whom were children under 15 years of age, and injured 835, of whom 218 were children.

The report of the motor vehicles branch of the Department of Highways, issued recently by J. P. Bickell, registrar, shows a total of 857 accidents during the month involving 1,286 cars. The majority of these occurred in daylight on good roads in clear non-skid weather and involved drivers described in the report as normal.

Nor in the main were the accidents due to disregard of the law by the drivers. Less than 50 per cent of the cases, 343, are laid to violation of traffic regulations and of these 97 to speeding, cutting in, passing on hills and curves or passing standing street cars. Out of the 1,286 cars involved in accidents last month, 1,047 were reported in good condition and only 37 with defective brakes.

*Streetsville Review*

August 6, 1931

### Killed at Dixie

William Walmer, aged 65, well known resident at Dixie, died from injuries sustained shortly after 9 o'clock Saturday night, when he was struck by a westbound car driven by Harold A. Bernard of 16 Dowling Avenue, Toronto, on the Dundas Highway near his home.

According to the police, Walmer was crossing the road from the north side to the south side, and was thrown across the highway by the impact of Bernard's car, sustaining a fractured skull and severe arm and leg injuries. He died in less than fifteen minutes after the arrival of Doctor W. H. Godfrey of Cooksville, and Coroner A. B. Sutton of Port Credit had the body removed to Skinner's Undertaking Parlour at Port Credit.

A preliminary inquest was opened and adjourned indefinitely following which the remains were released for burial. The driver of the car was not detained by Provincial Officer J. Palmer of Islington, who investigated.

*The Streetsville Review*

August 20, 1931

Dr. William H. Godfrey ▶

(William J. Teggart)



### Good for a Laugh!

A lady was buying a car. The salesman was trying to make everything clear to her. "Yes, I understand about the carburetor, the differential, the transmission and all those parts," she said. "Now please show me the depreciation. They tell me that gives more trouble than everything else."

He gulped, but recovered in time to say, "Madam, there is no depreciation on our cars." She bought it.

*Port Credit Weekly*

June 24, 1927

## The Cook Family - 1904

JOHN COOK (b.1866, d.1923), AND HIS WIFE, Annie Ney (1870-1952), who was born in Cookstown, Ontario, resided in Weston, where John worked for the Railroad. They were married in 1890 and had six children, John (1891-1959), Mary, called Minnie, (1895-1933), Robert (1897-1970), Bessie (1899-1901), Florence (1901-1925) and Maude (1903-1990). When he was laid off in 1904 due to an ailing economy, John moved his family to Brampton. But the house he rented was too small for his large family, so he decided to rent a house on Dundas Street in Dixie. This location had a substantial piece of property that provided him with a market garden.

John and Annie then had Lewis (1905-1989), Walter (1906-1985), Albert (1908-1967) and Norman Edward (1910-1974), who were all born in the family's Dixie home.

Maude, Lewis, Walter, Albert and Norman attended the small one-room Dixie Public School that was built on Dixie Road in 1857 and the four-room brick one constructed south of Dundas in 1923. John passed away that year.



▲ Norman and Ruby Cook

(Photos courtesy of Dave Cook)

Norman married Ruby Jordan (1911-1983) on July 29, 1933, in Toronto. They resided in Aurora, then Toronto. They had two children, Donald, 1937, and David, 1942. In 1947, they moved to the Sixth Line (Airport Road) in Malton, where they planned to establish a chicken farm operation. The boys attended Elmbank Public School. Some of their neighbours at this time were Hyliard and Grace Chapell, who had a large farm nearby (Hyl was a lawyer, who became a Liberal Member of Parliament); Elwood Culham, a farmer, land developer and school trustee; Teddy Morris, who played for the Toronto Argonauts (1931-1939) and coached the



▲ Donald and David

team from 1945 to 1949 (during his illustrious career, he led the Argonauts to three Grey Cups as a player and three as coach); and Marjory Middlebrook, who babysat David and later married radio personality Gordon Sinclair Jr.

In the early 1950s, the federal government began expropriating land in Malton for the expansion of the Malton Airport (Lester B. Pearson International Airport) and the Cooks' property became the location of Terminal Three. So Norman's chicken farm plans were thwarted.

In 1957, Norman purchased a Shipp-built bungalow at 2218 Rambo Road in Applewood Acres.

At this time, he was employed with Canadian General Electric in Toronto, and he worked in the company's Davenport Road plant.

Donald got married and moved to Georgetown. Dave attended Applewood Public School, 2180 Harvest Drive, and then Gordon Graydon Secondary School, 1490 Ogden Avenue.

One of Dave's interests as a teenager was attending the stock car races at the Canadian National Exhibition. It became a sport that would remain with him the rest of his life. He became a member of the Oakville Trafalgar Light Car Club and then the Credit Valley Car Club. This led to a major involvement with the development of Mosport Park. In 1961, he organized the track's first car race, which took place on June 3rd. In 1989, he became the general manager of its sister facility, Mosport's Ascot North International Speedway, where he organized its first race that ran on September 16th.

Dave became a motor-sport announcer and this took him into a career in radio broadcasting. He started at CHIC Radio in Brampton in 1966 and went to CHIN in 1967. He was there until 1974. By this time, he had joined *The Mississauga News* as a sports reporter and had a column called "Motorsport." This same year, on October 11th, he married Sophia Bogacz, an elementary teacher from Etobicoke, at the Westway United Church. They resided on Royal York Road, then purchased a Shipp bungalow at 860 Hedge Drive in Applewood Acres in 1977. Their son, Jonathan, was born on September 28, 1983.

Dave is very community-conscious and this led to his joining the Applewood Acres Homeowners' Association, for which he became secretary, then president. After a 20-year involvement, he resigned in 2004.

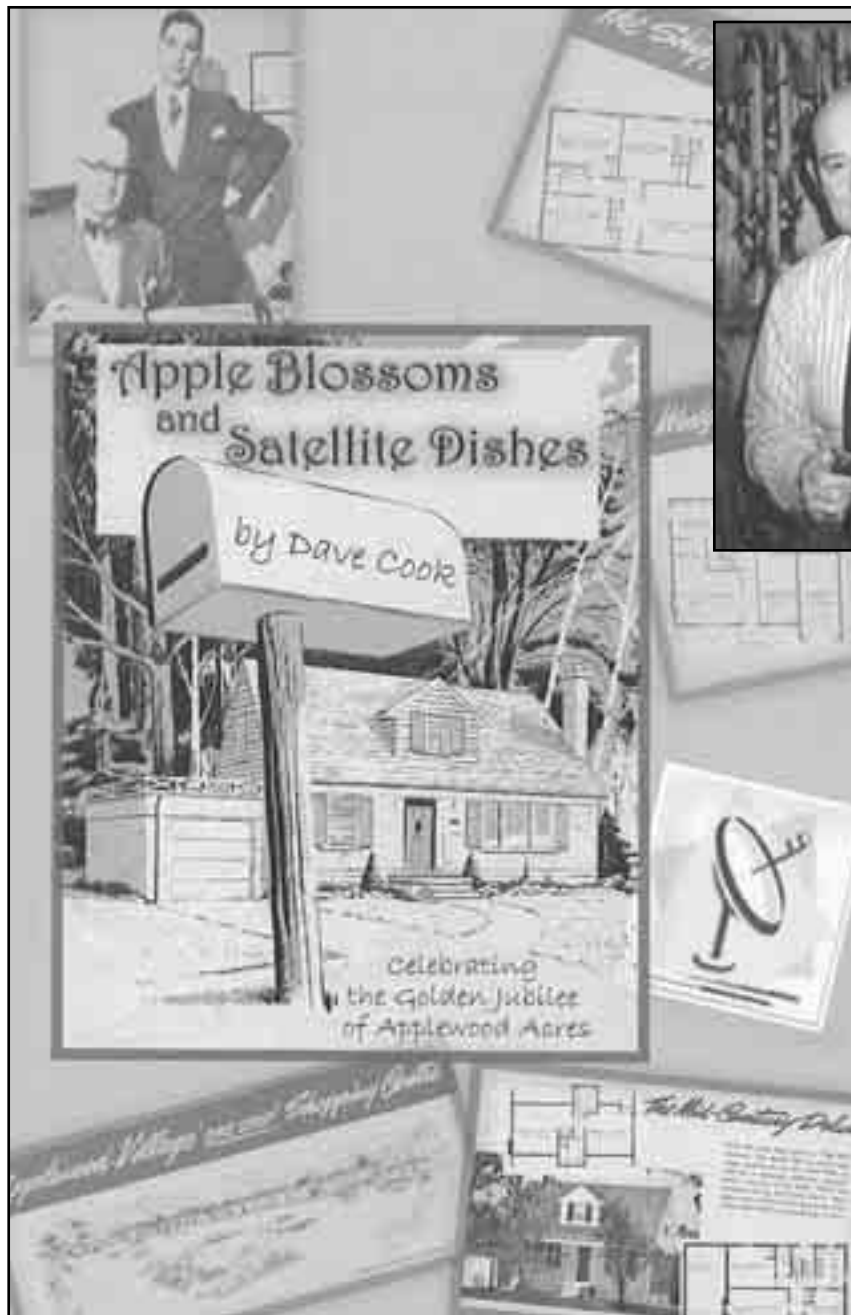
In 1980, Dave spread his wings and made a political move, running for councillor of Ward 7 and won the seat when Mississauga had a population of 298,000. With his dedicated attention to his constituencies concerns, he was re-elected for three terms and retired in 1988, when the population peaked at 426,000.

In June, 1984, Dave and Sophia bought a Candish model house at 2059 Stewart Crescent. The family attends the Applewood United Church, of which Sophia has been president of the choir for 10 years.

To celebrate the golden jubilee of the Shipp's Applewood Acres, Dave wrote and launched his book, *Apple Blossoms and Satellite Dishes*, on June 16, 2004. His next publication "*From Frozen Ponds to Beehive Glory: The Story of Dixie Arena*" will be launched in June, 2006.



▲ Dave, Sophia and Jonathan



▲ Dave's Book on Applewood



◀ Dave Cook



▲ David and Donald

## The McCarthy Family - 1907

**T**he McCarthy family originated in Cork, Ireland. James and Joanna Kirton McCarthy sailed from Cork in 1848 for the promised land, Canada. They were married in Toronto in St. Paul's Church and settled in Etobicoke. They had Margaret, Elizabeth, John, James, Thomas, Ellen and Sarah.

Thomas married a young lass named Mary Ann Passach and came to Dixie in 1907, when the population was 400. They purchased 92 acres (37.2 ha) of Lot 9, Con.1, NDS, for \$7,250 from the John Wilson estate, which had been part of Johann Schiller's grant. Their property was located behind the former Kennedy's Atlantic Hotel and Store, owned at this time by Charles Gill, who was the postmaster for the area.

The McCarthys had seven children: Mary, Irene, Anna, Helena, James, Thomas and Joseph. Their son, James, born on May 1, 1910, would grow up to be a prominent citizen in Toronto Township through his community involvement.



◀ Thomas McCarthy Jr.



▲ McCarthy family. Back row: Anna, Irene, Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy and Othlyn. Front row: Helena and James

JIM WENT TO THE TWO-ROOM BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE, S.S. #1 on Dixie Road that had been built in 1857. His first teacher was Miss Golding from Weston. He concluded his schooling at De La Salle High School in Toronto. His parents were not strict. He said they set a good example and expected their children to follow.

Thomas' crops were mainly apples, pears, strawberries and several varieties of vegetables. In July 1910, Thomas set up stalls on vacant lots on Dundas Street in Lambton to sell his produce. The family attended St. Patrick's Catholic Church on Dundas Street. Mary Ann belonged to the



James and Carmel McCarthy ▲



▲ Jim, Carmel and Family

Women's Auxiliary. The family participated in all of the church's activities. In 1916, Thomas built a larger house to accommodate his growing family.

Jim took over his father's farm in October 1936, shortly after he got married. He had married Carmel Egan on February 22, 1936. They had Peter, 1939, Brian, 1942, Mary, 1946, and Elaine, 1948. Peter was the one who had his father's farming instincts. Thomas kept a few acres to farm. He died in 1950. Mary Ann passed away in 1965.

Jim was involved in the formation of the Dixie Cold Storage in 1944 and was vice president of the Dixie Cooperative Limited. He was president of the Dixie Growers Limited four times and his son, Peter, is now president. He was also involved in the founding and construction of the Dixie Arena that opened in 1949. He was chairman of the Board of Directors from 1949 to 1974. He was also a participant in the founding of the South Peel Hospital (now The Trillium), which opened in 1958 and held the position as a board member and then chairman (1970-1973). He was a member of the Ontario Food Terminal Board and chairman of the Credit Valley School of Nursing (1966-1971), which was built in 1968.

When the Toronto Food Terminal opened in 1954, Jim took his produce there and rented stalls. It was a very lucrative outlet.

In 1953, Jim purchased a 170 acre (68 ha) farm in Georgetown and his son, Peter, took over its management. In 1970, he donated land for the construction of St. Patrick's Catholic Church, which opened on January 17, 1971, at 921 Flagship Drive. In 1971, he concluded five years as chairman of the board of directors for the Credit Valley School of Nursing. At a ceremony held in his honour, a plaque was unveiled naming the auditorium after him. Then in 1972, he retired from the Mississauga Hospital Board after serving for 20 years. He sold his Dixie farm in 1973 and he and Carmel moved to Georgetown in 1974. They purchased another 200 acres (81 ha) and eventually had 300 acres (122 ha) under cultivation with apple and pear trees, strawberries and soybeans. For a few years, they had Holstein cattle and won many awards at the Royal Winter Fair and numerous local fairs.

Carmel passed away in 1985 and a year later, Jim married a long-time family friend, Agnes Lavech, from Fergus. They were happily ensconced on their picturesque acreage and enjoyed their retirement.



▲ McCarthy Hall is named for Jim



Jim's heart was always in Dixie, though, right up until he passed away January 1, 2003. He would tell you that it was a great community to grow up in and say proudly, "To me it is the capital of the world."

The family is remembered by the roadway, "McCarthy Court" that runs through their former farmland.

◀ McCarthy Court Road Sign  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Painting of McCarthy Farmhouse



◀ Jim and Carmel's  
40th Wedding Anniversary



▲ Jim McCarthy, 1930s

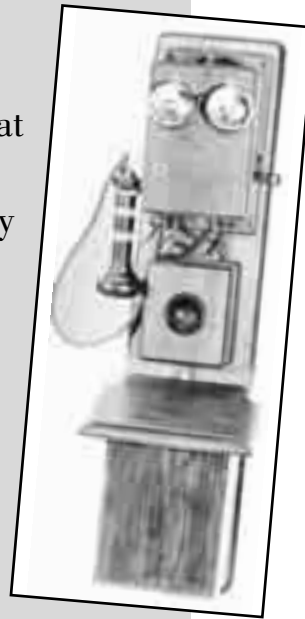


▲ Jim McCarthy and his Awards, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The First Telephones - 1909

Cooksville received the status of a full-fledged telephone exchange in early 1909 and the first telephones installed in Dixie went to the Hopkins and Gill families. They were the first to be listed in the Toronto and District Telephone Directory that came out in March. In February, it was reported that, "Another gang of 20 linemen of Bell Telephone are at present here stringing four new wires through to Hamilton on Dundas Street." By the end of 1909, the township received rural service with 42 subscribers on five exchanges, Summerville, Dixie, Burnhamthorpe and Erindale being served through Cooksville. Henry Shaver was the local manager.

The first telephone in Toronto Township was installed in Hamilton's General Store in Port Credit in 1881 when telephone lines were strung between the prominent Ontario cities of Toronto and Hamilton by foreman A.T. Smith and 18 workers. James Hamilton, a Justice of the Peace and reeve of Toronto Township (1880-1881), became a representative of the Bell Telephone Company of Canada (now Bell Canada), which was formed in 1877 and incorporated on April 29, 1880.



▲ Alexander Graham Bell

◀ Early Telephone

(Photos courtesy Bell Canada Archives)

WHEN THIS INNOVATION OF BRINGING COMMUNICATION between neighbours took place, the telephone list for Toronto Township was St. Lawrence Starch, telephone No.1; the Long Branch Rifle Ranges, No. 2; Lorne Park Hotel Louise, No. 3; S. J. Moore, No. 4; a much needed telephone, Exchange 5, was put in Doctor Marshall Sutton's home on Hurontario Street, south of Dundas Street in Cooksville in 1883.

The telephone (derived from the Greek meaning, "a voice from afar") was invented by Alexander Graham Bell. In the summer of 1874, some 50 miles (90 km) west of Dixie, in the Town of Brantford, Bell, who had been born on March 3, 1847, in Edinburgh, Scotland, was tinkering with an invention that would become a vital instrument



▲ Early Telephones and Bell Telephone Ad

in homes of the 20th century – the telephone. Bell, who had moved to Boston, Massachusetts, spent his summer vacations with his parents and he always brought his work with him. That is where the confusion comes from as to whether the telephone was invented in Brantford or Boston. Following Bell's experimental stages, the first telephone used in Canada was leased to Prime Minister Alexander MacKenzie (1822-1892) on September 21, 1877. The first telephone exchange in Ontario was set up in Hamilton on July 15, 1878.

In 1911, when S. J. Totten, who worked out of the Weston office, was the district manager for the Cooksville exchange, a meeting was held in the Town Hall on Dundas Street to discuss the formation of a municipal telephone system. It brought about the Bell Telephone Central Office, which was located in the Shaver's post office until

March 1912, when the office was relocated to the Revere House, in a room beside the Union Bank. Back in those early days, a telephone operator was referred to as "the Hello girl."

◀ T. L. Kennedy gets First Dial Phone, 1954  
(Port Credit Weekly)



By 1921, the 300th telephone was installed with Miss Hodge as the local representative. Miss Helen M. Stewart took over in 1923. Up to 481 subscribers in 1932 necessitated moving to a new location. Office space was leased just north of the hotel in a small building that later became the outlet for Hakim Optical. It was demolished in 2001. Miss Stewart was named Chief Operator in 1935 and was still manning the office in 1937 when Ivy Belford worked the busy No. 1240 Magneto switchboard. In 1941, the 500th telephone was installed. By 1948 1,000 telephones were serviced through the exchange. The following year, the office was equipped with a 105B, 3 position Magneto Switchboard and had 14 employees.

Then on August 12, 1952, the Bell Telephone Company purchased a piece of Lot 15, Con.1, NDS, on Dundas Street East, and a one-storey red brick building with stone trim was erected in 1953 to accommodate a new dial exchange, which commenced February 13, 1954. When Reeve Anthony Adamson placed the first official long-distance call to Winnipeg through the Cooksville exchange, the switchboard went dead. Colonel T. L. Kennedy of Dixie was the first person to have a dial phone installed. This building, now two-storeys at 51-53 Dundas, is still owned by Bell Canada.

With this conversion, all local calls would be handled mechanically and operators in Cooksville would no longer be required. Miss Stewart went to work at the Western Area Traffic Office in Toronto. With the new system, prefixes followed by five digits were assigned, such as AT(water) for Cooksville and Dixie, CR(escent) for Lakeview and TA(ylor) for Clarkson, and the old numbers passed into the history books.

When touch-tone service was made available in April 1966, Atwater became 277 for Cooksville/Dixie and 278 for Port Credit/Lakeview. By 1974, when Mississauga became a city, there were 69,903 telephones in service in the Cooksville/Dixie area. In 1977, SP-1 switching equipment, that automatically handles the switching and routing of calls electronically, was installed in the Bell Canada's Cooksville exchange building to service those telephone subscribers. Mayor Ron Searle and the Mississauga City councillors were given a tour.

On October 4, 1993, Mississauga became part of the 905 exchange. In 2005, Bell Canada celebrated 125 years of serving Canadian customers. The company now has 25 million customers throughout Canada.

## Hydro in Dixie - 1913

DIXIE GOT ELECTRICITY SHORTLY AFTER Cooksville received its installation of hydro poles throughout the village in 1913. Lines were extended along Dundas Street and the Gills, who operated a grocery store and post office, were one of the first recipients.

This phenomenon began with one ingenious man, Adam Beck. He 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 Archives)

▼ (The Lush Collection)





▲ Adam Beck Visits Local Farmers

(The Lush Collection - Region of Peel Archives)

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In 1911-1912, Beck held meetings with the local farmers throughout Toronto Township to convince them of how beneficial hydro would be to their farm production.

Port Credit, a 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 hydro lines were being installed.

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.

The basic service charge was \$2 a month and when meters were installed the following year, the meter rate was 4.5¢ per kilowatt. In 2006, the rate is 5¢ for the first 750 kilowatts, not much difference from its early beginnings.

Some of the productive Hydro commissioners down through the years were: Reuben Lush (1917-1918); Harry Pattinson (1935-1941); Gordon Pattinson (1941-1963); and Reeve Robert Speck (1960-1967).



▲ Gordon Pattinson

(Enersource Mississauga)



▲ Reuben Lush

(The Lush Collection)



▲ Robert Speck

(The Mississauga News)



▲ Harry Pattinson

(Port Credit Weekly)

# A Temporary Tax - 1917

## Now in its 75th year

THE FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-1918) WAS raging in Europe and Prime Minister Robert Borden (1911-1920) had just raised a call to action; 100,000 additional men were shipped overseas to help fight the battle. In order to pay for this involvement and to finance the repair and expansion of Canada's rail system the government needed another source of revenue. Hitherto it had relied mostly on duties from customs and excise taxes, postal rates and other miscellaneous sources.

The British North American Act empowered the Federal Government to raise revenues by any mode, direct or indirect, if such action was deemed necessary. In 1917, it was, and so income tax was introduced on September 20, 1917, as a temporary war measure. It was passed as only one of a number of important bills looked at by Parliament, which opened in January of the same year.



▲ Sir Robert Borden

(New Brunswick Museum)

Ironically, while income tax and legislation giving women the vote had many more significant consequences, they were overshadowed by the Military Services Act, or conscription bill, which was seen by far the most important issue facing the country.

A business profits war tax act had been put in place at the outset of the war. Care was taken to avoid double taxation (since dividends were already being taxed). A personal income tax of 4 per cent, with exemptions of \$2,000 for singles and \$3,000 for married couples, was levied. A graduated super-tax ranging from 2 to 25 percent was also charged on those with higher incomes.

*The Streetsville Review*  
July 1, 1992

## Dixie Women's Institute - 1919

**T**he Dixie Women's Institute (DWI) was organized in 1919 and held its first meeting on April 8th with Mrs. Gordon as president and Emily Clarkson as secretary. The meetings were held at members' homes on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:30 p.m.

Some of the activities the women took on were crafts and hobbies, garden planning, the sale of plants and flower arranging.

The first Women's Institute in Ontario was founded by Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless (b.1857, d.1910) at Stoney Creek on February 17, 1897. Adelaide was the daughter of David Hunter of Derry West, who passed away a few months before she was born on a farm near St. George, Ontario. Adelaide had lost her infant son in 1889 due to infected milk. This motivated her to establish the Women's Institute, which brought about organizing institute's across Ontario and teaching the homemakers about improving nutrition and health safety in the home.

On the 10th anniversary there were 500 institutes established in the province. Adelaide's great achievement with the organization warranted her a stamp in 1993 during the first special issue of stamps honouring women. The DWI motto was "For Home and Country."



▲ Adelaide Hunter Hoodless

ON THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1937, THE DIXIE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE held its annual picnic at Toronto's Centre Island. The president at the time was Mrs. K. Grimshaw. Some of the ladies in attendance were: Mrs. William T. Pallett, Mrs. George Leaver, Mrs. W. Fielding, Mrs. George Sanderson, Mrs. Leonard Pallett and Mrs. W. Goddard.

In 1935, the Women's Institutes in Ontario took up Lady Tweedsmuir, Susan Charlotte Buchan's suggestion to record their history. Her husband John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir, was the Governor General



▲ Lady Tweedsmuir

of Canada from 1935 to 1940. The Dixie Women started a scrapbook on November 1, 1940, to record local history and Doris Pallett was the Institute's historian. She carried out the task of compiling the history and recording it. This scrapbook is now with the Mississauga Heritage Foundation.

During the Second World War (1939-1945), the DWI made socks, sweaters, gloves, helmets and scarves. Many items were sent overseas to

the Dixie men serving their country. They made hospital supplies such as nightgowns, layettes, wash clothes, sheets and pillowcases, which were sent to the Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton.

In 1947, on April 1st, the DWI held elections at Mrs. L. McPherson's home. To start off the meeting, the conveners read reports on their committees and they were then sent to Brampton Women's Institute for the District annual meeting. Mrs. N. Sandham, convener



▲ Lord Tweedsmuir



▲ Dixie Women's Institute Gathering, Front Row: Doris Pallett, Mabel Armstrong, Mrs. James Halsey. Back Row: Mrs. Howard Pallett, James Halsey, Richard Guthrie and Howard Pallett

of the Red Cross, reported that the members had collected over \$500 for this worthwhile cause. It was announced that the annual convention would be held in May and the anniversary celebration in June in Guelph.



▲ Dixie Women's Institute Picnic

(Photos - Region of Peel Archives)

The officers voted in for 1947 were: Mrs. N. Sandham, president; Mrs. W. Kendall, 1st vice president; Mrs. Howard Pallett, 2nd vice; Mrs. George Sanderson, secretary/treasurer. From 1947 to 1949, they held a country fair. They sponsored the Dixie Public School fairs and in 1949, sponsored the Burnhamthorpe Girl Guides and presented them with a Union Jack and a company flag.

The DWI was always very organized and its entire program was mapped out from June until May. For the 1948-1949 year some of the events were: a picnic at Mrs. G. Leavers' in June; a trip to Brampton to visit Dales Greenhouses in October; a Christmas party at Mrs. Howard Pallett's in December; and the election of officers in April at Mrs. W. Goddard's. The executive for the coming year was Mrs. W. Kendall, president, Mrs. Howard Pallett, first vice, Miss Ruth Kennedy, second vice, and Mrs. G. Sanderson, secretary/treasurer.

The club celebrated its 30th anniversary in 1949 and was disbanded in 1950.

## Dixie in 1922

*Resident George T. Wiseman came to Dixie from England in 1922 at age 15 and shortly after his arrival, when he had gotten to know his neighbours, he wrote down his impressions of his new community, describing the people who lived along Dundas Street from Brown's Line in Etobicoke to Cawthra Road.*



### ▲ Parton's Blacksmith Shop and Residence

(The Silverthorn Collection)

ON THE NORTH SIDE OF DUNDAS NEAR THE creek is a log cabin with an old fellow named Tom Stanfield; The first family we come to is Mr. and Mrs. Bob Parton, blacksmith, "second to none on the North American Continent"; Next the wagon-maker's shop operated by Mr. Sabison; The Summerville Hotel is the next imposing building;

Next there is a garage, then the home of the O'Brien sisters, who live in a nice house at the corner of Dundas and Old Mill Road; Farmer Ian Fenwich; His next door neighbour is Mr. Harris, who had a trap line from Dundas to Burnhamthorpe, he earned the nickname "Skunk Harris."

South side is Angus Michie, postmaster who ran a post office in his general store; his neighbour was Mr. Tapps; Then next to him, Mr. Hancock; then a gravel pit that took up about a half a mile; Then Mr. and Mrs. Cookes, then Mr. and Mrs. Smart and family; Don Pallett was next in line and the Fielding family followed him; Then came Ed Pallett and next to him was Lou Shaver.



▲ Mr. Arthur Clarkson  
(Grant Clarkson)

Now to the north side of Dundas; Art Clarkson had the next farm to Mr. Harris's; Art's brother Norman was next; Then the Bethesda Methodist Church; Next John Brooks, and it was to his farm that I from England came as a boy of 15 in 1922 to work. He was married twice and had a son and daughter, the son was killed in the First World War. His first wife died and he married Jenny Pallett, sister to Ed, Art, Will and Harold Pallett; Next came George Clarkson, a gentleman farmer and very nice person; Next on our list is Les Pallett, who is more than just a farmer, builder of the Dixie Fruit Market,



▲ The Bethesda Methodist Church

where on weekends people come out from Toronto "in droves" to buy fresh fruit and vegetables; Next was Art Clarkson's other farm; next to him was Elmer Price, who ran a small fruit market; Tom Laskey was next and then Bill Harrison.



▲ Les Pallett

We are now at the Third Line (Dixie Road). On the northwest corner of Dundas and Dixie lives a farmer by the name of Edgar Watson; and then Art Pallett's farm; then a Chinese family run a small farm; Then the next farmer was "the finest man I ever knew," Tom Kennedy; Gill's General Store was next owned by Mrs. Gill and her son; next came Jimmy Cairns; then Tom McCarthy; Last, but not least was the St. John's Anglican Church.

Now to the south side Dixie Road or Third Line to Cawthra; On the southwest corner is St. Patrick's Church; next lived Mr. and Mrs. Lambert; then Will Pallett; next was Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pallett; then Mr. Waites; Mr. Keats was next; then Harry Brooks; next Mr. and Mrs. Black; Pickett's Farm was next; Mrs. Pearson was the next farmer; and the last person I can think of was Dr. William Groves.



▲ St. Patrick's Church



▲ George Clarkson House

(Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel Archives)

## Dixie Fruit Growers Co-Op - 1927

In 1927, six people, including Art Stanfield and Les Pallett Sr., met in Arthur Clarkson's living room to discuss the formation of a co-op business that would allow the farmers of Dixie to handle their fruit and produce in a more organized business fashion for preservation and quality. From their efforts and that of interested farmers in Dixie and Clarkson, the Clarkson-Dixie Fruit and Vegetable Co-op was founded and Arthur, Art and Les were on the first board. When the paperwork was completed the Co-op had 23 shareholders including Clarkson, Pallett, Stanfield and Speck. J. H. Pinchin was the secretary/treasurer and his telephone number was Clarkson 38R14.

In an advertisement run in the *Port Credit News* on May 6, 1927, by Mr. Pinchin, they announced that "they had exclusive agency for Niagara Brand Spray Materials and the famous Bean Power Sprayers and Dusters for the district from Islington to Oakville; also agent for Gunn's Sure Growth Fertilizers."



▲ Dixie Growers Ltd., 1976

(Region of Peel Archives)



DIXIE WAS A MAJOR APPLE GROWING COMMUNITY AND THIS organization allowed farmers to be more in control of their product. They also had some perks as they were able to purchase fertilizer in larger lots at a reasonable price. Some farms used two tons. Others used up to 70 tons a year, so it was essential to be able to cut costs. The price per ton ranged from \$35 to \$45.

Before this involvement, the Dixie farmers used to take their produce into Toronto on market wagons with springs that gave a gentle ride. They were drawn by a team of horses. The Toronto store keepers would meet them at the Humber River bridge on Dundas Street. Some years later, they met at a vacant lot at the corners of Dundas and Jane Streets, and this meeting place served the purpose for many

years. When automobiles came on the scene, the farmers switched to a Smith Forman truck, which was made from a Model A Ford. Arthur Clarkson was the first farmer in Dixie to have a Smith Forman vehicle.

In 1939, Harry A. Pattinson of Clarkson was president, Harvey Stewart of Dixie, vice president, and J. H. Pinchin, secretary.

Then in 1944, the Dixie Cold Storage concrete block facility, 200,000 square feet (18,580 m<sup>2</sup>) in size, was built by the local farmers, which included Clarkson, Death, Pallett, McCarthy and Stanfield, to accommodate the enormous apple industry that operated there. The Dixie Co-operative Limited was formed with Fred W. Scriven as president, James McCarthy, first vice and Lindsay Death, secretary/treasurer.



▲ James McCarthy

(The Mississauga News)

When the facility opened, the growers were able to supply vegetables and fruit year round. When they expanded, a controlled atmosphere room was added. The life of the apples was extended in this controlled environment. With business booming, the facility was expanded to 12 rooms with 40,000 more square feet (3,716 m<sup>2</sup>) to accommodate the farmers who took advantage of the storage areas.

On March 14, 1949, more than 300 agriculturists met at the Clarke Hall in Port Credit for the first joint convention of the Dixie Fruit and Vegetable Growers Co-operative and the Clarkson-Dixie Fruit Growers Association. The employers in these groups were encouraged to have their hired men attend. Lindsay Death was president of the Dixie Growers at this time and chaired the morning meeting. Everett Slacer of the Clarkson-Dixie group chaired the afternoon session. The speeches covered several topics such as training and pruning fruit trees by Dr. H. Upshall and a pest called the Red Banded Leaf Roller, which had been causing many fruit growers a lot of problems this past year. Soil management was discussed by J. Van Haarlem of the Vineland Experimental Station and was well received by his audience.

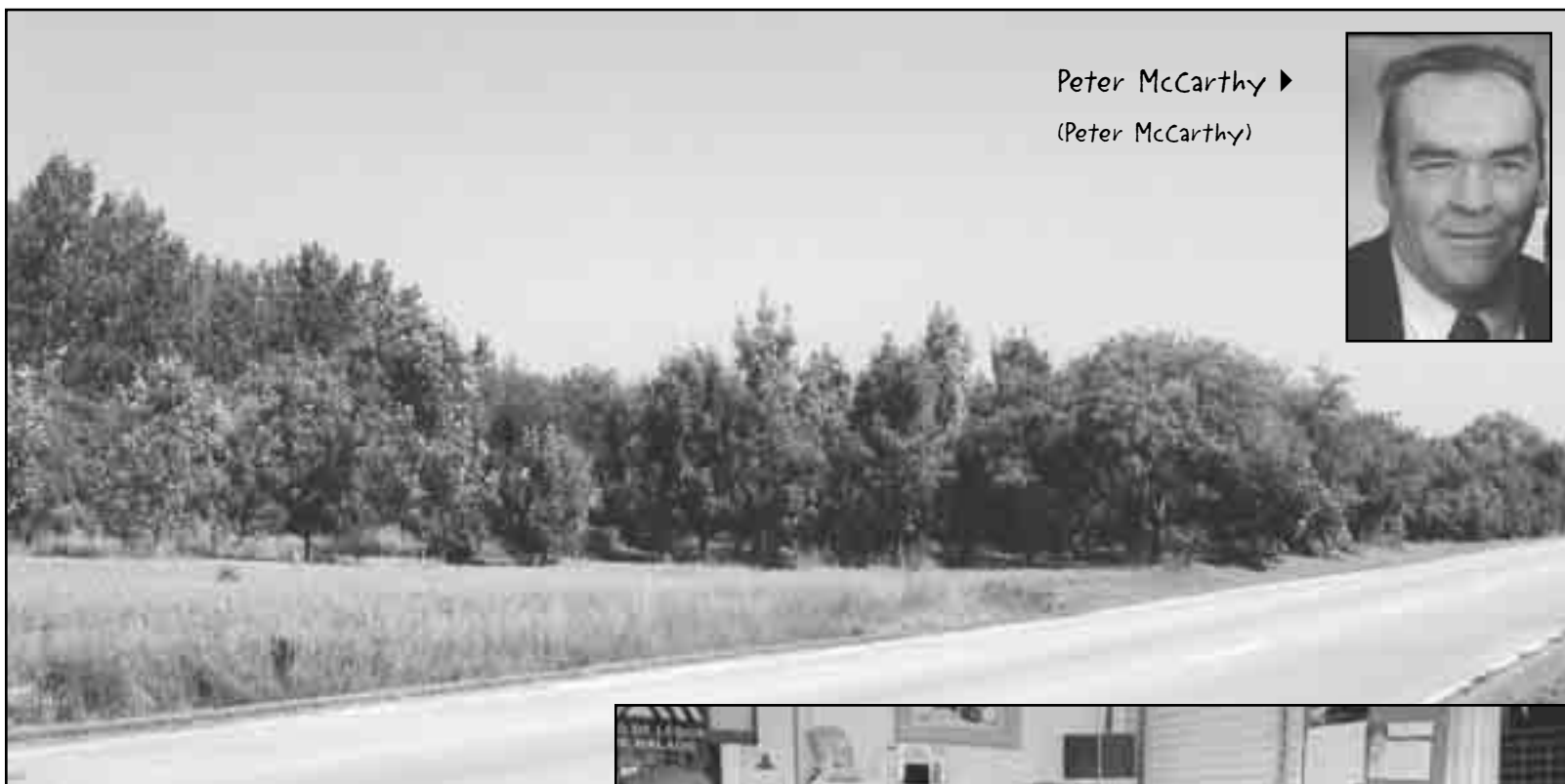
Dixie Growers became a limited company in 1966 when the board was chaired by Irwin Clarkson. Irwin's brother, Grant, remembers in

the early days, the Clarkson-Dixie Growers Association was the best operated co-op in the province and one of the prime producing areas. Fred Watson was the top apple grower in the area and the apples grown in Dixie included Canada Red, Russetts, Ben Bow, Greening, Delicious, Spys and Snow. The only orchard left in Dixie in 2005 is on the north side of the Queensway and it is owned by Jack Goddard, who no longer resides here.

In 2006, the Dixie Growers Limited is still in operation, working out of the Dixie Cold Storage facility at 2440 Dixie Road, but much of the produce stored is imported from Australia, Argentina, China, New Zealand and the United States. There are 28 shareholders and the seven-member board has the late Jim McCarthy's son, Peter, as president. Jim McCarthy (1945-1947, 1950-1952, 1974-1975, 1979-1988), Grant Clarkson (1952-1953) and Howard Pallett (1989-1999) have all served as presidents. The manager for the past 15 years has been Mike Acheson.



▲ Dixie Growers Employees, 2006



Peter McCarthy ▶  
(Peter McCarthy)



▲ The Last Orchard owned by  
Jack Goddard

Mike Acheson, 2006 ▶  
(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)



## Dixie Road Opened - 1927

WITH THE BACKING OF MAJOR GENERAL Cawthra-Elliott, who was working in earnest to have First Line called Cawthra Road, in 1927 a petition, started by Mrs. Ramage and Mrs. McMasters (who lived near the Lakeview Golf Course), was being circulated by the Third Line ratepayers of Lakeview, for the renaming of Third Line to Dixie Road, named for the village north of them. They had formed a committee to carry out this quest and they succeeded.

Earlier in the year, Mr. J. J. Jamieson, reeve of Toronto Township and chairman of the Country Good Roads Committee, decided to make the Third Line the first permanent road to be upgraded in Peel County. The contract for the paving of the three-mile (4.8 km) stretch between the Lake Shore Road and Dundas Street was awarded to the Grant Construction Company of Toronto. The transformation would cost \$70,000, half of which would be paid by the provincial government. The cost to maintain the road had been running at \$3,000 a year, and \$6,000 had been spent the previous spring, so it was thought by council to be a good investment.



▲ Dixie Road Looking South  
(Photos courtesy of Grant Clarkson)



▲ Les Pallett  
(Streetsville Review)

A committee had been formed to handle the opening ceremonies and it was headed up by Councillor Leslie Pallett. The grand opening of the newly named and paved road took place on Monday, August 8, 1927, in front of the Dixie Public School, just south of Dundas Street. Mr. R. C. Muir, chief engineer for the Department of Highways, standing in for the minister, the Honourable George S. Henry, cut the ribbon with a pair of gold scissors. He complimented those involved with the project. Then the federal member, Samuel Charters, spoke of his many trips on the old line and how 22 years before there had been 535 automobiles in Ontario compared

with 335,000 in 1927. He complimented Reeve Jamieson on this accomplishment. Former Reeve Thomas Goldthorpe, the oldest living ex-reeve in the township, who resided on Third Line, presented the reeve and county engineer, M. L. Powell, with a set of club bags, and the resident engineer, J. Brown, with a walking stick. Remembrances of the old road, first laid out in the 1806 Wilmot survey, were exchanged. Up until 1913, Third Line had been a clay road, almost impassible in bad weather. The first gravel was placed on the road that year thanks to the ratepayers by public subscription. In 1917, it was declared a county road.

A garden party on the school property followed. The guests were serenaded by the 73-year-old Canadian singer, James Fax, who had first taken to the stage at age 25. They were also entertained by dancer Thelma Oswen of Toronto and singer Mrs. Stanley Leuty, who were accompanied by pianist, Miss Mason. The Brampton Band was also on hand. When the festivities came to a close, 100 guests were treated to a banquet at Crofton Villa in Cooksville.

Dixie Road was still referred to as the Third Line until 1958 when it was officially sanctioned by the Department of Highways along with Cawthra (First Line) and Tomken Roads (Second Line).



▲ Dixie Road Looking North

## Charles Cromwell Martin - 1928

**C**harles Cromwell Martin was born in Wales on December 18, 1918, to a Welsh mother, Margaret Matilda Cromwell, and an English father, Charles Harold Martin. His parents brought him to Canada in 1928 and they settled on Second Line East (Tomken Road, named for Tom Kennedy), just south of the Base Line (Eglinton Avenue). The Martin acreage allowed 10-year-old Charlie to enjoy the freedom of country living. The family was poor, but managed to make a livelihood on their tiny farm.

Charles Sr. built a solid stone house from the stones that had been part of a demolished jail. The family attended St. John the Baptist Anglican Church at the northeast corner of Dundas Street and First Line (Cawthra Road.) Charlie belonged to the Young People's Association and had much respect for Reverend George Banks. For awhile, the family also ran a small travelling circus.



▲ Charles Cromwell Martin

(Photos courtesy of Rick Martin)

CHARLIE ATTENDED THE DIXIE SCHOOLHOUSE ON THE Third Line (Dixie Road) and made friends with the neighbourhood children. He worked at odd jobs on nearby farms to help his family's income. He became a very close friend with Doug Kennedy while working on the Kennedy farm. It would be the start of a great relationship with the County of Peel that put him in good stead with his community and its people. As Charlie grew to adulthood, he became a compassionate, optimistic, positive person, who was always cheerful. These characteristics helped him endure the adversities in his life.



▲ Violet and Charles Martin

With World War II having commenced in September 1939, Charlie joined the Queen's Own Rifles in June 1940. He was part of the regiment's Lorne Scots, who trained in Newfoundland and then served overseas in Europe. While in England, he met and married Violet (Vi) Glease, who was born in the small coal mining town of Chopwell, England, on October 19, 1923. Vi was in the English Army as a radar operator, who controlled the anti-aircraft guns over London.

In the next five years, Charlie saw much action, especially being part of the first landing on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and when his regiment repelled an enemy counter-attack at Boulogne on September 4, 1944. In the next year, he would be wounded four times and remain in action. His bravery and stalwartness would bring him the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery and a Military Medal for a display of courage on March 2, 1945, in Germany. He was seriously wounded when they were liberating Holland three weeks before the war ended on April 16, 1945. He returned to England where surgeons saved his arm and leg through innovative surgery.

Charlie returned to Canada and his wife arrived on the Aquitania with the other war brides. Charlie worked part time as a chauffeur for T. L. Kennedy, who was the Minister of Agriculture. He and Vi attended St. John's Anglican Church and became active in the church's programs. They both taught Sunday school and Charlie was a



▲ Violet and Charles Martin

Branch #582, in 1960. They were always part of the November 11th Remembrance Day services and they were both in demand as public speakers.

In 1971, they sold their house and moved to a condominium and started attending St. Hilary's Anglican Church. Charlie wrote a book about his World War II experiences with Roy Whitsed, called "*Battle Diary*," which was published in 1994. Copies are available at St. Hilary's Anglican Church. It became a CBC-TV documentary entitled, "*A Day in the Life of Charlie Martin*," which was presented on the 50th anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1995.

Charlie died on October 13, 1997, leaving Vi and their two sons, Richard James, who was a senior researcher and is now with the United Way, and Charles Stuart, who was a teacher at T. L. Kennedy Secondary School and retired in 2005. He also taught at Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School.

In 2001, Doug Kennedy, former South Peel Member of Provincial Parliament, began a Charles Martin Memorial project that would entail raising money to erect a memorial at St. Hilary's Church. He and his project trustees, which included Charlie's long-time friend, Charlie Brown, a former teacher and past president of the Mississauga Garden Council, succeeded in their quest. The cenotaph

cub and scoutmaster, a warden and Sunday school superintendent. Then on June 10, 1948, they bought a farm on Dundas Street in Dixie, from Leslie Hughes for \$4,000, Lot 8, Con.1, SDS, under the Veterans' Land Act. They worked the farm until 1953 when they sold it to Donald Dyer. They then operated the former Kennedy/Gill General Store and Post Office from 1954 to 1958. Charlie's next position involved working with the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

Charlie and Vi became charter members of the Royal Canadian Legion, Col. Thomas Kennedy



▲ Charlie Martin Memorial, St. Hilary's Church  
(Alison MacIntosh)

inside of a peace garden was designed by landscape architect, Don Hancock, and was constructed at a cost of \$33,000 with much volunteer labour. The dedication took place on June 6, 2002, with members of Charlie's Queen's Own Regiment as the honour guard. Doug Kennedy also worked on getting a walking trail to be called the Charlie Martin Trail near where Charlie grew up, south of Burnhamthorpe off Golden Orchard Drive in the Applewood Hills subdivision. It was opened with the unveiling of a plaque on November 11, 2003.

The house Charles Sr. built was torn down in June of 2005 and new construction is underway on their former farmland.



▲ Charlie's Story on VHS (CBC-TV)



▲ Charlie and Lindy Linden



▲ Veteran Charlie Martin

## Depression - 1930s

WHEN THE STOCK MARKET CRASHED ON Friday, October 29, 1929, the world economy spiraled downward until every country was hard hit. Canada was no exception. People became poor overnight, losing money, homes, businesses and their dignity. Many out of despair and desperation took their lives. There was mass unemployment and starving families, which led to bread lines so people could get food to sustain themselves in this desperate time of need and poverty.

With the men of Toronto Township losing their jobs, their families suffered. People, who were renting and could not meet their monthly rent would move from place to place, dragging their families about as despair and poverty plagued them. There was no work to be had. Dixie as yet had no industry and the local farmers relied on their own families to do the work.

Starvation sat on their doorsteps and the men went out hunting to bring back a rabbit or two. They stole chickens and vegetables and fruit out of the farmers' fields and did what they had to do to survive. Many men hopped the freight cars and went to other parts of the country looking for work.



◀ Prime Minister Richard Bennett



◀ A Look of the Depression, 1930s  
(Toronto Telegram)

Canada's population was 10.5 million with Richard Bennett (1930-1935) as prime minister. Toronto's was 650,000 and William Stewart was mayor. Toronto Township's hovered around 10,000 and the reeve was Leslie Pallett.

During the month of February 1933, the Canadian dollar took a pounding, sinking to 80.60 cents against the American dollar. The interest rate was 2.5 percent. *The Toronto Daily Star* cost 2¢, a six cylinder Plymouth cost \$675, rent was \$50 a month, a movie cost 35¢, a man's shirt \$1 and children's shoes, \$1.98. But who could afford such luxuries?

The country was experiencing drastic economic times with unemployment being at an all time high. Out of the 4.3 million people in the work force, 19.3 percent were out of work. At this time the average weekly pay was \$20. Staples like bread, 5¢ a loaf, butter, 13¢ a pound, brown sugar, 7¢ a pound, eggs, 22¢ a dozen, milk, 12¢ a gallon, rice, 6¢ a pound, were more practical in these hard times. This era was referred to as “The Dirty Thirties.”

It was not until World War II started in 1939 that life began to take on a new hope for the future, as jobs again became available and life took on a normalcy not felt in a decade.

*Men Take off for far-Away Places to  
Look for Work, 1934*  
(City of Toronto Archives Fonds 1244, Item 2181)



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## News Item

### Hundred Men Sign at Cooksville

Toronto Township Council is not facing the unemployment situation unprepared, and they have garnered considerable experience from last winter's bout with the same trouble. This was explained to a gathering of fifty or sixty men, held in the Township's hall on Tuesday night, for the purpose of broadcasting just what the council intends to do this winter.

The addresses by Reeve L. H. Pallett and the other councillors gave evidence that the matter had been carefully studied and that council knows what it is going to do and just as clearly what it is not going to do. Certain work will be undertaken to provide relief and the Reeve was emphatic in his statement that no favoritism would be shown and that each and every man would have an equal chance. Mr. Pallett assured those present that men not now employed shall have the first chance when the work started.

Reeve Pallett spoke of the project of making the Middle Road into a provincial highway to relieve congestion on Dundas Street and the Toronto Hamilton Highway. This work he stated would commence in the fall. The proposed waterworks system for the Township was another avenue of assistance to open up in ten weeks. Placing of stone on certain roads and giving work by the piece is another idea put forth for relief.

Thomas McCarthy and J. J. Jamieson both felt that relief might come through the lowering of commodities. Bread, Mr. McCarthy said, is too dear considering the price of wheat. Milk should not be 2 1/2 cents a quart to the producer and 11 cents to the consumers.

About eighty men signed the official register during the evening.

*The Streetsville Review*  
Thursday, August 27, 1931

## William James Teggart - 1930

**M**oses (b.1900, d.1959) and Charlotte Teggart (1900-1984) immigrated to Canada from County Down, Northern Ireland, in 1930. Their third son, William James, was born on the McCarthy farm on May 26, 1930, his father's birthday, with the village doctor, William Godfrey, in attendance. Moses was a labourer for Thomas McCarthy, who operated a fruit and vegetable farm on the Second Line East (Tomken Road). The Teggarts lived in a house on the McCarthy property. Moses and Charlotte had four other sons, Moses Samuel (1926-1974), Thomas, 1928, Stanley, 1932, and John, 1935.



▲ Dr. William  
Godfrey

Bill was christened in St. John the Baptist Anglican Church on Dundas Street. Because the Teggarts had no relatives in this country, their neighbours, Colonel Thomas Laird Kennedy, the Ontario Agricultural Minister, and his wife, Minnie, were godparents.

In 1935, the Teggarts moved to Richview in the west end of Toronto. The boys attended school there and received their primary and secondary education.



▲ Moses and Charlotte Teggart's Wedding,  
1925

MOSES AND HIS FAMILY OPERATED A SUCCESSFUL MARKET garden business and they contracted with the Campbell Soup Company to grow ten acres (4 ha) of tomatoes. They also had other crops such as turnips, potatoes, onions and cabbages, with five acres (2 ha) of strawberries. When Moses went to the wholesale market at Dundas and Jane Streets, he would sell 50 crates of strawberries and 500 baskets of tomatoes in a day.



▲ Tom, Bill., Stanley and Samuel, 1933

Bill's younger brother, Stanley, joined the Toronto Township Police Department in 1954 and became a highly respected traffic specialist. He was the first officer to take courses in motor vehicle accident investigation at McMaster's University. When Inspector Gord Stanfield asked Stanley if he had any brothers who might be interested in joining the force, Stan went home and asked his strapping six-foot sibling, Bill, if he would consider becoming a police officer. Bill, who was driving for the Lakeshore Block Company in Lakeview, jumped at the opportunity and filled out an application. He was then interviewed by Chief Garnet McGill, Deputy Chief Bruce Kivell, Inspector Gord Stanfield and the town council. He was hired over 30 applicants and on June 30, 1956, he put on the uniform of a police constable. That day would turn out to be one of the most significant of his life, as he would be the first officer to hold every rank from constable to chief.

After Bill joined the police department, his father, Moses, passed away and he moved back to Dixie with his mother and brother, John, to reside close to the McCarthy farm.

Bill got his basic training at the Ontario Provincial Police College in Toronto and was a constable on patrol for four years. Then he was assigned to the detective division as a plainclothes constable and was sent on the first detective course ever offered at the Ontario Police College in Alymer. In 1963, he was promoted to full detective and he was assigned to investigate robberies, rapes and other criminal

offenses. He was promoted to detective sergeant in 1968. In the early 1970s, Doug Burrows and Bill attended the prestigious Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Both officers received high marks and a letter of commendation from the Director of the College, then they had the opportunity to study at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This was followed by a promotion for them in 1973. Doug to Deputy Chief of Police and Bill to Superintendent of Detectives of the Criminal Investigation Branch, which involved handling major crimes such as murder, robbery and kidnapping.

Bill married Joan Copperthwaite on December 15, 1967, and they lived in Cooksville. They had William Jr. in 1968, who would grow up to become a lawyer, and the young family bought a house in Streetsville and set up housekeeping. Their daughter, Laurie, was born in 1970 and at an early age pursued gymnastics.

Shortly after Bill Sr. was promoted to superintendent, he was assigned a murder case which was to become one of the most far-reaching and notorious cases in Canadian history. On July 18, 1973, millionaire developer, Peter Demeter, called the Mississauga Police Department to report that his wife, Christine, who was an international fashion model, was the victim of an accident at home and had serious



▲ Bill and Joan's Wedding, 1967

injuries. When Bill arrived at the Demeters' Dundas Crescent house in the Erindale area to investigate the scene of the "accident," he found 34-year-old Christine Demeter dead from severe head wounds, lying in a pool of blood on the garage floor beside her Cadillac. Bill's years of experience immediately came to the fore and he knew that this was no accident, but a brutal murder. Chief Doug Burrows gave Bill the assignment to take charge of the case. He headed up the investigation, and over the next year directed 10 teams of detectives on investigations that covered 11 cities in four countries on two continents. As the evidence against Peter Demeter accumulated, he was arrested for murder. The trial was held in the Supreme Court in London, Ontario, and it was the longest single murder trial the country had experienced. Demeter was convicted and received a life sentence in the penitentiary, where he remains today. At the conclusion of the trial, Chief Justice Campbell Grant of the Supreme Court of Ontario stated, "Rarely have I seen such professionalism as the officers demonstrated on this case."

Bill Jr. played Junior B hockey and received a hockey scholarship to the American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts. He graduated from the Windsor Law School with a Bachelor of Laws Degree. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Barrie, where Bill practices personal injury law with the prestigious law firm Oatley Vigmond. Laurie trained with the Mississauga Gymnastics Club and won the Ontario Tyro B Championship at age 12. She went on to become a carded Canadian athlete competing in the National Stream. After graduating from the Streetsville Secondary School, she received an Honours BA in Crime and Deviance and Sociology at the University of Toronto, Erindale Campus.

Laurie and her husband, Corey, operate Bodiworks, an exercise, training and lifestyle centre in Mississauga.

*Supt. Barry King and Deputy Chief William Teggart unveil the plaque ► for the opening of the new Peel Police Headquarters*



▲ Bill Teggart Jr.



▲ Peel Police Chief  
William J. Teggart

William J. Teggart held every rank in the Toronto Township/Mississauga Police Force and ended his years as Peel Regional Police Chief, following Chief Doug Burrows, who had sustained an outstanding career. Bill's tenure went from October 1987 to June 30, 1990, when he retired. Many awards and medals had come his way over those interesting years, such as The Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal, 1978, a 30-year Canadian Exemplary Police Service Medal, 1987, the Canadian 125th Anniversary Commemorative Medal, 1992, and the Ontario Medal for Police bravery.

He was made a life member of the Ontario Chiefs of Police and the Canadian Chiefs of Police at his retirement dinner on May 29, 1990, at the Constellation Hotel on Airport Road. Over 700 people were in attendance, including Mayor Hazel McCallion, Deputy Commissioners from the RCMP, OPP and Solicitor General Stephen Offer. Chief



Teggart received many plaques and gifts in recognition for his years of dedicated service, which included a gold Canadian Chiefs of Police ring inscribed with his name and retirement date and a gold watch emblazoned with the Peel Police insignia. Upon his thank you speech, he was given a standing ovation. "It was a most memorable evening that my family and I will never forget," he has said of this celebration.

Since his retirement, Bill and Joan have travelled extensively to places some people only dream of, such as Paris, Rome, Moscow, Warsaw, Venice and London. In his *Mississauga News* V.I.P. column interview from 1974, he said, "I guess the best thing Joan and I have to look forward to are grandchildren." Now that dream has been fulfilled. Bill Jr. and Nancy have presented Bill and Joan with two grandchildren, Reighan, three, and Sydney, one.



▲ Chief Teggart's Retirement, 1990



▲ The Teggart Boys, Moses, Tom, Bill, Stan and John



▲ Bill and Joan



▲ Bill Jr. and Laurie



▲ Bill Jr., Nancy, Sydney and Reighan, 2005



▲ Moses Teggart cutting Grain, 1938



▲ Bill, Samuel and Tom with Snowballs, 1935



▲ Tom, William Sr., Moses and Bill, 1933



▲ Charlotte and Moses, 1938



▲ Charlotte



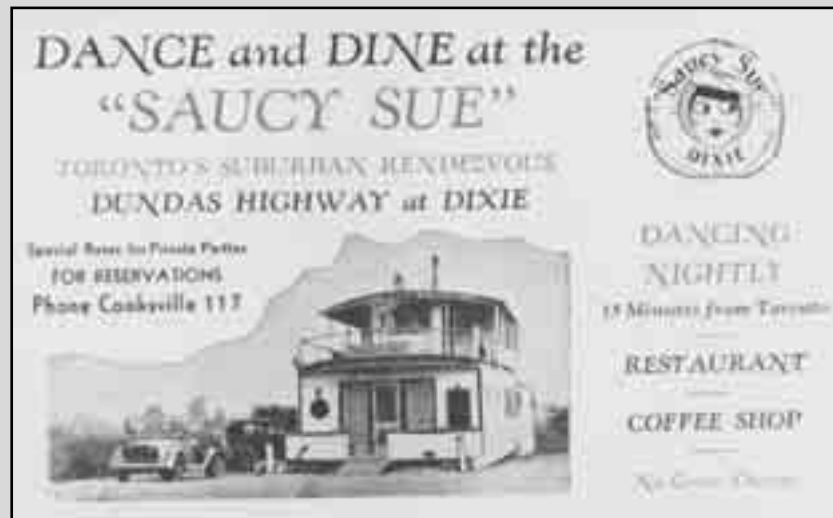
▲ The Teggart Strawberry Patch, 1938



(Photos courtesy of William J. Teggart)

## The Saucy Sue - 1931

An unusual looking restaurant was set up on the south side of Dundas Street in Dixie in June, 1931, and called “The Saucy Sue.” It was shaped like a ferry boat and it became an amusement place to go on a Saturday night to dance and party. The owner, Dave Kissock, who was called “The Skipper” had a keen interest in boat memorabilia and so the Saucy Sue had an anchor from John Hanlon’s ferryboat. In the early 1930s, the ferryboat *S. S. Chippewa* burned in Toronto Bay and the *Port Mine* at Sunnyside Beach and so he salvaged the life buoys from the *S. S. Chippewa* and the port and starboard lights from the *Port Mine*. The moorline from the *S. S. Toronto* and the *Jasmine’s* bell were put on prominent display.



▲ Saucy Sue Advertisement (Region of Peel Archives)

THE SAUCY SUE ALSO HAD A WHEELHOUSE WITH A BELL above it. An anchor and mooring were placed at the entrance to greet the customers and give them a sense of boarding a ferry boat that would take them on a cruise of a mystical water wonderland.

An advertisement in The Port Credit News on August 28th stated, “The Saucy Sue is not a lake craft that slipped her moorings and got away off up Dundas Street. She is a bona fide craft sailing on the high tide of business, and moored alongside Dundas Street to take on cargo and passengers. It is surprising how many of the latter have been taking a cruise on the pleasant summer nights since ‘The Saucy Sue’ came to anchor during the latter part of June. ‘Bacon and a bun’ with a cup of tea, on the upper deck in the shadow of the wheelhouse, is a delightful relaxation after a day in town or city. The skipper and the crew serve this and many other equally appetizing dishes. Before ‘The Saucy Sue’ is laid up for the winter, get aboard and have a lunch, hear the music, dance, and form the habit in anticipation of next season.”

There was a lot of ruckus generated on weekends from this establishment that caused its neighbours many a restless night. One of them was Bill Pinkney. He remembers, “On a weekend it was impossible to sleep for the partying, music and laughter coming from the portals of that fake riverboat. To me, it appears such a dichotomy existed between the original house of worship and burying grounds of the early 19th century to the raucous nightclub juxtaposed directly opposite Philip Cody’s property. Perhaps with Philip being the first innkeeper and purveyor of spirits in Toronto Township, he would have enjoyed the raucous enterprise. However, it never seemed to attract the locals, but more of a seedy, sleezy group from Toronto as if it were a private club. During prohibition in the ‘30s, it was ‘BYOB’. My family hated the place, so I was never allowed to go near there.”

Whether it is true or not, one Dixie source claims it was a brothel in the 1940s and 1950s and another says bootlegging was also a sideline. So the building was around for awhile. According to Bill, “In the 1950s, it just suddenly disappeared to become an ugly auto wrecking yard behind a high falling-down fence. Then the Francechini Brothers stored gravel there.”

## The Queen Elizabeth Way - 1939

**T**he Concession Road or Middle Road, opened in 1806, weaved its way through Toronto Township as an old Indian Trail that became one of the Township's major roadways along with Dundas Street and the Lake Shore Road. It was the southern boundary of the area that would become Dixie in 1864.

With cars coming on the scene in the early 1900s, by 1930, traffic had become a major problem. On October 7, 1931, the Department of Highways (now Ministry of Transportation) took over two roadways, one in York County and the Middle Road in Peel County. Toronto's Queen Street came out to Brown's Line and then became Middle Road as it came into Toronto Township, which was part of Peel County. In 1932, it was decided to improve this rural route and the line of the road was changed and a new bridge was constructed over the Etobicoke Creek for \$37,000. The reinforced 80 foot (24.4 m) concrete bowstring truss bridge put over the Creek in 1909, still remains at the old location at the east end of Sherway Drive, No. 1700. The bridge was designed by Toronto's Frank Barber and C. W. Young and built by contractor O. L. Hicks of Humber Bay.



▲ The Original Middle Road Bridge  
over the Etobicoke Creek  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



IN 1984, THE MISSISSAUGA COUNCIL INITIATED THE BRIDGE becoming a heritage site. On October 18, 1984, a joint meeting was held by the cities of Mississauga and Etobicoke to review the status of the old bridge. It was decided that the bridge should be saved and declared a heritage site as a joint venture between Etobicoke and Mississauga. Ward 7 Councillor Dave Cook was involved in a ceremony on October 14, 1986, which included Etobicoke Mayor G. Bruce Sinclair (1984-1993), to confirm that the two connecting municipalities would jointly restore the bridge and have it designated for posterity. "The Middle Road Bridge" was designated a heritage structure through council's By-law 1101-86 and was signed by Mississauga



▲ Middle Road (Edith Nadon)

Mayor Hazel McCallion on October 27, 1986, and Mayor Sinclair of Etobicoke signed By-law 1986-281 on December 15, 1986.

Another bridge was built over the Credit River in 1933 and completed by 1934. The roadway was gradually graded and by 1934 was referred to as a “superhighway.” It was then planned to construct a four-lane divided highway with a median. A bridge went over Oakville’s Sixteen Mile Creek in 1935 and Bronte Creek in 1936. The Middle Road was now available by motor vehicle from Brown’s Line



to Burlington. The two-lane stretch of dirt road was undergoing a major face-lift all the way to Niagara Falls. The following year, Toronto Township residents saw the addition of the first cloverleaf interchange at the Middle Road and Highway 10 intersection, which was at this time called Centre Road.

Work progressed on the thoroughfare and it was paved with cement. A work crew of 74 unemployed men was hired as Ontario’s contribution to Depression

◀ QEW Light Standards (Stephen Wahl)

Relief. The roadway, which would be compared to great European highways, was constructed and it became the longest continuous divided highway in Canada. It was then lined with light standards, making it the world’s longest continuous lighting system.

The first section of highway was 68 miles (104.8 km) long from Highway 27 to the western border of Niagara Falls. When it was completed, it was opened by royalty and given a new name. King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Canada and opened the new highway with great fanfare and it was called the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW) for her majesty. Signs “ER” for Elizabeth Regina were situated along the thoroughfare. The ceremony took place on June 7, 1939, at Henley Bridge, St. Catharines.

Over the years, the road was widened and bridges were put in as traffic became more profuse. According to the Ontario Provincial Police, who patrolled this stretch of highway, the QEW and Dixie Road intersection had more accidents than any other crossing on the thoroughfare, because the north section of Dixie Road was 200 feet (60 m) east of the southern extension.



▲ Queen Elizabeth and King George VI

In May 1951, the Department of Highways officially announced it was buying property along the four-lane Queen Elizabeth Way to build service roads and a major cloverleaf at the QEW and Third Line (Dixie Road) to accommodate the Shipp and Saracini subdivisions and the forthcoming Applewood and Dixie Plazas. It ended up being a bridge across the highway with exits to the QEW and south and north service roads. Traffic lights were installed at this intersection on August 1, 1951, and were dismantled in October 1953, when the overpass was completed. In October 1955, the Ontario Municipal Board granted the Ontario Department of Highways the request to



▲ Aerial View of Queen Elizabeth Way, 1951

(Photos courtesy of The Ministry of Transportation)

close 13 roads between Highway 10 (Hurontario Street) and Highway 27 to complete the construction of north and south service roads along the five-mile (8 km) stretch of highway. In the two years that this project was under construction, 140 accidents had occurred with two people being killed, 36 injured and \$57,000 in property damage.

In December, 1958, the Department of Highways transferred ownership of the QEW and the North and South Service Roads to Toronto Township.

Property was purchased at Cawthra Road and the QEW in 1953 and a bridge was put in, which accommodated the two-lane roadway. In 1974, Cawthra was widened to four lanes except for the bridge, then in October 1979, the bridge was torn down and a new four-lane bridge was constructed. The QEW is now the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation from Hwy. 427 to Hamilton.

## NEWS ITEM

### Ratepayers Successful to Fix Dixie Rd. Turn



▲ Thomas L. Kennedy  
(Region of Peel Archives)

One of the worst traffic hazards existing on the Queen Elizabeth Way – the accident heavy Dixie Road crossing – will be eliminated as a result of representatives of the Toronto Township Ratepayers' Association, it was announced this week.

Col. T. L. Kennedy, Ontario's Minister of Agriculture and Peel's M.P.P., advised Ratepayer president George McDowell that a new crossing system, which calls for the installation of traffic lights and a rerouting of the existing roadway will be instituted in the near future.

*Port Credit Weekly, 1950*

### New Dixie Rd. "Interchange" Now in Use

Dixie Road residents and motorists on the Queen Elizabeth Way are sharing a common problem these days. They're all trying to find their way around the new Dixie interchange which has just been completed and opened to traffic.

Similar to a cloverleaf, the interchange has been constructed to provide a safe access to the Queen Elizabeth Way from the Dixie Road and visa versa. The Department of Highways plans to gradually eliminate the word "cloverleaf" in describing these many-curved entrances to Ontario's limited access highways. The Dixie Rd. entrance is the first to be officially dubbed an "interchange" from its beginning.

Whatever the name, this new entry-way should do much to eliminate the hazards formerly encountered at the old Dixie Road crossing. It was built in record time – taking only one year and five days.



*Port Credit Weekly*  
Thursday, July 23, 1953

▲ Dixie Road Interchange, 1953  
(Ontario Hydro Archives)

## Water Comes to Dixie - 1947



IN 1947, TORONTO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL passed a by-law that brought the construction of water mains up Centre Road (Hurontario Street) to Cooksville. Then water pipes were extended to Dixie.

### ▲ Aerial View of The Lakeview Facilities (Region of Peel)

**W**ater mains had come to Dixie Road at the Lake Shore in 1933, which had brought water to the two golf courses, Toronto and Lakeview. But it was not extended up to Dundas Street to the Dixie area. In 1953, a water treatment plant was built in Lakeview, which

allowed the township, which had been purchasing water from Port Credit, to be in charge of its own water supply. Two years later, a Public Utilities Commission was established to oversee the three-million-gallon (13,620,000 L) per-day operation, which cost \$3 million.



▲ *The Dixie Water Tower*

The commission operated out of the Cooksville Town Hall, and then rented an office in the Applewood Shopping Centre. In 1960, a new building on Mavis Road was constructed for the Commission. In 1963, an addition was added. It still operates out of this facility.

In 1962, a water tower, with the capacity to hold 500,000 gallons (2,270,000 L) of water, was constructed on Dixie Road, just north of Bloor Street by Gore and Storrie Limited of Toronto. It was said to be “the most modern water tower in Canada and the first to be built in eastern Canada.” It was referred to as a “water spherold” and was constructed over several months by the Public Utilities Commission at a cost of \$131,000. It was mounted on a single-flared pedestal some 97 feet high and was 62 feet (29.3 m x 18.6 m) in diameter.

When full, it would weigh 3,000 tons.

Public Utilities Manager Art Kennedy announced it would be in service in December. Having served its purpose of supplying water to the Dixie area, in November 1971, it was dismantled and moved to the Meadowvale area as part of the South Peel Water System.

By 1968, when Toronto Township became the Town of Mississauga with a population of 121,730, the daily operating capacity was 24 million gallons (108,960,000 L). It was then decided that more pumping stations, reservoirs and feeder mains, were required to distribute water through the town and up to Brampton. Reservoirs had been established in Clarkson and Malton in the late 1950s. Clarkson had

gotten its water supply in 1943 when the British American Oil Refinery was established. In 1968, the commission was comprised of John Dobbs, chairman, Lloyd Herridge, vice chairman and D. G. Wilkie and James Naish as commissioners. The annual operation costs now were well over \$16 million.

It has been said that the adequate supply of good, clean water in the township, town and city, has contributed to the tremendous growth of the municipality. It has provided one of the main links in the chain of progress.



▲ *The Lakeview Water Treatment Plant*  
(Region of Peel)

## Scouting in Dixie - 1949

**T**he 1st Dixie Wolf Cub Pack was chartered as #1802 on September 8, 1949, by a group of citizens, with Waverly Haist as cubmaster and Charles C. Martin as assistant. The 2nd Dixie Troop was formed on February 1, 1954, by Rector Frank Lockwood of the St. John's the Baptist Anglican Church on Dundas Street. On April 20th, they received Charter #2008.

Scouting was founded in London, England, in 1907 by Major-General Robert Baden-Powell (b.1857, d.1941). The scouting movement came to Canada in late 1908. Baden-Powell was knighted by King Edward VII in 1909 and in 1910, King George V requested that he retire from the Army to work exclusively with the scout movement. That same year, he and his sister, Agnes, started the Girl Guides. By an Act of Parliament, the Canadian General Council of the Boy Scouts Association was incorporated June 12, 1914.

General Baden-Powell, the hero of Mafeking in the Boer War, was asked to open the Canadian National Exhibition in August 1910. He accepted and attended the grand fair and presented a review of scout corps from across Canada at the opening ceremonies in front of the grandstand. The scouts camped on the Exhibition grounds during their stay.



▲ Major General Robert Baden-Powell

(Boy Scouts of Canada)

SINCE AUGUST 1946, THE SCOUTS HAVE UTILIZED THE Goodyear Memorial Scout Camp, where there were two winterized lodges, two Adirondack shelters, a patrol cabin and several camp sites on 70 acres (28 ha). The Bruce Trail runs alongside the property. In 1968, another 189 acres (76.6 ha) was added and more facilities were built. This was Goodyear's contribution to honour the dead from

the great wars by helping young boys and men become better citizens through scouting. The camp site was leased until 1986 when the Mississauga District purchased the property. The Camp overlooks the scenic Hockley Valley, 60 km (37 miles) north of Mississauga, and allows the scouts the opportunity of participating in summer sports activities such as archery, baseball, basketball, soccer and volleyball and in winter, ice fishing, skating, skiing and tobogganing. In 1996, the 50th anniversary of the camp was celebrated.

In 1953, T. H. Jolley, vice president of the North Applewood Homeowners Association (NAHA) sent in an application for a boy scout group to be chartered in Applewood Acres. The charter was received on October 6th. The NAHA were the sponsors, and meetings for 36 boys, ages 8 to 11, were held in the Applewood United Church. The first wolf cub pack with cub leader Jim Wark was registered on February 25, 1954.

On October 31, 1962, the 3rd Dixie group of 10 cubs and 8 scouts was started by Pastor J. Howe at St. Patrick's Catholic Church on Dundas Street. They received their Charter #2880 on March 19, 1963.

The Scouts and cubs hold many fundraising activities such as raffles, bazaars and draws. They also get involved in community events such as holding paper drives. The Dixie Scouts helped with the Port Credit Santa Claus parade in 1972 by preparing and serving hundreds of hot dogs to the people in the parade.

In 1988, the 3rd Dixie Scout Troop was disbanded and was then sponsored by a Viet-Youth Group with four boys. In 1999, a major decline in membership in the 1st Troop caused the remaining boys to be transferred to the 2nd troop.

The Applewood United Church held a major 50th anniversary celebration in 2003 for its long association with Scouting.

In 2006, only 2nd Dixie exists with 43 boys in three sections (a section consists of Beavers, Cub Packs, Scout Troops, Ventures and Rovers) and 1st Applewood with two Beaver colonies, one cub pack and one scout troop with 98 boys involved.



▲ Boy Scouts of Applewood



▲ Forest Glen Cubs (Phil Frost)

## NEWS ITEM

On Monday, August 29, 1910, a large crowd was in attendance at the Union Station in Toronto awaiting the arrival of the 4:45 p.m. train from Winnipeg. Major G. R. Geary, Alderman Maguire, Chairman of the Civic Reception Committee, Alderman McCausland, W. K. McNaught, M.P.P., Mr. Joseph Oliver representing the Canadian National Exhibition and Mr. J. F. MacKay, President of the Canadian Club, along with a host of unnamed people stood waiting the train.

Three hundred Boy Scouts lined the stairway leading to the waiting room upstairs. Outside the station, a crowd of 10,000 people waited. As the train approached, there was a rush down the platform. The passengers alighted, but the man who was so eagerly awaited was not there.

Not having been informed of the preparations being made for his reception, he had left the train at Parkdale Station and walked to the residence of his host, Mr. E. B. Osler, in Rosedale. Who was this elusive guest? He was General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, hero of Mafeking and Chief of the Boy Scouts, a new boys' movement which was sweeping the country.

Excerpt from *"Celebrating 90 Years of Scouting in Ontario"*  
published by Boy Scouts of Canada, 2000

## The Master's Voice



▲ Books Written by  
Robert Baden-Powell

Chief Scout Robert Baden-Powell wrote about the Scout Law, A scout is friendly, "A scout is a friend to all, and a brother to every other scout, no matter to what social class the other belongs. A scout must never be a snob. A scout accepts the other man as he finds him and makes the best of him."

The original Scout Promise was: On my honour, I will do my best, to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law: To help other people at all times: To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. The Scout Law: A scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, brotherly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, reverent. The Scout Motto: Be Prepared!

**Author's note:** When Baden-Powell visited in 1910, he opened the Canadian National Exhibition. His next visit to Canada was in May, 1919. The Prince of Wales also visited the province in 1919 and inspected a number of Boy Scout Troops. The Chief's next visit was in 1923 when he was present at the Provincial Executive Meeting on April 3rd. He was supposed to return in 1934 with Lady Baden-Powell, but illness prevented his visiting Canada that year. Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden Powell, 1st Baron, British Army officer, Founder of the Boy Scouts, author of 14 books, died in Nyeri, Kenya Colony, East Africa, on January 6, 1941.

## Dixie Arena Gardens - 1949

WHEN THE TORONTO TOWNSHIP HOCKEY League (TTHL) was formed in 1946, the local farmers, who were extremely sportsminded and belonged to the Sports Club of Dixie, James McCarthy, Lindsay Death, Vic Stanfield, Jim Sherman, Wilf Goddard, Les and Howard Pallett and others, got together and formed a shareholding company, Dixie Arena Gardens Ltd., to bring about the first arena in the township. They promoted their idea through shares to finance the project. A site of five acres (2 ha), Lot 7, Con.1, NDS, was purchased on April 28, 1949, from Howard P. Graham for \$4,000. A sod turning was held and excavation proceeded in May. They managed to build the greatest indoor rink devised in the province to this date. The main structure, which would seat 3,000 spectators, was erected by Pyrmid Concrete Products Company for \$150,000. The ice plant was installed by Creamery Package Company of Canada, the sub-contractors were W. J. Hancock & Son, and the consulting engineer was Jack Soules.

The arena opened for public skating on November 22, 1949, and the grand opening was held on December 16th, with the Honorable Leslie Frost, Premier of Ontario, dropping the puck for the initial face-off.

The master of ceremonies was Jack MacPherson. Colonel Thomas L. Kennedy was in attendance and the Lorne Scots Brass Band provided the music. A Junior B hockey game between the Dixie Staffords and St. Michael's College, six-figure skaters and the Dixie Intermediates versus the Toronto Township All Stars were some of the highlights.



▲ Dixie Arena (Mississauga Library System)



◀ Premier Leslie Frost drops first puck (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ The First Executive. Back row: Wilf Goddard, Howard Pallett, Jim McCarthy, Jim Sherman. Front row: Lindsay Death, Les Pallett, Vic Stanfield  
(Region of Peel Archives)

The gentlemen who formed the board of directors were: Leslie H. Pallett, former Reeve, as president; James Sherman, vice president, Victor Stanfield, treasurer, Howard Pallett, secretary, and directors, Lindsay Death, James McCarthy, William Goddard. They became nicknamed, “The Mafia.”

The first year was remarkable in that the TTHL hockey leagues had a steady series of games from tadpoles to senior and helped the arena management see a total of \$1,000 profit for the first season. The organization received no financial assistance from the township’s Recreation and Parks Department, other than a paid secretary.

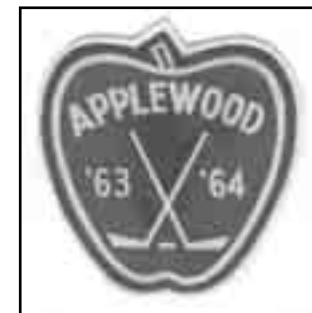
Jack Bellegham, president of the TTHL and coach of the Junior B hockey team, was time-keeper. The first year he handled 600 games. At this time the hockey league had 500 hockey



◀ Jack Bellegham

players. Through Jack’s efforts, his hockey team came up with the most prestigious sponsor of all the hockey teams, the St. Lawrence Starch Company. When Howard Pallett took over for Jack in 1952, the team became the Dixie Bee Hives.

On Friday and Sunday evenings, the arena was open for public skating at a cost of 50¢ a person. (This author never missed a Sunday night in two years – only pregnancy and child rearing prevented further attendance until my son, Marty, was ten and hockey came into the Hicks household for five glorious years.)



▲ Hockey Crests

In March 1950, the Credit Valley Skating Club held its first “Ice Capers” skating Carnival at Dixie Arena. Over 3,000 people attended the two-night extravaganza and it was so popular it became an annual event. The following year, it was held on March 19 and 20, 1951.

In June 1951, Rex Rolfe of Toronto, a junior executive of Imperial Oil Company, was hired as the first manager of Dixie Arena. He moved to Toronto Township to be near his new job. Another event that became popular was wrestling, which started Tuesday September 11,

1951, and was held every Tuesday until October 11th when the ice came in. Adults were charged 75¢ and children 35¢.

On Saturday, September 29, 1952, the Dixie Arena presented its first Saturday night dance, which featured Bruce Wilson and his Muskoka Resort Orchestra, a seven-man band that truly tripped the night fantastic. They were well received and dances became an annual event held throughout the summer right up until the ice came in in October.

A Monster Bingo was held at the arena on Friday, September 16, 1955, with the top prize a trip to New York and \$1,000 in prizes. For the next three decades, hockey, pleasure skating and many exciting events took place, only becoming less and less as other arenas opened up in Mississauga. The arena managers were John Dunn (1952-1955), Cliff Jenkins (1955-1975) and Jim Dolan (1975-1977). Ron Rutledge, Howard Pallett's son-in-law, became the assistant manager in 1958, a position he held for 19 years. He took over as manager from April 1977 to 1986.



▲ Turk Broda, Bill Copeland (third from left) and the Dixie Bee Hives (Nonie Copeland Wilcox)



▲ Dixie Arena Gardens Plaque (Kathleen A. Hicks)

The Dixie Arena Gardens at 1164 Dundas Street was closed down on May 31, 1986, and was sold. The new owners retained Ron Rutledge as manager. The former arena was renovated and reopened as the Astralite Dance Hall. On June 29, 1988, at 2:15 a.m., the building experienced a fire that caused \$250,000 damage. The local papers announced on July 6th that arson was suspected. Much controversy followed with a court hearing and the business was dissolved and Astralite faced bankruptcy. The building stood forlorn and empty until it was torn

down in October, 1996. A 155 townhouse complex called Applewood On The Park was built on the site in 1997. The only signs of the former Dixie Arena Gardens are Arena Road and a plaque detailing the history of the arena and its contribution to the community. But looking back at all the activities held there during its nearly 40 years goes to show that the ingenious gentlemen who brought it about knew what they were doing. If they were alive today, they would indeed have some marvelous, exciting memories to share.



▲ Arena Road Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)

## NEWS ITEM

### Re-Elect Pallett Arena President



▲ Leslie H.  
Pallett

Leslie H. Pallett was re-elected president of Dixie Arena Gardens Limited at the annual meeting last Thursday evening. He has headed the organization since the arena was built in 1949.

Other officers returned are: vice president, James Sherman, of Clarkson; secretary, Howard Pallett, Dixie; directors, Lloyd Stanfield, Howard Watson, James McCarthy, all of Dixie. Charles Ritchie, Dixie, was elected to the directorate succeeding the late Wilfred Goddard.

The past year was the best in the Arena's history. Mr. Pallett told the Weekly, and the big feature as far as profit-making was concerned was the auction sale of cars held every week by Motor City Auto Auctions Ltd.

A donation of \$500 to the Credit Valley Lions Memorial Swimming Pool fund was passed by the board of directors.

*Port Credit Weekly*  
Thursday, June 4, 1953

## Memories



▲ Howard  
Pallett

"The story on how the Dixie Arena got started goes like this: I was on a committee in 1945 with Vic Stanfield Sr. to get an arena in Toronto Township at that time. We used to have our meetings at Cooksville. Somebody would want a million dollar arena and the next would want just a place to put ice and they would argue and argue. I stayed on for two years and finally dropped out. Vic stayed on and Leslie Pallett Sr. was on and off again. One day we were over at Nuttall's Supertest Station at Dixie and Dundas, and with all this arguing, Les said, 'Let's build an arena and get these boys indoors and off the man-made flooded rinks. We can build an arena ourselves.' Eleven of us visited about five arenas and then had a meeting. Seven of us were appointed provisional directors. We formed a company and seven months later our arena was built and paid for."

Howard Pallett, 1972  
From *VIPs of Mississauga*, page 271

## Dr. Art Wood and his Contribution to Hockey



▲ Dr. Art  
Wood

When over 200 accidents occurred during hockey games in the 1960s, 151 of which involved broken or lost teeth, Dr. Arthur W. S. Wood, a pediatric dentist, who was also a hockey coach and an executive of the Toronto Township Hockey Association, decided that something had to be done to prevent the mouth injuries. When he designed a mouthguard in 1953, he partnered with Charles Patterson, another coach, who was interested in helmet design. Between these two ingenious gentlemen, helmets with mouthguards became mandatory equipment for hockey. Then there was a dramatic reduction in mouth injuries. Charlie's helmets became famous as Princess Anne and Prince Charles wore his equestrian helmets and race car driver, Jackie Stewart, had a special one made.

Art was awarded the Order of Canada in 1991 for this achievement. Many other awards have come Dr. Wood's way over the years. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Traffic Safety Council (TSC) in Mississauga that was established in 1958. It has many facets to keep our children safe as well as providing crossing guards. It is still utilized today as well as the Kiss and Ride program that was his innovative idea. Jim Wilde, a former OPP officer and a Friends of the Mississauga Library System board member, has been involved with TSC for a number of years and heads up the Kiss program.

Dr. Wood passed away on July 12, 2005.

## Information



▲ A Zamboni Ice Machine with Manny Homen  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

The Zamboni ice making machine used in arenas was named for its inventor, Frank Zamboni. In 1940, Zamboni, his brother and cousin, opened Iceland in southern California, one of the largest ice rinks in the United States, which could accommodate 800 skaters. It took an hour's effort on the part of several workers using a tractor and scraper to maintain the ice. So Zamboni decided something more efficient had to be designed. It took him until 1949 before he produced a fast ice smoothing machine that would scrap the ice and flood it. In 1950, he founded the Frank J. Zamboni Company, which still manufactures the machines today.

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▲ Howard Pallett and the  
Dixie Bee Hives  
(The Mississauga News)



▲ Dr. Wood's Sponsored Team (Dr. Art Wood)

Dr. Art Wood ►



## 1850 - Toronto Township Centennial - 1950

**I**n 1949, the Township of Toronto Council put a committee together to work on its centennial celebration for 1950. The brochure put out for the occasion highlighted the events for the weekend of October 13-15th.

On Friday, October 13th, there was a 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 held at the Dixie Arena.



▲ With the 100th celebration of Toronto Township's Incorporation being held October 13-15th 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)

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.



▲ William Lyon Mackenzie  
(Toronto Public Library, TRL)

When the parade arrived in Cooksville, the events planned were of a 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 Absalom 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 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 15th.



▲ The Willcox House (The Mississauga Library System)



Dixie Fire Station (Mississauga Fire Department)

Part Four 1951 - 2000

## Girl Guides - 1951

**T**he 1st Dixie Brownie Pack was organized in 1951 and the 1st Dixie Guide Company in 1953. Both groups were sponsored by the Dixie Lions Club. Meetings were held in the Dixie Public School on Dixie Road.

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, Guiding came to Canada with the first company being formed in St. Catharines, Ontario, by Mrs. Malcolmson. That same year there were companies started in Toronto, Winnipeg and Moose Jaw. Guiding is based on the ideals of the Promise and Law. 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.

On October 1, 1954, the 1st Applewood Guide Company was formed and held meetings at the Applewood United Church. The company moved to Westacres Public School in February, 1970, when it was renamed the 68th Mississauga Girl Guide Company. Sparks for five and six-year-olds and Pathfinders, 12 to 15, were organized in 1980.



◀ Agnes Baden-Powell  
(Girl Guides of Canada  
Archives)

IN 1956, DIXIE/BURNHAMTHORPE WAS A DISTRICT IN PEEL Central Division. The 2nd Dixie Company was formed at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church on Dundas Street in 1957. An Applewood-Orchard Heights Ranger Company opened in 1959 with Lavinia Nablo as captain. In 1962, a new area was formed and named the White Oaks Area, which included all of Peel and Halton counties. In 1964, Beth Boyce and Betty Aggerholm were the Brownie leaders for the 2nd Applewood Brownie Pack. The District grew to include four Brownie Packs, four Guide companies and a Ranger unit by 1966.

In 1965 when Canada received a new flag, the Guides attended a flag ceremony at the municipal office in Cooksville and were honored to lower the Union Jack and hoist the new Canadian flag. Phyllis Stevens was division commissioner at this time.

Dr. Johnson donated the use of his property on Mississauga Road in 1966 for camping and hiking by the Dixie Division. The Guides were responsible for keeping the area clean.

The Rangers, who were 15 to 17 in age, held work weekends each year at Camp Wyoka, located near Clifford, Ontario, to prepare it for opening in the spring and closing in the fall.

In 1970, when the Guide leaders were Mrs. W. McFarlane and Mrs. Pirie and Brownie leaders were Mrs. K. Monkton and Miss Lynn Anthony, Sandy Franklin became division commissioner. In 1972, Dixie Division was renamed Applewood Division and extended its border to Hurontario Street.



▲ Girl Guide Activities

(Photos courtesy of White Oaks Area Guides)

When Mrs. Edna Stephenson was division commissioner (1974-1979), the Rangers took part in many national and international events. One group attended a World Camp in Australia, another went on an English exchange trip, another was a delegate to Our Cabana in Mexico and a Ranger leader escorted 16 Guides on an adventure trip to Mexico.

Nancy Williams, who had served as division commissioner since 1981, became the White Oaks Area Commissioner in 1985. Audrey Nichols took her place as division commissioner, a position she

served in until 1987. Under her guidance, Applewood Division held a Promise and Law Conference in 1985.

That same year, a provincial celebration of Guiding was held at Casa Loma in Toronto with the Honourable Betty Clay, daughter of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell as guest of honour. The 80th anniversary of Guiding in Canada was celebrated at Toronto Island in 1990 with over 3,000 girls and Guiders in attendance. In the offing is the 100th anniversary in 2010.

In 2006, the Applewood Division has 365 girls in 21 Units.



▲ MP Paul Szabo honours Lavinia Nablo  
for over 50 years of Guiding Service

held various positions in guiding, including Area Trainer. She has been awarded the Medal of Merit and the Queen's Jubilee Medal and in 2002 was honoured for over 50 years as a volunteer.

"The world has changed, but the girls in Guiding still enjoy many of the same activities, service projects and visiting and entertaining seniors. Camping has been modernized, but the girls still enjoy the pioneer aspects. Guiders have less time than ever before and yet these wonderful ladies create interesting programs for our citizens of tomorrow."

Eileen McKinnon  
An Applewood Guider

## Memories

"Dixie has been fortunate in having many excellent leaders. Like other volunteers, they feel that they benefit a great deal by being a member of the movement, in working with the girls, making friends and in self improvement. Some of these leaders have assisted with guiding for 30, 40 and 50 years. Betty Aggerholm has served for over 40 years and has received her Medal of Merit. Betty Dejersey has 30 years and in 2002 she was presented with the Queen's Jubilee Medal for long service. Irene Main has had 33 years in Guiding as a District Commissioner and recently was awarded the Gold Medal of Merit. She has been the chairwoman of the White Oaks Area Archives for the past four years. Lavinia Nablo started the Applewood-Orchard Heights Ranger Unit in 1958. Since then, she has

## Dixie's Progress - 1952

**T**he present Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Colonel Thomas L. Kennedy, is known throughout Canada for his allegiance to and support of farm life. "Sell my land!" he says. "Why I'd as soon sell one of my family as sell an acre of it."

And that feeling runs through most of the farmers around Dixie. It is a rare acre that still doesn't belong to the family that took it from the Crown, cleared it and planted it with grain over a century ago. Then 40 years later gave up the grain for apples.

Mrs. Thomas McCarthy remembers when they planted their 74 acres of orchard. That was when apples were \$2 a barrel. They are 60¢ a basket now. "We used to keep some cows and a horse and grow

oats and corn. I made my own butter until two years ago. Now they deliver milk right to the door," says Mrs. McCarthy. "But the fruit makes a lot more work."



◀ T. L. Kennedy



▲ Thomas Laird Kennedy unveiling his Plaque, 1945  
(Region of Peel Archives)

NOW ITS SPRAY, SPRAY, SPRAY. SPRAY THE TREES WHEN THE birds first come in the spring. Spray before the buds come out. Then spray again in the fall to make the apples stay on the trees. That's so they'll ripen better. Never a moment to yourself. Didn't used to be like that in the old days."

“Our farming started to change from grain to fruit and vegetables about 40 years ago. Back then, there wasn’t any taste to the apples,” admits Kennedy. “There was the Ben Bow, Canada Red, Russets and a kind of Greening, you’ve never heard of. We used them for cooking and drying, hanging them over the rafters in the kitchen. Now its all McIntosh, Delicious and Spys. Don’t even see any Snows any more.”

The Minister is not necessarily the kind of man who mourns the good old days. Not at all. “I wouldn’t want to go back to them. They were too hard and modern living is so comfortable. But you’ve got me remembering them and I get sort of nostalgic about them. Take the cockfights.”

This form of sport was prohibited, but fanciers from all around used to gather at Dixie to continue their illegal fun. “I couldn’t have been more than ten,” recalls Mr. Kennedy. “I used to sneak out to the old barn. It was almost covered with sawdust and I’d find a knothole or a crack and watch. They’d ship the cocks in apple barrels – one to a barrel. There’d be a table covered with whisky bottles. Some strange women there, a lot more fancy dressed than I’d ever seen before. We’ve never had any real crime around Dixie though. Just wrong-doers – that never got caught.”

Mrs. Harold Pallett, whose husband’s people were among the first settlers, agrees with the Minister, Frank Lockwood. Dixie’s a pretty fine place. And one of her reasons is her church, St. John the Baptist. “We’re the most self supporting church in the diocese. We have a small mortgage on the rectory now. We built a new one last year, complete with furnace and an all modern kitchen. Nothing’s too good for our minister. There are 250 families in the church, 134 in the Sunday School and 34 of them in the beginners class, most of them are third generation Dixie-ites.”

*The Port Credit Weekly*

In part “Famous Names in History” article

Thursday, January 17, 1952



▲ St. John the Baptist Anglican Church

(Mildred Bellegham Collection)

## Gordon S. Shipp & Son - 1952

GORDON SHIPP STARTED CONSTRUCTING houses in Toronto in 1923. His son, Harold, who was born in 1926, started to work for him when he turned 18. Then Gordon gave Harold a small loan, so he could build his first house. Harold came back into the company and became a partner on April 1, 1946. Gordon S. Shipp & Son was incorporated on April 1, 1947.

The Shipp's bought property on the south side of the Queen Elizabeth Way and built the first phase of Applewood Acres in 1951. Plan 439 was registered on March 1, 1951 and surveyor F. H. Mucklestone of Baird and Mucklestone laid out plans that were carefully carried out to retain as many apple trees as was possible. The first cluster of homes was completed so that by May 24th, they held a gala opening at the precise time that the apple blossoms were in bloom, which made an attractive picture for prospective buyers. The Shipp's moved their office out from the Kingsway in Etobicoke to one of their houses.

Having successfully completed the first of their Applewood subdivisions, G. S. Shipp & Son Limited purchased over 300 acres (121 ha) of the former apple orchards, north of the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW).



▲ Gordon and Harold Shipp

(Photos courtesy of the Shipp Corporation)

The first was Harry and Ethel Whitehead's Breezy Brae Farm on October 26, 1951, which was part of Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, then the properties of Stanley and Mary Josiak and Beverly and Hazel Death in 1952, Lot 7, Con.1, SDS.

The second phase of the Shipp's Applewood Acres subdivision got underway in the spring of 1952 with Plan 439 on March 12, 1952.



▲ *Applewood Subdivision, 1954*

The six house designs, were varied on the lots, so there was no repetition, making each home unique and stylish. Again, the Shipp retained the apple trees. Shipp made a successful advertising campaign, putting 20,000 brochures out and full-page ads in the Toronto papers. They even had an airplane fly over Toronto Township dragging a large banner announcing “Visit Applewood Acres.” The gala opening was

scheduled for Saturday, May 17th, but the advertisement intrigued the buyers and they came out in droves on the Friday. By evening, 11 sales had been made at a \$14,000 to \$17,000 price tag.

During the weekend, over 15,000 people viewed the Shipp houses and another 48 homes were sold. The interest caused traffic jams on the Queen Elizabeth Way and Dixie Road. By month’s end, sales topped at 134. All 733 were occupied by September 1955. It turned out to be the largest residential community built by one firm in Canada up until that time.

In 1955, Shipp’s \$2,000,000 Applewood Village Shopping Centre, which had been given sanction by the Ontario Municipal Board in April 1954, was built on 11 acres (4.4 ha), facing south onto the Queen Elizabeth Way. The rectangular-shaped plaza at 1177 North Service Road, which would accommodate 24 stores, opened with great fanfare on October

17th with the first phase, the Dominion Store and Bank of Nova Scotia. The Shipp relocated their office to the plaza in December 1955. A bridge had been put over the QEW at Dixie Road in 1951-1952 and opened in 1953. In 1956, the QEW underwent some structural



◀ *Shipp Advertisement*

changes and service roads were constructed to accommodate the Applewood and Dixie Plaza (opened in 1956) as well as the Shipp and Rome-Saracini subdivisions.

In September 1955, the Shipp purchased the 165 acre (68 ha) Kennedy farm on the north side of Dundas Street, which contained four houses with plans to build 155 homes as part of the development of an industrial-residential subdivision. They went on to build the Applewood Heights subdivision north of Applewood Acres in 1959. This was the first time the Shipp Built bricks went into their subdivisions. Then 465 acres (188 ha) was purchased west of Dixie Road at Bloor Street for Applewood Hills, which got underway in 1964 and was completed by 1967 and contributed to a total of 845 homes in Shipp’s Applewood subdivisions. The company also developed Riverview Heights in Streetsville and 320 houses in Erindale Woodlands.

The Shipp largely specialized in single-family dwellings, but in the Applewood Hills phase, they transcended every builder’s aspirations by constructing their first high-rise, the 174 suite Applewood-on-the-Park, 1177 Bloor Street East, in 1967. Their next apartment complexes were the 442 suite Applewood Place, opened in 1974 at 1333 Bloor



▲ *Applewood Subdivision, 2005* (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Street East, which won an award for excellent design from the Canadian Housing Design Council in 1975, Applewood III, 3400 Riverspray Crescent and the Applewood Landmark, 1300 Bloor Street East. The Landmark, with 26 floors and 300 luxurious suites,



▲ Applewood Place (Mississauga News)

was completed in 1978 at a cost of \$23 million.

They have never slowed down, contributing immensely to the foundation of the city of Mississauga with pride.

The Shipp Corporation offices have been located at 4 Robert Speck Parkway since 1979, where four majestic office buildings, completed by 1990, comprise the Mississauga

Executive Centre at the City Centre. Gordon Shipp passed away on February 9, 1981, at age 89, and Harold has carried on with his daughters, Catherine and Victoria, and his son, Gordon, who has been president since 1996. The company celebrated its 80th anniversary on March 23, 2003.



▲ Catherine, Gordon and Victoria Shipp, 1996  
(Vince Talotta/Toronto Star)

With the Shipp's Applewood influence there are 34 listings in the telephone book, which includes Applewood Village Shopping Centre, Applewood United Church and Applewood Chevrolet Oldsmobile, a dealership owned by Harold Shipp from 1959 to 2000.



▲ Harold Shipp

## NEWS ITEM

The planning and clearance for the second phase of Applewood Acres was carried out with an eye to leaving as many apple trees standing as possible and house designs were varied so there would be no suggestion of monotonous conformity. Houses embodying six different designs were planned.

The opening was advertised in grand style. Twenty thousand brochures describing the development were distributed, full page advertisements appeared in the Toronto dailies and an aeroplane was chartered to fly over Toronto Township pulling a streamer - Visit Applewood Acres.

The opening was to begin on Saturday, but hundreds of people beat the gun and showed up on Friday so that by Friday night 11 sales had been hooked with an aggregate value of \$17,000. During the week-end 48 homes were sold and by the end of the month, ten days later, sales had risen to 134 with a total value of just under \$2 million. Homes were built at the rate of eight a week and by the end of September all those sold were completed and occupied.

Excerpt on Harold Shipp from *Dividend of Faith* paper, 1968

## The Applewood United Church - 1952

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA HAD MANY devoted parishioners in the Dixie area. In April 1952, Deaconess Mrs. Mercer of the Toronto Home Missions Council of the United Church was sent to Dixie to survey the area for the possibility of forming a congregation. Her efforts were successful and the first service of 70 parishioners was held on May 4th at the Lakeview Central Public School, which had opened at 1293 Meredith Avenue in 1950. Conducting the first service was Dr. C. A. Meyers, a retired minister under the Home Missions Council.



◀ The Sod turning, 1955

The church, under the direction of Student Pastor Harold Davies, a 1952 graduate of Emmanuel College, was named Applewood United Church for the Shipps' Applewood subdivisions in the area. It was becoming quite apparent as the congregation grew that a church was required and the United Church of Canada began to formulate plans to accommodate the people of the district. In the spring of 1953, The Toronto Home Missions Council took an option on property north of the Queen Elizabeth Way in the new Applewood Acres subdivision, adjacent to the proposed shopping centre. A portable was obtained and the first service took place on September 20th. A manse was built on the North Service Road at a cost of \$16,000.

Reverend Lawrence A. Purdy took on the pastoral duties on July 1, 1954, and he and his wife, Lenore, resided in the church's manse. In December, an organizational committee was formed, headed up by S. R. Rolfe as chairman, W. Bennett, secretary, D. S. Dickie, treasurer, R. A. Murphy, transportation officer, M. Chisolm and R. L. MacKay, and a building program was initiated.

◀ The Laying of the Corner Stone by Dr. C. A. Meyers



▲ *The Applewood United Church Congregation at the Sod Turning* (Photos courtesy of The Applewood United Church)

On September 25, 1955, the sod was turned to commence the construction plans of the Applewood United Church. Officiating at the ceremony was Reverend Ernest Long, secretary of the General Council of the United Church of Canada. The architect for the contemporary church was Prof. James A. Murray of the University of

Toronto. A fund-raising campaign, chaired by Mr. E. Greenfield, reached its goal and was completed by February 14, 1956. Olmstead and Parker Construction began to build the church in the spring of 1956 with the foundation cornerstone ceremony being held on April 15th, with Bert Creber presenting the stone.



▲ The Building of the Applewood United Church, 1956

The \$250,000 structure would contain the nave which seats 500 parishioners, the church hall, kitchen, sanctuary, minister's study, church office, a nine-room educational centre, and a parlour with a floor-to-ceiling window overlooking the courtyard and orchard.

On March 17, 1957, nearly 1,000 persons turned out for the dedication service. Dr. Harold Vaughan, president of Hamilton Conference, the United Church of Canada, officiated at the dedication ceremony. Also in attendance were Rev. W. Blackmore, Rev. E. Leaker, Rev. P. White, Rev. W. Lacey and Rev. J. Woollard.

In 2003, the church celebrated the 50th anniversary of the forming of the congregation. On November 1st, a dinner and social evening was held and on November 2nd, the Golden Jubilee service and luncheon. During these fellowship events, the congregations of Bethesda of Forest Glen United Church and St. Luke's-on-the-Hill United Church participated and contributed gifts of an organ, a grand piano, a candelabra and a cross. One other significant happening was the installation of the Bethesda United Church's stained glass window of Jesus the Shepherd, which had been dedicated to the memory of Francis Silverthorn in 1914.

The goal in 2004 was to take on another major renovation project to accommodate the extended congregation. This included a second office for an associate minister, a learning centre, improvements to the church office and auditorium and upgrading to accommodate disabled persons.

The vision of the Applewood United Church at 2067 Stanfield Road is: Rise up, Reach out...Let Spirit take Flight! The Mission is, to celebrate the Good News, by sharing with others, the joy of fellowship, the strength of worship, the power of learning and the challenge of Justice.

The congregation in 2006 stands at 375 families and the minister is Reverend Darrow Woods.



(Mississauga Library System) ▶



▲ The Applewood United Church, 2005

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Louise and David Brown - 1952

THE BROWN FAMILY MOVED TO THE Applewood Acres subdivision in 1952, purchasing a Shipp home on Courtland Crescent. Louise Brown was married in 1946 and had a five-year-old son, David.

Louise was born in 1922 and she started playing tennis at an early age. She thoroughly enjoyed the sport and learned every aspect of it even being able to work without a coach. She began to compete in 1946, her debut taking place at the Toronto Tennis Club. She quickly became one of the top female tennis players in the country. This led to her ranking as one of Canada's top ten tennis players for 26 consecutive years of competition that spanned four decades, 1946 to 1971.

In 1957, at age 35, the blonde, 5 foot 6 inch, 125 pound athlete with the firm, lithe physique, got her first sense of real success when she won the Canadian Nationals Single title. Teaming up with Hilda Doleschell, led to her achieving the doubles crown. She was a member of the Canadian Federation Cup Women's Team and in 1963-1964, she was captain, then non-playing captain until 1969. In 1966, she teamed with Ann Barclay and took her second win as Canadian Open Doubles Champions. At the first Canada Games in 1969, she won a gold medal.



▲ Hazel McCallion, Louise Brown and Mike Toth,  
1975 (Mississauga Sports Council)

For her tennis achievements, Louise was invited three times to the All-England Championship games at Wimbledon, a prestigious stopover on the grand-slam tennis tournament circuit.

In 1975, Louise was the first person to be inducted into the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame. Her son, David, followed in his mother's illustrious footsteps and received the same honour in 1994, making them the first mother and son to achieve this recognition. It heralded Louise and David as being the first family of tennis in

Mississauga, if not Ontario. Between those two awards, Louise won two National Senior Women's Singles and Doubles championship trophies in 1990 and also became an inductee into the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame on September 28, 1991.

David's childhood was immersed in his mother's career, so it seemed fitting that he loved the sport. With a win at his first tournament at Westacres Public School, Louise's son showed promise. After the competition in *The Toronto Telegram* Tournament at Kew Gardens in Toronto and the win of the Regional Finals, David was hooked on the competitiveness. He competed, stepping up to larger, more important tournaments until he captured the Canadian Junior Championship title in doubles.

While attending the University of Indiana, he received excellent coaching, which led to a career in tennis and the meeting of his future wife, Jody, who was also a tennis enthusiast. David was captain of the University of Indiana's tennis team and during his four years



▲ Louise Brown  
(Region of Peel Archives)

there, was the only Canadian to earn the University's letter "I". He was soon ranked as Indiana's top singles and doubles tennis player and was chosen many times for the Canadian Davis Cup Team.

David and Jody were married and David became an international tennis star, competing in Open Tennis Championships in the United States, West Germany and New Zealand as well as Canada. He and Louise were the only mother and son to enter the U.S.



▲ Louise and David Brown (Mississauga News)

Open Championships. They also had the honour of representing Canada at the Federation Cup and Davis Cup. Between 1972 and 1976, David won five consecutive Canadian Doubles Championships and also garnered a Canadian age 35-plus doubles title.

David worked as a tennis instructor at the Fitness Centre on the North Service Road. When he left this position, he started a new business called David Brown Sport Enterprises. He and Jody moved to Meadow Wood Road in the Clarkson area, where Jody operates her own fitness business. Louise passed away in December 2003.

## St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church - 1953

IN 1953, MR. AND MRS. Leon Mizun donated a parcel of land just south of Burnhamthorpe Road on the east side of Cawthra Road for the Ukrainian Catholic congregation to build a church. Religious services had been held in the Mizuns' home for sometime, until they donated the land and a church was constructed on Cawthra Road south of the Cawthorpe Plaza and called St. Mary's Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church.



▲ First Parish Pioneers  
Leon and Magdalene  
Mizun

The first church administrator was Reverend Michael Horodysky. He was replaced by Reverend Mathew Berko in 1967.

As the congregation grew, the church elders decided that a larger church should be built. The design for the new church by architect R. Dumyn was elaborate. From its basement foundation of greenish white Ontario marble to its three-storey flat roof topped by a large central dome and four smaller copper turret domes each holding a gold cross, it was stupendous.



◀ Original St. Mary's  
Ukrainian Catholic  
Church



▲ St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church

(Photos courtesy of St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church)

This majestic structure is described as, "a unique blend of traditional Byzantine and Ukrainian Church architecture with modern aesthetics, materials and techniques. The church's monumental form with glittering domes and crosses dominates the skyline, making it a landmark in the City." It was not completed until 1977. The congregation of St. Mary's celebrated its opening with the first service being held on Sunday, December 25th.

In December 1972, the Ladies of the Parish organized a "Yarmarok" Festival. It was an elaborate event that combined a "Marketplace" and "Winter Fair," which was reminiscent of the annual extravagant and colourful markets of their Ukraine homeland.

The Yarmarok Festival was a way to entice the community into visiting the church and purchasing items that would contribute to and “enhance the traditional Ukrainian Christmas.”

The food stuffs for sale were “succulent” sweet breads, “Kolach,” “Ababka,” frozen “Pyroky” and cabbage rolls called “Holobchi.” On the bake tables were poppy seed cakes and buns, tortes, pies, cheese cakes, Christmas cookies and Khrusty (pastry curls) that were light and fluffy.

The Arts and Crafts tables were loaded down with Ukrainian handiwork, taught by the elders in the family, embroidered pillowcases, tablecloths, blouses, dresses, scarves and tapestries, ceramics and chinaware and floral arrangements.

One of the highlights was the Art Gallery, an exhibit of original paintings by prominent Ukrainian-Canadian artists, who were on hand to discuss their work. Even the children were involved. The Parish Youth Club had a booth, a fish pond and a snack bar, all of which drew a lot of attention.



▲ Yarmarok 2005 Parish Council President, Mayor Hazel, Maya Prentice, Parish Priests and Ukrainian Catholic Women's League Committee

The attendance was enormous and so “Yarmarok” became an annual event, which made for a great fund raiser as well. At this time, the money was needed for the building of a new church. Over the years, it has been a Christmas festivity everyone looks forward to year after year.

On Sunday, June 10, 2003, St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 3625 Cawthra Road, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the church's founding with a gala affair that included a sumptuous feast. A Pontifical Liturgy was part of the ceremony. Mayor Hazel McCallion and many dignitaries attended.

In 2006, St. Mary's congregation numbers 1,300 families with Father Roman Pankiw as the present pastor.

◀ Ukrainian Dance Ensemble Barvinok





▲ Rev. Roman Pankiw  
Administrator-Dean

## MEMORIES

“We are happy that on a small piece of Canadian land in Mississauga, we can have a representative piece of our homeland and a beautiful place of worship to the Glory of God.

“Within our parish we are proud to have the Ukrainian Dance Ensemble Barvinok whose professional dancing adorns and indeed enriches our culture. Barvinok is known throughout Canada and the United States, as well as being highly recognized, respected and welcomed in Ukraine. Of course we cannot omit mention of our bandura capela Zoloti Struny who’s golden strings and angelic voices have echoed in many corners of this great country of Canada.

“Every spring at the Carassauga Cultural Festival, through parish groups and with the help of many volunteers and talented people we have the opportunity to present the richness of our culture to our Mississauga neighbours and visitors.

“I would like to express our gratitude to our Mayor Her Worship Hazel McCallion for her support of our Ukrainian Church and our Ukrainian Community by gracing us with her presence each year at “Yarmarok” (Christmas Bazaar.) We are very proud of being part of the Mississauga Community under the leadership of Mayor Hazel.”

With brotherly christian love, Rev. Roman Pankiw, Administrator-Dean



▲ Bishop Stephen Chmilar and  
Mayor Hazel McCallion



Interior views of St. Mary's Ukrainian Church



◀ Bishop Chmilar and Rev. Pankiw  
with children of St. Sofia School  
in church



Golden strings and angelic  
voices of bandura capela  
Zoloti Struny ▶

## Dixie Lions Club - 1955

The Dixie Lions Club received its charter on April 27, 1955, at a dinner-dance at the Kingsway Club in Etobicoke. District Governor Dr. Douglas Fleming presented the new president, John Scarth, with the Lions International charter. The Dixie Lions of 41 charter members were sponsored by the Credit Valley Lions, who worked out of Port Credit. William McCormack was the Credit Valley president at this time.

One of the first fundraising efforts on the part of the Dixie Lions was a Monster Bingo held at the Dixie Arena Gardens on Friday, September 16, 1955, at 8:15 p.m. There were \$1,000 in prizes plus a trip to New York City to be won.



▲ Dixie Lions Carnival at Applewood Plaza, Bob Emond and Shelly Moore, 1974 (Mississauga News)

THEIR FUNDRAISING EVENTS INCLUDED HOLDING TWO annual carnivals in the spring, one at the Applewood Shopping Plaza, the other at Fieldgate Plaza, and selling Christmas nuts. On September 25, 1967, when Dave Hill was president, the Lions featured London's own Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians at Huron Park Arena. The proceeds from this successful evening of dancing to a big band was used for the Credit Valley Training Centre for mentally challenged youth.

When Toronto Township became the Town of Mississauga in 1968, the club became Dixie (Mississauga) Lions. As they came into the

- ◀ Dixie Lions Charter Night, 1955, John Scarth accepts Dixie Lions Club Charter from District Governor, Dr. Douglas Fleming, as Credit Valley Lions Club President William McCormack looks on. (Port Credit Weekly)

1970s, they were holding two monthly meetings, donating to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and holding Bingo games for the patients at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital, supplying the prizes and refreshments.

One of the Dixie Lions fundraising efforts was holding a circus in the Huron Park Arena on July 23, 24 and 25, 1973. The Canadian International Circus, featuring the Hanneford Family Equestrians, performed to a packed house all three nights and netted considerably for the Dixie Lions coffers. Over 400 people were in attendance for this auspicious event. The club had 27 members at this time with Eric Collins as president.



▲ Eric Collins,  
President  
1972-1973

In 1974, they participated in the City Day Parade, entering a float with an Applewood theme of mock apple trees on a 45 foot (13.5 m) truck bed with red, white and blue bunting. The Lions handed out apples to the crowd lining Hurontario Street. Al Gavie was president during this City of Mississauga celebration year.

By this time, the Dixie Lions community-minded projects comprised of raising \$10,000 towards the Children's Treatment Centre in Erindale, and \$3,000 towards the building of the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre in 1974, supplying glasses for needy adults and children, necessities for needy families and supporting the Boy Scouts and Cubs. In 1985, they donated \$5,000 to the new Credit Valley Hospital and on an ongoing basis contribute to the Mississauga Trillium Health Centre.

They take an interest in civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community. The Lions motto is "We Serve!" and the International slogan is "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations Safety."

In 1996, the club had a name change to the Lions Club of Dixie Mississauga.

The Dixie Lions are still going strong with 18 members and they hold a monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at the Credit Valley Golf and Country Club at 2500 Old Carriage Road. In April 2005, they celebrated their 50th anniversary with 96 Lions in

attendance. Several awards were presented and one in particular was to Lion Don Ferguson, who has been in Lionism for 50 years. The president for 2005-2006 is Amalio Cedrez.



◀ Don Ferguson Receives  
Award For 50 Years  
in Lionism  
(Fred Gunther)



◀ Lions  
Logo

### Information on Lionism

The Lions International dates back to 1917 when a Chicago insurance agent by the name of Melvin Jones got the idea to amalgamate several clubs in Chicago to form a national organization. He felt that the club would be dedicated to improving communities as well as networking for business and social purposes. The Lions emblem was first used in 1919.

The revelation of Lionism took hold and community leaders throughout the United States began to organize clubs. When a club was started in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, in 1920, the organization became international. Clubs were then organized in Mexico, Cuba and China, until by 1927, there were 1,183 clubs with a membership of 60,000.

The first Central American club was started in Panama in 1935. Colombia, in South America, was founded in 1936, followed by Sweden. In 1948, France brought Europe into the fold. By 1952, Japan had several clubs going.

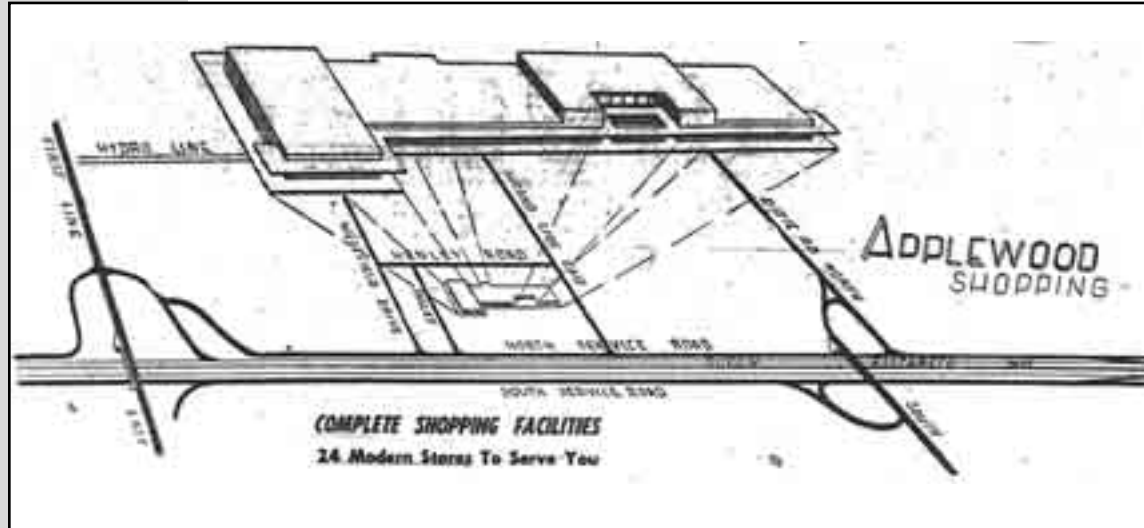
A club was chartered in Moscow in 1990 and by 2000, over 100 clubs were functioning.

Lionism is alive and well in Mississauga with nine clubs and approximately 200 members.

## The First Plaza - 1955

The Applewood Village Shopping Centre was the first plaza to open in Dixie and the second in Toronto Township, as Lorne Park got a plaza in 1948. Dixie Plaza was next in 1956 and Park Royal in 1965. Applewood was constructed by Gordon S. Shipp & Son Limited, a father and son team, who were building up the former Dixie orchards with subdivisions above the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). Their first subdivision venture was Applewood Acres, Phase One-1951, below the thoroughfare.

The \$2 million shopping centre was well underway on its 11 acre (4.4 ha) site, purchased in July 1953. which was part of the 28.2 acre (11.4 ha) James Guthrie farm, owned by the family since 1888. The plaza was officially opened on October 17, 1955, with a mammoth celebration that included two giant searchlights that beamed such brilliant rays into the night sky, they were a major problem for the Malton Airport's control tower. It was reported that four aircraft thought they were over the airport when they still had four miles (6.4 km) to cover before landing.



▲ Map of Plaza Location (Port Credit Weekly)

THERE WAS A CONTEST WITH A 1956 BUICK AS THE GRAND prize and over 100 other prizes were won. Four reindeer were in a pen to amuse the youngsters. The first businesses to open their doors were the Dominion Store supermarket under the direction of Mr. C. Dow and the Nova Scotia Bank with its manager, Donald Dickie. These first two outlets were the forerunners of 24 stores and shops that would eventually occupy the plaza that faces the QEW. There would also be a 120 seat restaurant, office and professional offices and a banquet hall to accommodate 300 guests. The parking area was also extensive with room for 1,500 cars.

The project was moving along and landscaping was expected to be completed before winter set in. The Shippes opened their office on the east block of the plaza on the second floor. Consumers Gas, which had first come to Toronto Township in 1955, set up offices in the shopping centre in 1957, Store No. 4, with the telephone number of At(water) 9-0397. In 1959, the Shippes sold the plaza to a Swiss Group, N. C. Properties Ltd. In 1960, an extension on the east end was carried out to include another supermarket, a chain store, a furniture store and a 16-lane bowling alley. The plaza has been sold



▲ Applewood Plaza Ad (Port Credit Weekly)



▲ Applewood Plaza, 2005 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

several times since and it is now managed by Effort Trust for Applewood Shopping Plaza Limited.

The next project for Gordon S. Shipp & Son, was to construct a residential and industrial subdivision on the former Colonel Thomas L. Kennedy 165 acre (66 ha) farm above Dundas Street.

The Applewood Village Shopping Centre at 1077 North Service Road is still thriving. There is still a Dominion Supermarket and the Nova Scotia bank became Scotiabank, which is still there. The stores have changed and businesses have come and gone, but over the years, the Applewood Plaza has served its community well.

Applewood Sunoco Service
Dominion Store
Bank of Nova Scotia
Darcelle Bakery and Delicatessen
Maier Shoe Store
Don Sproul Men's Shop
Glory Ann Children's Wear
Glory Ann Ladies' Specialty Shop
Murray's High-Grade Shoes
Shore's Specialty Shop
Chreston's Applewood Restaurant
Chreston's Apple Villa Banquet Hall
Trans-Canada Jewellers
Patrician Beauty Salon
McCormick's Barber Shop
Brodie's Shoe Repair and Luggage
Martin's Gift Shoppe
Mainprize's Drug Store
Paramount Cleaners and Laundry
Kingsway Television Service
Jack Frazer's Men's and Boys' Wear
Yott's Hardware
Haggart's B.A. Service Centre

▲ Applewood Plaza Store List (Port Credit Weekly)

## Dixie Industries - 1950s

WHEN MARY FIX WAS REEVE DURING THE 1950s, she and her council began to encourage industry to settle in Toronto Township. With more houses than industry, homeowners were carrying the brunt of the property taxes. So council decided to implement a number of plans and ideas to balance the assessment between industry and residential development.

In 1953, an industrial area was created in Dixie with the boundaries being Dundas Street on the north, the Etobicoke Creek on the east, the Hydro line on the south and Haines Road on the west.

Hasty Plumbing & Heating Supply Company was the first industry in Dixie. The sod turning by Reeve Mary Fix for the new plant took place on June 9, 1955. The Hasty facility, which would cost \$150,000 to construct, would sit on five acres (2 ha) on Dundas Street. The president of the firm was W. H. Hastle.

It was expected that 12 or more plants would be constructed in the next two years. By the end of 1955, 750 acres (300 ha) of industrial land had been sold by Toronto Township to fulfill the industrial progress planned by the newly appointed Industrial Commissioner, William Courtney.

As the industries began to take up their sites, the area was serviced by water, sewers, railway spurs and industrial roads. By 1956, 25 industries had opened. A few were Commercial Chemical, Alberta Distillers, Exide Battery put up a \$1,250,000 building, Eastern Power Devices, a \$1 million plant of 120,000 square feet (8,148 m<sup>2</sup>), Devereux Produce, Propane Containers, a 40,000 square foot (3,716 m<sup>2</sup>) facility, Merck Chemical plant, Magnesium Industries Limited, Joslin Machines and the Fruehauf Trailer Company, which opened and operated a plant of 235,000 square feet (21,929 m<sup>2</sup>) in 1958 at 2450 Stanfield Road. Much of this industrial area had been the Stanfield farm land. The aforementioned businesses are no longer in operation. Fruehauf operated for many decades and then sold its property in 1989 to Steve Alosinac of Alocan Development Ltd. In 2001, the former Fruehauf office building was torn down. A new building was constructed and opened in 2002 and the LCBO Central Regional Office is now located there.



▲ Reeve Mary Fix  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Rubbermaid (Canada) Ltd.

### **Rubbermaid (Canada) Limited**

In 1950, the Wooster Rubber Company of Ohio came to Port Credit and set up operations in a rented facility on Seneca Avenue. The first products produced were transparent rain boots, gloves, dish drainers, rubber trays and bath mats. By 1955, expansion was necessary and the company began making plans for a new building in Dixie.

Nearly six acres (2.4 ha) was purchased at 2531 Stanfield Road and a modern plant of 35,000 square feet (3,251 m<sup>2</sup>) was built. It was opened and occupied in July 1956. The first injection molding equipment arrived in Canada from the United States in 1959 and the company became known as Rubbermaid (Canada) Limited.

By 1962, two additions had been made bringing the working space to 100,000 square feet (9,300 m<sup>2</sup>) and the company had 95 employees. In 1964, 19 acres (7.6 ha) was purchased across the road at 2562 Stanfield Road, facilities were built on the property and the demand for Rubbermaid products saw a continuous upswing in sales.

According to *The Port Credit Weekly*, the company was “Still going strong” in 1967, having celebrated ten successful years the previous year. By this time, a wide selection of automotive and commercial products completed the company’s annual production.

When Rubbermaid sold the original site in 1986 there were 273 employees.

A merging of Rubbermaid Inc. with Newell Company on October 21, 1998, brought about a name change to Newell Rubbermaid Inc. An addition to a total of 361,800 square feet (33,713 m<sup>2</sup>) was added in 2000, which included the original administration building. Production and distribution continue to operate out of this site, which is the corporate head office for Canada. The company currently employs 316 people and the president and general manager is Patrick Bradley.

### **Caterpillar of Canada Corporation**

In September, 1956, Caterpillar of Canada Limited, a subsidiary of Caterpillar Tractor Company, whose corporate headquarters is located in Peoria, Illinois, purchased a 21 acre (8.4 ha) site in the new Dixie industrial area.

The company came about in 1925 when two tractor companies in California, Holt and Best, amalgamated. As the business prospered and the headquarters was moved to the State of Illinois, it became apparent that a replacement parts service and emergency parts depot for the Canadian tractor market was required.

Construction commenced on December 1, 1956, with an opening scheduled for June, 1957. The office and warehouse facility, which would have storage for 35,000 part numbers, consisted of 48,000



▲ Caterpillar of Canada Limited

square feet (4,500 m<sup>2</sup>). The first manager was Tom Hodgkin, who was followed by the first Canadian manager, Gord Rogers (1971-1978). Several well known members of Dixie and Cooksville families were on staff over the years, such as Stanfield, Cheyne, Rowbotham and Laughton, who had a park named for them.

In 1967, a high-rise 63,600 square foot (5,900 m<sup>2</sup>) storage facility was added and another 57,200 square feet (5,300 m<sup>2</sup>) in 1976.

Caterpillar of Canada in Mississauga is the Toronto Regional Distribution Centre. The company's warehouse facility is located at 1550 Caterpillar Road, named for the company in 1957, with 15 employees and Carl Honold as manager.

### **Samuel, Son & Company**

Samuel, Son & Co., Limited came on the Toronto Township scene in 1960 with a 70,000 square foot (6,503 m<sup>2</sup>) plant at 2360 Dixie Road, in which to operate its metals distribution business. The company has been a family owned and operated business since 1855 when Lewis and Mark Samuel established M & L Samuel in Toronto on Yonge Street.

During the early years, the company experienced such tremendous success and growth that it broadened its spectrum to include offices and a plant in Liverpool, England. In 1880, the Samuels took in a partner, Alfred Benjamin, and the name was changed to M & L



▲ Samuel, Son & Co., Limited

Samuel, Benjamin & Company. Within ten years the focus swung from a “shelf” hardware business to metals and heavy hardware, with Lewis’ son Sigmund as president.

Frank Benjamin retired in 1931, and Sigmund bought out the Benjamins and renamed the company, Samuel, Son & Co., Limited. The company flourished in its new facilities at Spadina Avenue and Fleet Street before heading out to its Dixie Road location.

On August 9, 1955, 2.4 acres (1 ha) was purchased from Annie and Laurence McPherson for \$25,000. The plant was in operation two years when Sigmund’s grandson, Ernest, became president in 1962. Under his adroit leadership, the company expanded to over 80 facilities throughout North America. For more than 38 years, Ernest directed the company to the heights of prestige. Ernest Samuel Drive is named in his honour. In 1984, he formed a new company called Samuel Manu-Tech Inc. and took it public on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The combined Samuel group of companies was one of the top ten processors and distributors of metal in North America by the time of his death in 2000. In 2006, Mark Samuel is the president and CEO of Samuel Manu-Tech Inc.

Samuel, Son & Co., Limited is “more than metal.” It is a fifth generation family operated enterprise. Its 4,500 employees, 325 in Mississauga, offer a quality processing service and a commitment to its customers’ complete satisfaction.

On June 17, 2005, Samuel employees celebrated their company’s 150th anniversary by producing a video and a special set of commemorative coins. The president and CEO is Wayne K. Bassett.

### **Cryovac Canada Limited**

Cryovac came to Canada in 1957, settling in to conduct business in Toronto Township. It is an American company that was founded as the Dewey and Almy Chemical Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, by Bradley Dewey Sr. and Charles Almy in 1919. Through the French scientist, Henri Depoix, who had created the seal for tin cans, Dewey learned of a unique packaging process called Cryovac in 1938. It was an innovative way of preserving food in a latex bag that was stretched to form a second skin over food for protection and then frozen. The first Cryovac bag was sold to Armour and Company in 1939.



#### ▲ Cryovac Canada Limited

The company became Cryovac Canada Limited. It opened a new plant at 2365 Dixie Road on June 10, 1958, with John Holbrook as manager, Harry Brown as assistant manager, William Hardin, sales, William Page, accounting and Robert Prevost as converting supervisor.

The company grew rapidly, first by selling a cheese package concept to a cheese manufacturer and then developing a cheese market. They added the sausage maker, Schroeders, and then Canada's largest meat manufacturer, Canada Packers. By 1960, the Canadian Division of Cryovac made its highest profit to date.

Cryovac's Mississauga plant has been expanded several times and continues to sell its many products to major customers in the food markets throughout Canada. In 1999, the company was sold to Sealed Air Corporation to complement its line of protective packaging products in Canada.

In 2006, Cryovac, a division of Sealed Air, is home to approximately 170 workers and 90 staff. The president of Sealed Air (Canada) Co. / CIE is Kim Leung.

#### Tonolli Canada Limited

Tonolli Road, west of Dixie Road, is named for Tonolli Canada Limited, the company that generously donated the property in 1968 for the roadway that runs off Ernest Samuel Drive and leads to Pleasant View Farms.

In September 1958, the year Tonolli was incorporated, the company purchased 67 acres (28 ha) of farm land on Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, 48 from Percy Lewis, 10 acres (4 ha) from Arthur Wagland and nine acres (3.6 ha) from Clarence Derrough that had a two-storey red brick farmhouse on it. This house, at 2414 Dixie Road, has been used for its offices these many years. The sod turning ceremony took place on September 19th with the shovel being wielded by Reeve Mary Fix, who had encouraged Tonolli to come to Toronto Township.

The plant, first managed by Giovanni Bohman with 25 employees, had 30,000 square feet (2,787 m<sup>2</sup>) recycling lead acid batteries.

With 47 years of success in this important endeavour, Tonolli has become a leading recycler of spent lead batteries in Canada. Environmental Authorities regard the recycling of lead acid batteries as essential, as it helps avoid them being sent to dump sites and polluting the environment.

During nearly 50 years of business success, the plant at 1333 Tonolli Road, named for the company in 1981, has been enlarged to 133,000 square feet (12,360 m<sup>2</sup>). Ross Atkinson is the vice president of manufacturing and there are 70 employees.



#### ▲ Tonolli Canada Limited (Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Mother Parker's Tea & Coffee Inc. - 1958

**M**other Parker's got its start in 1912 as Higgins & Burke Ltd. The founders, Michael Stafford Higgins and William Burke, began their operation at 33 Front Street, Toronto, as a wholesale grocery distributor. They supplied staple goods such as tea, coffee, sugar and flour to small grocery stores.

Business was booming by 1932 and Stafford initiated the idea to package tea under a brand name. After some discussion on what the catchy name should be, Frank O'Connor, who created "Laura Secord" suggested Mother Parker. With the success of "Laura Secord" and "Fannie Farmer," Stafford Higgins thought Mother Parker sounded like a reassuring image to portray and Mother Parker's Tea was born.



▲ Michael Stafford Higgins

UPON THE INCEPTION OF THE NEW COMPANY, STAFFORD'S son, Paul, became vice president and general manager. The first ad to appear with the figure of Mother Parker was in *The Toronto Telegram* on January 11, 1934. That year, the company put its first booth in at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE).



▲ The Mother Parker's Fleet of Trucks



#### ▲ Mother Parker's First Billboard Ad

*(Photos courtesy of Mother Parkers)*

In January, 1939, the Kitchener territory was opened. That same year, coffee was introduced and the name extended to Mother Parker's Tea & Coffee Limited. The fleet had expanded from four vehicles in 1935 to 11 trucks, and a photo was taken for posterity with them all lined up before the CNE Princes Gates. By this time, Higgins and Burke Ltd. was becoming a secondary operation. During World War II (1939-1945) the company made a "meritorious" contribution to Canada's war effort by the regular purchase of Saving Certificates and War Bonds. The Department of the Treasury's Minister Leslie Frost (1942-1955; premier, 1961-1971) recognized their efforts with a colourful certificate of gratitude.

The growing demand for Mother Parker's products required expansion and a sod turning for a new plant and warehouse on Castlefield Avenue took place in 1947. In 1949, a new one-torey warehouse was constructed on two acres (0.8 ha) in York Township and opened in June. Paul went on to become president and general manager of both companies when his father passed away at age 76 years in 1956.



#### ▲ Paul Higgins Sr. breaks ground on Stanfield Road, 1958



▲ First Building in Toronto Township, 1958

An 11 acre (4.4 ha) site in Toronto Township (Mississauga) was purchased in 1958 at 2530 Stanfield Road and a modern instant coffee processing plant was built and named Sandra's Instant Coffee Company after Paul Higgins' eldest daughter, Sandra. As the small corner stores became a thing of the past and supermarkets became the norm, instant coffee was becoming the beverage of the future, so Mother Parker's took advantage of the expanding market.

In 1967, Ontario Premier John Robarts assisted with the sod turning of the new modern \$2 million facility that would be Mother Parker's head office. It was constructed within a year to accommodate the flourishing Mother Parker's business.

As the largest supplier of tea and coffee to the Canadian market, Mother Parker's has expanded to Ajax and Fort Worth, Texas. The company's eighth expansion, since 1948, occurred in 1985 on 2.5 acres (1 ha) on the east side of Stanfield Road. A 100,000 square foot

(9,300 m<sup>2</sup>) plant was opened on November 5th by Ontario Premier David Peterson. It was reported at this time that "A Digital Data Computer System is the heart of the new equipment of the new coffee roasting and packaging facility."

In 1996, a seven acre (2.8 ha) site was purchased at 2531 Stanfield Road that would house a 150,000 square foot (13,940 m<sup>2</sup>) state-of-the-art distribution facility and 40,000 square feet (3,700 m<sup>2</sup>) of office space. The opening was dedicated to Paul Higgins Sr., and was carried out by Premier Mike Harris and Mayor Hazel McCallion.

In 1995, 1996 and 1997, the company received the Financial Post/Arthur Andersen Award as one of the "50 Best Managed Private Companies" in Canada.

At the company's 85th anniversary in 1997, "Higgins & Burke Gourmet Coffees" were added to the roster. The Mississauga Board of Trade selected Mother Parker's as the 1997 "Outstanding Large Business of the Year."

Paul Sr. passed away on September 23, 2004, and his sons, 53-year old-Paul and 51-year-old Michael, who came into the family business on the same day in July 1974, took over the prestigious company.

With over 90 years in business, Mother Parker's continues to flourish in Mississauga with Stafford's grandsons at the helm carrying on family tradition.



▲ Paul Higgins Jr., Mayor Hazel McCallion, Michael Higgins and Premier Mike Harris, September 23, 1996



▲ Paul Higgins' Plaque



◀ Billboard on a Toronto Street (Mother Parker's)



▲ Paul Higgins Sr. and his coach (Mother Parker's)



▲ Mother Parker's, 2005

(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Brunswick Canada - 1959

The American firm of Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company of Canada Ltd., which had been in Canada since the turn of the century, outgrew its Toronto location at Atlantic Street and Hanna Avenue.

The company purchased 20 acres (8 ha) of Bruce Pallett's farm, Lot 7, Con.1, SDS, on Dundas Street and announced on March 13, 1959, it was going to build a \$1,500,000 manufacturing plant and offices of 200,000 square feet (18,600 m<sup>2</sup>) to introduce a new line of pleasure boats through the Winner Boat Company of Trenton, New Jersey. The architects were Weir, Cripps and Associates of Toronto.



▲ The Brunswick Zone Bowling Facility  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ John Moses Brunswick  
(Brunswick Company Limited)

REEVE MARY FIX TURNED THE SOD ON MAY 15TH ALONG with councillors, Richard Harrison, Chic Murray, Roy McMillan and Frank McKechnie. The grand opening of the Mercury Marine factory took place in the fall and the new plant was in full operation by December 10th when Toronto Township's Industrial Commissioner William Courtney pressed the button that lit the boiler. Besides the usual sports and school equipment, radar domes for aircraft would also be made here. Being in the bowling business, and introducing the 10-pinsetters, a bowling centre was attached to the new factory. Mr. R. H. Bennett was the general manager over 200 employees.

The founder of this company was John Brunswick, who in 1845 produced his first product, which was a fancy carriage. John Moses Brunswick was born in Bremgarten, Switzerland, on October 16, 1819. He was raised by his widower father, Benedict, as his mother had died in childbirth. Having heard that America was the place of opportunity, John left his birthplace at age 15 in 1834 and set his sights on the far distant land that would bring him a life of prosperity. After a 40 day voyage from Bremen's North Seaport to New York's shores, he familiarized himself with his new locale. His first job was errand boy for a butcher shop run by a German gentleman near Wall Street.

After six months, he decided to venture further in his new homeland and he took a train to Philadelphia. Within a week, he had found himself a position with a carriage maker. It was a job he would stay at for four years, honing a new craft as an apprentice.

Harrisburg was his next designation and he worked as a journeyman (a craftsman, who has finished his apprenticeship) for a German firm. His employer, Mr. Griener, had a 17-year-old daughter, Louisa. After a short courtship, they married.

He and Louisa moved to Cincinnati in 1840, where they immersed themselves in a German community. John got employment at a carriage factory and before long many of the carriages on the streets of Cincinnati were the handiwork of John Brunswick.

By 1845, John was ready to start his own carriage making company and he opened the doors on September 15th. His motto was, "We can make it better than anyone else."

While at a political gathering, he was introduced to a new sport and a billiard table, a "Thurston Superior," made in England. The game of billiards had been around since before the birth of Christ and came with the Spaniards to America in 1570.

John produced his first billiard table in 1848. It was purchased by a meat packer, who became a promoter for Brunswick and business picked up. Within two years, orders were coming in from across the country.

John died on July 23, 1886, of a heart attack. But he left such a legacy that each president of the company carried his enthusiasm throughout their tenure. John's son-in-law, Moses Bensinger, became president in 1890. He was the one who directed Brunswick into the bowling business.

The Brunswick & Bensinger Company set up an office in Toronto in the early 1900s. Other products were incorporated into the company's product line, automobile tires, piano cases, phonograph cabinets, and the first Brunswick record was pressed in January 1922.

With World War I, Prohibition, the Crash of 1929, the 1930s Depression and World War II, Brunswick struggled through. At the beginning of the Depression in 1930, Brunswick had a \$9 million debt. The company sold its phonograph and recording business to Warner Brothers Pictures and this maneuver saved the company. Looking at the sales for 1928, which were \$29.5 million and for 1932, \$3.9 million, tells the struggle the company was subjected to during these difficult times.

Throughout the 1930s, new innovations were added: a revolutionary table top refrigerator called the "Blue Flash," a "Rubberceptor" shower stall floor and a new line of soda fountains. All Brunswick's products were available in Canada.

When World War II was declared in 1939, Brunswick manufactured gun stocks and wooden wings for fighter planes, parachute bomb flares, assault boats, aircraft fuselages, floors and landing skids for Air Force gliders and other aircraft products through its plant in Muskegon. By 1945, over 13,000 billiard tables and 3,000 bowling lanes had been installed at military bases in the United States and Europe.

School furniture was introduced in 1953. The first Brunswick Automatic Pinsetters machinery was installed in 1956. In 1958, bowling accounted for over 75% of sales. Sales reached \$422 million by 1961. The success of the pinsetters alone allowed Brunswick to start purchasing small companies and adding more products to its line, such as roller skates, medical supplies, yachts and cruisers. One company was the Kiekhaefer Corporation that manufactured Mercury outboard motors, which Brunswick purchased in 1961. The company was 25 years old in 1964. There was a tremendous growth in Canada as the 60-horsepower Mer Cruiser engine came out in 1965.

K. Brooks Abernathy was Brunswick's chairman and CEO.

With all this prosperity Brunswick opened other centres in Kitchener, London, Brampton and in the Edmonton Mall in Alberta.

In 1978, a larger, more modern Brunswick Bowl facility was built at 2561 Stanfield Road with 32 bowling lanes. Today, there are 48 lanes and the manager for the past five years is Danita MacNeil.



▲ Brunswick Groundbreaking, Reeve Mary Fix and Brunswick General Manager Bennett, 1959  
(Joe Black, Graphic Artists)

Brunswick closed down its boat and engine plants in the 1990s. Mercury Marine was closed in 1997 in Dixie.

But in April 1993, a world headquarters in Lake Forest, Illinois, had been completed, which was a sign of a bright light on the horizon as the company headed towards its 150th anniversary in 1995. That anniversary year saw Peter N. Larson come in as president and CEO on April 26th. He retired in 1999. The company had 22,000 employees to join in the success of John Brunswick's legacy. This has to be the most diverse company in the world.



▲ Reeve Mary Fix with Councillors, Harrison, Murray, McMillan and McKechnie (Joe Black, Graphic Artists)



▲ Brunswick Bowl Zone

(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)



## The Applewood Homeowners Association - 1960

**I**n 1960, when the Dixie Leaver's Mushroom plant was curing and storing manure on its property, a local resident, Clare Wilson, who resided on Henley Road, thought something should be done about this despicable practise. He decided a homeowners association would be able to sort out such problems and spearheaded a group of his neighbours to form the Applewood Acres Homeowners Association. The area the association covered was Cawthra Road to Dixie Road, Dundas Street to the Queen Elizabeth Way.

The Association's first issue was the Leaver's plant. They approached management and after a threat of legal action against the company they won their first battle. Leaver's agreed to cure the manure in Campbellville.

There was little activity for the next ten years. Then in October 1972, when Arden Gayman was interim president, the association added North to its name. The first annual general meeting of North Applewood Ratepayers Association was held on March 13, 1973, and President Nick Staples chaired the gathering.



◀ Leaver's Mushroom Plant  
(Mississauga Library System)

ON APRIL 13, 1982, IT BECAME THE APPLEWOOD ACRES Homeowners Association. Jane Baggeta was holding the position of president at this time. She ran the organization until 1986 when she was followed by John Walmark (1986-1991), Dave Cook, 1991, Bruce Davies, 1992, Peter Daigle (1993-1995), Bruce Davies (1995-1998) and Dave Cook (1998-2004).

Some activities carried out by the Association are an annual Christmas Spirit Awards and Halloween Spirit Awards for house decoration; an annual garage sale; a trade fair; a summer barbeque and swim event at Westacres Park, started in 1991; a Litter Not campaign; and a newsletter launched in 1993, The Applewood Press, which is put out four times a year.

The Applewood Homeowners is run by an advisory board and the executive for 2006 consists of: Dani Ierullo, president, Jim Duchesne, vice president, George Notley, treasurer, and Denise Doyle, secretary. The board members are: Ray Bateman, Bill Caloccia, Eric Campbell, Glenn Hewlett, George Mallon, Don Norton and Cindy Woodland.

### Information



The origin of a ratepayers group in the Applewood Acres subdivision, according to author Dave Cook, can be traced to August 15, 1952, when it was reported in *The Toronto Telegram* that Henry Moxon of Tolman Road, chairman of an emergency ratepayers' association, hurriedly established a group of homeowners to fight for a school in their area as their children were attending the Dixie Public School on Dixie Road. The group became the North Applewood Homeowners Association on November 26, 1953, with Alan Boyd as president. The Association only lasted a few years and folded. Then when the Leaver incident occurred, the homeowners knew they needed a strong organization to uphold their rights in the area and the Applewood Homeowners Association was founded. The monies left from the former group were transferred to the new organization. Dave stated that a constitution for either group was never found.

## Memories



▲ Detective Doug Burrows

"It was a nice day in May, 1963, when what became known as the most dangerous chase and violent shootout in Canadian Police history began.

"Upon hearing, 'Sgt. Dakes has been shot in a holdup at the Royal Bank in Dixie,' I raced to the scene in one of our unmarked detective's car, with my siren blaring. What I learned was that several shots had been fired and two robbers were involved in this holdup. Approaching the Bank, I noticed a marked cruiser leaving in the opposite direction, with four male civilian occupants. Knowing there was something wrong with this, I braked hard, wheeled around and gave chase. (The bandits getaway car had been hemmed in by two police cars that had arrived. When the robbers came out of the bank with their hostages, they disarmed the two officers, forced them to their knees and were about to

shoot them, when they heard my siren and quickly stole the police car, taking the hostages with them.)

"Following close behind them, now northbound on Dixie Road, one of the men in the back seat began firing at me from the left rear window. In my rear view mirror, I saw one of our new faster, eight cylinder marked cruisers with two uniformed officers gaining on us. I pulled over to allow them to pass me, thinking they could overtake the stolen car faster. Surprisingly, when the young officers realized they were being shot at, they gave up the chase. I continued, now suspecting that two of the occupants were hostages, one in the front and one in the back. The bandits forced them to yell into the police radio that I should back off, jamming our frequency so that I could not communicate.

"Not having any idea who was behind or ahead of us, I drove at speeds up to 100 mph repeating in the police radio, 'North on Dixie.' At the same time, shots were hitting my car and windshield, exploding tiny shards of glass into my eyes like bits of sand. I couldn't see behind me as the rear view mirror was reflecting a shattered rear window from bullets that went right through.

"Deciding I couldn't let them get away or have time to kill the hostages, I kept the pressure on, not giving them time to think. I thought, if I could force them off the road by getting alongside them, then I could end this chase. I pulled out my 38 snub nose revolver and held it out the window, making them think I was shooting,

so they wouldn't be able to take such deadly aim. My chance came when they had to slow down behind a northbound stake truck. They weren't able to pass due to a southbound tractor trailer, so they cut their speed and drove on the right graveled shoulder to get by. Driving wide open and holstering my gun, I cut over to the left shoulder as the tractor trailer barreled down, trusting the driver to stay on the highway, which he did. Now I was slightly in front of the stolen car as we were coming back onto the paved road and realized I was being shot at through the side and rear windows. I braked enough for them to come up beside me and when I saw their left front fender, I turned into them, hoping to ditch and disable them and yet not hurt the hostages.

"They went into the ditch on the right side of the road, but without heavy duty suspension, my car at that speed 'fish tailed' and took off into the air. I was airborne, no longer in control, so I jumped into the passenger seat, away from the steering wheel, tucked myself down and said, 'Well here goes, God!'

"My car flipped end over end several times, then skidded on its roof into the left ditch. Scrambling out of the passenger window, I ran up the road and saw that their stolen car was not in the opposite ditch. A white convertible stopped and I told the driver I was a police officer and I was commandeering his car and I jumped in, telling him to drive, so I was free to use my weapon.



▲ Burrows' Car is Ditched

"As we went over a hill, I could see the cruiser in the distance. I had bent its left fender against the wheel and they couldn't reach more than

40 mph nor turn. The young man beside me wasn't driving fast enough to suit me, so I put my left foot on the gas pedal and took the steering wheel and we caught up quickly. I opened the passenger door so I could get out quickly and then I cut in front of the getaway car. The stolen car hit my door and caught my right leg trapping me momentarily.

"The hostages jumped out and ran clear, as the back seat bandit got behind the rear door. I focused on him and took a few shots, but the door stopped my bullets. In those seconds, the bandit in the front seat was shooting at me through his windshield with only the length of their car hood between me and his automatic. I heard the bullets whizzing by my head and aimed my gun at him, when he threw his hands up, his gun was empty. The



▲ Burrows' Car showing shot out Windshield

other bandit also surrendered. The chase was over and the hostages were safe. Other officers arrived and arrests were made. The bank money, \$10,000, which was a lot in those days, was recovered.

"Sgt. Bernie Dakes, a fine officer, recovered from two bullet wounds to his upper arm, but he carried the fragments with him to his grave. The two bank tellers quit as did the two officers who had given chase. Because



▲ Burrows in  
Emergency

of our lenient Canadian judicial system, Melvin Brown, a 35 year old Texan, and 33 year old Donald Cotham of Washington, who both had lengthy records of violence, were sentenced to 20 years in Kingston Penitentiary for attempted murder, armed robbery and kidnaping, but only served seven years.

"In 1970, I travelled to Lincoln, Nebraska, to give evidence against Brown in a further trial. Seeing me as he walked out of court with his lawyer, he said in his southern drawl, 'Ah wish ah could've killed you when ah had the chance.' To which I sarcastically replied, 'You sure learned your lesson in Kingston, didn't you.'

"It was estimated that 75 rounds were fired at me. I sustained injuries to my back and neck, leg and ankle and was taken to the hospital. I returned to duty the same day, using a set of crutches that I had previously used for an injury to the same leg while in the Naval Air Service. With no post trauma assistance in those days, we spent some time processing the event, then moved on. There were no medals for Police bravery in Canada at that time. All of those involved received an award from the Canadian Bankers' Association though. The commandeered convertible was repaired and the owner was given a well deserved reward. He was honoured also with a dinner of appreciation by the local officials, with the only representative invited from our Police force being the Chief."

Doug Burrows, former Mississauga Police Officer, former Peel Regional Police Chief

## NEWS ITEM

In a morning reminiscent of the old west, a Toronto Township police sergeant surprised two armed bandits in the Royal Bank of Canada on No. 5 Highway, just east of Dixie Road, and in the next 20 minutes the officer was shot through the arm; two police officers were threatened with death while loaded pistols were held to their heads; two young bank tellers were taken hostage in a stolen police cruiser; 65-70 shots were exchanged in a harrowing 100 mph chase up Dixie Road, and the gunmen were arrested after their 'get-away car' had twice been rammed during the running gun-battle.

*The Port Credit Weekly*  
May 30, 1963

## Colonel Harland Sanders - 1964

**O**n January 6, 1964, Colonel Harland Sanders, famous for his Kentucky Fried Chicken, sold out his United States operation to a young businessman, John Y. Brown Jr. He retained ownership of his Canadian operation and came to Canada to open a chain of Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets. The first one was started in Vancouver, British Columbia. At this time he was 74 years old and collecting social security.

Harland David Sanders was born September 9, 1890, near Henryville, Indiana, into a poverty-stricken family who lived on a rundown farm. He used to say, "I was born poor and more or less stayed poor until I was fairly successful in the restaurant business in my senior years." His father, Wilburt, died when Harland was five and his widowed mother, Margaret Dunlevy, had Harland and his three-year-old brother, Clarence, to raise and a baby on the way. A daughter, Catherine, was born two months later. Harland's mother sent him off at ten years old to work for Charles Norris, a farmer nearby, for \$2 a month and room and board.



Top: Sanders' Court,  
1938

Left: Harland  
Sanders

(Photos courtesy of  
KFC Corporation)

BY AGE 15, HE LEFT INDIANA AND DID A VARIETY OF JOBS such as an insurance salesman, railroad engineer, streetcar conductor and ferryboat operator. He was even a midwife, did a stint as a mule skinner with the U.S. Army and took a mail-order law course and practised in Justice of the Peaces' courts in Little Rock, Arkansas. He married Josephine King at age 18, with whom he had three children, Margaret, Harland Jr. and Mildred.

His variety of jobs was the groundwork of an industrious entrepreneur, who in 1929 opened a filling station in Corbin, Kentucky, on U.S. Route 25. He and Josie operated the business together. With the success of this station, in 1931 Harland incorporated a motel and

restaurant into his business enterprise, which he called Sanders Motor Court, and the locals referred to as, “Hell’s Half Acre.”

With his culinary skills, he discovered a recipe for succulent chicken in 1939, that was helped by a new invention, the pressure cooker. He experimented with seasonings until he came up with the perfect blend of 11 herbs and spices. He would refer to his chicken as “finger lickin’ good.” Business boomed. Their hired girl, Claudia Price, was better at operating the restaurant than Josie was, so Josie left. They got a divorce after 39 years, and Harland married Claudia on November 17, 1949. His financial statement for 1945 went like this: Food Sales \$1,847; Cost of Sales, \$1,081; Net Food Sales \$766; Expenses \$777; Loss: \$11. Motel Revenue \$906; Expenses \$542; profit \$364; Total profit for 1945: \$353.

His Motor Court was valued at \$165,000 in 1953 and three years later, he had to sell out for \$75,000 when a new interstate highway cut his business off. That brought the 66-year-old Colonel, a title bestowed upon him by Governor Ruby Lafoon of Kentucky in 1935,



▲ The Sanders’ Restaurant and Kitchen today  
(Dave Hunter)

to begin a new enterprise, peddling his chicken through adjoining states, dragging along his pressure cookers in the back seat of his 1946 Ford jalopy. It was not long before he set up a franchise business that eventually made him famous. He is credited with starting the world’s first fast food operation. By 1960, there were over 200 outlets in North America pushing Kentucky Fried Chicken and 600 by 1963. It would not be long before Harland Sanders, a strapping six-foot gentleman of 200 pounds, whose trademark was a white suit and goatee, would be responsible for a billion-dollar enterprise. There is a museum where Sanders’ Court Motel and Restaurant used to be located on Highway 25. It has a motel room, the Colonel’s office and the kitchen where this phenomenon began. The restaurant has been restored and it was opened in September 1990, and KFC is sold there.

The Colonel was encouraged by the president of the Canadian Restaurant Association, John Coles, to come to Canada in 1964. The General Manager for Kentucky Fried Chicken in Canada, Mr. Lou Gogoff, lived in Mississauga and the Colonel bought a house for \$20,000 next door to him at 1337 Melton Drive in Dixie, where he could live four months out of the year, while handling his responsibilities here. Mr. Gogoff persuaded Mr. Leon of Scott’s Restaurants to take on the Colonel’s chicken. He did and the rest is history as the saying goes. Within ten years there were 45 stores in operation, which led to 10,000 KFC outlets around the world.

This author had the privilege of interviewing the Colonel on three occasions. The most enjoyable was when he and his wife, Claudia,



▲ Mr. & Mrs. TV Show, 1975

were guests on my Cable 10 TV show, “Mr. & Mrs.,” April 17, 1975. He also shared his recipe for scrambled eggs for my “Cooking” column in *The Mississauga News*. His interview for my column, “A V.I.P. & Me” from August 8, 1973, is in my book, “*Kathleen Hicks’ VIPS of Mississauga*,” which can be found at your local library.

Having a big philanthropist's heart, the man known throughout the world by his trademark white suit, incorporated a charitable foundation, Harland Sanders Charitable Foundation, which assists young Canadians through college and helps many charitable organizations throughout Canada. His Foundation continues to work in the lives of many people around the world even after his death.

Upon his return from Japan in July 1980, he was diagnosed with leukemia, a disease he said he learned to live with. He celebrated his 90th birthday on September 9, 1980, which was held at the Belvedere Club, Louisville, Kentucky, with his family and friends. Later that year, he became seriously ill at his home in Shelbyville and was rushed to the Louisville Jewish Hospital. It was discovered that he was suffering from kidney and bladder complications from the leukemia. He was recuperating nicely when he got pneumonia and died on December 16, 1980. He was buried at Cave Hill Cemetery, where he had designed his own gravesite.

The Colonel will not be forgotten in Mississauga. A donation of \$1 million was made to the Mississauga Hospital in July 1998, by Ted Gogoff on behalf of the Colonel Harland Sanders Charitable Organizations, the largest single contribution ever received by the hospital up to this time. Gogoff said at the presentation, "On more than one occasion, he told me he wanted to do something significant for the hospital. He wanted to support projects that include family values and children. In memory of the Colonel's generosity, the Harland Sanders Centre for Family Care was opened in 1999 at the Trillium Health Centre.



▲ The Harland Sanders' Centre, 2005 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ The Former Colonel Sanders' Mississauga Home  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Original Cafe and Kitchen  
(Dave Hunter)



▲ Colonel Sanders' Newspaper Column Heading



◀ Sanders' Kitchen  
(Dave Hunter)



## Times have changed, but not the great taste of **KFC**

Since the 1950's, KFC has grown at a remarkable pace – from one small roadside restaurant into an international renowned restaurant chain. Today, KFC is the largest chain of chicken restaurants in the world. But none of this would have happened had it not been for the persistence of one man – Colonel Harland D. Sanders.



### 1950's

At the age of 40, as the operator of a service station in Corbin, Kentucky, the Colonel began to serve food to hungry travellers from his own living quarters. Before long he moved across the street to a motel and 142-seat restaurant, which he named "Sanders". It was during this time that the Colonel devised his recipe for fried chicken using a secret blend of 11 herbs and spices.

In the early 1950's a new bypass signaled the end of the Colonel's business and he auctioned off his operations. Using his last \$105 Social Security cheque, he set up Kentucky Fried Chicken, his own chicken franchising business.

He then travelled across the country from restaurant to restaurant cooking chicken for the owners and their employees. In 1954, the first KFC restaurant was introduced to Canada.



### 1960's - 1970's

In 1964, with over 600 franchised outlets in the U.S. and Canada, Colonel Sanders sold the company. As part of the deal, he agreed to remain as a life-long quality controller.

He was always keen to roll up his sleeves, don an apron and demonstrate to staff how a really "finger-lickin' good" fried chicken should be made.



### 1980's

In the mid-1980's electronic cookers were introduced into each store. These cookers insured that the great Original Recipe™ taste that Canadians have grown to know and love was consistent on every visit.

In 1980 at the age of 90, the Colonel passed away but his insistence on the highest standards of quality, service and hygiene continue to this day.



### TODAY

Today, we continue to use the finest quality chicken, prepared fresh daily and made with the Colonel's secret blend of 11 herbs and spices. Times have changed, but not the great taste of KFC.

*"it's finger lickin' good"*



▲ A KFC Placemat

(The Mississauga News) ►

## The Applewood Seniors Club - 1965

THE FIRST SENIORS CLUB IN TORONTO Township was the Cooksville Seniors, which got its start in 1958. With this successful group being organized, other seniors began to catch the spirit of togetherness and camaraderie and formed their own club. The Cooksville Seniors encouraged other people to pull together a club in their areas and thus the Dixie Seniors managed to organize three clubs, Applewood, Bloor-Dixie and Queen Frederica, as their area matured with new subdivisions.

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The Applewood Seniors Club was organized in 1964 during Recreation Week when the Seniors came together for a luncheon and workshop and enjoyed the companionship. They originally called their club The Guild. The official start of the club was when the first meeting took place on April 21, 1965, at the Thomas L. Kennedy Secondary School in Cooksville. The officers were elected: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, programme convener and bulletin editor. (No names are available.) There was also a discussion on what to call their club and it became Applewood Senior Citizen's Club No.193.



▲ Applewood Seniors' Club Executive

(Photos courtesy of Rina Kudke)

Many activities were indulged in such as travelogue films, demonstrations on how to paint or weave, crafts, dancing and different games. They also went on trips to view the fall colours or Christmas lights and visited other clubs, went on picnics or to the theatre. Some humanitarian efforts included repairing toys for the Children's Aid Society and stuffing kits for community campaigns.



▲ Applewood Seniors' Bazaar, 1994

Trying to find a permanent meeting place was a problem at first, but then St. Luke's-on-the-Hill United Church on Constitution Boulevard opened its doors and invited the club to hold meetings there. They began in 1968 and meetings were held twice a month. Later meetings were held at the Applewood United Church. Then when the Cawthra Senior Citizens Centre opened in 1974, they began to hold meetings there and still do.

Six dinners a year are held as well as a flea market in the spring and a bazaar in the fall. Their fundraising dollars are extended to the Mississauga and Credit Valley Hospitals, the Food Bank, Meals on Wheels and much more.

The Club celebrated its 25th anniversary on March 14, 1990. It was a delightful affair with a punch bowl reception, entertainment and refreshments for the over 100 members and 100 guests. Mayor Hazel McCallion presented the club with a framed Certificate of Recognition from the City of Mississauga for the International Year of the Volunteer. The Club also received a plaque of congratulations from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

At this time meetings were held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Mississauga Seniors Centre with an

executive meeting on March 8th. During this anniversary month, the club was very active organizing and holding a flea market in the Lucy Turnbull Room, attending the Beaver Show, and holding a Silent Auction on March 28th. The executive consisted of Fred Clarke, president, Margaret Costello, vice president, with Art Leslie past president.

On October 25, 1995, the 30th anniversary was celebrated. In June, 2000, the club published a cookbook called, "Favourite Recipes," to commemorate the International Year of the Older Persons. The 35th anniversary was held on March 14, 2000, at the Mississauga Seniors Centre, followed by the 40th in 2005.

The Bloor Dixie Seniors was organized in 1970 and Queen Frederica in 1972, but neither club survived the years. Only Applewood continues with Rina Kukde as president. This group displays a "We Care" attitude as shared by all the seniors clubs in Mississauga. Meetings are still held at the Mississauga Seniors Centre, 1389 Cawthra Road on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.



▲ Special Guest Mayor Hazel McCallion, 1996

The Applewood Theme Song  
 It's a good time to get acquainted  
 It's a good time to know  
 Who is sitting close beside you  
 And to smile and say "Hello!"  
 Good-bye chilly shoulder  
 Farewell glassy stare,  
 When we all join hands and pull together  
 We're sure to get there.

Written in 1965  
 Tune of Tipperary



▲ Margaret Marland and Lucy Turnbull with President Rina Kudke, 1996



▲ Rina Kudke

## NEWS ITEM

### India's Safety Pin Ambassador

Way before we took the concept of multiculturalism and made it uniquely Canadian, probably before the word was even invented, Rina Kudke was bringing cultures together armed with six yards of fabric and two safety pins.

She emigrated to Canada in 1967 with her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Delhi, India, and her Master of

Science Degree from Michigan State University. She says that, "When I went for interviews in saris and when I finally got a job as a teacher, the principal said to me, 'Please don't change the way you dress.'"

She taught for two years in Blenheim High School and then 18 years at Georgetown District High School. There, too, Rina continued to wear her brightly coloured saris to work.

Rina retired in 1989 while residing in Mississauga and then became involved in volunteerism. She was awarded the Mississauga Senior Citizen of the Year Award in 2003, the Senior of the Year Award in 2004 from the Ontario Government and was honoured by the Rotary Club of Mississauga and Lakeshore.

She has been a board member, chairperson, vice president and president of the India Rainbow Community Services, and has also been associated with Cawthra Seniors Centre, Applewood Seniors Club, Square One Older Adult Centre and Ontario Seniors Games.

"I have done many things in my life. A bit of this and a bit of that. But volunteering gives me a deep satisfaction. It comes from my heart. Volunteering allows me to lead a busy, productive and meaningful retired life."

*Desi News*  
 February, 2004

## Road Controversy - 1971

A MOTION PROPOSED BY MISSISSAUGA'S Deputy Reeve Grant Clarkson at a council meeting on November 1, 1971 stated, "Roads in Mississauga are not adequate enough to handle the north to south flow of traffic through the town," he said. "We've got to find an alternative way to get traffic from the QEW to the north end and Cawthra Road would seem to be the best way."

In March 1971, the widening of Cawthra had been proposed with an underpass at the intersection of Cawthra Road and Dundas Street. The proposal was referred to the Peel County Roads committee for debate. The roads were owned and maintained by Peel County.

Reeve Clarkson declared that, "The future widening of Cawthra Road and the construction of a major underpass at Dundas Street and the addition of a



slip off at the QEW be considered as top priority items. A cut off from the QEW onto Cawthra Road would do a lot to ease the traffic situation on Dixie Road and Highway 10. This is a job that should be getting some action as soon as possible."

◀ Cawthra Road, 1935  
(Jack Hassall)



▲ Dundas and Cawthra Intersection, 1972  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

In October 1971, the Peel County Council had authorized a functional planning study of Cawthra Road for a future plan of construction of the roadway. An \$11 million project to widen from two lanes to six lanes for a four-mile (6.4 km) stretch from the Lakeshore Road to the newly proposed Highway 403. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications was in full support of this undertaking, and Acting Mayor Chic Murray announced to Council. "It will completely change the Cawthra picture at the Queen Elizabeth Way with an interchange there."

In August 1973, Peel County engineer Robert Knight reported that traffic on Cawthra Road from the QEW to Dundas in 1972 averaged 9,800 cars per day. By April of 1973, it had escalated to 14,500. From Dundas to Burnhamthorpe there were 9,700 cars in 1972 and 12,600 in 1973. The extra traffic had escalated with the opening of the Mississauga Valleys subdivision.

The project was described by engineering consultants McCormack and Rankin as involving four stages; the first being the \$5.5 million widening of Cawthra from the QEW to Silvercreek Boulevard. The Peel County Council authorized the consultants to proceed with designs for the first phase.

Things were heating up for the Cawthra Road Protective Association by June 1973, and the residents of Cawthra Road and the local subdivisions came out in full force to protest at several meetings at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 3625 Cawthra Road, which were headed up by Mr. R. M. Fulton. The first one was June 21st and it was a heated debate. Everyone was disturbed at the thought of the road being widened to six lanes. Cawthra was a quiet street, beautifully enhanced by a row of old, familiar trees on both sides of the road. The homeowners would lose a considerable amount of their frontage, leaving their houses closer to the roadway, which with six lanes and more traffic would also cause a sound problem. The residents wanted the project cancelled or to cut back to four lanes. Their reasoning was "that the project was being forced through an old established area of town that most of the traffic in the area is being generated by the new Mississauga Valleys development. One resident called for an immediate freeze on local development, "until this ridiculous highway plan has been settled to the residents satisfaction rather than that of the developers."



▲ Aerial View of Dundas Street and Cawthra Road

At a planning board meeting in July 1973, a member stated that, "Cawthra Road is a horrible mess, dirty and ill kept." Percy Briscoe, a Lakeview store owner said, "There are more accidents on that road than anywhere else in the town." He continued with, "Everyone blames the Town of Mississauga for the poor condition of the road, but it is owned and maintained by Peel County. The intersection of Cawthra and Dundas is one of the most dangerous in the town."

At one of the Cawthra Road Protective Association meetings, they came up with a brief with 13 stipulations for Peel County Council and on Monday, August 27th, at a special meeting with over 200 residents, the Council agreed to only four lanes and several of the other stipulations such as 30 miles (50 km) per hour speed limit. Warden Ivor McMullin gave approval and said, "Some other alternative will have to be found to move traffic north and south." This author, who lived on Eversley Drive at the time, was involved in this controversy.

Robert Knight was told by town council to study the proposal and make recommendations on it. town council and the concerned citizens won out and the road was only widened to four lanes, but the trees were lost. However, by 2006, Cawthra has become as picturesque and dotted with lush trees as it was in the 1970s.



▲ Cawthra Road, 2005 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Jerry Lewis Cinema - 1972

THE JERRY LEWIS CINEMA AT 1185 Dundas Street East in Dixie opened to a full house on January 26, 1972, and this author went to the opening. It was Mississauga's newest theatre and although it was just a big rectangular room with a large screen, 300 plush seats and a candy counter in the lobby, it was well received by the public, who all knew of the Hollywood movie actor and comedian, Jerry Lewis.

Jerry Lewis was born Joey Levitch and he grew up with a father who was a comedian. So he was born into show business. His father did not support him in his choice of a career, but Jerry was not deterred. However, his career never got a toe-hold until he met and paired up with singer Dean Martin in 1946. Then they starred in several movies and became famous. When they broke up in 1958, Jerry went on to star in comedies, many written by him, and began to direct and produce. Then in 1971, he began to open a chain of movie houses throughout North America under the operation of Network Cinema Corporation, founded in September 1969. It was predicted that the first 100 of a proposed 2,500 would be opened by the end of 1971. This was the first Jerry Lewis movie theatre in Canada.



The first movie to come on the screen was “Love Story,” which had been a number one best-selling novel for Eric Segal. Other movies of the times followed, “Le Mans” with Steve McQueen on February 23rd and “Ryan’s Daughter” with Robert Mitchum on March 8th.

Although at the outset, the Jerry Lewis mini cinemas became the fastest growing theatre chain in the world, it was only two years later that Jerry sold the theatre and it became the Dixie 5 Theatre. But even new management did not save the theatre as shopping malls such as Square One opened with three cinemas and others around the city took away its patronage.

The building was sold and today it is the Dixie-5 Pharmacy.



▲ Jerry Lewis Cinema Ads (The Port Credit Weekly)



▲ former Theatre Location, 2005 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Salvation Army - 1974

**T**he Salvation Army was founded by Reverend William Booth (b.1829, d.1912) in London, England, in 1865, as the Christian Mission. He changed the name in 1878 and assumed the title of general. A corps was organized in Canada in London, Ontario, in 1882 by Jack Addie and Joe Ludgate. The Salvation Army's second corps opened a branch in Toronto on June 11, 1882, in McMillan Hall. Within a year, 12 centres opened throughout Ontario. Those early years were described as "Christianity with its sleeves rolled up." William Gooderham (1824-1889), the son of William Gooderham, founder of Gooderham & Worts Distillery, gave the Salvation Army a substantial amount of money to finance a building for its national headquarters. He was fond of William Booth, and knew Commissioner Thomas Coombs. When Gooderham passed away in 1889, over 2,000 Salvation Army officers were at his funeral.



▲ William Booth  
(Salvation Army)

THE CORNERSTONE WAS LAID IN 1885 AND THE BUILDING was constructed and opened in 1886 at Albert and James Streets in Toronto. This building served the Salvation Army until 1953 when a second structure was put up at 20 Albert Street. It was demolished in 1998 and a third building is now the headquarters at 2 Overlea Boulevard.

The first Salvation Army Corps to come to Toronto Township was established in Lakeview in the summer of 1932. Having no building of its own the corps representatives made arrangements to use the



▲ The Salvation Army Temple Sod Turning, 1973  
(The Mississauga News)



▲ *The former Kenmuir location and Opening, 1961*

Lakeview United Church to hold services. Sunday school classes were started in 1935 and by this time, the Corps was holding services in member Peter Mathias' house on Trotwood Avenue. Finally in 1938, they managed to build their place of worship at 1054 Shaw Drive. The Salvation Army Hall was utilized for worship services, Sunday School, meetings, rummage and bake sales.

By 1950, the congregation was outgrowing its small quarters and arrangements were made for fund raising to commence in a big way to construct a larger building. The vision was realized and the building got underway with the supervision of Sr. Major N. Boyle. Everything came together on July 1, 1954, when they held the official opening of their new cement block citadel with the Canadian Field Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Wiseman officiating. Envoy R. A. Mansell was the first official commissioned officer to be in charge.

The Corps' first major catastrophe in the area was Hurricane Hazel, which hit Ontario on October 15-16, 1954, with such fury, that the Pleasant Valley Trailer Court's entire occupancy lost their homes and all their belongings. The Salvation Army came to the rescue and provided food, clothing and bedding.

Again, the corps moved its congregation. This time to take over the vacated Kenmuir Baptist Church at 1525 Kenmuir Avenue. The Shaw Drive building was sold and the new purchase was dedicated on June 2, 1961, by Colonel C. Knaap, representing the commissioner, W. Wycliffe Booth. Captain Robert Kerton was transferred from Vancouver, B. C. to take over his new post.

The corps was growing in leaps and bounds as the population of the township multiplied. It was time to find enough property to build structures required to accommodate the overwhelming need of its services. In 1968, Captain John Carew, who became a colonel in 1992, was requested to do a survey of the new town of Mississauga to scout out a satisfactory location, where the corps could expand. Property on Cawthra Road, north of Dundas Street, was acquired. The sod turning was carried out on May 13, 1973, and the official opening of the new temple took place on October 26, 1974.



▲ *Captain Woodrow Hale*

*(The Mississauga News)*

Captain Woodrow Hale became the new pastor.

The Salvation Army is aptly named, for these dedicated people are the salvation of those in need, assisting in the tragedies of our community by supplying food, clothing and counselling, and adding God's blessing in a gentle and compassionate way.

In 1993, the Peel Region Police Department started Toys for Tots for the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army also runs the Peel Region's homeless shelter on Mavis Road, which during winter months is filled to capacity.

Majors Doug and Joanne Binner are now the pastors at 3173 Cawthra Road. There are also two other Salvation Army Corps locations in Mississauga, 2460 The Collegeway under the direction of Captains Tony and Patricia Kennedy, and 3020 Vanderbilt Road with Captains Paul and Carolyn Henderson.



▲ The Salvation Army Temple, 2005 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

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## NEWS ITEM

### The Salvation Army

It is stated that the Salvation Army has a grand total of 2,874 corps of societies, 896 outposts and 9,416 persons or officers wholly engaged in the work, with 23,069 non-commissioned officers and bandsmen. It holds vested property of the value of £644,618, machinery, etc., is £130,000 more. The total circulation of its literature of all descriptions is 37,400,000 copies. This literature is issued in 15 languages. The Army preaches in 29 languages, and it occupies 34 countries or colonies. The sum raised annually from all sources is £750,000.

*The Streetsville Review*  
December 12, 1890

## Information

I would like to point out that in the Salvation Army structure a corps is a local church and comes under the supervision of a Divisional Headquarters. The Lakeview Corps would have been supervised by the Metro Toronto Division which is now the Ontario Central Division located in Toronto. There are sixteen divisions in Canada and these come under the supervision and authority of the Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory. All openings of new corps or institutions must have the approval of the Divisional and Territorial headquarters administrations.



▲ Colonel John Carew  
(John Carew)

Colonel John E. Carew, retired and is working at the Salvation Army George Scott Railton Heritage Centre

## Gateway Postal Facility - 1975

With the town of Mississauga growing in leaps and bounds with new people moving in and businesses and industry booming, the postal system was mushrooming. A new facility for the federal postal department was required to accommodate the growth. The federal departments of the Postmaster General and Public Works did a survey for possible sites to locate a major Canada Post facility. They found what they were looking for in Mississauga at the southeast corner of Dixie Road and Eglinton Avenue. S. B. McLaughlin Associates Limited, a major mover and shaker of principal development in Mississauga, had the McLaughlin Industrial Park No. 2 at that location and the government purchased 72 acres (28.8 ha) in March, 1972, of Lots 4 and 5, Con.2, NDS, to construct a \$50 million building called the Gateway Postal Plant. Ken Bagnall, the director of public affairs for the federal postal department announced the purchase to the media. He said it would be an ultra-modern plant of 25 acres (10 ha) under one roof.



### ▲ Canada Post Gateway Plant, 2005

THIS ACREAGE HAD BEEN THE FORMER GRICE FARM. TOYNE Grice had sold the last of his farmland in 1954 and the McLaughlin Group under subsidiary Focal Properties purchased it on July 31, 1971, for \$1.3 million from Vailia Investments Ltd.

The Federal governmental departments would be responsible for overseeing the construction of this major postal facility. The project under Major Postal Plants (MAPP) was unveiled in May 1972, at a press conference in Toronto.

The postal centre, the largest building in Canada, would have nearly one million square feet (93,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of floor space. It would employ 1,800 people and provide parking for 1,500 cars. Construction would begin in 1972, and it would go into partial operation in the fall of 1974.

On February 20, 1973, the project was set back a few days with the collapse of the first assembled steel structure. Fortunately no lives were lost. The only casualty was an empty pick-up truck that was crushed by the falling steel beams. Canada Post phased operations into the new facility in April, 1975, when Mississauga's population was 234,975.

The regional general manager, James C. Corkey, of the postal service in Ontario said during construction that 45 percent of all Canadian mail would be processed from this plant. This facility was part of a multi-million dollar Major Postal Plants project of the Canada Post Office to provide modern mechanized mail-handling facilities in the Toronto area.

With the exception of the Lester B. Pearson International Airport, it would be the largest industry in Mississauga, handling two million letters and 300,000 parcels per day. The automated equipment could sort 1,500 bags of mail in six minutes. Personnel did not even have to handle the incoming mail as it arrived at the plant in 45 foot truck trailers, which tilt at the loading dock at a 45 degree angle to dump its load onto conveyor belts. When the plant had its grand opening in April, 1975, the cost of the postal building had escalated to \$67 million.



▲ Conveyor Belt - the last of the original equipment, 2005

As the population grew, in early 1998, the handling of the mail was transferred to the Eastern Avenue facility in Toronto and the process was completed in October, 1999. Today, Gateway only handles Special Products such as parcels, publications and ad mail.

In 2000, the Canada Post Gateway Postal Facility, located at 4567 Dixie Road, celebrated its 25th anniversary. For its 30th in 2005, there were 1,750 employees handling two-thirds of Canada's parcel volume, with management being shared by Rocky Gualiteri, Director, Parcel Value Stream, and John Hill, Director Gateway Operations.



▲ Gateway Post Office Interior, 2005



▲ Canada Post Delivery Truck, 2005

## Information

From a national perspective, Canada Post delivers over 10 billion pieces of mail each year to 14 million addresses. Its 60,000 employees and 7,000 post offices – the largest retail network in the country – serve 31 million Canadians and over one million businesses from coast to coast. In 2004, net income for Canada Post and its affiliates, which include Purolator Courier Ltd., Progistix-Solutions Inc., Intelcom Courier Canada Inc., epost and Innovapost (jointly owned by Canada Post and CGI) was CND\$ 147 million on revenues of CND\$ 6.7 billion. Canada Post is a world leader, providing innovative physical and electronic delivery solutions, creating value for its customers, employees and Canadians. Canada Post connects Canadians from anywhere – to anyone.

Deb Garnish  
Corporate Communications  
Canada Post Corporation



◀ (Canada Post Gateway)



▲ Gateway's Family Day, September 10, 2005  
(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Dixie-Burnhamthorpe Reunion - 1976

In 1975, several residents of the Dixie-Burnhamthorpe area thought it would be great to hold a reunion for residents of the two former Toronto Township communities. It would be an opportunity for residents to return to their old haunts, some where they were born, went to school, grew up and married – a real homecoming.

A committee was formed and everyone was given a duty to perform: Glenn Grice was convener, John Pallett, chairman, Jim McCarthy, vice-chairman, Bob Watson, registrar, Ivan Death, treasurer, Vic Stanfield, secretary, Toots Condor Arnold, recording secretary, Fred Gill, social convener, Doug Sherman, publicity convener, Fred Stanfield, security and souvenirs, Bill Barber, archives coordinator, Dave Pallett, archives chairman and Tom Jackson, barbeque.

A souvenir programme booklet of 28 pages was produced, which included photos and history of some of the area's heritage buildings such as the Kennedy's Atlantic Hotel, the schools, churches and Dixie Arena. Besides ticket sales, plates, booster buttons and donations helped finance the event.



◀ Fred Gill



Glen Grice ▶



▲ Jim McCarthy



▲ Dave Pallett



▲ John Pallett

THE REUNION TOOK PLACE ON JUNE 12, 1976, AT THE DIXIE Arena Gardens. First came registration at 1 p.m., followed by a three-hour opportunity to reminisce called "Down Memory Lane." At 4 p.m. the official welcome was extended with special guests, Premier William Davis, MP Tony Abbott and MPP Doug Kennedy. Then it was time to enjoy Tom Jackson's special beef barbeque. At 8:30, the dancing began with modern and old-time music by Nickol Brown. The master of ceremonies was Vince Mountford. All in all, a good time was had by everyone who attended.

The photos and historical information gathered for this event went to the Region of Peel Archives.



▲ Bunker's Garage



▲ Nuttall Station



▲ Dixie Reunion Programme

## Dixie Rotary Club - 1980

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MISSISSAUGA-DIXIE was organized by the Rotary Club of Mississauga in 1980. Rotarian Glenn Grice of the Rotary Club of Mississauga, was the convener of this undertaking. The Club was chartered on June 25, 1980, at the Ramada Inn on Dixie Road, with 25 members. The first executive was George Patrick, president, Gerry Thompson, vice president, Al Currie, secretary/treasurer. The meetings were held on Wednesdays at 12 noon at the Ramada Inn.

The Rotary motto is, "Service above self." Rotary got its name when the first club was formed in Chicago in 1905 and the businessmen rotated the club's meeting place at different offices.

The club has held many fundraising events over the years, such as the Mississauga Business Show, which raises \$60,000 annually, bingo, held at the International Centre, art auction, ribfest, fashion shows and Bowlathon, to raise money for their charitable contributions to the community.

In 1985, two women in the United States wanted to join Rotary and they were rejected, so they took their complaint to the Supreme Court. They won their case of "discrimination of gender" and in 1987, Rotary International amended its constitution and therefore the United States Rotary Clubs were the first to accept women as members.



▲ Mississauga Dixie International City Certificate



◀ Phyllis Greer gets a Kiss at Fund Raiser



▲ Fund Raising Auction, October 5, 2003

In 1990, when the Dixie Rotary Club members did not want to accept women into the Club, it was decided to sponsor a new club for women. Forty-eight members were chartered on September 7, 1990, with Beverly Knox as charter president. They held their meetings at the Mississauga Board of Trade office at the City Centre and so the club was appropriately called the Rotary Club of Mississauga-City Centre. It became a very active club. It was the first Rotary Club in Canada to have a female district governor for Rotary District 7080, which comprises 51 clubs and 2,300 members. Charter member Janet Coates, who was president in 1994, held this prestigious position during the 2002-2003 Rotary year.

In 1995, the City Centre Rotary Club did not feel it was big enough to do the many projects they wanted to undertake, so they approached the Dixie Rotary Club about amalgamating the two clubs. By this time, both clubs consisted of male and female members. The City Centre Club revoked its charter and joined its sponsor club, and

became the Rotary Club of Mississauga-Dixie. When it was decided to hold meetings in the Living Arts Centre, the club moved there and changed its name once more to the Rotary Club of Mississauga-City Centre to reflect the club's location.

The club holds an annual golf tournament that supports the efforts of Peel Partners for a Drug Free Community. With a joint venture with other Mississauga Clubs in 1999, over \$40,000 was raised to establish Chantel's Place at the Trillium Centre, which aids persons who are subjected to domestic violence. In 2004, a fashion show raised money to supply a passenger van for two years for driving cancer patients to Toronto for treatment. The club assists with financial support to the Salvation Army, Easter Seals Kids Cruise, the University of Toronto-Mississauga, Open Door Food Bank and both Mississauga Hospitals. They support many local charitable causes and international humanitarian projects.

In 2005, the Rotary Clubs of Mississauga celebrated the 100th anniversary of Rotary with Rotary International and Rotarians around the world. The Rotary Club of Mississauga-City Centre celebrated 25 successful years on September 14, 2005, with a dinner-dance at the Living Arts Centre. Joyce Haist is the president with 36 members.



▲ Cheque of \$10,000 to Rotary, May 13, 2004  
(Photos courtesy of Brenda Molloy-Measures)

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▲ Paul Harris  
(Rotary  
International)

### Rotary Information

The first Rotary Club was organized in 1905 by a Chicago lawyer, Paul P. Harris. It was Harris' idea that there should be an organization that would "bring together a representative of business and professional men, a club where the members might recapture the friendliness, comradeship and understanding of the small town life many of them had known as youngsters."

Paul Harris gave the organization the name of "Rotary Club," because the members met in rotation at various business locations. The first meeting was held on February 23, 1905. When the club got too big, the members began luncheon meetings at a restaurant and the pattern was established. One of the cornerstones of Rotary was to follow a classification system and allow only one businessman or professional man from each type of service to join. It was to promote understanding and fellowship among professional men.

The second club was founded in San Francisco in 1908 and then Winnipeg, Canada in 1910. By the 1920s, there were 16 clubs and the National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed. As Rotary took hold around the world, it was recognized that the organization could serve a wider purpose and various types of community betterment activities were implemented.

As of September, 2003, Rotary International is represented in 166 countries worldwide, with 529 Districts, 31,561 Clubs and 1,227,545 Rotarians.

## The Dixie GO Station - 1981

THE DIXIE GO STATION, LOCATED AT 2445 Dixie Road, with parking facilities to accommodate 400 cars, was opened on October 26, 1981, as part of the Milton Line. A one-way fare from Dixie to Union Station in Toronto was \$1.40. The ridership in 1981 on a daily basis was 309. This service, which utilized the CPR rail line, had opened as the Credit Valley Railroad in 1879 and was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1883.

The GO Transit System was officially opened in the cool of early dawn on May 23, 1967, when a small group of commuters boarded the first silver-coloured, aluminum GO Train, Number 946, east-bound to Toronto on the CNR rail line north of the Lakeshore Road.



▲ GO Transit Logo and Dixie GO Station, 2005  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



GO Transit Train and Routes  
(GO Transit)



The official opening took place with a low key ceremony, which involved politicians, dignitaries, reporters and photographers at the Oakville GO Station. Ontario Premier John Robarts and Canadian National Vice-President Douglas Gonder read the first GO Train order. This served as the opening of all the stations from Oakville to Pickering. During the first year of the provincial government-operated service, 2.5 million commuters used the line. Then GO Transit service was extended to take in the northern part of Mississauga.

In 2006, the Dixie GO Station serves up to 10,000 commuters, two-way ridership, on a daily basis. The parking area has been enlarged to handle 672 automobiles. Today an adult single ticket to Union Station costs \$4.15. Over 45 million people utilize the GO train and bus service annually. The 40th anniversary will be celebrated in 2007.

From its humble beginnings, as a single, experimental train line, GO Transit had become one of the premier transit systems in North America.

## Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church - 1983

**T**he former Dixie Public School at 2520 Dixie Road, which had been used as a Motor Vehicle Branch since 1962, was purchased by the Saint Sava Serbian Orthodox Church on June 6, 1983, from the Ministry of Government Services.

During 1984-1985, the school was renovated to accommodate a temporary chapel in the lower level. An iconostasis was designed by architect Rastko Misic and constructed by Zivan Markovic and it was consecrated on May 23, 1989. Services were held here while plans were being made to build a church north of the school site. The preliminary plans were approved by His Grace, Bishop Georgije. In 1993, Architect, Michael M. Kopsa, was given the contract to design the unique structure.



In June 1994, a ground-breaking ceremony took place. On November 26, 1995, the foundation of the new church was consecrated by Bishop Georgiji and named All Serbian Saints Serbian Orthodox Church.

◀ Father Puric  
(Photos by Serbian Orthodox Church)

AS THE ENORMOUS STRUCTURE GREW FROM GROUND LEVEL to its domed roof, the Canadian Serbian population of the Greater Toronto Area watched their long-awaited dream materializing gradually over the next few years.

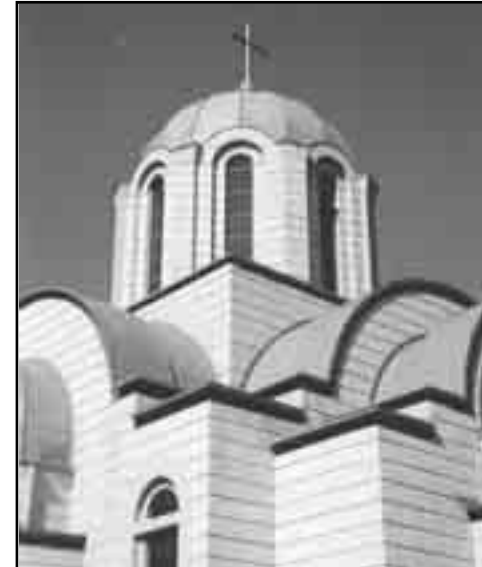
According to the church's Commemorative booklet, 2002, "The years 2000 and 2001 saw the Church take shape, inside and out. The leaded copper roof was a spectacular topping, hoisting of the main dome in April, 2001, was a crowning moment."

Then the four day opening celebration commenced on June 13, 2002, with the property overflowing with a jubilant crowd, anxious to explore the new church premises, while a choir and dancers entertained in a huge tent that kept off the heat of the sunny day.

On June 14th, the evening festivities included the Prince's Dinner. The royal couple, Prince Aleksander and Princess Katarina, were met at the Pearson Airport and driven by limousine to the new Serbian church. They were greeted with joyous cheers as they entered the Serbian Centre, where illustrious guests, dressed in tuxedos and gowns, were surrounded by decorative floral arrangements, exquisite china on elegant linens all displayed under soft candlelight. Prince Aleksander gave a poignant speech and an official greeting was extended by the mayor of Mississauga, Hazel McCallion.

As the sun rose on Saturday, June 15th, the church, wrapped in a white ribbon that encircled it, awaiting the scissors that would officially open its doors forever, looked "like a present from God." The royal couple arrived and were joined on the steps by His Grace Bishop Georgiji, and the bearded clergy in gold and white robes and crowns upon their heads. The ribbon was cut and the revered holy men led the way inside, followed by the Royal Highnesses, countless dignitaries and the joyous congregation, who had waited almost 20 years for this day.

In the words of Protopresbyter Prvoslav Puric, "Throughout the history of Serbian people, the legacy left by our ancestors has been a three-fold source of inspiration: artistic, spiritual and moral. It has shone the light of beauty, truth and goodwill over the souls of St. Sava's people, creating from them one holy group who believe in God."



(Church photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

Prince Aleksander, ▶  
Princess Katarina and  
Mayor McCallion,  
2002



## Foodpath - 1986

IN 1985, AN IDEA TO ASSIST IMPOVERISHED families with food supplies was begun by the members of three congregations, the Solel Congregation under Reverend Larry Englander, the Streetsville United Church under Victor Shepherd and Shirlee Smith of the Baha'i Community of Mississauga. After many discussions, meetings and pulling people together to work on a volunteer basis, Foodpath (Interfaith Peel Association to Tackle Hunger) was founded and incorporated in 1986.

One mover and shaker in the beginning was Professor Desmond Morton of the University of Toronto, Erindale Campus. Desmond is now Hiram Mills Professor of History at McGill University.

In the spring of 1986, Foodpath started operating a food bank out of a small basement room near Lakeshore Road and Hurontario Street, and then moved to a 6,000 square foot (560 m<sup>2</sup>) industrial mall facility at 600 Orwell Street. The first president of Foodpath was Earl Reidy.

Along the way, Pathway Community Development Inc., a non-profit group, was formed to build multi-family dwellings. The volunteers worked for both organizations, but then Pathway broke away to operate on its own. There are two completed locations, a 126-unit apartment building at Ridgeway and Collegeway and a second building at Hurontario and Dundas Streets.



▲ The Beginning (Mississauga News)

**F**oodpath, Mississauga's largest food bank/distribution program, relocated to a 10,000 square foot (930 m<sup>2</sup>) facility at 2550 Goldenridge Road, Unit 36, in 2000. It is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and Wednesday evening 4:30 to 7:30. Anne Hunter, the Executive Director, works with six other staff and a volunteer base of 120 individuals weekly.

Foodpath's function is to provide an emergency supply of nutritionally balanced food to approximately 6,000 Mississauga residents monthly. Also on its agenda is supplementing four other food banks in Mississauga and providing supplies to nearly 30 non-profit organizations such as homeless shelters, abuse shelters, Peel literacy, soup kitchens, a prenatal and nutrition program for needy, pregnant women and supplying 4,500 meals monthly to three children's breakfast programs in the city.

Many awards have been received by this important and necessary organization such as the Chairman's Award from the Recycling Council of Ontario in 1997 and the Region of Peel's Award of Merit for 3R's Development.



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▲ Lorraine Hemond (Administrator) and Dawn Pullar (Director of Operations) stock shelves at the Foodpath Facility (Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Stage West Hotel and Theatre - 1986

The Stage West Hotel and Theatre Restaurant opened to rave reviews on November 26, 1986. The \$5 million theatre complex introduced a unique product to Mississauga, combining a dinner buffet with a professional theatre presentation that featured name performers such as Mickey Rooney, Jamie Farr, George Segal, Elliott Gould, William Christopher, Joyce Dewitt and Helen Reddy.

The Stage West concept was launched in 1975 in the Mayfield Inn in Edmonton, Alberta, by the Pechet family. They had investigated dinner theatres throughout the United States to implement similar theatres in Canada. The original plan was to bring in light comedy productions and musicals with top headliners from television or stage fame. Each production would run approximately ten weeks. The patrons would enjoy dinner and then be treated to a theatre production. Their idea was so well received in Edmonton that another dinner-theatre was opened in Calgary. Then Mississauga was blessed with one that became known as, "Stage West-Home of the Stars."



▲ Stage West Hotel and Theatre

◀ Stage West Brochure

THE STAGE WEST OWNER AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, Howard Pechet, purchased a former warehouse on Dixie Road and turned it into a 436-seat theatre. The theatre was designed with tiered and ramped seating and spacious booths and tables that allowed a clear view of the stage. The self-serve buffet consisted of every delicacy in three courses, salads, the entree of beef, chicken, seafood, and decadent desserts. The theatre employed over 100 people, including a manager, director, set designers, lighting and sound technicians, and costume designers.

Shortly after the theatre opened in 1986 with "Social Security" starring Tammy Grimes, a 146-seat balcony was added. The Pechets' vision was enhanced in October 1990, when they constructed a 224-room hotel, featuring luxurious suites, the Haida Garden Café and

Lounge, an indoor pool with a three-storey waterslide, a fitness centre and convention facilities that would accommodate up to 600 people.

Several events were added throughout the year to give more variety for the guests, such as the annual Lobster and Seafood Festival, Stage West for Kids, and special Monday night music presentations. For a little nostalgia, some of the special concerts offered have included The Four Lads, The Ink Spots, The Mills Brothers and The Four Aces, with tributes to Elvis, the Beatles, Liberace and Glenn Miller.

According to General Manager Muhammed (Mo) Huq, the biggest achievement to date is being named Hotel of the Year for 2002, by the Greater Toronto Hotel Association, the first for an independent hotel in the GTA. "We are proud of our staff and the quality of service we provide," says Mo. "Our staff treat our guests like family and that

combined with our unique facility brings guests back again and again. Our mission statement is to exceed our guest's expectations."

In 2006, the Stage West All-Suite Hotel and Theatre Restaurant, 5400 Dixie Road, is still owned by Pechet and Investors and has nearly 350 full and part-time employees. The theatre still offers five productions a year with over 300,000 people, including 8,500 season subscribers, attending each year. During this year, three benchmark anniversaries will be celebrated: the 20th anniversary of the theatre, the 15th anniversary of the hotel and the 100th production. Stage West has become the largest and most successful dinner-theatre chain in Canada and the hotel frequently ranks amongst the top three in hotel occupancy in the area of the Pearson Airport.



▲ Stage West Hotel and Theatre



▲ General Manager Mo Huq and Philip Brown, Minister of Tourism P.E.I.



◀ Interior of Hotel Lobby  
(Photos courtesy of Stage West)



▲ Pat Harrington in "Breaking Legs," 1994

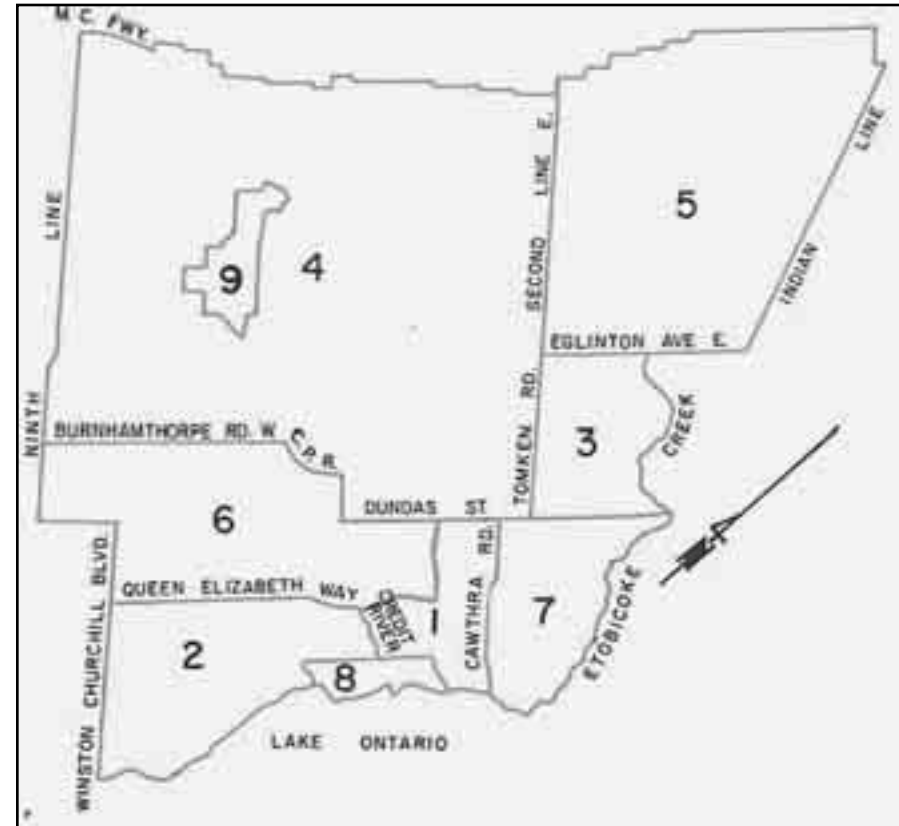
## Wards

THE BALDWIN ACT, SET OUT BY THE province on May 30, 1849, laid the foundation of the municipal system of Canada West/Ontario and established the principal of responsible government in Canada. Robert Baldwin was the joint premier of the United Canadas under the LaFontaine-Baldwin Administration, 1848-1851.

When it was confirmed that Toronto Township would be incorporated as of January 1, 1850, a special meeting of the Home District Council in Toronto was held on October 2, 1849, to pass By-law No. 220 that divided the Township into five wards, which were designated according to the Baldwin Act 12, Victoria Chapter 81. The power of the province's role varied over time.

At incorporation, the township council was granted the authority to hold municipal elections and in those days, elections were carried out yearly on the first Monday in January when the five councillors were voted for. The councillors then chose the reeve and deputy reeve.

In 1867 at Confederation, the ward system for the election of reeve, two deputy reeves and two councillors was first established. In 1876, the deputy reeves were referred to as 1st and 2nd. In 1899 the deputies were dropped until a deputy reeve was added again in 1907.



▲ Ward Map of the new City of Mississauga, 1974

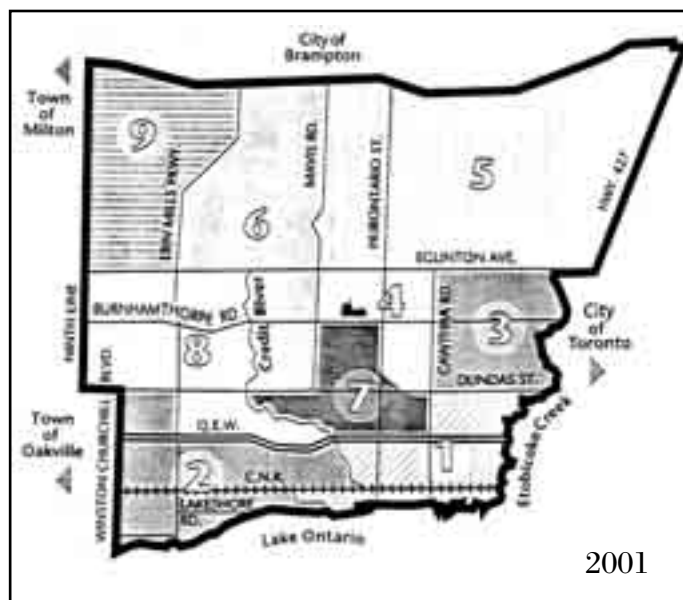
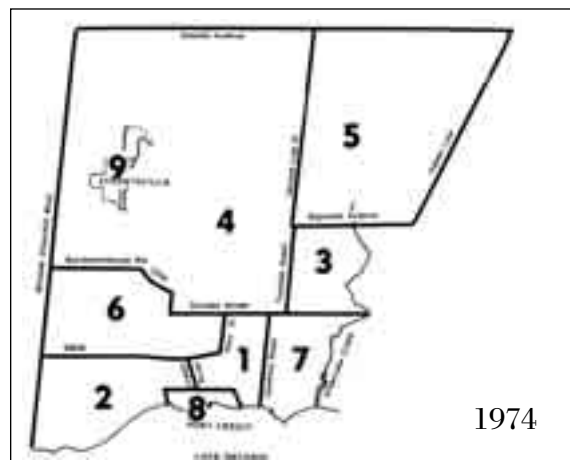
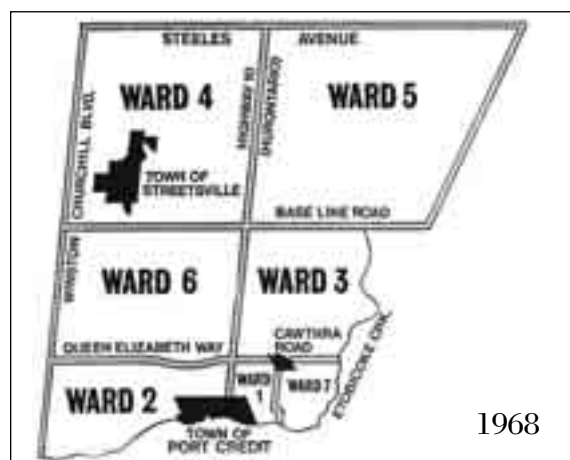
The electoral system changed in 1900 and in the first council meeting of the year, the councillors were listed, then they were given the supervision of roads and bridges in five divisions. Wards were not mentioned. In 1910 the electoral system was changed again to 1st deputy reeve and 2nd deputy reeve, with each gentleman handling a division. In 1923 a 3rd deputy reeve was added with each still handling councillor duties; in 1932 the council went in back to reeve, deputy reeve and three councillors.

The divisions stayed the same until 1951 when an Act of Legislation brought in a new voting system and five new wards were laid out and five councillors were elected along with a reeve and deputy reeve, who were taken off councillor duties. Erindale, Cooksville and Dixie were in Ward 3, the only ward to stretch from west to east across the Township. A change again took place in 1959 when it was decided to make seven wards, which became official in January 1960, Robert Speck's first year as reeve. Since that time the wards have been changed in 1970, 1974, 1977, 1983, 1990, 2001 and 2005, as urbanization dictated. Each time the Wards changed they were established by municipal by-laws.

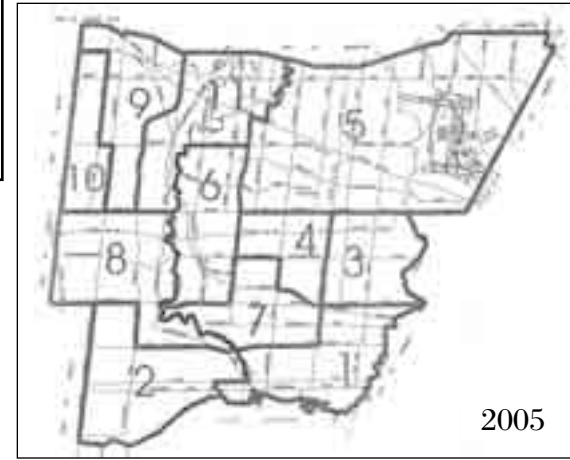
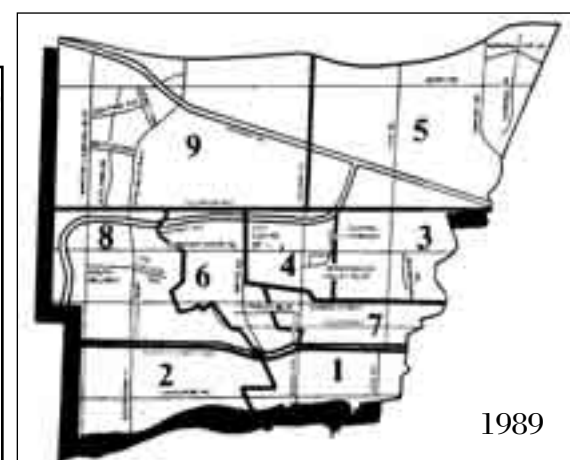
In 1961, municipal elections began to be carried out every two years; 1968 with the founding of the town of Mississauga, the Council

consisted of the first mayor, a reeve and deputy reeve and seven councillors. In 1971, a three year term was put into effect. In 1974 when the city of Mississauga was established, a mayor and nine councillors were on council, with Port Credit being Ward 8 and Streetsville Ward 9. In 1977, it returned to two terms; in 1979, it again went to three, which it remains today. In 2005, two wards were added.

As the Wards were changed since the Town of Mississauga was formed on January 1, 1968, Dixie was included in Wards 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7: 1968, Wards 3 and 5; 1974, Wards 3, 5, 7; 1991, Wards 3, 5, 7; 2001, Wards 1, 3, 5. The councillors, who have covered this area are: Caye Killaby, Frank McKechnie, Bud Gregory, Ron Searle, Maja



Ward Changes From  
1968 to 2005  
(City of Mississauga)





▲ Caye Killaby,  
Ward 4



▲ Frank McKechnie,  
Ward 5



▲ Bud Gregory,  
Ward 3



▲ Ron Searle,  
Ward 7



▲ Maja Prentice,  
Ward 3



▲ Nando Iannicca,  
Ward 7



▲ Carmen Corbasson,  
Ward 1



▲ Eve Adams,  
Ward 5

(Photos courtesy of the Mississauga News)

# Parks

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Allison's Park  
575 Willowbank Trail  
3.46 ha (8.55 a)

Applewood Heights  
3119 Constitution Blvd.  
3.51 ha (8.67 a)

Applewood Hills  
1204 Bloor Street  
26.23 ha (64.81 a)

Applewood North Park  
1280 Melton Drive  
0.76 ha (1.88 a)

Beechwood Park  
4139 Ottewell Crescent  
2.39 ha (5.91 a)

Bloor Athletic Park  
830 Lexicon Drive  
7.71 ha (19.05 a)

Bough Beeches Park  
1780 Bough Beeches Blvd.  
1.52 ha (3.76 a)

Burnhamdale Park  
3316 Cardross Road  
2.45 ha (6.05 a)

Cedarbrook Park  
1095 Running Brook Drive  
1.33 ha (3.29 a)

Cherry Hill Park  
828 Flagship Drive  
1.6 ha (3.95 a)

Constitution Park  
3025 Constitution Blvd.  
0.1 ha (0.25 a)

Coram Park  
1795 Coram Crescent  
0.94 ha (2.32 a)

Dixie Woods  
1385 Winding Trail  
1.93 ha (4.77 a)

Etobicoke Valley  
1810 Mattawa Avenue  
12.88 ha (31.83 a)

Fleetwood Park  
2000 Burnhamthorpe Road East  
13.68 ha (33.80 a)

Forest Glen Park  
3545 Fieldgate Drive  
3.45 ha (8.75 a)

Fred Halliday Memorial  
Park  
2187 Stir Crescent  
1.8 ha (4.45 a)

Garnetwood Park  
1996 Rathburn Road East  
17.75 ha (43.86 a)

Golden Orchard Park  
1261 Scottsburg Crescent  
2.19 ha (5.41 a)

Gulleden Park  
1500 Gulleden Drive  
5.06 ha (12.50 a)

Hawkins Glen Park  
2970 Rymal Road  
2.33 ha (5.76 a)

Hickory Green Park  
4252 Hickory Drive  
2.08 ha (5.14 a)

Jaycee Park  
1520 Gulleden Drive  
1.28 ha (3.16 a)

Kennedy Park  
3505 Golden Orchard Drive  
2.48 ha (6.13 a)

Laughton Park  
1519 Sherway Drive  
2.59 ha (6.40 a)

Max Ward Park  
2380 Matheson Blvd. East  
5.66 ha (13.99 a)

Rathwood District Park  
1095 Rathburn Road East  
7.38 ha (18.24 a)

Shaver Trail  
4070 Ponytail Drive  
3.48 ha (8.60 a)

Shelby Park  
4220 Shelby Crescent  
1.77 ha (4.37 a)

Silverthorn Park  
377 Cawthra Road  
2.22 ha (5.49 a)

Rockwood Glen Park  
4247 Hartfield Grove  
1.73 ha (4.27 a)

Westacres Park  
2166 Westfield Drive  
2.96 ha (7.36 a)

Willowcreek Park  
3115 Sunnyhill Drive  
8.5 ha (21 a)

Wood Creek Park  
4333 Garnerwood Chase  
11.4 ha (28.17 a)

(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Oldest Building

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232

- ▲ Copeland House, 1050 Burnhamtorpe Road  
Built in the 1820s (City of Mississauga Community Services)

## Dixie's Historical Buildings

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233

▲ The Clarkson/Clarke House 2240 Dixie Road  
Built in the 1850s and 1920s (City of Mississauga Community Services)



▲ *Former Graham-Stewart House, 775 Dundas Street East  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)*

**The Hector Death House**

2116 Dixie Road  
Built in 1912

**Dixie Presbyterian Church**

3065 Cawthra Road  
Built in 1910

**Dixie Schoolhouse**

2520 Dixie Road  
Built in 1923

**Dixie Union Chapel**

707 Dundas Street East  
Built in 1837

**The Former Gill Store**

3661 Dixie Road  
Built by Fred Gill, 1912

**The Garnett Goddard House**

2265 Stanfield Road

**Graham-Stewart House**

775 Dundas Street East

**The Graham House**

871 North Service Road

**The Hedges House**

915 North Service Road

**The Leaver/Kline House**

2196 Stanfield Road

**The George Leaver House**

2169 Stanfield Road

**Leaverleigh Farms Office**

2170 Stanfield Road

**Lloyd Leaver House**

2199 Stanfield Road

**Leaver Staff House**

2183 Stanfield Road  
All built in the 1950s

**Moore-Stanfield House**

1295 Burnhamthorpe Road  
Built by Samuel Moore, 1889

**St. John the Baptist Anglican Church**

719 Dundas Street East  
Built in 1924

**Lloyd Stanfield House**

2250 Stanfield Road

**Stanfield House**

2263 Stanfield Road

**The Stewart House**

835 North Service Road

**Tonolli Canada Offices**

2414 Dixie Road

**Other Interesting Houses**

**Murray House**

839 Duchess Drive

849 Duchess Drive

865 Dundas Street East

883 Dundas Street East

2315 Loreland Avenue

1077 North Service Road

1345 North Service Road

2170 Stanfield Road



▲ *Former Lloyd Leaver House, 2199 Stanfield Road*

2247 Stanfield Road

2265 Stanfield Road

2303 Stanfield Road

3535 Tomken Road

### Other Heritage Sites

#### The Burnhamthorpe Cemetery

3700 Dixie Road  
Established 1832

2315 Loreland Avenue ▶



▲ Former George Leaver House, 2169 Stanfield Road

(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

#### Dixie Union Church Cemetery

Established in 1812

#### Middle Road Bridge

Built in 1909  
Constructed by O. L. Hicks

#### St. Mary's Dormition Ukrainian Catholic Church

3625 Cawthra Road  
Built in 1975



▲ Former Stewart House, 835 North Service Road



▲ Former Stanfield House,  
2263 Stanfield Road



▲ former Leaver Leigh Farm Office,  
2170 Stanfield Road



▲ former Leaver House,  
2196 Stanfield Road



▲ The Graham House  
871 North Service Road

## The Oldest Person

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▲ Dorothy Clare Clarke

**D**orothy Clare was born to George and Nellie Clare in 1913 in Moira, Hastings County. In this small community, she attended a rural public school and went on to high school in nearby Tweed. She then went to normal school in Toronto, where she received her teaching certificate.

Her first teaching job was at S. S. #16 in Sidney Township. This school had primitive conditions with a wood stove and an outhouse. A position in the two-room school at Thomasburg followed.

IN 1938, SHE HEARD OF A TEACHING VACANCY IN TORONTO Township at the Dixie Public School on Dixie Road. She put in her application and was accepted by the school board.

She managed to find lodging at the home of Mrs. Roy Pallett and family. The three room schoolhouse was the best she had ever worked in. She taught grades 4, 5 and 6, with around 20 children to a class. The principal was Mr. C. E. VanHorn.

In 1939, when Principal VanHorn went to serve in the Second World War, Dorothy took over his responsibilities.

The following year, she met Norman Clarke through Don and Alice Pallett. Two years later, they were married in the Clarke family's garden. They would have Victor in 1947 and in 1950, Norma, who would give them two granddaughters, Janice and Kristen, and a great granddaughter, Anna Joy.

The Clarkes belonged to the Bethesda United Church in Summerville. They were quite involved in the church's activities. Dorothy was on the Christian Development and Worship Committee and the United Church Women and Ladies Fellowship Group. She also taught Sunday school and sang in the choir.



▲ Clarke Family Home (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ The Clarkes, 1942



Dorothy's in-laws, William and Lydia Clarke, had bought property on Dixie Road in 1919. It had a stone house on it that had been built for William Clarkson, who had purchased 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 6, Con.1, SDS, in 1853. They added on to the house at 2240 Dixie Road. William died in 1934 and Norman and Dorothy lived with Lydia until she passed away in 1961. Dorothy lost her beloved Norman in 1992.

Most of Dorothy's involvement with the church was dropped over time. When the congregation joined the Applewood United Church in 2003, Dorothy did as well. She is still involved with the Friendship and Visiting Committee and does telephoning on a weekly basis to several people who are shut-ins.

Her heritage home on Dixie Road is a beautiful one-storey house, surrounded by gardens, especially roses, which are her favourite. Besides gardening, she also enjoys playing bridge with friends.



▲ Dorothy and Norman Clarke (Dorothy Clarke)

## Longest Married Couple

**Z**arina (Rina) Soule and Pralhad Robin Kukde first met at a student Christian conference in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1941. Robin was born in Bombay in 1918 and Rina in the central part of India in 1922 into a family of seven children. Her father was a Methodist minister.

As a recipient of international and graduate scholarships, Rina moved to Michigan in 1946 to attend Michigan State University to complete her master's degree. It was there that she and Robin began their courtship. Robin was studying engineering at Hartford, Connecticut, and he travelled to Michigan every weekend to see Rina.

During her summer vacations, Rina visited several churches and different organizations across America and gave lectures on India. During their two-year courtship, she and Robin also won a dance contest in tango and waltz at the Bond Hotel in Hartford.



▲ Zarina and Robin Kukde's Wedding, 1948

THEY WERE MARRIED AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL AND St. Andrew (Methodist) in New York City on March 28, 1948, with many of their American and Indian friends in attendance. Reverend James K. Mathews, who was a missionary from India, performed the ceremony. According to tradition, Rina wore a sensational sari and exquisite jewellery sent to her by Robin's family.

They spent a six-week honeymoon travelling through Europe. They returned to Bombay, India, in 1949, where Robin pursued his career as a mechanical and electrical engineer for Machine Tools India Limited and Rina worked as a product manager for Lever Brothers, a job she held for 14 years. Robin went on to become a branch manager for IBM.



#### ▲ Dating in 1946

They immigrated to Canada in 1967 with their daughter, Mohini Pamela. Once they were settled in their new homeland, they both pursued careers in education. They moved to Mississauga in 1968. Rina became a high school teacher and Robin a teacher and college professor. He retired in 1985 and Rina in 1989. Pamela pursued her graduate and doctoral training in psychology on national scholarships. She has worked as a psychotherapist, college teacher and consumer advocate.

In 1998, Rina and Robin celebrated their 50th anniversary with family and friends. They have now been married 58 years and are looking forward to many more. Rina is the president of The Applewood Seniors Club.

#### Rina and Robin celebrate 50 Years ▶

(Photos courtesy of Rina Kukde)



#### ▲ Rina receives Mississauga Senior Citizen of the Year Award, 2003



## SMALL VILLAGES AND HAMLETS

Because of the success in producing *Clarkson and its Many Corners*, this author is writing a ten-book series to cover the entire history of the city of Mississauga. This is the fifth book in the series. Dixie, first called Sydenham, was the first community to spring up in Toronto Township as the settlers came in along the rutted trail of Dundas Street in 1806-07 and took up their land grants. Harrisville, which became Cooksville, followed, then Clarkson in 1808 and the area that would be called Lakeview in 1922.

With the Second Purchase of 1818, Streetsville, Meadowvale and Malton were founded. When the Mississauga Indians surrendered their mile (1.6 kilometre) on either side of the Credit River in 1820, Springfield (Erindale) came about and Port Credit in 1834. These nine major areas make up nine of the books. The tenth will be on how our streets were named.

Throughout Toronto Township, small villages and hamlets sprang up, mostly at the four corners of inter-changing roadways. These small communities were usually located at a crossroads hamlet, an intersection that had a small store, a tavern, school and church and was named for the resident or inhabitant who was industrious in his community and had most of the land, which he usually donated a portion of for a school or church.

When the pioneers first trekked the newly opened Toronto Township, it was a rolling sea of tall trees. Bears, wolves, deer, racoons, birds and squirrels roamed the countryside. From the arrival of the first settlers until their deaths, the early pioneers saw very little progress. Massive urbanization did not take place until after World War II (1939-1945).

In the next ten years, a surge of industrial development and infiltration of housing construction occurred.



▲ Location of Elmbank and Richview  
(Region of Peel Archives)

In the beginning there was just the agricultural era, whereby Toronto Township farmers wanted only to have a prosperous functioning farm to sustain their families and supply the community to allow further growth and prosperity and profit somewhat from the labour of their enterprise. Community and church were the only socializing encounters with their neighbours. Gradually their village grew with a school, mills, stores and small businesses, which completed their initial vision.

One small hamlet in the Dixie area was Pucky Huddle, noted as “a rough and tough place,” hence its name, derived from the Irish word “puck” meaning “a blow,” which was located at the intersection of



▲ Pucky Huddle Lager Beer Wagon (William Pinkney)

Second Line (Tomken Road) and the Back Line (Burnhamthorpe Road). It was named for a hotel on the northwest corner of Lot 9, Con.1, NDS. There were several spellings for this small, but memorable four corners community, such as Puggy Huddle, Puckey Huddle and Puckihuddle. It was also referred to as Puddle Huddle, which got its name from the muddy state of the roads. The hotel was a favourite stopover place for farmers making their trek by horse and wagon into the Toronto markets. Thomas Gilleece had purchased one acre (0.4 ha) from Hugh Doherty on March 30, 1847, and built a hotel. Thomas’ son, John J. Gilleece (b.1843, d.1888), was licenced there from 1869 to 1872. Thomas died in 1882 and his wife, Mary, sold the hotel to Patrick “Patsy” Herbert in 1895 for \$570. Over the years, the hotel had many activities, one being cock-fighting and people would come from miles around to participate. Patsy Herbert had been the toll-gatekeeper at Third Line (Dixie Road). His son, Edward, brought birds from Toronto, conspicuously hidden in barrels. The cock-fights were carried out in the barn adjacent to the hotel and were entertainment for the elite, both men and women, who were garbed in evening-wear. According to patron Fred Hollis, the barmaid had golden hair like the sun and eyes “stolen from heaven.”

The area was also prominent for the red clay bricks that were produced in the area by George Tolman, who made them by hand. His bricks went into the building of the Kennedy’s Atlantic Hotel.

Two small villages north of Dixie were Richview and Elmbank, which had a post office established in 1873 with John Truman as postmaster.

It is only fitting then that these small villages, interspersed throughout the vast countryside of Toronto Township (Mississauga), be recognized. So in this series of histories is a homage to these small communities that were big in their

day. In this book, it is Burnhamthorpe and Summerville that became thriving communities that like many others have disappeared to be remembered only by people who were born there.



▲ Tolman House

# Burnhamthorpe

**T**he small four corners hamlet Sandy Hill, at the Third Line (Dixie Road) crossing, was founded around 1820. The area took in parts of Lots 5 and 6, Con.1 and 2, NDS.

The Back Line was put through shortly before the first settlers arrived. It ran between the first and second concessions, north of Dundas Street. When a post office was opened in 1862, a postal conflict with Sandhill in Chinguacousy Township occurred, so it was renamed Burnhamthorpe Village at the suggestion of John Abelson, who hailed from Burnham Thorpe, England, which was Lord Horatio Nelson's (b.1758, d.1805) English birthplace as well. The Back Line was renamed Burnhamthorpe Road.



▲ Burnhamthorpe Village

THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH, THE FIRST METHODIST church in the area, was constructed of wood around 1830, situated south of Burnhamthorpe Road, Lot 6, Con.1, NDS. It was part of the Brampton church circuit from 1838 to 1844, Etobicoke 1844-1872, Malton, 1872-1913, Cooksville, 1913-1925 and Dixie Bethesda, 1925-1949. The circuit minister was sent out to perform the services.



▲ Burnhamthorpe United Church



Burnham Thorpe Church. (Inset: Lord Nelson)

When a more substantial red brick church was constructed and dedicated on October 25, 1874, the frame church was turned into a residence. Samuel Moore kindly donated the land on the northwest corner for the new church, Lot 6, Con.2, NDS. The trustees were William Carr, Simon Elliott, Thomas Jefferson, Joseph Siddall and George Savage. In 1884, three Methodist bodies of Canada amalgamated to form the Methodist Church and this Dixie church became the



▲ Reverend  
A. E. Owen

Burnhamthorpe Methodist Church. In 1925, the Methodists, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches joined to found the United Church of Canada and the church's name was changed to the Burnhamthorpe United Church. Burnhamthorpe became a separate charge in 1949 and Reverend A. E. Owen was the first pastor. The ministers changed over the years.



▲ Reverend  
Garnet W. Lynd

Reverend Owen left in 1951; Garnet W. Lynd handled 1951-1955; Harold V. Andrews, 1955-1957; Joseph W. Stewart arrived in 1958. In 1950, a Sunday school auditorium was added to the church, which was under the supervision of Mrs. R. Scott and Mrs. E. McFadyen. The activities included concerts, young people's groups, Women's Auxiliary meetings and fundraising events, the Junior Teen Town,



▲ Girl Guides (White Oaks Area Guides)

Cubs, Scouts and Girl Guides and choir practice. The church closed in 1978 and was sold. It has been used by other denominations for years. It still stands today, hugging Dixie Road at its very outer walls as the road widening in 1956 closed in on its space.



▲ Burnhamthorpe Cemetery

A fair was held for the residents in 1832 on Lot 6, Con.2, NDS. It was an opportunity for the people from the area to congregate and enjoy the fun a fair entails. That same year, the pioneer Burnhamthorpe Cemetery was established as part of the Primitive Methodist Church and it was located on the southwest

corner of the intersection on land donated in 1825 by Levi Lewis, who had owned the north part of Lot 6, since 1811. Many of the early residents are buried there. The headstones have been recorded by the Halton-Peel Branch of the Ontario Genealogy Society.

The Sons of Temperance built a hall in 1840, located on the west side of Dixie Road below the cemetery, where church services and Orange Lodge meetings were also held. It was closed down in 1874 and James Curry purchased two buildings, including the hall, which he turned into a store and post office with living accommodations. The other building was transformed into a feed mill. In 1894, Curry, who moved to his farm, rented out these facilities to Fred Gill for \$5 a month until 1898. He returned to the village and the store was closed and became his residence. Then in 1913, he sold the buildings that sat on one acre (0.4 ha) for \$1,000 to Robert Stanfield (of the pioneer Stanfield family of Dixie), who did some reconstructing and turned the stone mill into a dance hall. He held Saturday night dances in the old mill, much to the delight of the villagers who loved to kick up their heels and have a good time. It was a popular place of much camaraderie and fond memories were made during those years. He also grew mushrooms in the basement of the dance hall, even in the wintertime. He was a very enterprising businessman taking his wares as far as outlets in Toronto. In 1927, these buildings were destroyed by a fire, when some local children were playing with matches.

Then the Stanfield family moved to live in the old brick Dixie schoolhouse on the east side of First Line (Dixie Road), which had been left vacant in 1923 when a new school was built below Dundas on the west side of Dixie Road. This multi-coloured brown brick school was closed down when yet another school was built in Applewood Heights in 1963. It was leased by the Ministry of Transportation for its Motor Vehicles Branch until July 1982, when the ministry was relocated to the John Rhodes Centre on Airport Road in Brampton. The 83-year-old building is now owned by the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Robert's brother, Richard, had a butcher business and operated out of a slaughter house on his property east of Dixie Road, south of the post office. He would buy cattle, kill and butcher them and then sell the beef to his regular customers and the local grocery stores.

Robert's cousin, Joseph Stanfield (1846-1919), put up a brick two-storey house in 1897 on the northwest corner of Dixie and Burnhamthorpe Roads. Fred Gill rented it for \$10 a month in 1898 and used the front for a store and post office. He and his



▲ *Joseph Stanfield House*

family resided there until 1912. It was then rented out as a residence until it went under the wrecker's ball to make way for the widening of the roadways in 1956. A Shell service station sits on the property today. One of the Stanfield houses is still at the corner of Burnhamthorpe Road and Hickory Drive, a red and yellow brick built in 1882 by Samuel Moore (1831-1911) that has a rustic stone barn in the rear. The original Moore house at this location burned down and this Gothic Revival style one-and-a-half-storey brick house replaced it. Moore had purchased the John Day grant from James Smith in 1854 for \$2,700. He was considered to be a land speculator, who owned many acres throughout Peel County. Samuel



▲ *Former Moore-Stanfield House, 2006*  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



sold the house to his sister Isabella's (1842-1917) husband, Joseph Stanfield, in 1886 for \$15,500. When Joseph, who was the son of Thomas, the original Stanfield to come to Dixie, passed away in 1919, his son, William (1875-1953), inherited the house. The Stanfields are buried in the Burnhamthorpe Cemetery. William and his wife, Minnie, raised their family there. It is the only surviving 19th-century farmhouse left of the former Burnhamthorpe Village located at 1295 Burnhamthorpe Road. It was designated a heritage house by the City of Mississauga on August 24, 1989, when it was still owned by William's daughter, Irene E. Stanfield, who now lives in Etobicoke. She sold it in 1990 and it is now an insurance office.

One of the village's first blacksmiths was George Savage, who had arrived in Canada as an infant with his family in 1830. He was very community-minded and belonged to the Orange Order, was active in politics and did a stint on the Toronto Township council. He also had

a colony of bees on his property that brought people from miles (kilometers) around to see them. George and his brother, James, were partners in an agricultural implement shop. Shortly after George got married, James moved to Mount Charles. George's son, James, followed in his father's footsteps and took up the blacksmith trade, which petered out when automobiles came on the scene in the early 1900s.



▲ Dr. Moses Aikens

The first physician in Burnhamthorpe Village was Dr. Moses Henry Aikens, (1832-1921, practiced 1838-1921) who was taking care of patients as early as 1858, when the village had 100 residents. He came from an Irish family, who had settled in Toronto Township in 1820. When William Park Carr first arrived in 1840, he worked for the doctor's family as farm manager. The Aikens' farm was 200 acres (81 ha) of Lot 3, Con.2, NDS, that had a magnificent brick house on it. Carr drove Dr. Aikens on his rounds, taking him by buggy in the summer and cutter in winter. He was employed on the Aikens



▲ Dr. Moses Aikens beside his Surgery at the Rear of his House (Joy Death)



▲ Dr. Moses Aikens Driveway, Burnhamthorpe Road

farm for 40 years, then he bought a farm of his own, around 40 acres (16 ha) of Lot 4, Con.1, NDS.

Dr. Aikens died on December 19, 1921. The Aikens' farm was passed down in the family until it was sold in 1963 to Jack Ryrie.

Then Dr. William Henry Groves, who had been born in Toronto on March 25, 1865, followed as the local physician. He received his licence to practice medicine in 1889 and came to Burnhamthorpe in

1891. He married Ethel Grace Birkett. He served the community until 1920 when he moved his practice to Dixie, where he practised until he passed away on April 27, 1926. Dr. Groves and his wife are buried in the Dixie Union Cemetery. It was said of him that he gave generously of his services to mankind during his lifetime and made many friends who anxiously attended him in his last illness.



▲ Dr. William Groves' Gravestone  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

A Pat Gallagher ran a tavern in Burnhamthorpe, as did Thomas Whitesides, who received a licence in 1843. In 1844, the tavern was transferred to Thomas Johnson. The post office was opened on February 1, 1862, with George Savage as postmaster. By 1870, the 100 resident hamlet boasted a tavern, a general store, a post office, a



▲ The Gill Store and Post Office

blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse built in 1862, a wagon maker, a shoemaker, a Sons of Temperance Hall and the Burnhamthorpe Methodist Church. The Gill family came to Canada from Kenilworth, England, in 1873 and settled in Springfield (Erindale). Then they moved to Burnhamthorpe. Fred Gill got a job working at James Curry's grocery store on the east side of Third Line (Dixie Road). Fred married Ann Copeland in 1892 and he took on the job of local rural mailman, which included carrying the mail from the train station to the Burnhamthorpe, Cooksville and Dixie post offices. In 1912, Fred purchased the southeast corner, which had two houses on it. He built a store next door. He is credited with putting in the first gas pumps in 1915. In 1925, it was put under the management of Fred's son, George, and his wife, Annie. A service station was



▲ Fred and Jean Gill

built on the Gill property at the southeast corner of Burnhamthorpe and Dixie Roads and it became a Texaco outlet, which after many years of serving the public became a Petro station in 1985. When Dixie Road was widened in 1957, the store was moved back and renovated with a flat roof, new entrance and modern interior. George and Annie ran it until 1973 when George passed away. Annie died in 1976. Their two sons, Russell and Fred, took over, carrying on family tradition. "Gills Groceteria" was a well known location to shop in the district of Burnhamthorpe. The Gill family sold the store, which sat on two acres

blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse built in 1862, a wagon maker, a shoemaker, a Sons of Temperance Hall and the Burnhamthorpe Methodist Church.

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Burnhamthorpe Public School  
1862, 1883, 1950



(Photos courtesy of The Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Burnhamthorpe School Class

(0.8 ha), to Domenico Cristiano on February 22, 1977. The Cristianos are still operating their business, Aurora Meat & Cheese Ltd. (2006). After Fred Gill Jr. died on January 12, 1999, the gas station property was sold to the Cristiano family and the service station was torn down in 2000.

A new Burnhamthorpe Public School S. S. # 8 was built in 1883 with Maggie Robertson as the first teacher at a salary of \$300. Some teachers down through the years were: Janet Carter, 1885-1888; Nellie Gray, 1894-1899; Josephine Lowe, 1905-1906; Mary Bonham,



▲ Burnhamthorpe Branch Library  
and Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)



1915-1917; Mrs. McCormack, 1919. In 1902 an acre (0.2 ha) was added to the school property for \$200 and another acre in 1914 for \$1,000 and a small portion in 1928 for \$300. The school was closed in December 1950, when a larger school was built at 3465 Golden Orchard Drive.

In the early 1950s, developers started to move in and built subdivisions. In the 1960s, the population soared to 8,000 with the residential growth of single-family homes. The Burnhamthorpe Branch Library, 1350 Burnhamthorpe Road, was constructed in 1976 on Lot 6, Con.1, NDS, and was officially opened by Mayor Martin Dobkin on October 3rd. In 2003, the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre, which opened in 1974 at 1500 Gulliden Drive, was renovated and a special opening took place on October 2, 2004, with Mayor Hazel McCallion officiating.

Today, Burnhamthorpe is only remembered by the cemetery at 3700 Dixie Road, which is cared for by the Cemetery Board of Trustees, headed up by Jean Gill as president, the former United Church, the Moore-Stanfield house at 1295 Burnhamthorpe Road and the former Gill store, now Aurora Meat & Cheese Ltd., at 3661 Dixie Road, operated by the Cristiano family. But most of the local residents have no idea of their historical value to the former four corners community.



▲ Police Chief  
Garnet McGill  
(Gerry Lancaster)

## NEWS ITEM Shotgun Blast Kills District Boy

An excursion for two Toronto Township teenage hunters, practising shooting with their new guns, turned into a pathetic tragedy on Sunday at Burnhamthorpe when a 16-year-old boy was killed by an accidental shotgun blast. Dead is Keith Tizzard, son of Mr. And Mrs. P. Tizzard, of Burnhamthorpe Road.

Keith and his chum, Jack Carr, 17, were practising shooting on a flock of starlings behind the barn at the Carr home. Police Chief Garnet McGill told The Port Credit Weekly the trigger of Carr's 12-gauge shotgun tangled in the sleeve of his coat and when he raised his arm the gun discharged at one foot range.

Police said Keith was shooting with a new 22 he had bought on Saturday. Half way through the shooting expedition he decided to return home and bring the new gun down to the Carr farm "to give it a try." A few minutes later the fatal accident took place.

Jack Carr ran to his father who was repairing fences a short distance away, and Mr. Carr called Dr. J. T. Speck, but the boy died within 30 minutes. Jack tried to help his friend into a nearby car, but the wounded boy could not move.

No inquest has been ordered, but Chief McGill said the incident would be discussed with Crown counsel A. G. Davis. Keith is survived by one brother.

Four cousins and two school friends acted as pallbearers on Wednesday. They were Gordon, Norman, Howard and Alfred Tizzard, Dalton Sherwin and William Pallett.

*The Port Credit Weekly*  
Wednesday, October 26, 1950

## The Gill/Cristiano Store

Fred Gill purchased the southeast corner of First Line (Dixie Road) and Burnhamthorpe, Lot 5, Con. 1, SDS, in 1912. The family moved into one of the two houses on the property and rented out the other one. Fred constructed a store in 1912 and put gas pumps in front in 1915. Some years later, a service station was put up on the extreme corner and the family operated it until 1999.



▲ Domenico "Vince" Cristiano

Fred and his wife, Ann, operated the grocery store until 1925, then their son, George, and his wife, Annie, took over the business. Gills Groceteria was a popular place to shop and they kept their customers happy and content enough to keep the store running until 1973 when George died. His sons, Russell and Fred took over and in 1977, they sold to Domenico "Vince" Cristiano (1926-2004), who was a fourth generation of butchers from Ferrandina, Matera, Italy, where the family had Cristiano's Butcher Shop. He and his wife Domenica (b.1938), whom

he married in 1958, had Michael, 1962, Thomas, 1965, and Pina, 1967. Vince had been working at Aurora Meats and Cheese Limited on College Street in Toronto since 1957.

In 1969, the family bought a house in Applewood Heights and moved to Mississauga. When they bought the Gill store, the new location at 3661 Dixie Road also carried the name Aurora. They sold the Toronto business in 1978.



◀ Domenico Cristiano  
(Cristiano Family)



▲ Aurora Meats and Cheese Limited (Kathleen A. Hicks)

With the passing of Fred Gill in 1999, the Cristianos purchased the Petro station and in 2000, they tore it down to make room for more parking for their customers.

Domenico passed away on April 15, 2004, and his children, Mike, Tom and Pina became the owners. Their brother-in-law, Ignazio, also works in the family business.

In 2007, the Cristianos will celebrate 50 years in business, and to get ready for this auspicious occasion, they will be renovating the store in 2006. The sod turning took place on April 24th with special guests, Mayor Hazel McCallion and Councillor Maja Prentice.



▲ The Aikens Family Home  
(Mississauga Library System)

▲ Dr. Moses Aikens' Estate (Joy Death)

# Summerville

SUMMERVILLE, WHICH WAS SAID TO be The Gateway to Peel, was originally called the District of Silverthorn as of the spring of 1810 when John Silverthorn (b.1762, d.1846) arrived in Etobicoke with his family. He had purchased Lot G, W and H, NDS, 400 acres (202 ha) from John Campbell, for £200 (\$500) plus two of his Niagara lots in exchange. John and his wife, Esther, had ten children, Joseph, 1785, Thomas, 1788, Aaron, 1790, Sarah, b.1793; Rebecca, 1795; George, 1798; John, 1800; Elizabeth, 1802; Jane, 1804; and Esther, 1806. Their son, Joseph, had received Lot 11, Con.1, NDS, in Toronto Township, in 1806 and had brought his new bride, Jane, to the area in April, 1807.

By the end of 1811, John had a 16 by 22 foot (4.9m x 6m) log cabin built, with a cedar shingled roof, solid board flooring and sturdy chimney, a barn

and 13 acres(5.2 ha) of cleared acreage surrounded by a strong fence. The following year, he and his son, Aaron, constructed a sawmill and gristmill of stone on the east bank of the Etobicoke Creek, north of Dundas.



◀ Aaron Silverthorn



▲ Summerville Map, 1877 and View of Summerville



A pond was established in the Etobicoke Creek to provide the power required to turn the mill's water wheel. The mill prospered and served the community for the next 60 years.

John's property became known as "The Mill Farm" in the District of Silverthorn, which was later changed to Summerville in 1851 when the post office opened. This little community extended westward across the Etobicoke Creek to take in several lots along Dundas in Toronto Township.

John's sons, Joseph, Aaron and Thomas, served in the War of 1812. Thomas was the only one injured. His injuries were a constant problem for him so he applied to the government for assistance, which



▲ *Silverthorns' Mill farm* (The Silverthorn Collection)

was not approved until September 12, 1821. Magistrate James Macaulay, a doctor, who had come to Upper Canada with Simcoe, and Judge Grant Powell, put their signatures on a paper, stating, "This is to certify that we have this day personally examined Thomas Silverthorn, private in the 1st Regiment, Norfolk Militia, who was wounded in action with the enemy at Fort Erie 27th of November, 1813. And that he is thereby rendered incapable of earning a livelihood." In 1820, he received a 200 acre (81 ha) grant as a Loyalist's son, and 300 acres (121 ha) for his war participation. He and his wife, Mary Anderson, who were married in 1814, had set up house-keeping on his father's Lot 4, Con.1, SDS, property in 1817. He established an Inn on Dundas Street, which was sold and called the Wayside Inn by Alexander Stein and then the Summerville Hotel by Robert Blanshard. With all the property in Thomas' possession, he supplied lumber for building projects in Toronto, such as Gooderham's mill in 1832, and helped in the construction of the second St. James Church in 1831. He died in September 1834, and his son, Nathaniel, inherited his properties.

Summerville's original blacksmith was John Silverthorn, who started operation in 1816 because of the demand. He was followed by Mr. George Smith in 1835, who purchased one acre (0.4 ha) with a dwelling on Lot A, Con.1, NDS, for £25 (\$63).

John Silverthorn, who had been dedicated to his small community, died in 1846. It was exactly a century since his grandfather, Oliver, had passed away. He was 84 years old. Esther, her children, 62 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren came together in sadness and despair to pay tribute to their lost patriarch.

Many carriages formed a steady procession along Dundas Street, transporting relatives and friends to the Union Church for the last rites of a faithful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, a good neighbour and true friend. A gallant and patriotic pioneer of the Toronto Township/Etobicoke area was laid to rest alongside his mother, Johanna, his son, Thomas, and other family members, following the service in the little stone chapel he had served so well. The Silverthorn Monument stands as a testament to the community-minded Silverthorn family, who contributed a tremendous amount to the future growth of Toronto Township.



▲ *Silverthorn Monument* (Kathleen A. Hicks)



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▲ Summerville Post Office

Usually the oldest son inherits the family farm, but with Joseph already well established at Cherry Hill Farm in Cooksville, and Thomas having passed away, Aaron took over the Mill Farm. He was most deserving as he had spent all his adult life working alongside his father, John. Shortly thereafter, Aaron took his oath of office to become a magistrate. The Silverthorn mill lasted until 1860, when the Etobicoke Creek's water flow diminished.

Summerville had a post office open on July 6, 1851, with James Telfer as the first postmaster. It was this year that the post offices changed from British Imperial to Canadian government control. Postage stamps were issued for the first time and envelopes were now being used. At this time, the tiny hamlet had a population of 200, a general store, a Methodist Church, two taverns, one was called The Stone Tavern, which was owned by William O'Brien, a chair factory run by Harry Umberly, and a steam gristmill. James Sabiston opened a carriage works in 1852 in a rented facility. He operated it until 1935, during which he purchased property, 1.4 acres (0.5 ha) for



▲ Bethesda Methodist Church

\$300, from Christopher Robinson in 1892. Newman Silverthorn loaned him the money. He built a new shop, house and barn and kept on with his carriages. When automobiles came on the scene at the turn of the century, he turned to making truck bodies. Other postmasters were William Ward, who owned land on the banks of the Etobicoke Creek and operated a gristmill, William O'Brien and Angus Michie. The post office lasted until May 1, 1919, when the village was on the decline.

The Silverthorns were instrumental in building the Bethesda Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1864 on Lot 2, Con.1, NDS, when half an acre (0.2 ha) was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. James Alderson for £57 (\$138). The church, which was designed by David McDowall and Robert Dorsey, had a foundation of river stone quarried from the Etobicoke Creek. Then a red brick exterior, 30 feet by 40 feet to a height of 16 feet, (9 m x 12 m x 4.9 m) with contrasting brick at the corners, some 34,000 bricks in all at a cost of \$152, and eaves and eight Gothic windows. James Vokes was the mason and he was paid

\$260 for his work. Much of the work was done on a volunteer basis so the church cost \$800 to build. The first minister was Reverend James Greener and the first trustees were: Robert Dorsey, William Clarkson, William and Charles Shaver, James Walker, William Watson and Isaac Willcox.

The Methodists, of the early York-Toronto Circuit, had been having services for many years, holding them in Summerville and Sydenham (Dixie) homes. From 1848 to 1925, the church was in the Cooksville circuit; 1925-1950, the Bethesda (Dixie) United Church of Forest Glen, and 1950, Bethesda.

Mrs. Elizabeth Clarkson looked after a girl's group and they would put on plays for the congregation. One was called, "Mary made some Marmalade." There was a great social life that revolved around the church. The ladies were very competitive in their cooking and baking. They were always trying to outdo one another in serving new dishes and in their baking endeavours. Walter Laughton ran the boys group called the Trail Rangers. There was a Young People's Society. Elizabeth's son, Grant Clarkson, who became a prominent politician, taught Sunday school and was building chairman when an addition was built on the back of the church. Some of the congregation consisted of the Watsons, Laughtons, Robins, Towers and Deaths. Most of these families had their own individual pews and everyone sat in his or her own place each Sunday. In 1914, a stained-glass window depicting Jesus the Shepard was donated in memory of Francis Silverthorn by his daughter, who was married to an Alderson. Land was purchased in November 1927, from John Clarkson for \$1,968 and the church parsonage was constructed and used by 1928.

The Methodists, Congregational and Presbyterian churches were amalgamated in 1925 to form the United Church of Canada and the church was renamed the Bethesda United Church.

On October 6, 1929, the church held a Harvest Service and Reverend T. W. Neal of Toronto presented a new communion table. Reverend W. N. Chantler was the pastor at this time. Reverend A. E. Black of Aurora, who had been a pastor of the church, was the special speaker for the evening service. Roy E. Pallett, director of the choir, provided some splendidly rendered music, with Mrs. Stanley Leuty as soloist.

The 100th anniversary was held in January 1964, with former ministers guesting, Reverend Charles Forth, Reverend Newton

Bowles and Reverend George Payne, who served as the guest speaker. During the church's 100 years, it had had 30 ministers.

The church was closed in May 1967, and the red brick building was sold. It became the Bethel Evangelical Baptist Church at 1801 Dundas Street East. Services, under the direction of Reverend J. Sheridan Bole, were held in the Forest Glen Public School until the new Bethesda United Church, designed by architects, Brown, Brisley and Brown, was built in 1969 on a three-acre (1.2 ha) site. The sod turning ceremony was held in June 1969, and the cornerstone laid by Reverend Donald Bell on October 19th. The multipurpose building at 331 Fieldgate Drive, which would provide a day care nursery and drop-in-centre, had its official opening on March 1, 1970. The Silverthorn window from the original church was installed there until 2003 when it was relocated to the Applewood United Church. With 194 charter members, the church was called The Bethesda United Church of Forest Glen. The congregation amalgamated with the Applewood United Church in September, 2003.



▲ The former Bethesda United Church, 1995  
(The Mississauga News)

In 1995, the Bethel Church congregation was in the process of selling the old building, one of the last heritage structures of its time of Gothic-style architecture. It was bought by the Credit Valley Community Church and in 2002, the former church was torn down.



▲ Newman Silverthorn

Aaron Silverthorn passed away in 1872, and his son, Newman, inherited the Silverthorn Mill Farm property. In 1903, Messieurs Lambe and Harris of Meadowvale purchased the timber on Newman Silverthorn's farm. They set up a portable sawmill, cut down the trees and sawed them into lumber. They completed their task in May 1907. They had cut one million feet, which they sold all over Ontario. Their sawmill never caused them any problems throughout the four summers they worked. The Mill Farm would be in Silverthorn hands until John's great-grandson, Gideon, sold the last piece of property in 1966. He and his wife, Nell had moved from their home in 1958 and the old homestead, which had seen four generations, faced the wrecking ball. Some of the Silverthorn bush has survived and Mill Road, established by John Silverthorn upon his arrival, still remains. The Silverthorn Collegiate is named in remembrance of the Silverthorn's contribution to their community.



▲ Culham's Butcher Shop

Local farmers in the Silverthorn days were John Vanzantee, who had Lot A and part of Lot 1, Con.1, SDS, Abraham Cook, had the other part of Lot 1, Hugh McImoyle, Lot 2 and Philip Bender, Lot 3. On the north side, Vanzantee had Lot A, 1 and 2, Con.1, NDS, Absalom Willcox, Lot 3. Others who lived here at the turn of the century were Truman Culham, whose farm was on the east side of the Etobicoke Creek and Joseph Culham, who bought 80 acres (32 ha) of Lot A, Con.1, NDS, from Christopher Robinson on October 29, 1902, for \$4,400. He was known to operate a butcher shop and travelled far afield to peddle his wares.



▲ Joseph Cullham's Butcher Wagon

Some of the tavern owners down through the years were: John Marshall (applied for a licence, 1866-1867), Thomas Hopkins (1869-1871), Robert Blanchard (1873-1874), Mathew Mahar (1885), and John Newlove (b.1819, d.1863) who applied for a licence in 1857-1858. He was the son of John Newlove, who emigrated from Yorkshire, England, before 1830. He took up the collection at St. John's Anglican Church. In 1837, John Sr. gave stone to help build the



Union Church. On John Sr.'s gravestone it reads, "Farewell, vain world, I've had enough of thee, Therefore I am careless what thou sayest of me. What ere thou hast seen amiss in me be sure to shun. Look well to home there is enough to be done."

In 1879 when the Credit Valley Railroad went through Toronto Township, a small station was built to accommodate the Summerville

◀ Train Station



▲ Train Car and Train Station - Steam Era, Milton, 1971 (Ben Madill)

residents. This allowed the local farmers and businesses to have their produce and products transported across the province.

The Summerville Hotel was built and opened by a settler named Alexander Stein, in 1865, when the population of the tiny community numbered 200. In 1873, William O'Brien took over the commercial enterprise that was floundering as a hotel. He converted the building into a general store and post office, and business was brisk for many years. In the 1890s, the McLaughlin family were the third occupants and they served the tiny hamlet for many years. The former hotel became home to several Japanese during World War II (1939-1945). In 1955, Bill Kriss bought the historical building and turned it into a restaurant called Turf Drive Inn.

Summerville resident Murray Alderson was involved in the Fenian Raids of 1866. Following the Battle of Ridgeway on June 2nd against the Fenian Brotherhood, a group of Irish agitators, he was promoted to a Lance Corporal. The Fenians



▲ Fenian Participant, 1866

had been formed in 1857 to bring about the liberation of Ireland from England's domination. These raiders thought that if they invaded Canada they would be able to gain supporters to assist in forcing England to capitulate and give Ireland its independence. The first invasion into Canada West (Ontario) took place on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1866, followed by a major raid on June 1st and Ridgeway on the 2nd. Many men joined the York Militia to fight these invaders. The Fenians were repulsed by the British Militia and no further incidents occurred.

With the turn of the century, Summerville, like so many early villages and hamlets, disappeared, being pulled into the larger community of Dixie. By the 1920s, the Summerville blacksmith shop, built for Isaac Willcox by James Vokes in 1867, and now operated by Robert Parton, was the only sign of the olden days. Angus and Mary



▲ Angus Michie Store



▲ former Angus Michie Store and Post Office

Mitchie bought Philip Dunn's grocery business and opened their general store on April 23, 1919, in a rented building, on the south side of Dundas across from Parton's blacksmith shop. They paid \$100 a month rent and Angus was sworn in as postmaster. To the west of Angus' store was the Summerville Hotel. In November 1924, his barn behind the store burned to the ground and he lost his delivery horse "Dolly" and his storage of feed and grain. In January 1925, Angus bought property across Dundas Street from Rufus Garbutt and had a new two-storey red brick building constructed. He opened for business at this new location on April 23, 1925. They operated their grocery store until June 1959. Then they continued with the post office



▲ Parton Residence

until June 1967. They retired, sold their building and moved to Barrie. Two service stations, one operated by Bert Risch, the other by Stan Langdon, were across from Mitchie's and in 1932, there was a gas war with gas selling five gallons for \$1.

Several of the Stanfield family from Dixie and Burnhamthorpe came to live at Summerville. One was Richard, called Dick, who moved here in the 1920s. He had operated a butcher business in Burnhamthorpe Village and when he first came to Summerville, he had a market garden, then he opened an ice cream booth on Dundas Street. He had five children, Jack, Tom, Ida, Ella and Joe. He was killed on July 17, 1932, by an automobile while crossing the road near his home. He was 80 years old. His son, Jack, was a well known character in the area. He had a milk route for 40 years. He started out by horse and wagon and picked up the farmers' milk and took it into the Toronto stores, then dairies. Then he bought an old truck for transportation. Jack's son, Fred, took over the business, then moved to Barrie when farmers began to sell off their farms. Jack's other son, Gordon, who also drove the milk route, was one of Toronto Township's first police officers. He fathered seven sons, most of whom went on to "hockey" fame. In 1981, his son, Fred, was inducted into the Mississauga Sports Hall of Fame.



▲ Parton House and Blacksmith Shop

A mission, east of the blacksmith shop, was used for religious meetings. A Mr. Downey was operating a wagon shop across Dundas Street, but gradually his business was disappearing with the popularity of the automobile. To the west of the wagon shop was a gravel pit and it was a busy place as gravel was used for the local roads up until the 1970s.

A news item in the *Port Credit Weekly*, dated March 21, 1957, reveals that the Summerville Ratepayers Association were still fighting to retain their tiny community. A meeting was held at the home of Albert St. Louis, 1777 Coram Crescent, to protest against the Toronto Township Planning Board's decision to re-zone the area from residential to industrial. The ratepayers spokesman, W. E. Mills, stated that, "The residents in the area from Summerville to the Etobicoke Township had been led to believe that this area would be zoned for residential only. But the Township is hungry for industrial land and some property in the immediate area has already been sold to industries."

By the early 1960s, Summerville had disappeared in the name of progress. It has been said that, "Sadly, the tranquil little village of Summerville that the Silverthorns knew is now just a faded memory in old photograph albums."

## NEWS ITEM

### Exciting Happening at Summerville

The hamlet of Summerville was thrown into a turmoil of excitement Friday by the arrival of triplets in the home of Robert Clark, a farmer near the boundary line of Peel. The little trio came early in the morning, and when Dr. Joseph Godfrey, the family physician, informed the father, he was, according to those who were present, the happiest man in Peel County. There are two boys and one girl and both mother and children are doing well. The little strangers are perfectly formed and unusually healthy. Dr. Godfrey stated that he had every reason to hope that all three would live.

The triplets are respectively the eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth children, which Mrs. Clark has presented to her husband, all of whom are still living.

Clark is a stout, good natured farmer and makes a very comfortable living on a rented farm of fifty acres. He is very industrious and both he and his wife are popular among their neighbours.

The birth is looked upon as the greatest event that has occurred in the vicinity of Summerville in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. All Friday a constant stream of visitors called at the Clarks' humble home, many driving long distances to congratulate the happy father and make sympathetic enquiries about Mrs. Clark and her tiny babies.

The residents of Summerville have already held an informal meeting to discuss the securing of the Royal bounty usually given to parents of triplets. It has been stated that King Edward has discontinued this practice, adopted by Queen Victoria, but if this statement is confirmed the residents of the village may send a petition asking the King to renew the popular custom.

*The Streetsville Review*

January 2, 1902

McLaughlin Post Office and General Store ▶

(Photos courtesy of The Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Sabiston's Carriage Shop



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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

She has been very community minded throughout her career and has extended many volunteer hours in many areas. She is a member of the Mississauga Garden Council, Friends of the Library, Mississauga Heritage Foundation and the Mississauga Arts Council and has received many awards for her involvement. In 2001, she was the Arts Council's senior literary recipient.

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

Before her two grandfathers, Thomas Groves and Walter Beeby, passed away in their 90s, she saw five generations on both sides of her family. Her daughter, Kathleen, and son, Martin, have blessed her with four grandchildren, Tracy, Troy, Cory and Samantha. She now has four great-grandchildren Anthony, Tyrese, Abigail and Jadea.