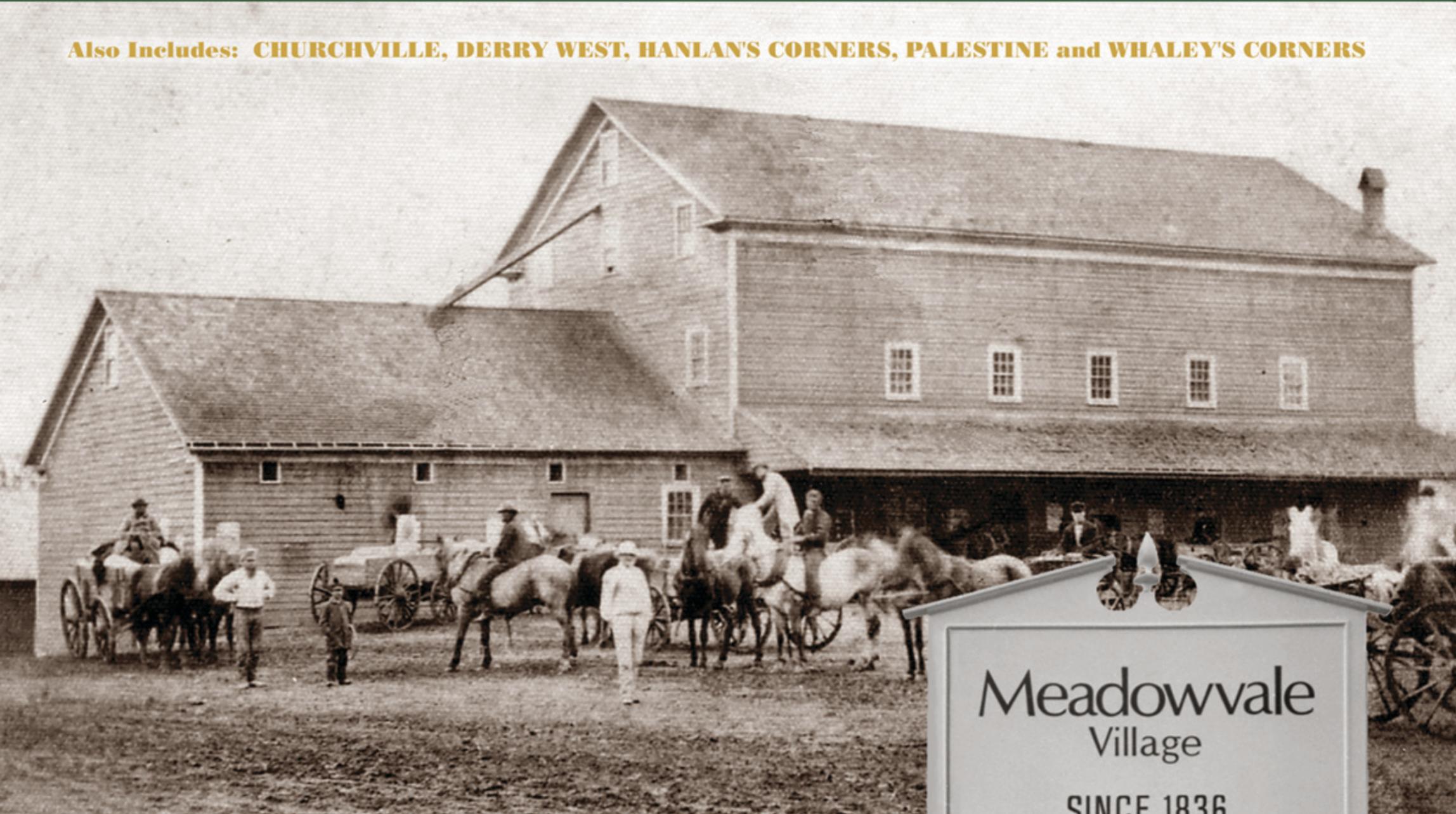


# Meadowvale

: Mills to Millennium :

Also Includes: CHURCHVILLE, DERRY WEST, HANLAN'S CORNERS, PALESTINE and WHALEY'S CORNERS



Meadowvale  
Village  
SINCE 1836

**Kathleen A. Hicks**

# Meadowvale:

*Mills to Millennium*

Kathleen A. Hicks



MEADOWVALE: MILLS TO MILLENNIUM

is published by

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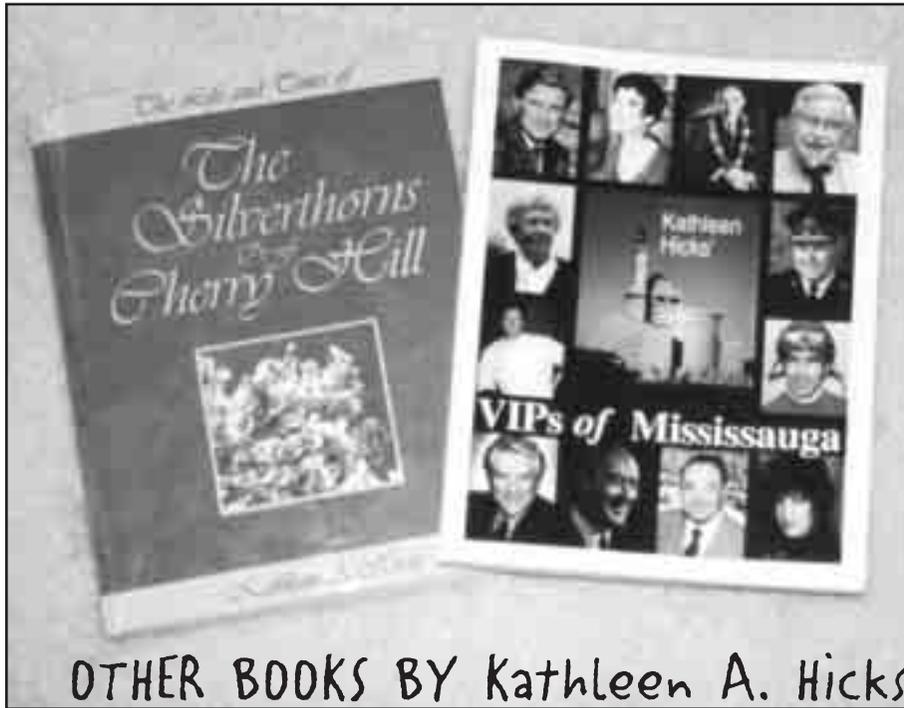
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Meadowvale: Mills to Millennium



▲ Meadowvale  
(Charles Humber)



OTHER BOOKS BY Kathleen A. Hicks

The Silverthorns: Ten Generations in America  
Kathleen Hicks' V.I.P.s of Mississauga  
The Life & Times of the Silverthorns of Cherry Hill  
Clarkson and its Many Corners

## VIDEO

Riverwood: The Estate Dreams are Made Of

## Dedication



I dedicate this book to all the Toronto Township pioneers, who came before all the people who followed in their footsteps and made Mississauga the greatest City in Canada. And to all the residents who participated in this book. To them, I am eternally grateful for their input and cooperation.

(Ministry of Transportation)



(Region of Peel Archives)

**W**hen I completed the first book in this series, *Clarkson and Its Many Corners*, I was ecstatic and overjoyed at the outpouring and cooperation I received from the people of that area. With its success, I was contracted by the Mississauga Library System to do nine more books to complete the entire history of the original Toronto Township's area that made up the City of Mississauga. What a challenge! With this opportunity to delve into the City's entire history, to bring all the pictures from all sources out of the darkness into the light, to uncover all the stories relating to the people of each little town, village and hamlet, I knew I had my work cut out for me and I could not wait to get started.

This book on Meadowvale is the second in the series and the Friends of the Library have made it possible, so I am deeply grateful to Michael Jones and his Board. Unlike my experience with not being familiar with Clarkson, I was indeed familiar with Meadowvale,

because of my involvement with the Silverthorn family's history and my book, *The Life & Times of the Silverthorns of Cherry Hill*. This was Francis Silverthorn's stomping grounds for many years. To discover more about this tiny village and its inhabitants spurred me to get the project underway. What you will read within these pages is the result.

To write such a book requires the cooperation of many people. Without their input, nothing substantial could be accomplished. So with that in mind, I want to extend a big thank you to Don Mills, Director of Library Services for the Mississauga Library System, for seeing my vision that such a history would be beneficial for future generations and the City of Mississauga for agreeing with us; Dorothy Kew, for again starting me off with a slide show of the photos available at the Central Library's Canadiana Room and Ted Sharpe and all his staff for their cooperation and assistance; Grant Clarkson for his foreword; Mark Warrack, Heritage Coordinator for the City of Mississauga, for allowing me access to his files and photos; Diane Allengame Kuster and the staff at the Region of Peel Archives for their continuous guidance in all my research needs; Jayme Gaspar and the staff of the Mississauga Heritage Foundation; to all the ladies of the Meadowvale and Derry West Women's Institutes, who compiled an enormous quantity of research material in several scrapbooks, which were a treasure to read and a tremendous help in my research process; the late Louise Southern, the late Ian Davidson and the Wilsons for filling me in on

their life in the Village; Gail Crawford, who documented the Simpson family history; Merebeth Switzer, Credit Valley Conservation Authority, for allowing me the use of the CVCA files; H. Peter Langer and F. Peter Langer for the history of Markborough Properties; Wayne Crockett, Ontario Archives, for his never-ending assistance on all topics; Mary Ledwell, Ontario Archives, for assisting with permission on photographs and drawings; Lorraine Croxen, Bell Canada Archives; Jane Watt for all her assistance with the Cemetery Records; Jim Holmes for his photos of Meadowvale Village, family genealogy and other vital info; Betty Bull for allowing me the privilege of seeing her home, the Brown/Vooro house; Lavinia Nablo for Girl Guides info; Phil Frost for the Boy Scouts; Mark Parsons, Monarch Construction; Jim Wynne, Meadowvale Community Centre; Mark Stevens, Meadowvale Theatre; John Midas, Meadowvale Town Centre; Doug Lorrigan of Namirrol Ltd. for his input on the Solar energy house experiment; Keith Christie and Carol Peckett for family history; Marianne Galliford, Joan Rollings, Paul Carpe, Albert Callaghan and John Hockett for clarifying Churchville's history; Raymond Whaley for Whaley's Corners info; thanks to T.L.Kennedy Secondary School Vice Principal Rick Tredwell for assisting with some of the metric conversion; to all the people who contributed their reminiscences, thanks for the "Memories"; and to all the Villagers and everyone who assisted me in compiling this history, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.



▲ Meadowvale Lions Club: (l-r) - Ted Copack, Kirby Short, Governor Bill Dicks and President Geoff Wetterell with author, Kathleen A. Hicks

Thank you to these sponsors for their support of this book project

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The historic Village of Meadowvale holds many pleasant memories for me. For many years, I worked in the Village as a member and chairman of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA), when the office was in the Francis Silverthorn house on Old Mill Road. I also represented the area as Councillor of Ward 4 and as Deputy Reeve and Reeve of Toronto Township and Town of Mississauga. During those years, I grew to love its classic homes and narrow streets.

The original school house had been turned into the Community Hall and the Fred Haines mural on the wall was being damaged by the inherent activity. The painting of the Credit River and the Mississauga Indians was so much a part of our heritage that I got involved in saving it. It was removed from the wall and restored much to my relief and delight. When I retired from the CVCA, I was presented with a photographic replica from Markborough Properties, which I have hanging in my den.

## foreword

Unlike so many other villages that sprang up along the marvelous Credit River, because of the transportation and water power the river provided, Meadowvale has survived the transformation of urban growth. The remains of the old mill race add to the charm of this most historic village that became Ontario's first Heritage Conservation District.

I understand that one of my ancestors manufactured staves in Meadowvale to make barrels - the standard container of those days.

In the late 1920s, I went to Etobicoke High School in Islington on the Guelph to West Toronto Electric Radial line along with some of my classmates from Meadowvale - one was a Gooderham from the family who made the name of Gooderham & Worts famous.



▲ Grant Clarkson  
(The Mississauga News)

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The building of the new Derry Road north of the Village has helped the Village retain its 19th century charm, allowing us to enjoy a look back into our past through the heritage homes lining the streets of this unusual location that now has been surrounded by today's urbanization. There is no future in a community that is not proud of its past and Meadowvale residents certainly are.

Grant Clarkson  
Former CVCA member and chairman 1968-1980  
Former Councillor, Deputy Reeve and Reeve 1968-1973

## 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 this war, over 10,000 British sympathizers poured into the province of Quebec, with 6,000 settling on the Niagara Peninsula, where in 1784 over three million acres (1,200,000 hectares) were purchased from the Mississauga Indians for the purpose of extending land grants to those loyal to King George III (born 1738, died 1820). These 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 resented this. So the Loyalists set about to establish their own laws and thus in 1791, the Constitutional



King George III

(Shell Canada Ltd.)



Sir Guy Carleton

(Toronto Public Library)



John Graves Simcoe

(Toronto Public Library)

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## Introduction



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

With the new province 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 in 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 soon settled themselves in marquees on the west bank of the Niagara River, next to Navy Hall that would be renovated for their occupancy.

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

(Confederation Life Collection, Rogers Communications Inc.)

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

Then on July 30th, the Simcoes 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, while the Queen's Rangers built Fort York. Gradually the town blossomed with new, energetic arrivals, who began to put their imprint and expertise on the small colony.

In September, 1793, Simcoe initiated construction on the first roadway, Dundas Street, often 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.

Simcoe left for England in July, 1796, and was replaced by the Honourable Peter Russell, who would administer the duties of the Governor in his absence. It was during Russell's regime that the Dundas was completed in 1798. In 1799, Peter Hunter was made the Lieutenant Governor. Many prominent men such as John Beverly Robinson, William 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 (43 kilometers/8 k) inland, consisting of 70,784 acres (28,713 ha). The negotiations took place at the Government Inn on the east bank of the Credit River under the supervision of superintendent of Indian Affairs, the Honourable William Claus. The host was the operator of the Inn, Thomas Ingersoll. Toronto Township came into being, comprising 29,569 acres (11,827 ha) of this transaction with a mile (1.6 k) on either side of the Credit River designated as the Mississauga Indian Reserve.

This brought about the establishment of small communities in Toronto Township, the Home District, Upper Canada. First came



◀ Honourable  
William Claus  
(Toronto Public Library)

◀ In 1805, The Mississauga  
Indians sold the British  
Government the Mississauga  
Tract.  
(Region of Peel Archives)

Sydenham (later Dixie) and Harrisville (Cooksville) along the Dundas, with Lakeview to the east and Clarkson to the west along the shores of Lake Ontario. Gradually towns and villages were founded throughout Toronto Township.

The first resident was Thomas Ingersoll, then Philip Cody, the grandfather of the legendary Buffalo Bill Cody, and Daniel Harris. The first children to be born were Sarah Ingersoll, January 10, 1807, and Elijah Cody, November 7, 1807. The first census was taken in 1807-1808 by

Deputy Provincial Surveyor, Samuel Street Wilmot, who had surveyed and drawn up the first map in 1805-1806, outlining the 200 acre (81 ha) lots that were designated grants to the incoming settlers. It listed the first families as Philip Cody, Daniel Harris, Joseph Silverthorn, Absalom Willcox, Allen Robinet and William Barber.

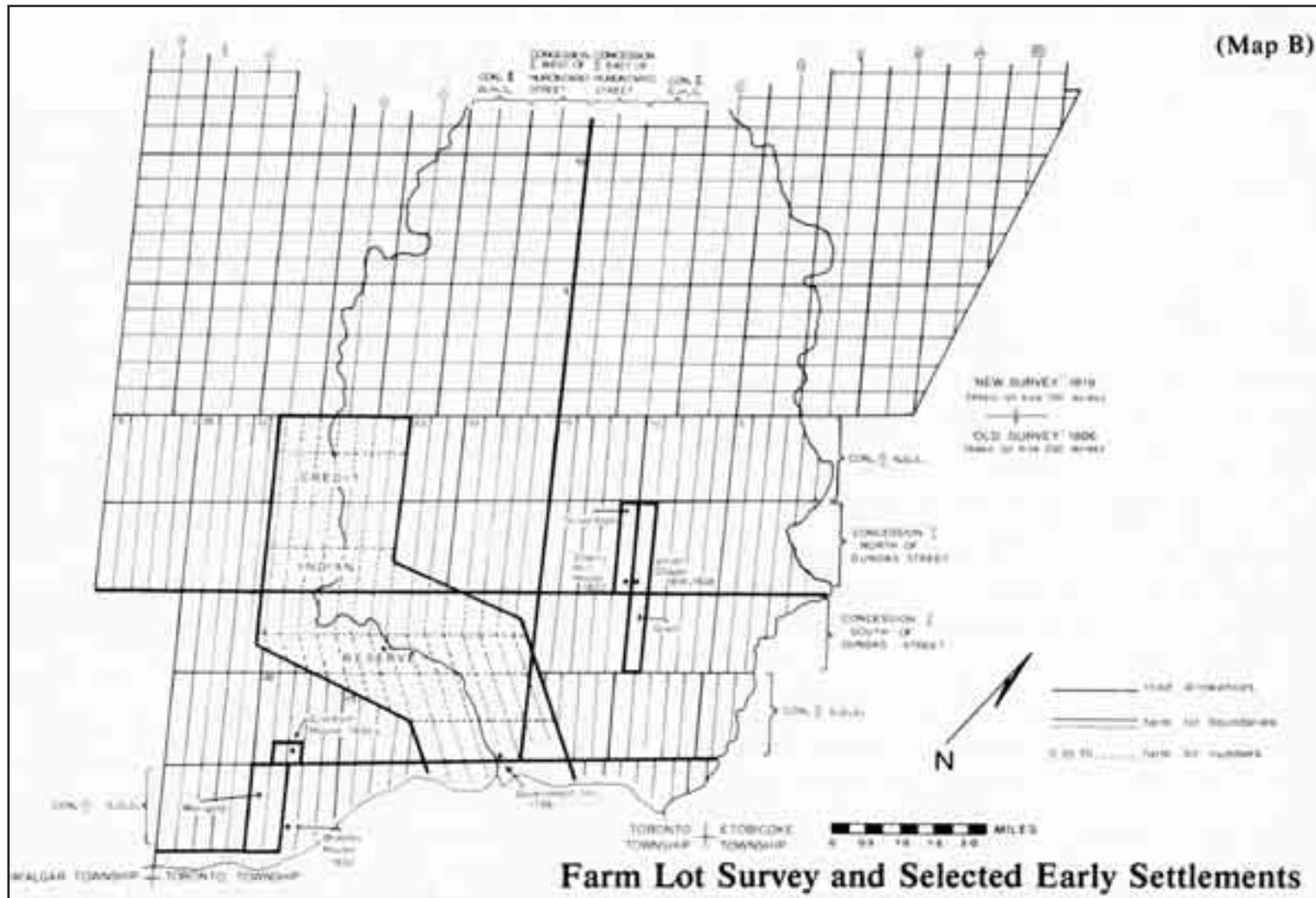
Small communities like Meadowvale and Malton came about when the Mississauga Indians surrendered 648,000 acres (259,800 ha) of land on Wednesday, October 28, 1818, that became the Second



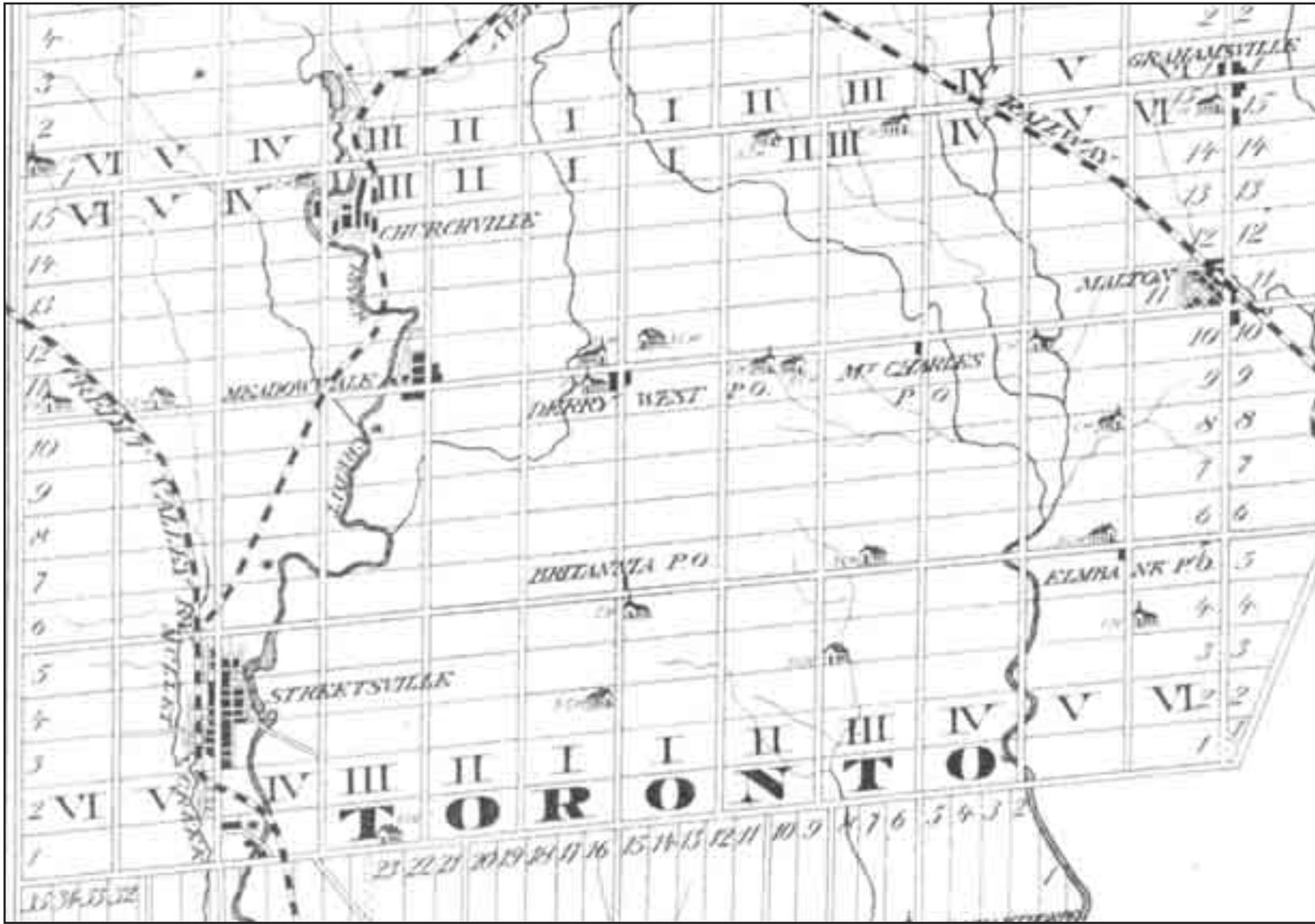
▲ Loyalists drawing lots for their lands, 1784  
(C.W. Jefferys Estate Archives Rogers Cantel Collection)



▲ Samuel Street Wilmot  
(Association of Ontario Land Surveyors)



- ▲ Toronto Township Land Survey  
(City of Mississauga)



▲ The Second Purchase Map  
 (Historical Atlas of Peel)

Purchase or the New Survey. Toronto Township received 34,556 acres (12,595 ha) of this purchase, which brought its total acreage to 64,125 (25,670 ha). In 1820, the Indians surrendered their mile (1.6 km) on either side of the Credit River, except for an area for their reserve on the west bank of the Credit River between the Middle Road (Queen Elizabeth Way) and Dundas Street. This allowed for mills to be constructed along this famous waterway that wended its way through Toronto Township from northeast of what would become Orangeville in Mono Township to Lake Ontario.

Thus in 1819, the Second Purchase was surveyed by Timothy Street of St. David's, Niagara, and Eastern Ontario provincial surveyor, Richard Bristol. A roadway, that became Hurontario Street, (also called Centre Road) was put up the center of the property to be surveyed. Hurontario was originally called Street Road by the surveyors, for Timothy Street. However, the first "t" was not crossed on the charts and the "t" and "r" made an "h" and thus the Surveyor General, Thomas Rideout (1810-1829), read it as Sheet Road. He was indignant about this name and as the road was to lead from Lake Ontario (Port Credit) to Lake Huron (Tobermory), he gave it the name Hurontario Street, which is still its legal name. It took until 1834 before Hurontario was opened completely to Lake Huron.

To open up the New Survey, the surveyor who drew up the map of 200 acre (81 ha) lots ran the concessions from Hurontario Street, six concessions east to the town border of Etobicoke and six concessions west to Trafalgar Township, and 15 lots from the Base Line (Eglinton Avenue) to Chinguacousy Township (Steeles Avenue). The surveyors used a Gunter chain to measure, which was 66 feet long (20 m) with 100 links. Timothy Street and his surveying staff left surveyor markers of roughly squared pointed stakes properly numbered at strategic locations at the corner of each lot. They were marked with the "Broad Arrow" of the British government, the Royal Cipher that of King George III and the mark of the line being followed. Between every fifth lot would be a one chain or 66 foot wide road allowance that would be staked out. A 200 acre lot (81 ha) was 20 by 50 chains. The surveyor took "field notes," a description of the terrain, land, timber, hills, streams, swamps, waterways, etcetra, which had to be turned in to the British government.



▲ *Thomas Grafton*  
(Region of Peel Archives)

Thomas Grafton (1795-1866) was the advance man, who piloted the way for the packmen and cook and found areas to settle their camp for the nights. He had to purchase a pocket compass, which was later treasured by his family, because he was one of the first white men to traverse the concessions north of Base Line.

The only animals the surveyors came across was a den of wolves. A quote made by Thomas Grafton and recorded at this time went like this, "The only wild animals we noticed while surveying was a den of young wolves, captured in a large hollow log. We camped near the place that night and heard the howls and pitiful lamentations of the old-she wolf bereft of her whelps, whose scalps were promptly forwarded for the usual bounty, as there was then no money in the treasury."

Throughout the survey, all the workers were delighted with the lay of the land, the quality of the timber, the richness of the soil, and its stability for farming, except in a few limited localities, and were unanimous in the convictions and expressions of opinion, that in the future it would become a magnificent farming country. Many of those in the party, who went on the survey partly to "spy out the land" having had the promise of free grants from the government, now looked forward with bright hopes to the near future when they would occupy happy homes in Toronto Township. Timothy Street and Richard Bristol were the first of the surveyors to receive land grants in January, 1820. The first civilian was Thomas Graham, Lot 15, Con. 2, East Hurontario Street (EHS), 100 acres, November 26, 1819, and then Malcolm McKinnon, on June 23, 1820, Lot 1, Con. 6, WHS.

The first occupants of the area that became known as Meadowvale, were millwrights, tradesmen and artisans, who would complement the village with their expertise and leave behind an interesting legacy. These pioneers faced the wilderness with courage and having little to work with were very enterprising indeed.

Meadowvale originally was just a tiny village embracing the Credit River, with Churchville to the north (which is now part of Brampton), Derry West to the east, Britannia to the south and Switzer's Corners to the west. Today it extends to McLaughlin Road on the east, Britannia Road on the south, Ninth Line on the west and the Hydro corridor below the 407 Express Toll Route ETR on the north.

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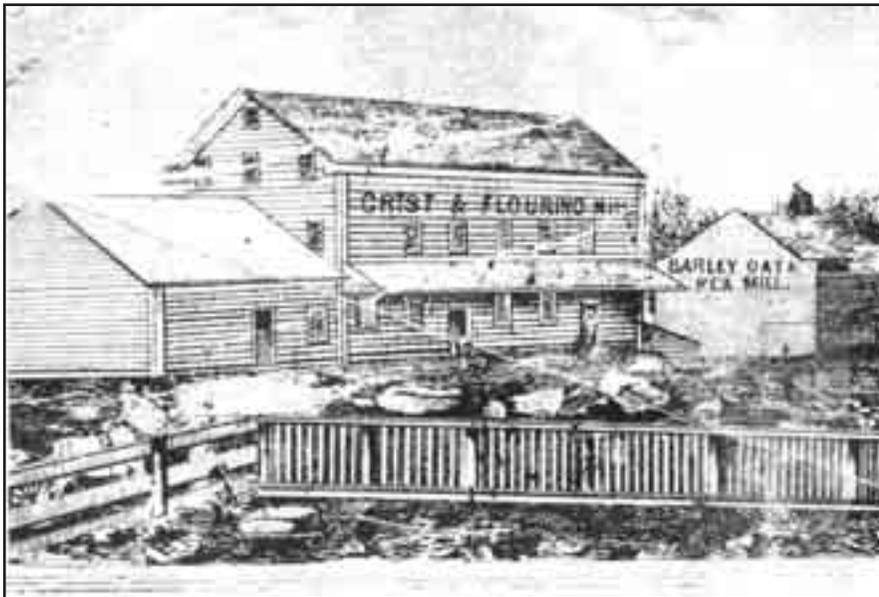


▲ Hydro Line, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## A Tribute to Francis Silverthorn

**F**rancis Silverthorn was born to Aaron and Mary Custead Silverthorn on November 12, 1815, in Etobicoke, Upper Canada (Ontario), just east of the Toronto Township (Mississauga) border. His parents had met and married in 1813, during the War of 1812 (1812-1814). Aaron (b. 1790, d. 1872) was the son of John Silverthorn (1762-1846), who had moved from Niagara in 1810 to take up 400 acres (162 hectares) in Etobicoke, where he operated a grist mill on the banks of the Etobicoke Creek.

The progenitor of the Silverthorn family was Oliver (1686-1746), who emigrated to the American state of New Jersey, from Glastonbury, Somerset County, England, around 1730. Francis' great grandfather, Thomas (1715-1788), Oliver's second of four sons, had been born in England. He married Johanna Newman in 1745 and they had eight children, John, Aaron's father, being the last in 1762. When John reached his teens, the American Revolution had started (1775-1783). This threw



▲ Meadowvale Mills  
(1859 Tremain Map)

the country into turmoil and three years after its conclusion, Thomas, Johanna, John and his new wife, Esther, and baby son, Joseph, made the 300 mile trek (500 kilometers) to Niagara in the footsteps of thousands of Loyalists who had gone before them. Aaron was born there in 1790.

Francis grew up on his grandfather's farm and learned all there was to know about being a farmer and millwright. He purchased his father's 200 acres (81 ha), Lot 6, Con. 1, South Dundas Street (SDS), in Toronto Township, on October 10, 1837. He established himself there as a prosperous farmer. He had married Susannah Mercer (born 1816) on March 15, 1836, and she died in childbirth in June, 1842, leaving a namesake. On February 10, 1845, he bought 7-1/2 acres (3.2 ha) in the New Survey, Lot 11, Con. 3, West Hurontario Street (WHS), from James Crawford for £275 (\$688, with York currency being \$2.50 to a pound). His acreage was located on the banks of the Credit River, northeast of the village of Streetsville, where white pine forests dominated. The area was rightfully called Meadowvale.

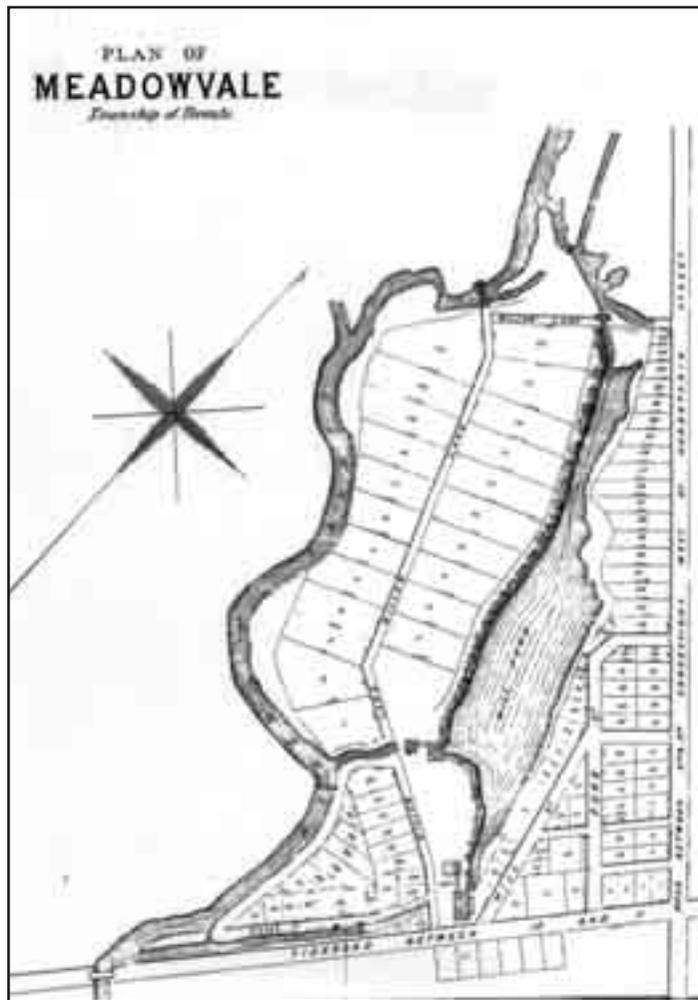
By the end of 1845, Francis had a saw and grist mill in operation, which he called "Meadowvale Mills." When establishing the mill race for his mills, he had brought about an island. Francis' businesses created work for many men, who came to the area for employment. Francis became known as "The Honest Miller."

In January, 1846, he sold his Dundas acreage to Robert Craig for £800 (\$2,000). That same year, he married Mary Hamilton Cheyne (b.1828), the daughter of Christopher and Jane Ann Cheyne of Derry West.

On May 3, 1847, Francis and his father, Aaron, purchased 100 more acres (40 ha) of Lot 11 and 167 acres (66.8 ha) of Lot 12, Con. 3, from Crawford for £2,125 (\$5,313), which had several buildings on



▲ Francis Silverthorn  
(Silverthorn Family Collection)



▲ Plan of Meadowvale, 1856  
(Historical Atlas of Peel County)

them. He and Mary took up residence in a one and a half storey, white frame plank house set on a river stone foundation that had been built by James Crawford alongside a dirt roadway that would become called Derry Road. This same year, Mary presented Francis with a son they named for his father, Aaron (1847-1921). He built two, one and a half storey, double-unit structures for his workers to reside in with their families that became called "Quality Row." Each tenant labourer, who was paid \$3 a day, had a cow, pig, hens and geese. The grist mill, known to grind 200 barrels of wheat a day, accommodated farmers from around Canada West, who came from Streetsville, Cooksville, Orangeville, Erindale, Britannia and Mount Forest to grind their wheat. He also added a stave and barrel factory to the saw mill.

Francis purchased 100 acres (40 ha) W1/2 of Lot 12, Con. 2, WHS, also from Crawford on June 6, 1848, which had been the 1821 land grant of Alexander Burns. The saw mill was operated day and night and cut 10,000 feet (929 meters) a day. With the success of his saw mill, Francis supplied pine planking to be installed on Hurontario Street from the Lake Shore Road through Caledon Township in 1849. The planks were 18 feet long and three inches thick (5.4 m x 9.5 cm) and cost nearly £2 (\$4.50), per thousand feet (metres). Plank Roads were a new innovation that took Canada West by storm and Francis fared well by this lucrative contract. He also floated pine logs down the Credit River to Lake Ontario where they were loaded aboard schooners and shipped to the United States.

In 1852, Francis took out a mortgage on his farm land with John Wilmot and built a store east of the mill. His bookkeeper was Robinson Small. He also constructed a one and a half storey cottage on a sandstone foundation behind his homestead to house workers, which was of vernacular classical style with clapboard exterior. It was the only one of its kind in the Village's history. At the turn of the century, it became referred to as the boathouse. A year later, he experienced a dreadful fire at his grist mill; his entire stock of 10,000 bushels of wheat was totally destroyed. In April, 1854, he took out a £3,000 (\$7,500) mortgage on his mill property with William Gooderham (1790-1881), of Gooderham & Worts, a prominent distillery in Toronto, and rebuilt the mill. Francis had met the Gooderhams through his Uncle Thomas, who had supplied lumber to James Worts for the company's windmill in 1831. At this time, 1854, the population of Meadowvale was less than 200.

The Crimean War (1853-1855) was progressing and it brought about higher wheat prices, spurred on by the European crop failures. Canadian wheat spiraled in price to £1 (\$2.50) a bushel, allowing Canadian farmers to become wealthy overnight. In 1855, Francis' grist mill was stocked with 12,000 bushels that he had purchased for 8 shilling (\$1, with 12¢ to a shilling) each. He intended to make a fine profit, but the war ended and wheat prices plummeted and it was almost the ruination of his business.



▲ *Crawford/Silverthorn House*  
*(City of Mississauga Community Services)*

He had his Lot 11 property surveyed into small lots by Arthur Bristow, had a map drawn up and on July 21, 1856, registered his plan for a subdivision with the intention of starting a village. He paid several labourers \$3 a day to dig out the immense pine stumps that prevented smooth roadways. He sold lots to: William Assinder, Lot 8 on Willow Lane, April 24, 1858; Luther Cheyne, his brother-in-law, Lots 23-25, Pond Street, on June 10, 1858, for £120 (\$300); John Holland, February 10, 1859, £30 (\$85) for Lot 30, Pond Street; William Wilson, Lot 28, Pond Street, Feb.11, 1859, £20 (\$50); Jonathan Robinson, Lot 27, Pond and Second Street, Feb. 28, 1859, for £17 (\$43); Thomas Gordon, Lot 5, Feb. 28, 1859, £30 (\$75); and Mathew Laidlaw Lot 4, Side Road and Pond, for £30 (\$75) on August 29, 1859. However, as his luck was sapped away, nothing else transpired.

Francis took out another mortgage on the mills and store in October, 1857, with Gooderham, for £4,268 (\$10,670) to help get back on his feet, but another fire in 1859 became his downfall and Gooderham & Worts, a major shareholder in the Bank of Canada, of

which William Gooderham was president, took over his grist and lumber mill and store in March, 1861. John Wilmot who owned the farm lots sold them to William Gooderham in 1865 for \$4,000.

Downhearted and in despair, Francis moved his family to his father's property at St. Clair Avenue in Toronto and began farming. It was known as the Silverthorn District and Silverthorn Avenue was named for the family. By this time, he and Mary had five children, Aaron, Christopher (1852-1917), John (1854-1900), Jane Ann (1856-1897), Clarissa (1860-1938), and his oldest, Susanna. They would have three more children, Newman (1863-1932), Mary (1865-1936) and Francis (1867-1868).

Francis and his family returned to his grandfather John's Old Mill Farm in 1866. John had passed away in 1846 and Aaron had inherited the property. He and his father imported Holsteins from Holland and started a dairy, which turned out to be a profitable venture. In 1870, the original 1810 Silverthorn log house they were residing in also burned down. Aaron died on December 30, 1872, and Francis



lost his wife, Mary, on February 3, 1873. He remarried in 1880 to a widow, Sarah Wilson. Francis died in December, 1894, in Etobicoke and was buried in the family plot at the Dixie Union Church with his parents.

Francis's registered plan was eventually carried out and he is remembered in the village of Meadowvale by his residence at 7050 Old Mill Lane, which was owned by Lillie Brown until her death in 1949, then her daughter, Grace, and son in law, Luther Emerson. It became the offices of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) from 1965 to 1987. The CVCA pulled down the back section built by John Beatty in 1819 and added an addition to the rear to make a T-shaped plan, which extended the floor space of the house considerably, and it was sheathed in stucco. Today it is done in clapboard and is owned by Michael Balkwill and Judge Nancy Mossip.

The workers houses are also still in existence at 7067 - 7079 Pond Street. The cottage at 7070 Old Mill Lane was owned by Henry Brown as of 1895 and by 1909 he was using it for the storage of nine rowboats and three canoes and named it the boathouse when Willow Lake, formed when the mill pond was drained and new head gates built in 1908, became a popular fishing spot. Today it is the private residence of Michael and Colleen Newmarch. All of Francis' buildings, which

were designated by the Ontario Municipal Board in 1980 for their historic and architectural value, have seen many owners since his traumatic days in Meadowvale Village. In this respect, Francis Silverthorn's name lives on in the little Village of Meadowvale.



▲ Boathouse  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



▲ Millworkers Houses (Region of Peel Archives)

## Memories



▲ H. Allan L. Emerson  
Son of Luther and Grace Brown Emerson,  
born Jan. 3, 1941  
(Charles Humber)

"When the house faced east, it didn't have the front peak it presently has. When my grandfather turned it around he Victorianized it, even changed the windows from small multiple panes to larger four paned windows with curved tops. It was my Grandmother Brown who insisted that the changes be made. What is the front lawn today was all horse stables in the 1890s, many of them serving the old Commercial Hotel. Grandmother didn't like all the noise from the breeding. In those days the good studs went on tour and farmers brought their mares to the hotel for breeding, so I guess every couple of months it was a pretty noisy place.

"When I was a little boy, we lived in Toronto during the war and came out to spend our summers at Meadowvale. Our family lived in the cottage to the north and that is where all the boats used to be stored for Willow Lake. That is why it ended up being called the boathouse. But it was really our summer residence as long as I can remember as a little boy, which included spending a week in bed there with the chicken pox. Not a very fond memory for the cottage. My Grandmother Brown lived in her house there until she died in 1949."

Excerpt from letter to Mississauga Heritage Foundation, January 21, 1998.



▲ Credit River  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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## THE CREDIT RIVER

Originally, the rivers of our province were used exclusively by the Indians and explorers as their roadways to where they wanted to venture. When the pioneers came upon the scene, they felt extremely fortunate if their land grant was located on a river.

The most prominent river in Toronto Township is the Credit River, named by the French fur traders, who extended credit to the Mississauga Indians during trading of goods at its mouth in the 18th Century. "This river," to quote the former City Editor of the *Globe and Mail*, Robert Turnbull, who incorporated a series of articles into a 46 page booklet called, *Crisis on the Credit*, "bubbles from the earth in a cedar swamp in the hills of Mono Township 2-1/2 miles (4 k) northeast of Orangeville." The waterway starts out as just a trickle to begin its 55 mile (90 kilometer) journey southward through Caledon, Cheltenham,

Georgetown, Norval, Huttonville, Meadowvale, Streetsville, Erindale and concludes in Port Credit where it empties into Lake Ontario.

The river was teeming with fish, and after the Indians surrendered their claim to the mile (kilometre) on either side of the river in 1820, relinquishing their fishing rights, the pioneers had full reign to fish to their hearts content and many a meal was pulled from the hardy Credit River's bounty. Atlantic salmon were plentiful and could be speared with a pitchfork, brook trout, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, herring, perch and suckers were reeled in at the end of a makeshift fishing pole.

If one were to sail a small craft down the river before the mills were constructed, as I am sure many did, they would have one of the most scenic routes of anywhere in Ontario. The zigzag course harbored stately pine trees, hills, valleys, glens and woods, a magnificent array of foliage and flora to enhance a full panorama of tree hugging cliffs, pastures and crops, animals grazing, farmers working in the fields, a countryside spread for as far as the eye could see, one of richness of earth, sky and all between, magnificent and breathtaking.



▲ Credit River in winter, Streetsville  
(Region of Peel Archives)

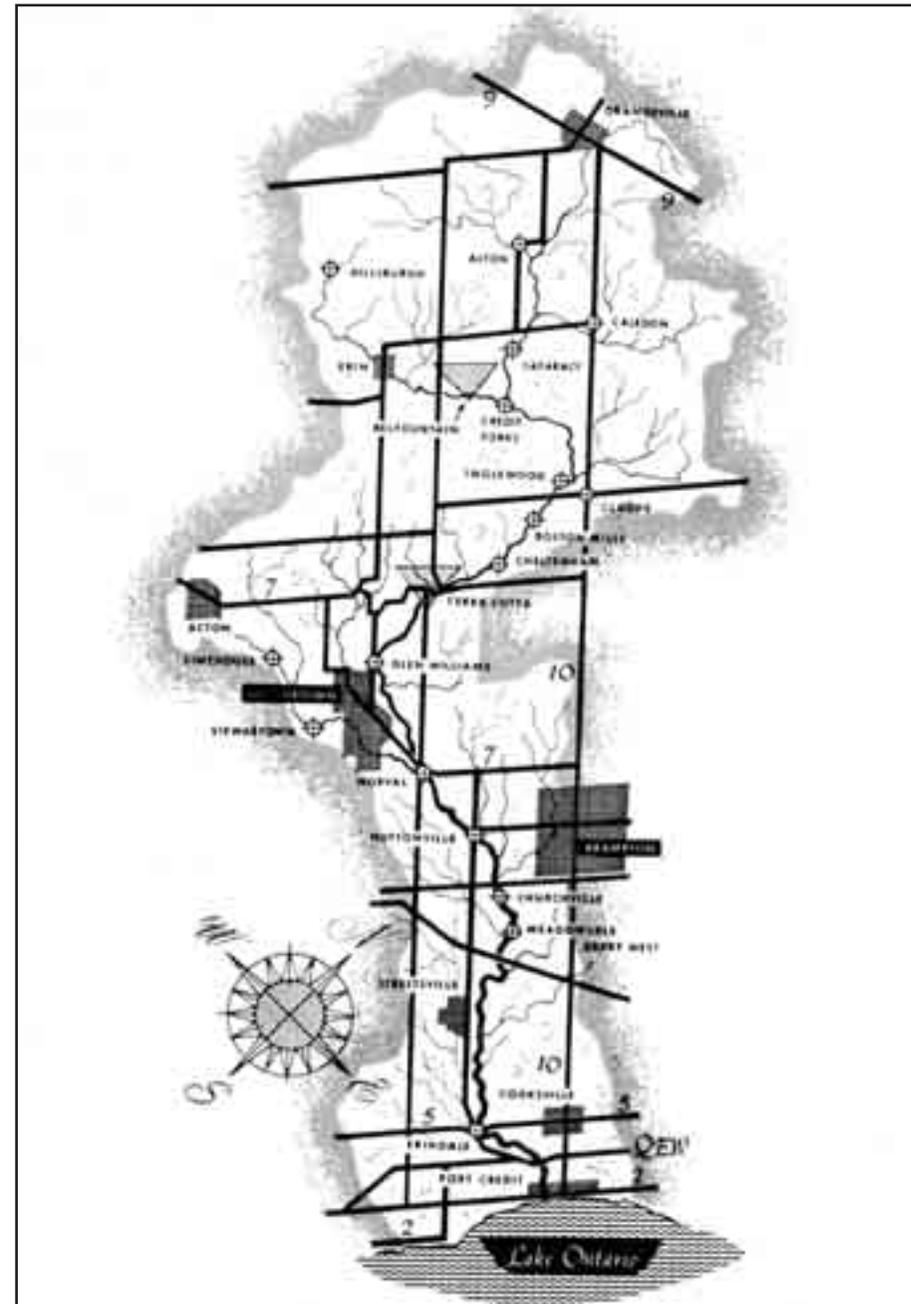
When a harbour, instituted by the government, was put in at Port Credit in 1834, pine logs from the mills were floated down the river to be transported to England for the British ship building industry and to the United States for canal construction. All this productivity of cutting away the forest led to erosion of the land with everything draining into the river.

There were 87 mills on this stretch of waterway by 1850, 17 in the Township of Toronto. These mills, that had dams erected to utilize the water power, dumped their waste into the river, clogging the flow and polluting the water, until the salmon could no longer make their way upstream to spawn. The last salmon run, according to Turnbull, was around 1841. (In 1969, the Department of Lands and Forestry, Fishery Branch [now the Ministry of Natural Resources, MNR] restocked Lake Ontario with yearling and fingerling coho salmon. Trout stocking was implemented in 1976. In 1988, an Atlantic salmon stocking program began in experimental stages monitored by the MNR that still is being carried out.)

Worry about the Credit River's pollution and drop in water flow over the years became a concern of the Ontario government and the



▲ Credit River  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ The Credit River Valley  
(Credit Valley Conservation)

Ontario Water Resources Commission began to monitor its pollution ratio in 1954. That same year the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) was founded by the government under the direction of Premier Leslie M. Frost and Thomas L. Kennedy, Minister of Agriculture. The CVCA then had the Credit River and its watershed under its jurisdiction.

The CVCA, guided by many conscientious people, worked diligently to preserve this precious waterway, attempting to bring it back to its natural state by reversing the years of water degradation. Many obstacles stood in their way, such as sufficient government funding. They knew it was important to protect the headwaters in order to have clean water flowing into Lake Ontario. With four sewage treatment plants along the river, the river was subjected to a tremendous amount of pollution and this seemed an impossible task. By 1991, it became imperative that changes had to be made to make sure the protection of the headwaters was mastered and the stress on the river was alleviated or the river would die. In the past decade, the CVCA has attempted to

carry this reversal out. In 1995, the Ministry of Natural Resources rated the Credit River the best fishing river in Ontario. The management programmes in effect have brought about numerous improvements.

In 1999, the CVC, changed to Credit Valley Conservation in 1994, brought in a budget that included an improved monitoring program for water quality. The budget also included projects such as “a trail along the length of the Credit River, completion of a two year project to re-establish Atlantic Salmon in the Credit, continuation of a plan for new fisheries management scheme and a species of interest study to update the listings of all the plants in Peel and the Credit watershed.”

Protecting the Credit River is a tremendous challenge for the CVC, but its staff continues to work along with other watershed communities to achieve their goal “of an environmentally healthy river for economically and socially healthy communities.”

### NEWS ITEM

More than 750,000 salmon eggs have been collected in a two day period during heavy spawning run up the Credit River by a provincial fisheries team. Working just below the area of the now excavated Reid Dam in Streetsville, a team from the Ministry of Natural Resources, led by Ministry biologist Howard Smith, collected milt and eggs from approximately 400 male and female coho salmon.

Smith said the eggs were fertilized within minutes of stripping the salmon, then placed in preserving jars and sent to the provincial fish hatchery near Warton. There the eggs will hatch in late January and the fish will be reared for restocking in the Credit. The restocking will occur in the spring of 1981.

Since 1969, the Ministry has stocked approximately 2,500,000 coho salmon in Lake Ontario.

*The Mississauga News* October 5, 1979



(Constantine Leimic, Artist, 1976)

## Part One 1819 - 1850

# John Beatty and the Irish Settlers - 1819



▲ Settlers fording the Credit River  
(George A. Reid, Region of Peel Archives  
Perkins Bull Collection)



▲ A Settler's First log cabin  
(Frederick R. Bercham)

Meadowvale got its start in the summer of 1819, when twenty-six Irish families led by John Beatty and Thomas Graham came up from New York City, in the state of New York, United States of America. It can be said that the newly settled village was originally an Irish colony. Of these settlers, much talent was among them, such as millwrights, artisans, doctors and tradesmen.

Following the War of 1812, the Upper Canada government encouraged immigration. Many American residents, who were still true loyalists to Britain, felt it was time to depart the United States and start a new life where their loyalty was not in question. Being United Empire Loyalists, Beatty, Graham, Joseph Reed and others were subjected to persecution in New York and consequently decided to move to British soil in Upper Canada. Some of these men had purchased land in New York State and they sold it to finance their trip north. The year before setting out, Beatty visited the British Consul to inquire about procuring land in Upper Canada. He was advised to send in a grant application to Lieutenant Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland. The petition of John and James Beatty and Joseph Carter was read in Council by John Beikie, the clerk, on October 20, 1818. It requested that, "a Tract of Land favourably situated be set apart for the reception of them and their associates, to be located on their respective arrival. It being understood that the petitioners and their associates avail themselves of this order by actual location before the first of August next." Three days later, Surveyor General Thomas Rideout reported to Lieutenant Governor Maitland that he had "set apart a tract of land of 5,000 acres (2,020 ha) for the reception of about 150 families... in the rear of Toronto Township."

These families, 54 adults and 33 children, began their pilgrimage on May 1, 1819, in a caravan of 26 wagons. Each family's wagon, drawn by sturdy horses or oxen, was stocked with the necessary provisions for the long journey into the wilderness of a new and formidable land. The wagon train could cover approximately thirty miles (50 k) a day. They crossed the Niagara River by ferry and while they camped there, John and David Beatty and Thomas Graham, who were the advance agents for the Irish settlers, made several trips into York to negotiate for land grants as the government had promised. Upon

settling this, the wagon train ventured towards York. They stopped in Hamilton on a Saturday night and stayed at an Inn operated by Caleb Hopkins. He talked them into staying over the Sabbath and they took his advise and joined in the Sunday prayer meeting. Hopkins was later elected a Member of Parliament and said to be, “the only Innkeeper, who ever occupied that position in Canada.”

The journey was tedious, a slow process, with treacherous terrain and waterways to traverse. When they had to make a river crossing, sometimes it was necessary for all the men to assist each wagon individually. They reached York on May 28th, where they stayed for a time, waiting approval of their grants. Each head of the household then had to select his 200 (81 ha) or 100 acre (40 ha) land grant by drawing “location tickets” out of a box. With their land grants secure, the caravan negotiated the rutted trail called Dundas Street. Beatty and the families held a service at the Mimico Creek. Following the prayer meeting, they continued until they came to the Credit River, the area that would become the little village of Toronto (later Springfield then Erindale) in 1822. Here, they separated into two groups, one went towards the Township Line (Winston Churchill Boulevard) and four miles (6.4 k) later settled there, which became known as Switzer’s Corners for one of the original Irish families. The other, led by Beatty, started heading north towards their destination, which was fertile land where meadows and valleys abounded with virgin pine forests. Part way up the river, John Beatty’s wagon broke down and they had to transfer his belongings onto a makeshift raft to travel the rest of the way. Thomas and George Graham and his group, which included their brothers and Joseph Carter, went a little further east and settled at what would become Derry West.

Beatty’s property was 400 acres (162 ha) of Lots 11 and 12, Con.3, WHS. The paperwork from the British government took some time to be finalized and the settlers did not see their deeds for several years, therefore John Beatty’s property was recorded on July 23, 1821.

John and his wife, Sarah Sproule, and their three sons, John, James and Joseph, and John’s brother David, settled in to build a cabin and work the land. A statement once made is so true, “Those early pioneers went to work with strong arms and stout hearts and overcame the difficulties that would appear insurmountable in our day.”

When their cabin was completed, John Beatty had to go into York with a witness to sign a certificate of oath for settlement duties estab-

lished by the government that had four stipulations: that there was a dwelling on his property, that five acres (2 ha) of land was cleared and fenced, that the roadway was cleared in front of his homestead and a certificate of completion be witnessed. If a certificate was not filed within 18 months, the land could be forfeited.

David helped John clear the land and plant the crops. It has been said of John that he started the first mill in the area and he probably was the one who gave the village its name. In 1832, David received a grant of Lot 13, Con. 3, WHS, which he sold to James Crawford in 1841.

Pioneer life was difficult, hardships ensued. Many did not prevail, but sold out and left for the more populated areas like York and Hamilton. Only the tenacious remained and persevered.

The Beatty homestead, which eventually faced a dirt trail that would become Derry Road West, became the focal point of the settlement. John was fondly called “Squire Beatty.” He and Sarah had two daughters, Margaret and Mary, born here. His brother, James, who had not made the trip because he was delayed in New York on business, arrived the following year with his wife and three children. He had received Lot 13, Con. 1, 200 acres (81 ha) in 1819, which he sold in 1823. It has been recorded that James owned part of Dundas Street and operated the toll gates for which he received great profit for this endeavour. A *Globe and Mail* article reads, “In 1835, the Legislature made a grant toward the graveling of Dundas Street and the highway was established as a toll-pike as far as Springfield (later Erindale). The road was the property of James Beatty and once a week, he drove along the road to collect tolls from his 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.”

John Beatty, who had been born in the County of Tyrone, Ireland, in 1782, was a Temporal leader and pivotal spiritual person. His home was used for the Wesleyan Methodist services. The first gathering was in 1821 when over 100 people attended. He was a great friend of Reverend Egerton Ryerson, who was ordained in 1825 and founded the education system in 1844. John’s oath of allegiance was, “No matter where I am, no matter where I live, I will serve Him.” In 1825, he built a more substantial homestead for his family.

As time passed, John became more involved with his Wesleyan interests and drifted away from farming. He was quite a land speculator

though and purchased over 2,000 acres (809 ha) in Toronto Township, Caledon, Toronto Gore and Chinguacousy. He bought the Andrew Scott grant Lot 15, Con 3, WHS, of 100 acres (40 ha) in 1822, which he sold to Thomas Stoyell of Toronto in 1831 and he also received Lot 12, Con. 3, WHS, as a grant in 1831. He was then described as “a gentleman of good property.”

Beatty became a circuit rider in 1827, a volunteer job that took him away for two weeks out of every month, spent in the Home District circuit. He was ordained into the Methodist ministry in 1830 and was then appointed to the Bay of Quinte District. Being associated with Reverend Ryerson, he became involved in securing a university for the Methodists in 1831. He was then appointed to select a location for Upper Canada Academy by the Canada Conference of the Wesleyan Church. He inaugurated a campaign for funds for the first non-Anglican College in the Empire that same year. The following year, he left the tiny community of Meadowvale to become a Steward. The corner stone was laid June 9, 1832, in Cobourg and the Academy opened in 1836. (It became Victoria University in 1841, and was moved to Toronto in

1892, because of money left to the University in the will of William Gooderham Jr.) Beatty took on the position of Governor of the Academy in 1836 until he retired in 1842. He continued to reside in

Cobourg and promoted the advancement of the Methodist Church until his death on June 30, 1864, at age 82. His second wife, Rebecca, lived until age 105 when she passed away in September, 1887. His son, Dr. John Beatty (1810-1898), practiced medicine in Cobourg, was a professor of chemistry at Victoria University, a member of Town Council and Mayor for the years, 1858-1860, 1866-1867 and held many other prestigious positions.

Beatty sold 75 acres (30 ha) of Lot 11 in 1833 and the east half of Lot 12 in 1841 to James Crawford, and the west half of Lot 12 to William Leslie in 1843. His Lot 11 acreage and the 200 acre (81 ha) 1824 grant of Evan Richards, Lot 10, Con 3, form the Village of Meadowvale. His second house, the oldest in the Village, located at 1125 Willow Lane, is still in existence and is owned by artist Goran Skalin.



▲ Dr. John Beatty  
(Region of Peel Archives,  
Perkin's Bull Collection)



▲ Victoria University, Cobourg  
(Waterfront Regeneration Trust)



▲ The Beatty/Skalin House  
(James Holmes)

## The Steens - 1819

**W**illiam Steen's two sons, Nathaniel (1799-1867) and Ephraim (1801-1876) were among the settlers from New York who arrived here in 1819 and they settled in to work with their neighbours. In 1822, William Steen (1774) came to Canada with his wife, Rebecca Weylie (1774-1867), whom he had married in Linmore, Ireland, in 1795, another son, William, 1814, and daughters, Mary, 1798, Nancy, 1805, Jane, 1808, Rebecca, 1810, Ann, 1812, Isabelle, 1813, Matilda, 1816, and Sarah, 1819.



(Ministry of Transportation)

ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1827, WILLIAM PURCHASED INDIAN Joseph Bandt Clinch's 200 acre (81 ha) grant, Lot 7, Con. 3, WHS, for £200 (\$500). The property was located on the east side of Second Line West on the banks of a small stream that fed into the Credit River. Clinch had received the acreage in 1823 and had cleared one acre (0.4 ha). Indian corn was growing in the clearing where he had constructed a log shanty, in which the family took up occupancy. The Credit River was only a narrow waterway but it had an abundance of fish, including salmon. When the boys went fishing, they would poke the water with a pitch fork and bring up a big salmon, which was then cooked to perfection and much enjoyed.

The Steen name is of Dutch origin, which is spelled Steyne in Dutch. There was a renowned Dutch painter named Jan Steen, a relative of Rembrandt, who was born at Leydon in 1636. Their ancestors were persecuted in Holland during the Duke of Alva's reign (1567-1573), so they went to Ayrshire, Scotland, where things were not much better and then to Ireland during England's King James I's reign (1567-1625). They settled in Culmore, Donegal County, around 1620.

William and his sons built another log house that lasted for a number of years. Most of their children were quite mature so they helped farm the land and carried out the numerous chores. A bridge was put across the Credit River and a road was put in to the Third Line (now Creditview Road), which was used to get to Streetsville.

A year after their arrival, daughter, Mary, married John Brown, in her parents' home. He had come from Ireland with them. This was probably the first wedding in Meadowvale. Mary and John moved to York County where they would have 13 children. In 1829, Jane married Jacob McCracken, who had also come over with the Steen family. They had six children. As each of his daughters married, William Steen gave the couple £200 (\$500). In 1844, William built a large house of solid stone with the date carved in a cornerstone. This house was used for several generations of Steens.

Son, Nathaniel, married Isabella McKenzie (1800-1893) in 1829 and William built them a log house on the west side of the stream close to his home. They had five children, Rebecca, William, Nathaniel (Big Nat), Mary and Ephraim.

In 1830, William's son Ephraim married Jane Douglas. William sold Nathaniel and Ephraim 66 acres (26.9 ha) each for £100 (\$250) on January 13, 1832. Ephraim and Jane lived in a log house on the east side of the stream. They had seven children, four boys and three girls. He built a house in 1846 from bricks that came from the James Forster farm just north of Britannia Road West, Lot 5, Con. 2. The bricks were sun-dried. When the cellar was dug, the sand and gravel excavation was used in the construction of the house. The bricks were covered with stucco. When they moved to Streetsville in 1871, their son, Nathaniel (White Nat, 1845-1913) took up residency here with his new wife, Sarah Ann Danby (1847-1911), whom he had married that year and they had five children.

Big Nat bought the farm of Thomas O'Shaughnessy 150 acres (61 ha) of Lots 7 and 8, Con. 2, WHS, in 1888 for \$13,400 and worked it for a number of years until he moved his family to Streetsville. The next generation to take over White Nat's farm were sons Ernest (1887-1921) and Wilfred (1893-1965). Ernie married and moved to a farm on First Line (McLaughlin Road) and Wilfred remained on his father's farm. He married Jean Johnson, who was a Meadowvale Public School teacher. They had a daughter, Eleanor, and two sons, Stanley and Robert. Wilfred sold 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 8, Con. 2, to his brother, James Danby Steen (1873-1965), in 1921. When Highway 401 was under construction in 1953/55, part of the Nathaniel Steen farm was sold. Wilfred built a two storey house on the southern portion of the farm, 5545 Creditview Road, where he resided until his death in 1965. Part of Lot 7 and the rest of Lot 8 acreage had been sold in 1960 to Constantine Chreston. Jean sold the remainder of the farm to Alexander Gunn on February 8, 1968, and moved to an apartment in Streetsville.

Upon progenitor William's death and burial in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Streetsville, the original section of the family farm, the east half 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 7, Con. 3, was passed on to Nathaniel. When he died in 1867 (buried in the Streetsville Town Cemetery), he willed it to his son Nathaniel (Big Nat, 1841-1930), who was married to Marjery Jean Cumming (1840-1922). Then Nathaniel passed it on to James D. Steen in October, 1905, and moved to Streetsville. J.D. married Ada Amelia Oliver (b.1873), in 1901 and they had two daughters, Ethel (1904-1978, who married Toyne Grice and had Glenn and Joan), and Bessie



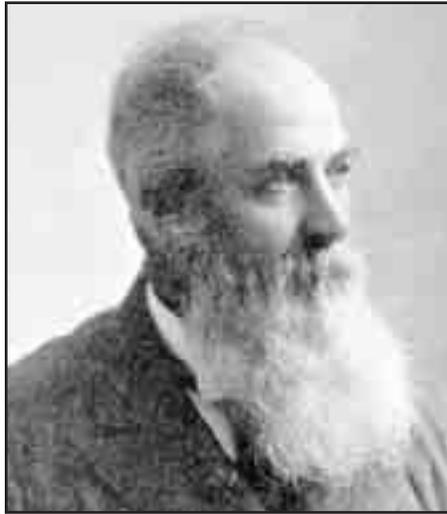
▲ Wilfred Steen's House (Demolished in 1983)  
(City of Mississauga Heritage Department)



▲ Robert Steen's House (Demolished 1982)  
(City of Mississauga Heritage Department)



▲ Steen Family Crest  
(Grant Clarkson)



▲ Nathaniel Steen, 1799-1867  
(Grant Clarkson)



▲ Sarah Steen Irwin  
(b.1819, married John Irwin,  
1839, d.1907)  
(Grant Clarkson)



▲ Mrs. William Steen  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Steen  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ J. D. Steen House  
(Region of Peel Archives)

(1910-1985). Ada died in 1921, and on June 9, 1927, he married Katie Dracass (d.1974) of Streetsville. By 1956, J.D. could no longer manage his 150 acre (61 ha) farm, so he rented it to his nephew, Keith Christie (b.1923).

Keith had talked his uncle into purchasing Holstein-Friesian cows and it was a successful venture. When Keith married Florence Laidlaw (1922-2002), a Norval farm girl, in 1947, she gave her groom two Holsteins, teasing him that this was her dowry. Keith ended up with 45 cows which produced 5,200 pounds ( 2,358 litres) of milk per day.

Keith's father, Peter Christie (1884-1984), was a pharmacist in Toronto and then Martyn's Drug Store in Streetsville from 1951 to 1970. He and his wife, Jessie Dracass (1883-1961), lived on Keith's farm, where Jessie died September 17, 1961. Keith became president of the Peel County Branch of Holstein-Friesian Association and director of the Peel Agricultural Society. Florence, taught 10 units of the Girls 4-H Homemaking Club in Meadowvale. She was also a Women's Institute member. The entire family worked at the farm chores and took quite an interest in their livelihood. Their daughter, Carol (b.1948), graduated from Guelph University in Household Sciences. She now lives in Port Credit and is a teacher at Cawthra Park Secondary School and mother to Ashley, 1984, and Christina, 1986. Their son, Peter, 1950, was leader of the Brampton 4-H Calf



▲ Steen Farm  
(Carol Christie Peckett)

Club. He graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. Today, he operates his own farm in Terra Cotta. Son, Ken, 1954, was a Streetsville Secondary Student, who became a veterinarian. He now works for Gencor in Guelph as a reproduction specialist.

In the 1950s, the Christie family had one of the biggest dairy farms in South Peel with one of the largest milk shipments throughout Ontario. Keith bought J.D. Steen's farm five years before J.D. died in January, 1965. As the advent of industrialism permeated Mississauga in the 1970s, dairy farmers began to pull back on their activities and the dairy industry declined.

In 1975, the former Wilfred Steen farm was featured on a CBC-TV one hour drama called "People Problems." It dealt with a farmer's land being expropriated. It was aired on March 14, 1976.

On August 7, 1980, Keith Christie sold the original Steen farm to Ivan Bahoric. In 1981, Fitzwood Investments took it over. He and Florence remained on the property until 1984. His father died in September, 1984, at 100 years old. Then they moved to their 200 acre (81 ha) farm in Terra Cotta. Here, father and son, continue in the field they know best. Shortly after they moved, the Steen house and barn burned down mysteriously. A subdivision now occupies part of the acreage. Keith lost his wife, Florence, on March 4, 2002.

The Steen family are remembered with Steen Drive and Steen Park.



▲ Christie Farm  
(Carol Christie Peckett)



▲ Carol, Florence, Peter, Keith and Ken, 1961



▲ Carol, Peter and J. D. Steen, 1952



▲ Keith Christie, 1957



◀ Holstein Cows

Keith Christie, 1960 ▶



Photos courtesy of Carol Christie Peckett

## MEMORIES

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"All the Steens were staunch Presbyterians and every Wednesday night my grandparents (Ephraim and Jane) would walk down to Prayer Meeting in the Presbyterian Church in Streetsville. In those days, when the parents left home, the cupboards and the cellar doors were locked. But my father and Joseph Fulton, who was brought up in the house, devised a scheme of getting the apples out of the cellar. They cut a hole about three inches square in the floor of the dining room. They very carefully replaced the piece of wood and covered it with a rug. In the daytime, when in the cellar, they placed the apple barrel immediately below this hole. When the parents were away at Prayer Meeting, they used a stick with a nail on the end of it to spear the apples and bring them up through the square hole in the floor. Grandmother used to wonder what caused all the marks and holes in the apples in the barrel."

*Written by Matilda (b. 1883), only daughter of Nathaniel (White Nat) Steen  
From the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks*

"My mother, Alice, was an Irwin and on the other side of the family were the Steens. So my mother was a first cousin of J. D. Steen of Meadowvale. There is quite a story about how many Jim Steens there were in the area. It became complicated after awhile. There were two Jim Steens to start with. They designated one man Second Line Jim Steen and the other Third Line Jim Steen. Then it got more complicated when another Jim Steen moved to the Second Line - they were all interrelated. So the original one was called Second Line Jim Steen Red and the other Second Line Jim Steen Black. They were a prolific family."

*Grant Clarkson Former Councillor of Toronto Township and former Chairman of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority*

## The McClures - 1819

**J**ames McClure (b.1775, d.1849) came to Meadowvale with Beatty's Irish families in 1819. James was married to his second cousin, Catherine McClure, and they had David, 1801, Hannah, Mary, John, James and Jane, 1817, by the time they took the six week ocean voyage to the continent of North America. His brother, Thomas (1763-1827) and family accompanied them.

The first generation of McClures was James McClure born in Scotland in 1690. He married and immigrated to Antrim, Ireland, in 1715, where he died. He had four sons, James, Thomas, Abraham and Andrew (b.1726, married and had Elizabeth, Abraham, Andrew, Thomas, James 1775 and Jane).

No grant could be found for the McClures, but James did purchase the east half of Beatty's grant Lot 12, Con. 4, WHS, for £62 (\$155) on February 1, 1830. A dense wilderness faced him and he had to clear his land and construct the necessary buildings to make it livable. He built a substantial house to accommodate his family and frame structures were put in place. Mary McClure purchased 100 acres (40 ha) E 1/2 of Lot 13, Con. 4, in 1832 and sold it to brother James in 1861.



WHEN JAMES DIED IN 1849, HE WAS BURIED IN THE Churchville Cemetery. His son, James, who had been born in Ireland in 1815, inherited the farm. He married Ester McClure. They had James, Samuel, Mary Jane, Ester, Catherine and Sarah, who would become Mrs. Sigsworth S. Reeve. He built a two storey red brick house in 1857 with

bricks transported from Milton. A carpenter was hired to make the doors and window frames. He passed away in 1902 and the farm went to his son, Samuel. The first telephone installed in the McClure home had a six party line.

On the 100th anniversary of the settlement of the McClures in 1819, it was decided to hold a celebration for the farm's century of success. However, it took three years to organize. So in 1922, the first McClure Reunion was held on June 15th, on the McClure farm known as "Lower Jimmie's." This special event was organized by William McClure. A board was installed with William as president, Darius McClure, vice president, David, second vice president, Andrew, third vice, Samuel J., secretary and David J., as treasurer.

Over 500 people, family and friends, congregated from far and near to reminisce, to exchange memories, to share the joy of what their progenitor, James McClure, had initiated by leaving Ireland and bringing his family to reside in Meadowvale.



▲ McClure House, 1857 (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ *The Sutton/Prosser House*  
*(City of Mississauga Community Services)*

The dinner and supper of the day was catered and the Brampton Brass Band and the Toronto Highland Band supplied music throughout the auspicious occasion. An orchestra was used for dancing in the evening. The entire event cost \$700.

Another successful reunion was held in 1938.

On November 19,

1924, Samuel sold his farm to Walter Sutton of Toronto for \$13,000. Mr. Sutton upgraded the homestead with hydro and plumbing and in the 1930s painted the house white, which was fashionable at this time. Lester and Lefa Prosser bought the farm on July 23, 1947, and called it "L & L Farms." In 1957, they sold out to Meadowvale Development Limited, but were allowed to reside on the farm until the company's properties were purchased by Markborough Properties in 1969 for their subdivisions. Markborough used the McClure house as its office when they started development.

When the 407 ETR Highway was under construction in 1995/97, the Canadian Highways International Constructors moved the 2,400 square foot (230 m<sup>2</sup>) brick house of James McClure Jr. north to the Village of Churchville, which was designated a heritage district in 1991. It was sand blasted to bring the red brick back to its natural state and restored. It is now used as a residence by Nicola and Tony Perry.

## NEWS ITEM

The thrill of discovering gas was experienced by S.S. Rice of Streetsville, whilst employed digging a well on the farm of W.T. Sutton on Lot 12, Third Line West, better known as the Sam McClure Farm

The first indication was given at a depth of 140 feet (42 m); at 160 feet (49 m) Mr. Rice came across a strong flow, which caused him to quit. When lighted, a flame rose about 4 feet (1.2 m) in height and burned for almost an hour.

Still boring another 20 feet (6 m), Mr. Rice struck a strong flow, sufficient, in his estimation, to light a small town.

When the second gush was struck, Mr. Sutton, the owner of the farm, was out-of-doors and thought the noise of the rushing gases was made by the cattle on the farm. Other wells on the farm are reported to be rich in traces of gas.

The boring was made through blue medina, in which was found a layer of limestone, no gravel being found during the process.

*The Evening Telegram*, August 26, 1928

From the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks

## LESTER A. PROSSER

### Pilot, Farmer, Mining Magnate Popular Meadowvale Resident

One of the most colorful still-ness of the Meadowvale district died as a result of a car accident near Princeton, B.C., last week. Lester A. Prosser, who was a well-instructed pilot, farmer and mining magnate, was 57 at the time of his death.

Mr. Prosser was born in Dawson, N.B., and he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force of World War One at the age of 17. Though his age was discovered he still managed to stay in the army for the duration of the war.

Following his return from Europe he moved to Albany, New York, where he operated a garage, and married his first wife, the former Ida Ross. Flying was Mr. Prosser's goal in life, and in 1928 he built his own airplane and taught himself how to fly. When he felt sufficiently experienced he purchased a 1918 Plikker Monoplane and began a series of endurance flights that soon gained him wide reputation as a flyer.

The next move was to California, and from there to Alaska, where he operated his own fleet of cargo planes. Tiring of this life, Mr. Prosser returned to Canada in 1941 and began gold mining in British Columbia. Shortly after this he purchased a farm in the Meadowvale area, where he spent part of his leisure time with his daughter and brother-in-law Charles Elliot.

His body was flown here from British Columbia last week for interment at Sanctuary Park cemetery, Weston.

He is survived by his second wife, the former Lefa Jarvis, and one daughter "orin, by his first marriage to the late Ida Ross; two brothers, Joseph of Sussex, N.B., and William of Naugatuck, Conn., and one sister Jessie, also of Naugatuck.

Funeral services were conducted from the David A. McClure Funeral Home, Rev. White conducted the service. Pallbearers were Charles Elliot, Mr. Jarvis, Mr. Lindbeck, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Lippert and Mr. Sheehy.

Oct. 14, 1958



▲ The McClure Farm  
(W.T. Sutton, Region of Peel Archives)



James McClure  
House, 2003 ▶  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

# McClure Reunion 1938



# First Church Services - 1821

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH GOT ITS start thanks to John Beatty, who began holding services in his home in 1821. At the first gathering, over 100 people attended coming from miles around. The service would consist of Bible readings, hymn singing, a sermon and discussion.

Circuit Riders came through Meadowvale on occasion and preached. When St. Peter's Anglican Church opened in 1827 in Springfield (Erindale), with Reverend James Magrath as pastor, people from all over Toronto Township, who wanted to get married went to him. He would travel around the Township once every two years to administer baptismal rites to infants.

An early hymn sung by the Methodist congregation was, "Help us to help each other. Lord, each other's burdens bear. Let each his friendly aid afford and feel his brother's care."

Over the years, much camaraderie and community spirit brought a fellowship to the Village of Meadowvale. New people moved here and joined in the services. When the Crawfords moved into the Village in 1833, they also opened up their home to church services.

Other residents, who were not Methodists, such as the McClures, McCracken and Steen families, who were Presbyterians, went to Streetsville to attend church. Others went to Churchville and Malton, depending on their denomination. Therefore, Meadowvale never established a cemetery.

The first Methodist Camp Meeting took place in June, 1842, on Simpsons' property, with 500 people camping in tents and wooden shanties thrown together from remnants from the saw mills for the occasion.

When Francis Silverthorn took over Crawford's house in 1847, the services were conducted at his homestead until the school house was constructed in 1851. It was then utilized on Sundays until a Methodist Church was built in 1863.

## A Village Tale

Meadowvale was a Methodist community and some worshipers were known to be overly enthusiastic to the point of their neighbours thinking them demented. One such lady was so overly moved she was thought to be a witch. It was said that her cow produced great quantities of milk and this was thought rather odd. The woman must have put a spell on the cow for it to produce in such abundance. As it turned out, it was discovered that the cow had been eating the rejected bran outside of the mill. This nutritious substance had produced the phenomenon.

*Taken from the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks*



◀ **Circuit Rider**  
(C. W. Jefferys Estate Archives - C96392 Rogers Cantel Collection)

Charles William Jefferys (b.1869, d.1951) did many drawings for William Perkins Bull during the writing of his books in the 1930s. Here is one of his quotes about the

project, "Here are portraits of pioneer women who made their homes in the virgin wilderness; of men who hewn fields out of the forests. We see axe-men at work, the planning of a crop amidst a multitude of stumps, the barn raisings, the stone, rail and stump fences, the log cabins, and all the dogged labour with crude tools by which our fathers conquered this land."

## Jacob McCracken - 1822

**J**acob McCracken came to Meadowvale in 1822 with William Steen and his family. The McCrackens and Steens met while sailing to Upper Canada from County Antrim, Ireland, where Jacob had been born September 21, 1798. Jacob became the beau of William's 17 year old daughter, Jane. They were married in the Steen home, Lot 7, Con. 3, WHS, on May 10, 1829. They would have seven children, Rebecca (1832-1916), Thomas (1834-1930), William (1837-1926), Jacob Jr. (1840-1910), James, (1841-1932), Jane (1843-1862), and John, who died in infancy.



▲ James McCracken  
87 years, oldest man at  
the Cooksville Fair, 1928  
(Region of Peel Archives)

On April 5, 1842, Jacob purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 9, Con. 3, WHS, south of Meadowvale Village from Kings College and built a two bedroom log house on the east bank of the Credit River. He chinked between the logs with mud. This type of house was so snug, it would be cool in summer and easy to keep warm in winter. It had a fireplace that could handle six foot (1.8 m) logs, which would burn all night and keep its occupants warm and cozy during the long, cold winter nights.

DURING THE FIRST SPRING WHEN THE CREDIT RIVER overflowed, the water would come right up to lap at the small veranda. Jacob built a log milk house adjacent to his homestead. This type of structure was imperative in order to keep milk, eggs, butter and meat cool and fresh. He constructed a bridge over the Credit River in order to connect his laneway with the Third Line (Creditview Road). He commenced farming and soon had a thriving garden.

In 1850, Jacob built a seven room, one and a half storey house alongside the Credit River. It was acclaimed to be the best house in the Village fronted with a lovely veranda. (It was torn down in 1922.) When son William married Mary Jane Leslie (1851-1936), the daughter of John Leslie, their four children, Weylie, William, Ella and Victoria, were all born in his father's log house.

Jacob, who died in 1880, and Jane in 1876, are buried in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Streetsville. Son, William, took over his parents' big house. He sold 68 acres (27 ha) of Lot 9 on May 16, 1922, to Goldwin Smith of Toronto - 30 acres (12 ha) of this was bushland. This became part of Smith's Sanford Farm at 1200 Derry Road West, which is still in existence today.



▲ Jacob McCracken's House



▲ McCracken Family, Ella, Weylie, William, a cousin, Victoria, Mr. & Mrs. William McCracken, 1910



▲ McCracken Horses

▲ McCracken Farm



▲ Russell, Margaret, James and Little Hunter, 1929



▲ Jemima McCracken



▲ McCracken House and Barn

Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel Archives

Jacob Jr. bought the east half of Lot 11, Con. 4, WHS, 100 acres (40 ha) of the Anthony Birdsall grant on February 1, 1883, for \$6,530 and farmed the acreage until 1901 when he sold it to brother, William, for \$5,000. Jacob died in 1910. William had a two storey, red brick Victorian mansion constructed by W.B. McCulloch of Brampton for \$2,800. He died in 1926 and Jacob W. resided there. Jacob W. sold the house to Harry T. Sutton on July 23, 1948, for \$15,000. When Sutton died Walter Sutton took up residency. In 1956, 49 acres (19.6 ha) was bought by Vivian Miller, who sold to Meadowvale Development Limited the same year.

William and Mary's son, William, bought Lot 6, Con. 3, WHS, in 1914 from Edwin Walker, who had built a lovely brick house on it in 1911. He married Mary Thomson in 1915 and they owned this house until 1956, when he sold the farm to Trafton Development for a subdivision.

In 1971, only two McCracken grandchildren were living, Gus McCauley, 97, and William McCracken, 85. William was in possession of the family Bible and a tall grandfather clock that Jacob had brought over from Ireland.

## MEMORIES



▲ Mrs. J.R. McCracken

"There was also a log milk house adjacent to his house (Jacob McCracken's). These log houses were well chinked and banked with earth to provide coolness in summer and warmth in winter. Milk houses were a necessity to the early pioneer, his wife and family. The milk was set out in a wide shallow pan to allow the cream to rise to the top.

"At a certain stage, the cream was skimmed off and when sufficiently ready, it was hand churned. Butter was packed in crocks for winter use. Meat, largely thick fat pork, was well salted and cured for year round use.

"The pioneer with his heavy out-door labour of clearing the land, tilling and reaping with hand made implements and tools, required much meat for his physical needs. The McCracken family, when sitting out-doors on a summer evening, often heard the rattle of the stagecoach on its run from Port Credit to Snelgrove (then called Edmonton)."

*Written by Mrs. J.R. McCracken, Brampton - 1975*  
From the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks

## William Elliott & Son- 1829

WILLIAM ELLIOTT AND HIS NEW WIFE, Frances Hamilton, both age 23, came to the area that was referred to as Meadowvale in 1829 from the County of Fermanagh, Ireland, where they had been born. They were married on November 29th in York.

On December 7th, William purchased 100 acres (40 ha) W 1/2 of Lot 13, Con. 2, WHS, for £55 (\$138) from grantee, James McCaque, and settled in McCaque's small log house. In these early days of settlement, Mrs. Elliott was known to bar the doors and windows to keep out the wolves and bears in the area. The Elliotts eventually had four children, William, born April 21, 1837, would become Reeve of Toronto Township, two daughters, Jane and Margaret, and a son, John, who became a doctor and practised in Fort Erie.

Elliott farmed his acreage quite successfully and his produce was sent throughout Ontario. After living in a primitive cottage for many years, William built a substantial one and a half storey red brick house in 1840 that sat upon a rubble stone foundation. It was styled after Ontario Regency and Classical Revival vernacular architecture and fronted by a Regency style veranda with an open trellised effect that was topped by a bell-cast roof.



▲ The Elliott Residence  
(Historical Atlas of Peel)



▲ William Elliott II  
(Historical Atlas of Peel)

In 1848, he bought the west half of Lot 14, Con. 2, WHS, 100 acres (40 ha) for £400 (\$1,000) from John Beatty for expansion. He died in December, 1859, and was buried in the Churchville Cemetery where Frances joined him in 1870.

Upon his father's death, William Jr. inherited his father's holdings, with the stipulation that he make dowry payments to his sisters and take care of his mother. In 1863, young William married Ann Jane Jackson, the eldest daughter of John Jackson from Trafalgar Township, Halton County. They had three children, Maria, 1865, Jane, 1869, and John William, 1871. He was elected a member of Toronto Township Council in 1865. He became Deputy Reeve in 1868 along with Port Credit resident,

Robert Cotton. In 1871, he became Reeve, which he lost to Cotton the following year. The year he was Reeve, his brother John passed away at Fort Erie. On February 10, 1873, William bought Lot 14, Con. 3, WHS, from his brother in law James Bussell for \$1,000, bringing his farm, located on the Second Line West, to 300 acres (121 ha). In July, 1875, he purchased his sisters Jane Beatty and Margaret Bussell's shares in the family farm for \$2,600.

In 1874, he purchased Jonathan Robinson's store and operated it as a wholesale and retail grocery and liquor store. He sold crockery, boots, shoes and various sundries. His trade extended into Halton County to the west. When Elliott's store was owned by William Campbell, it was destroyed by fire under mysterious circumstances around 1887. It was not replaced.

William ran as a Conservative candidate in the Provincial election in 1874, but was defeated by 14 votes. He ran again in 1878 and won over Liberal's Robert Smith and held the position of Member of Parliament for five years. He then was appointed Immigration Officer and also served as a magistrate. He was also a director of the Peel County Agricultural Society. He lost his wife Ann in 1880, the same year he declared bankruptcy. He remarried in 1884 and moved to Toronto. He died March 2, 1888, at the home of his sister, Margaret, in Trafalgar Township and was buried in the Churchville Cemetery. Because of his political affiliation, he had one of the largest funerals Toronto Township had ever experienced.

The Elliott farm was sold to Arthur Godson in 1884 for \$6,800 and in 1888 to Richard MacKay and his bride, Louise Dennison, for \$6,250. They sold to Mary Steen in 1902, who for \$1 gave it "with love and affection" to Nathaniel Robert Steen. On October 6, 1909, Lorne Davidson purchased the farm for \$6,300. He and his wife, Frances, had two children, Mary and Ian. He restored the Elliott house to its original splendour.



▲ William Elliott's Store  
(Historical Atlas, 1877)



▲ Elliott Gravestone

When he died in 1945, his son, Ian, inherited the farm, which he operated with the same fervor as his father before him. In December, 1976, 40 acres (16 ha) of Ian's farm was bought by the Ontario government for the Parkway Belt West, acquired for future transportation routing. When the 407 ETR Highway was destined to be put through in 1995/97, right where his house was located, he sold out and moved to Georgetown. Ian died in 2003.

The house at 7497 Second Line West was moved north of the 407, by the highway builders, Canadian Highways International Constructors, where it has become part of a heritage district in the old village of Churchville. The City of Brampton had designated the Elliott/Davidson house under By-law No. 7-82 on January 11, 1982. The one and a half storey red brick house, which is a combination of Ontario Regency and classical Revival vernacular architecture, is located at 7558 Creditview Road and the new owners are Dian Landurie and Walter de Bruyn Kops. William Elliott II is remembered in a roadway called Elliott Parliament in the Monarch subdivision, east of Meadowvale Village.

## MEMORIES

Joe Preston was William Elliott's coachman and Jack Ward was working on the farm with him. Mr. Elliott owned a Spanish-jack and one day before he went out he gave them instructions not to take the Spanish-jack out of the box stall. But the boys thought they would hitch it up with a blood mare they had and drive up the ice to Churchville. They hitched them up to an old sleigh and put on an old crockery crate (a harness made of boughs from trees) and drove up the ice to Churchville. They managed very well on the way up, but on the way home the jack started to run away and the mare ran just as fast as the jack. The boys were afraid the horses would jump the dam at Meadowvale and probably kill them both as well as themselves. While they were running at full speed, the boys became conscious stricken and promised that if both weren't killed, whoever was killed, the other wouldn't tell. The horses, however, when they saw the dam, stopped on their own accord and the incident ended well.

*From an interview with Lorne Davidson by William Perkins Bull while he was researching for his series of history books - 1933*

## James Crawford - 1833

James and Eliza Crawford from Hamilton, Gore District, bought 75 acres (30 ha) of John Beatty's grant, Lot 11, Con. 3, WHS, on October 16, 1833, for £400 (\$1,000). At this time, the area called Meadowvale was almost a trackless forest, only rustic log cabins poked out of the wilderness. He and his wife, Eliza, resided in John Beatty's house, while they planted their crops and settled into the village atmosphere. Only one son can be accounted for, James, who was born in 1834.

They were Wesleyan Methodists and held services in their home. Later, James was a trustee of Eden Methodist Church. Then in 1840, he constructed a substantial wooden, storey and a half house for his family on a wagon trail that would become Derry Road, named for the community of Derry West. It was but a narrow track through a dense pine forest and the farmers would put logs in the muck and mire to make the roadway more passable.



▲ Crawford/Silverthorn House  
(James Holmes)

CRAWFORD WAS MORE AMBITIOUS THAN JOHN BEATTY where the community's economy was concerned and he set out to establish himself in a more economically encouraging environment by constructing a grist mill. Crawford dammed up the Credit River, putting all his effort into his work. He pressed toward the first steps to the Village becoming a booming centre of industry and commerce in the area. He was prepared to carry out a thriving business and began to promote himself by encouraging his neighbours to bring their wheat to him for grinding when his mill got underway. But unfortunately he could not put the mill into operation because his dam never established sufficient power for satisfactory production to run the mill. Shortly after the mill was constructed, it burned down. He failed and never realized his dream.

Crawford had actually come to the area as early as 1822, when he purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 13, Con. 4, WHS, on July 6th, for £50 (\$125) from grantee, Ebenezer Austin. He sold 50 acres (20 ha) in 1834 to Hiram Hall for £62 (\$155) and 50 acres to John Beatty in 1835 for £100 (\$250). In 1841, he bought the west half of Lot 12, Con 2, WHS, Alexander Burn's grant, 200 acres (81 ha) for £350 (\$875) and the east half of Lot 12, Con. 3, £500 (\$1,250), part of John Beatty's grant, and Lot 13, Con. 3, E2, 100 acres for £100 (\$250) from grantee David Beatty, which was sold to Andrew Davidson on December 23, 1846, for £225 (\$563).

He sold the rest of his properties to Francis Silverthorn, Aaron Silverthorn and others between 1845 and 1848 and he took his family back to Hamilton. James Crawford Jr's obituary appeared in the *Christian Guardian* April 7, 1852. "Master James Crawford of Hamilton. He was the son of Mr. James and Mrs. Eliza Crawford of this city, formerly of Toronto Township, in which James was born, August, 1834. He was descended from pious parentage on both sides for at least two generations back; and his opportunity of religious instruction and impression were superior to many. He was the grandson of Mother Crawford, whose interesting obituary appears above this."

Their house is now a heritage home, referred to as the Silverthorn house at 7050 Old Mill Lane. In the Monarch development, Gooderham Estates, a house has been named for the family and one street is called Crawford Mill Avenue.

## The Brown Family - 1837

**T**he Brown family, Thomas, Jane and their seven children, three sons and four daughters, arrived in Toronto Township in 1824 when Thomas Brown purchased 100 acres (40 ha), the east half of Lot 6, Con. 2, WHS, in the Britannia area, from grantee Elizah Dexter on July 9th for £25 (\$63). Thomas (b.1787, d.1847) and Jane (1793-1876) had resided in New York State since journeying there from Northumberland County, England, in 1816. One of Thomas' experiences was working on the Erie Canal, which started in 1817 and opened in 1825.

He built a log house on Lot 6 that sufficed until 1826, when he constructed a sturdier house of Milton brick. On September 10, 1836, he bought 50 acres (20 ha) of Lot 5, Con. 3, EHS for £150 (\$450). In 1837, he purchased 50 acres from grantee John McIntosh of Lot 10, Con. 1, WHS, to the east of Meadowvale Village. He secured another 106 acres (42.7 ha) of Lot 10 in 1839. In 1840, he allowed the Derry West Presbyterian Church congregation to build their church on Lot 10, and in 1886, his son, Samuel (1819-1899), signed over this piece of his property to the church. He also acquired the east half of Lots 3 and 4, Con. 4, 200 acres (81 ha) in Streetsville in 1845 from Timothy and Erastus Street.

Upon Thomas death in 1847, Lots 3 and 4 were willed to son, George, which remained in the family until 1903. Thomas' other properties went to Samuel, who was generous to his siblings and children. Samuel received the 306 acres (122.7 ha) from his father's estate, which included Lot 10, Con.1. At age 31 years, he became the

owner of the east half of Lot 10, Con. 2, WHS, for £850 (\$2,125) on November 12, 1850, bought from James Grafton. In 1877, brother Joseph became the owner of Lot 6, then it went to Joseph's son, George, in 1890 and in 1906, the original Brown property was sold.

Samuel and his new wife, Mary Ann Johnston, 1820, and their son, William Cyrus, 1849, moved to the Lot 10 property in 1850 to live in



▲ The Samuel Brown House  
(Courtesy of Allan Emerson)

a makeshift log home-  
stead. He began to farm in earnest and bred cows to establish himself and his family. He and Mary would have Lucinda Jane, 1852, John Wesley, named for Reverend John Wesley the founder of Methodism, 1857, Francis Joseph, 1859, and Henry, 1862.

As Samuel prospered, he bought the west half of Lot 10, Con. 2, for \$1,500 on November 19, 1862. A Durham bull was calved on the Brown farm on November 10, 1865, and a year and a half later, he weighed in at 1,350 pounds (612 kg). This was recorded in *The Canada Farmer*, Volume IV, 1867. With his family expanding, Samuel built a large two storey red brick house in 1866 that had two chimneys, a side addition and a front veranda.

On June 26, 1886, Cyrus, who had attended Victoria College in Cobourg, was given 50 acres (20 ha), W 1/2, Lot 10, Con. 2, for his farm from Samuel. He and wife, Grace Pegg, had been married on December 22, 1875, by Reverend D. Prossar. Since 1878, Cyrus was noted as a "successful breeder of Cleveland Berg carriage horses," which were a popular breed that looked handsome drawing an elegant

carriage. He purchased his horses in Reading, Pennsylvania, and sold a team of bays to the Marquis of Lorne, John Douglas Campbell, Governor General of Canada (1878-1883). In 1879, he won several gold and silver medals for his horses at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition and also in 1881 and 1882. He became a director of the Toronto Township Fair Board and continued his entries until 1901.

Frank Brown was educated at the Brampton High School and became a silver medalist of the Boston School of Oratory. He established Delsarte School of Oratory in Toronto. He was the author of "Elocution and Voice Culture." He was a popular speaker throughout Canada, giving Shakespearean readings. He became a Professor in the Bowling Green, Kentucky, State Normal School and New Orleans Normal School. During this tenure, he married a Canadian girl named Miriam Williams.

He toured Canada in 1895 and 1896, visiting colleges, high schools, Mechanic Institutes (libraries), Young Men's Christian Associations and churches giving a wide extensive collection of the classics and standard readings from his wide repertoire, which included Shakespearean plays, "*Hamlet*," "*Merchant of Venice*," "*Julius Caesar*," and Sheridan's famous comedy, "*The Rivals*." He was so well received and successful that return engagements were numerous.

His wife, Miriam, who retained her name Williams, was a great match, as she was an elocutionist. She was a mastery of her subject, skillfully executing her expertise in the dramatic arts. She was also successful as a writer and dramatic impersonator, well known in Toronto and other large Ontario cities. They would often do engagements together, which was referred to in the advertisements as "A Brilliant Combination."

Upon his retirement, Professor Brown returned to his roots in Meadowvale. He and his brother, John Wesley, operated a dairy farm, which turned out quite lucrative. He was very community minded and the founder of the Meadowvale Fortnightly Club in 1910. Being an accomplished debater, his expertise was greatly appreciated by the less knowledgeable.

Daughter, Lucinda, married James Brown (no relation) of Acton and



▲ Francis J. Brown  
(Allan Emerson)

they moved to Los Angeles, California. She was a poet and published two books of poetry, which she illustrated: "*The Road of the Years and Other Poems*" and "*Fireside Reveries*." She also wrote music and lyrics, one entitled "*Yer the Rainbow in me Sky*," which was published in 1937.

Wheler Brothers sold Henry Brown the Silverthorn house and mill and 118 acres (47.7 ha) on August 14, 1895, for \$7,800, the year after he ran for councillor. He immediately moved into the old homestead with his wife, Elizabeth Catherine (Lillie) Carberry (1865-1949), the daughter of James and Isabella Carberry. They had three children, Francis, 1894, Grace (1903-1949) and Henry, 1909. The boys died in infancy. Once settled, he began to clean up the place and tore down the stables that had been used for the Commercial Hotel and constructed a new barn. He put in a new foundation for the house and turned it around to face Derry Road. He seeded and fenced the front yard and planted four elm trees that grew magnificently to grace the front entrance until they were killed by the Dutch elm disease in the 1960s. Then he opened a summer resort on the pond so visitors could picnic and enjoy boating and swimming. In the winter they would skate and hold a winter carnival.



▲ Henry Brown Residence  
(Allan Emerson)

In 1905, Henry produced electricity with a generator in the mill and ran the power to his house and other buildings. He strung lights up everywhere, making his property very colourful. In 1908, he drained the mill pond and added new head gates which transformed the pond into an eight acre (3.2 ha) lake area that he named, "Willow Lake." (In the late 1960s, the CVCA put the course of the river back to its original path.) Francis Silverthorn had built a one and a half storey structure north of his house and Henry utilized it as a boathouse. Henry was an



▲ Lucinda Brown  
(Louise Southern)



▲ Miriam Williams Brown



▲ Luther and Holstein Calf



▲ Henry Brown



▲ Lillie Brown



▲ Luther and Grace Emerson

**ELECTORS OF TORONTO TOWNSHIP!**  
 Ladies and Gentlemen  
 Your Vote and Influence are respectfully  
 solicited for  
 ✦ **HENRY A. BROWN,** ✦  
 OF MEADOWVALE,  
**AS COUNCILLOR FOR 1894.**  
 Election, Monday, Jan. 1st.

▲ Election Card

**The Carnival**  
 on Willow Lake Rink  
 Meadowvale  
 will be the event of the season!

---

VALUABLE PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN IN THE  
 FOLLOWING CLASSES:

Best Lady Skater  
 Best Ladies' Group Skater  
 Best Skating of Lady's Skating  
 Amateur Skating Race  
 Professional Skating Race  
 Best Skating of Men  
 Skating Race of Men

Magazine for Skaters

◀ flyer

**Willow Lake  
 SUMMER - RESORT  
 Meadowvale**

The beauty spot of Peel is now open for  
 the season. A fleet of brand new Boats and  
 Canoes with a mile and a quarter stretch of  
 boating on lake and river amid scenery that is  
 unexcelled, adds to the charms of this lovely  
 spot. The finest of grounds for baseball, foot-  
 ball and other games are to be found here while  
 throughout the grounds for a mile or more  
 gigantic elms and other fine trees throw a grate-  
 ful shade.

On the grounds is a large dining hall, where  
 all kinds of necessaries for tourist and picnic  
 parties can be had. Dishes and hot water  
 supplied. For terms etc. apply to

**H. A. BROWN**  
 MEADOWVALE, ONTARIO

flyer ▶

Photos courtesy of Allan Emerson

early entrepreneur and had visitors met by a horse drawn livery wagon at the CPR Train Station, so he had several financial opportunities going for him. He kept mill ledgers and receipt books that included the names of customers such as, Mr. Russell, the Blacksmith, Norman Hiscox, the CPR Station Agent, and Lucy Kerney. Several receipt books were found in the house when it became the Credit Valley Conservation Authority headquarters in 1965. They are at the Region of Peel Archives in Brampton.

Henry had a lot going for him as well as his involvement in the cultural life in Meadowvale, however, he suddenly lost his life in the spring flood of March 10, 1911. At 6 o'clock in the evening, Henry and his helper, Ken South, had gone by horse and buggy to the dam site to open the sluice. This being spring, the river ice was broken up and a heavy flood was occurring. They inspected the dam to check for any damage. They were caught up in their work and the ice broke and they were both thrown over the dam and accidentally drowned. Mrs. Brown knew something was amiss when the horse pulled the empty buggy into the yard. Several of her neighbours formed a search party and went looking for the two men. That evening, Henry's body was found 300 yards (274 m) down the river and by lamp light the search party continued to look for Ken South, son of Stephen South, who owned George Gooderham's farm behind the Gooderham mansion. His body was not found for two weeks when it was discovered in the Credit River near Sigsworth Reeve's farm.



▲ Ice Jam on the Credit River  
(Region of Peel Archives)

Lillie remained in Meadowvale while her daughter, Grace, attended high school in Brampton. Then they closed up their house and moved into Toronto so Grace could complete her education at Havergal College and the University of Toronto, where she studied the classics. She graduated in 1919, became a teacher and taught the classics. Having met the Bull family while boarding in Brampton, Grace had the opportunity of working with William Perkins Bull on his books on

the history of Peel County during the 1930s. She married Luther Emerson in 1935 and they had Jane, 1936, David, 1939, and Henry Allan, 1941. They inherited the Mill site, house and the 106 acres (42.9 ha) of Lot 10, Con. 1, WHS, from Grace's mother, Lillie, in 1949 and they sold the Lot 10 acreage to Bertha and William McKee in 1950.

John Wesley, who was a bachelor, was given the east half of Lot 10, Con. 2, WHS, on June 30, 1896. They lost their mother, Mary Ann, on May 24, 1885, and father, Samuel, on July 19, 1899. Cyrus' wife, Grace, was injured in an auto accident at the farm gate on November 22, 1932, while on her way to a Women's Missionary Society meeting and died shortly after. She was 76. John died on February 3, 1933. Cyrus passed away on September 3, 1937, at the Peel Memorial Hospital. His pallbearers were lifelong friends, William Gooderham, James Pearson, Sig Reeve, William Lambe, Lorne Davidson and Charles Gardner. Only Lucinda, who resided in California, was left of Samuel's children. The Brown family are all buried in the Britannia Cemetery. A monument of Scotch granite, the highest in the cemetery, was put in by Samuel's sons shortly after his interment.



▲ Gravestone

The Samuel Brown house was in the family until 1937, when Cyrus died, then it changed hands a number of times over the years. Charles Pegg was given all of Cyrus' property in 1934, and he sold it by 1947. The last to go was the house sitting on 1.3 acres (0.5 ha). James Carter bought it for \$6,300 on February 8, 1952. He sold to



◀ The Brown/Bull House  
(City of Mississauga  
Community Services)



Jane and Edward Lillie on June 30, 1952, for \$7,300. Then it came into the hands of Douglas Monro on December 22, 1980, who within a year sold it to George and Lynn Vooro. The City of Mississauga passed a By-law #549-82 on August 18, 1982, designating the house a heritage home. The Vooros put the house up for sale in 1984 and it was purchased on March 30, 1987, by Robert and Betty Bull, who had owned Lilac Lane Antiques in the Cooksville area for a number of years. They sold this lovely house that stands at 620 Derry Road West in October, 2003, and it is now used for institutional purposes. The Silverthorn/Brown house at 7050 Old Mill Lane was owned by Luther and Grace Brown Emerson until it was purchased by the CVCA in 1963. It is presently owned by Michael Balkwill and Judge Nancy Mossip.

## Radiant Morn

Radiant morn, with sunbeams streaming,  
Beautiful earth, with sunshine teeming;  
Radiant trees, with dew drops gleaming -  
Like glittering gems, are the dew-drops' rays.

Radiant morn, with birds a singing,  
Beautiful earth, with joys a ringing;  
Radiant flowers, their fragrance flinging -  
Like incense, out on the gypsy breeze.

Radiant morn, with skies of splendour,  
Beautiful earth, so full of wonder;  
Radiant songbirds in notes so tender -  
Are offering the sun-god, their songs of praise.

*Poem from Lucinda Brown's book of poetry "The Road of the Years"*  
From the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks

## NEWS ITEM

At the home of Mr. William Cyrus Brown, Meadowvale, two surprise parties assembled to do honour to the oldest member of the Brown family. Having been born on August 14, 1849, Mr. Brown achieved the distinction of octogenarian on August 14, 1929. One thing especially noticeable in the gathering was the large number present who were scions of the old pioneers who had cleared the land early in the last century and who were still holding the farms of their fathers or grandfathers. Mr. Thomas Brown arrived in 1816 and finally settled at Britannia, Peel County, in 1822. His son, Samuel Brown, settled on a farm in Derry West in 1847 and in time he and his family acquired the 400 acres of land from Derry West to Meadowvale which is still in the Brown family.

*The Brampton Conservator, August 22, 1929*

## MEMORIES

"The construction of the rear portion of my grandparents' house in Meadowvale was absolutely unique. I have a vivid memory of the original windows in the back section and I know that it was plank on plank construction. The back door was a slab door with a lock on it. My Grandmother Brown used to sit in her rocking chair by the east window, usually reading the Gazette. I still have that rocking chair in the family, having given it to my daughter, Elizabeth, for her to nurse her baby. It had been made by William Linfoot at Stanley Mills as a wedding gift for my great-grandmother, Isabella Carberry. William Linfoot made all the furnishings for that house and when I was growing up in it, we had furniture dating back to the very beginning of that house. I remember a wooden bathtub carved out of a log. A couple of pieces were even signed by William Linfoot."

H. Allan L. Emerson  
Henry Brown's grandson  
Letter dated Jan. 21, 1998

# The Simpson Family - 1838

**J**ohn Simpson (b.1803, d.1878) purchased Mathew Dawson's 200 acres (81 ha), Lot 10, Con. 3, WHS, in 1837, which had been Evan Richard's 1824 grant. Richard gave his property as a gift to Jane Heron in 1826 and Mathew Dawson bought it for £175 (\$438) in 1828 from Andrew Heron. Dawsons' heirs sold it to John for £659 (\$1,647) on December 1st. He moved his family here in 1838 following the Mackenzie Rebellion.

John had been born a twin to George in 1804, the first children of Joseph (1766-1842) and Sarah Simpson (1782-1870) of Kirby Moorside, Yorkshire, England. They had a daughter, Hannah, in 1811. John married Mary Sigsworth (1805-1883) on June 21, 1824, which was her 19th birthday. They had five children born in England, Mary Ann (1824-1844), Sigsworth (1828-1857), Hannah Louise (1832-1927), Thomas and Elizabeth (1834-1927).

Residence & Mills of John Simpson Esq. ▶  
(Historical Atlas of Peel County)



▲ John Simpson  
(Gerald A. Crawford)

When the family decided to move to Upper Canada, George Simpson and his sister, Hannah, were the first to leave and George acquired property in Aurora on Yonge Street. John, his family and parents, left England by ship on May 24, 1837, to cross the Atlantic Ocean and six weeks later in mid July, arrived in Toronto. They brought with them three horses, four cows, six sheep, two dogs and several fowl. They took up residence in Whitchurch (near Newmarket). The Simpsons were Quakers and Whitchurch was an active Quaker community that had a meeting house.

Then John acquired his Meadowvale acreage. He called his property Credit Range Farm and he immediately constructed a substantial three room log house and worked to clear more land. He, too, had high expectations like James Crawford, and his first intention was to build a saw, shingle and planing mill and a carding mill. This was the first real activity shown in the area and the year 1836 (although inaccurate as to his arrival) is heralded



▲ Mary Sigsworth Simpson  
(Gerald A. Crawford)



as the founding of Meadowvale. John dammed up the Credit River and successfully established an operational dam connected by a 14 foot (4.5 m) wide race to run his mill that had a 12 foot (3.7 m) over-shot water wheel that provided the power to operate his Mooley saws. His carding mill allowed the women in the surrounding area to bring their wool to be made into yarn. He had two employees at the mill who were paid £16 (\$40) a month.

John's acreage harboured a splendid 100 acre (40 ha) white pine forest. At this time shipbuilding was flourishing in Britain and canal construction in the United States, therefore Upper Canada's prime timber was in great demand. The pine forest on his property was a major asset to the district, providing it with economical growth. A 200 foot (60 m) high tree could harvest 6,000 board feet (10 cubic metres) of lumber. The trees were cut and floated down the river to the Port Credit Harbour, which was operated by the Mississauga Indians, where it was shipped to Britain for masts and transported to Rochester and New York State where construction of canals was underway. Some timber was used in Port Credit for barrel staves.

In 1844, John and Mary lost their 20 year old daughter, Mary Ann, and Mary Jane was born to them that same year, becoming her namesake. Around this time, John built a one and a half storey frame house.

John also bought the north half of Lot 9, Con. 3, WHS, 100 acres (40 ha) in 1856 for £162 (\$405). He eventually had 200 acres (81 ha) under cultivation; 140 acres (56 ha) were in crops, which were spring wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips and flax (a 12 to 40 inch - 0.3 m to 1.2 m - plant that contains fiber for cloth garments), 57 acres (23 ha) of pasture land, 3 acres (1.2 ha) of orchards and a market garden. He had strawberries, raspberries, red and black currants, gooseberries and grapes.



▲ Mary Jane  
Simpson Graham  
(Gerald A. Crawford)

In 1861, it has been reported that his mill was still in operation with two employees who were still only earning \$40 a month, the same as in 1838. It produced 50,000 board feet (15,000 m) of lumber per year, which brought in \$3,000. His farm was valued at \$15,000 at this time. He had farm implements

worth \$1,240, \$670 in livestock and four horses worth \$250.

His daughter Mary Jane married Thomas Graham Jr. (son of Thomas and Ann, 1835-1892) in 1862 and John gave them a piece of land as a wedding gift and Thomas built a two storied red brick house that is now a heritage building. John gave the northeast corner of his property for the construction of the Methodist Church in 1863. With John being a Quaker and Mary an Anglican, they had become Methodists and their church obligations always came first. They were very religious and it was compulsory for meals to be prepared on Saturday and the boys had to clean all the shoes for Church the next day.

Then by 1870, John had constructed a substantial two and a half storey L-shaped, patterned red brick structure with three chimneys and a gabled roof that had a medium pitch with cornice returns at the ends of the eaves that were decorated with ball drop pendants, with a full basement of coarse river stone. On the ground floor there were two kitchens, one was used for the workers and one for baking and preparing food, a pantry and dining room that was used on a daily basis. On the second floor was a dining room that was only used when they had guests. They had hired girls who slept on this floor where the Simpsons also slept. They had several servants who had a separate place to sleep upstairs on the third floor that had four bedrooms -



▲ The Thomas Graham House  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Simpson House  
(Region of Peel Archives)

the water wheel, John put in a six foot (1.9 m) turbine wheel which was faster and more productive. The Simpson farm was featured in the *Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peel County* in 1877.

John died tragically in 1878 when he slipped on a loose plank and fell into the millrace beside his sawmill and drowned. He was buried in the Churchville Cemetery. His daughter, Mary, and son-in-law, Thomas Graham, took over the management of his property. In 1888, when they purchased the Gooderham house, they sold the Simpson property on November 30th to James Jackson for \$24,000. In 1895, James sold Lot 9 to his son, Francis J. Jackson, and in 1908 the remainder to William Harris. Francis purchased Harris' acreage in 1910. He was politically inclined and served on Toronto Township council as a councillor, 1903-1906, Deputy Reeve, 1907, and Reeve, 1908-1909. He then sold the northwest half of Lots 9 and 10 to Goldwin L. Smith, a Toronto lawyer, on May 10, 1912, for \$9,973, and 32 acres (13 ha) on October 1st, for \$7338, and another parcel in 1917 for \$8,500. Jackson sold five acres (2 ha) to Miss Mary E. Blacklock in October, 1913, at a cost of \$1,500 for her Rowancroft Gardens. He called his farm "Credit Grange." His house was built by Robert Hayes and he had an addition put on the back to make six bedrooms. His barn burned down in 1930, which was caused by a spark from the threshing machine. It was rebuilt by Douglas Hunter, his son-in-law, who rented it. When Francis retired as registrar of Peel County in 1934, he and his wife, Annie, moved to Brampton. Upon his death from a heart attack in 1937 at age 72, Annie Jackson,

one had a stove to provide heat. The rest of his hired help lived in his other two houses.

On a Friday morning in November, 1874, the Simpson saw mill was burned to the ground with its entire stock to a loss of \$5,000. John had no insurance, but the mill was quickly rebuilt.

With the destruction of

as executor of his will, sold the remainder of the Simpson property, 32 acres (12.6 ha), on March 26, 1946, to Florence and Douglas Hunter.

When Smith bought the Simpson property in 1912, he renamed it "Sanford Farm." He took up residence in the Simpson house and ventured into raising Shorthorn cattle that became prize winners. He bought 68 acres (27.2 ha) of McCracken property in 1922 adding to his farm. When he died in 1949, the farm was sold and it is still a working farm today.

John and Mary Simpson are buried in Churchville in a non-denominational cemetery with his parents and brother, George. In 1980, when Meadowvale was given the prestige of being the first Heritage Conservation District in Ontario, John Simpson was honoured as one of its founding fathers. His last house was designated a heritage home by the City of Mississauga on November 14, 1983, and it is located at 1200 Old Derry Road.



▲ Simpsons' Gravestone



▲ Simpson/Humphries House  
(City of Mississauga  
Community Services)



## MEMORIES



▲ Hannah Louise Simpson  
(Gerald A. Crawford)

"I so often think of my dear mother coming to a bush farm, only 40 acres cleared, and she did not grumble. Oh, such a change. Father would say, 'Now, Mary, if you are not satisfied, I will take you back to England.' She would say, 'I can see a better prospect for our family in this country.' And so it went on.

"I spent some very happy days around Credit Range farm. I always had a pony or horse to ride, from when I was ten years old. My sister, older than me, was a good horsewoman and sat very erect on her horse. Those were good times.

"My father's house was always open for preaching or prayer meetings that brought out a number of people, old and young, to our house, and those were the good old-time religious meetings."

*Hannah Simpson Reeve, Daughter of John and Mary Simpson, (born 1832, died 1927).*



▲ Sophia Emily Reeve  
(Gerald A. Crawford)

"Grandfather (Simpson) bought 300 acres of land at a small village called Meadowvale and they lived there till they both died and were buried in Churchville, where their monument stands to their memory. Grandfather built a saw mill and made lumber for sale as well as farming the land. In those days, he was considered a wealthy man. He had a park quite near to his house with two deer and a Guinea fowl there. The house still stands there, but there were three houses on his farm. I can remember their living in two of them before he built a very fine brick house.

"That farm was some establishment. He had his own blacksmith shop and he had a man to do the work. We children used to spend our holidays there and we certainly had a good time.

"There was a big bell on the high post and we did love to ring that for the men to come to dinner off the farm and saw mill."

*Sophia Emily Reeve, daughter of Hannah and John T. Reeve, who was born in Burnhamthorpe, Toronto Township, in 1865, and grew up in Churchville. In 1964, at 99 years old, she wrote this account of life on her grandparent's farm, John and Mary Simpson, in Meadowvale. She died the following year.*

## The Davidsons - 1840

**A**ndrew Davidson came to Meadowvale in 1840. This was at the request of his friends the Browns, who had come over from the British Isles to the United States on the same sailing vessel in 1816. The Browns left in 1824 for Upper Canada (Ontario). The two families kept in touch over the years and finally the Davidsons came to reside in Toronto Township.

The Davidsons originally hailed from the Highlands of Scotland then went to Northern Ireland, where William Davidson (b.1770, d.1847) would take a wife, Elizabeth (1781-1857), and raise his family there. Their sons, William and Andrew, left for the United States and settled in Pennsylvania, where they would have a hint of fame for having worked on the Erie Canal (opened in 1825). They earned enough money to send for their parents.

Upon the Davidsons arrival in Meadowvale, Andrew rented the Johnston farm on Lot 5, Con. 3, WHS, from Richard Casler, and worked it for a few years. On December 23, 1846, he purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 13, Con. 3, WHS, for £225 (\$563) from James Crawford and moved there as soon as he had constructed a small house. Andrew married Ann Sibbald (1823-1866) in 1848 and they



Mr. & Mrs. W.T. Davidson  
with children Lorne  
and Ida ▶  
(Davidson Family)



▲ Ploughing with oxen  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Lorne Davidson, 1940  
(The Davidson Family)

would have five children, William Thomas (1849-1920), Elizabeth, who would die in childbirth, Mary Ellen, and two who died young. He built a larger brick house and their property was called Sunnybrae Farm. When his parents passed away, they were buried in the Britannia cemetery.

Andrew put in a cold cellar on the side of a ravine, and had two clapboard barns built from trees on the property. He had a team of oxen called Buck and Bright, a plow and other farm implements. So he was able to cut down the trees and clear the land ready for a garden. He plowed with the oxen around

the stumps and sowed by hand. He cut the wheat by sickle and threshed it with a flail. This procedure had been used until the horse powered threshing machine came into being in 1830 and was purchased to carry out this difficult task. A cradle, which was a scythe with wooden ribs was used to bundle the grain which was bound with straw. This was replaced by the horse drawn reaper, then the self binder. A stump machine was used to clear the grounds free of the tree stumps. When one of the oxen died, the horse, Old Hank, had to work with the other ox. They worked well together and the work was done on schedule.

Brother, William, returned to the United States in 1863 during the Civil War. He enlisted in the northern army and was killed at Fredericksburg. When Andrew passed away in 1873, his son, William (W.T.), took over the farm. He and his wife, Mary Jane Armstrong, had two children, William Lorne (1878-1945) and Ida (1883-1957). He became well known in the community as a skillful farmer, who specialized in alfalfa hay, and a breeder of fine Holstein stock. He kept account books and the business's highest cash sales were: 1919, \$5,532.59 and 1924, \$5,868.76. His lowest cash sales were: 1912, \$2,110.50 and 1930, \$2,590.95.

W.T. died in May, 1920, and was buried in the Churchville ceme-

tery. His wife and daughter inherited his property. Lorne had purchased Nathaniel Steen's farm across the road in 1909, Lot 13, Con. 2, that had an eight room brick house on it built by William Elliott in 1840. Lorne married Frances B. Andrews (1883-1963) in 1913 and they had Mary (1914-2003), and William Ian (1918-2003). In 1920, Lorne bought the family homestead from his mother, who continued to live in the house. Lorne was community minded and was involved with the Meadowvale Methodist Church and took on the responsibility of registrar for the Churchville cemetery where his family members were buried. He held many titles such as president of the Peel Holstein Breeders Club. His prize bull, King Tortilla Acme, provided Canada with about 90 percent of its finest Holstein cattle.

Lorne died in 1945 and son, Ian, who had worked alongside his father all his life, inherited the Davidson farm and carried on. He married Cherie DeGuerre in 1948 and they had Walter, 1949, Virginia, 1951, Lorne, 1954, Cheryl, 1957, Wendy, 1961, and Bruce, 1965. The year that Lorne Jr. was born, the Steen's barn burned down. Ian did not replace it.

Ian started a riding stable in 1964. He had 25 stalls put in an old barn and built a new stable and a 150 foot by 60 foot (45 m x 18 m) attached arena. He started to hold horse shows. He hired Vimmy Siegrist to manage the stables and her girls were well qualified to give instructions. Ian and Cherie's daughter, Wendy, started riding at age six. She became an accomplished rider and went to Mexico in 1979 with the Junior Olympic Riding Team. Her activities were cut back when she went to university. Today, she teaches riding at Meadowlark Stables on Winston Churchill Boulevard.

In December, 1976, the province purchased 40 acres (16 ha) of Ian's property for the Parkway Belt West. In 1996, Ian sold his farm to the Ontario Government when the 407 ETR Highway went through and bought a house in Georgetown. Ian passed away on March 26, 2003.

The Elliott/Davidson house was moved above the 407 to the village of Churchville, which has become an heritage district. Other than that building, located at 7558 Creditview Road and owned by Dian Landurie and Walter de Bruyn Kops, nothing remains of the Davidson farm. Davidson Way, a street in the Monarch development east of the Village, is named for the family and the Ian Davidson Trail hugs the Credit River.

In September, 2003, the mill stone Ian had donated to Meadowvale Village was dedicated and is displayed in a small garden facing Old Derry Road.



▲ Davidson House



◀ Davidson Mill Stone, Bruce, Mark and Leanne

▼ Ian Davidson at his Saw Mill



▲ Davidson Farm Tractor



▲ Ian Davidson



▼ Elliott/Davidson House, 2003



◀ Wendy Davidson on her horse

Four Generations, top row; Lorne, Ian, Bruce, bottom; Ian and John (Maddick) ▶



(Photos courtesy of the Davidson Family)



## The First Hotel - 1844



Bell Hotel

(Courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)



MR. GEORGE BELL (FOR YEARS MISTAKENLY REFERRED to as Ball), a blacksmith, is supposed to have built the first hotel in Meadowvale in 1844, according to a study done by the City of Mississauga's Planning Department in 1966 and a pamphlet put out by the Mississauga Heritage Foundation. A City of Mississauga brochure states 1854.

The Land Registry papers show that George Bell did not buy the half acre (0.2 ha) the hotel sat upon until September 5, 1854, from John Simpson, Lot 10, Con. 3, WHS, for £60 (\$150). The Indenture paper says George Bell and his wife, Ann Jane, bought land and premises, so it is very possible that Simpson, knowing how beneficial a hotel would be to the Village, allowed him to build the hotel that early, then sold it to him. George's family resided in a house built by John Simpson. (No connections could be made between George Bell and Hugh and Robert Bell, granted Lot 11, Con. 2 ,WHS, in 1851 and 1857.) George bought a second piece of property from Simpson on October 4th, a quarter acre (0.1 ha) for £30 (\$75), on which he put up a blacksmith shop, which became Lots 11 and 12 of Simpson's Lot 10 of the Village plan of 1856.

The structure that became the hotel was a two-storey rectangular frame building of Georgian Survival architecture that was eventually covered with pebbled stucco. It had a front porch, two brick chimneys and a partial stone foundation The interior central hallway was enhanced with a large staircase, chair railings, doors and wooden moldings that have remained in tact these many decades. It became known as "The Temperance Hotel" and it accommodated travellers from points west heading to Malton or Toronto. When Francis Silverthorn arrived in 1845 and established his saw and grist mill across the road, the hotel catered to out of town farmers who came to the grist mill to grind their wheat into flour or saw mill to have their logs sawed into lumber.

Bell sold the hotel and blacksmith shop to Mathew Laidlaw, the owner of the Commercial Hotel, on May 10, 1856. Mathew passed away on July 12, 1878, and Ann Laidlaw Davis, Mathew's widow, sold it to Albert Lambe in 1890 for \$300, and moved to Brampton. Albert remodeled the hotel to accommodate his saw mill workers and visitors

to the village. John Campbell operated the hotel for him and it did a fair amount of business.

In October, 1948, grandson Albert Lambe sold the building to Mahlon and Mary Croft. The Crofts sold to William Bramhill on February 11, 1954, and he in turn to Peter Buckland on December 10, 1959. Then Joseph and Joan Guerts purchased the old hotel on November 23, 1962.

The former Bell Hotel was designated a heritage house by the City of Mississauga on October 18, 1977, when it was owned by Elisabeth Mowling, who had purchased it in 1976 from the Guerts. It is located at 1090 Old Derry Road and is resided in by Elisabeth, who is a psychotherapist in Streetsville, and her husband, John.

▼ *The former Bell Hotel/Mowling  
Residence, 2002*  
(James Holmes)



# Silverthorn's Contribution - 1845

WHEN FRANCIS SILVERTHORN FIRST CAME TO the district in 1845 and built a saw and grist mill, he opened up the area



to being established as a true flourishing village. He named his mill, Meadowvale Mills, as the location was so perfectly referred to. The development of the area relied on the benefits of the Credit River and Francis took full advantage of this source. To

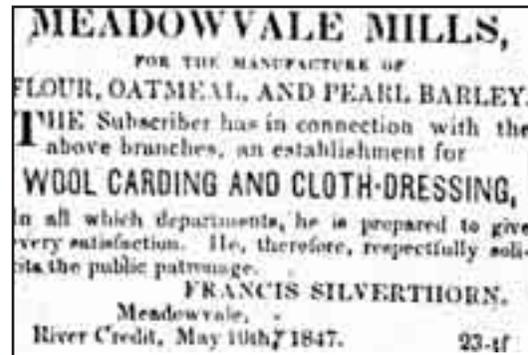
quote from the Meadowvale Women's Institute scrap-books, "Meadowvale could boast a substantial Island instigated by Francis Silverthorn for power ability for his mill. A mill race was constructed which brought



▲ Meadowville Mills  
(Region of Peel Archives)

the Credit from above and returned it to the River below by the tail of the mill, which encircled the land between its upper and lower reaches." The tall white pines, a mill pond and fertile land all lent to an ideal location for growth and prosperity.

Francis placed an ad in the Streetsville Review on May 10, 1847:



▲ Ad for Meadowvale Mills  
(Streetsville Review)

Toronto, a Mr. Dick was one and the gathering throng had a marvelous Christmas celebration.

During the 1850s, the small village grew gradually with new houses being constructed and businesses being established, thanks to John Simpson and Silverthorn's ingenuity in sharing his land when he registered the Francis Silverthorn Subdivision Plan in 1856.

### Crawford/Silverthorn Indenture

Francis Silverthorn this day february 10, 1845, purchased seven and a half acres of E 1/2 of Lot 11, 3rd Concession, west of Hurontario Street in the Township of Toronto for the purpose of erecting a grist mill. Thereon, the said James Crawford hereby agrees to allow the said Francis Silverthorn the privilege of one half of the water from the dam erected on the said lot and a part of Lot number 12 adjoining and also allow the said Francis Silverthorn to cut a canal and mill race from the said dam to where he intends to erect the said grist mill. Francis Silverthorn hereby agrees to allow the said James Crawford the free and uninterrupted use of the road.

No. 24902 of the Toronto Township Indenture papers. Indenture between James Crawford and Francis Silverthorn, 1845.

## Pearson's Valley Farm - 1846

**J**ames Pearson (b.1785, d.1872), who came from Pennsylvania, purchased 200 acres (81 ha) of Thomas Kennedy and William Perkins's grants, Lot 8, Con. 3, WHS, west of the Credit River, on September 23, 1846, for £1200 (\$3,000) from James Kennedy. A small log cabin was at his disposal and only a small portion of the property had been cleared as Kennedy had only managed to make a very modest living from the fruits of his labour. The Kennedy cabin was made cozy with woven carpets and lace curtains.

Pearson was the grandson of James Pearson, who emigrated to America from England and was killed in the Seven Years War in 1759. His son, Nathaniel,



▲ Log Cabin (Ministry of Transportation)

married Ann Bunting of Pennsylvania and they came to Upper Canada in 1801 with their eight children. James was 16 when they settled in Newmarket on Yonge Street, where his father set up a flour mill.

In 1812, James married Jane Lount, the sister of Samuel Lount of Holland's Landing, who became a rebel during the Mackenzie Rebellion in 1837 and was executed for his crimes on April 12, 1838. They had eight children, Philadelphia, 1813, Amelia, 1814, Ann, 1816, Susannah, 1818, Jane, 1821, George, 1823, John, 1825 and James, 1828. James' 42 year old wife, Jane, died in 1830.

He was an agriculturalist at heart, so upon his arrival in Meadowvale, he fit expertly into his farming obligations. His second wife was Hannah Simpson, John Simpson's sister. They had two sons, Joseph, 1834, and Samuel, 1838. Their first spring caused disaster when the river overflowed to flood and ruin the interior of the small



▲ Valley Home Farm  
(Region of Peel Archives)

wooden abode. This impressed James to build a sturdier house from bricks made of clay on his own property. They called their place, "Valley Home Farm."

He progressed so beautifully that his property was ranked by his neighbours as a model farm. The old Kennedy place gradually took on a refreshing appearance that eventually classed his farm as one of the best in Peel County.

When James passed away in September, 1872, his youngest son, Samuel, took over his holdings. He was married to Mary Ann Brigden (1845-1885) and they had nine children, four of whom died in childhood. They had an adopted daughter, Maria. He continued his father's plan of improvement: the lawns were designed after their English residence; hired help worked on the farm for 25¢ a day with meals; two gardeners were employed all summer to keep the lawns and flower gardens immaculate. Samuel spent years on public and high school boards, was director of Toronto Township Agricultural Society, 1865, and a Justice of the Peace, 1880. He had his own firm, S. J. Pearson & Son and he imported and bred Shorthorn cattle and Berkshire hogs at his Valley Home Stock Farm. They entered exhibitions around Ontario and garnered many prizes during the 1890s. He took pride in every aspect of his work until January, 1912, when he sold his farm to W. P. Fraser, the secretary of the Ontario Jockey Club. He retired to the Village, where, for \$2,200, he purchased the Victorian style red brick house built in 1862 for Thomas and Mary Jane Simpson Graham from John Stewart, who had bought it from the Charles Switzer estate in 1909. In late January, 1914, Samuel broke his ankle and a few weeks later, March 25th, he died of a heart attack at age 76 and was buried in the Churchville Cemetery.

The Graham/Pearson house, designated in 1980 when it was owned by Dale Howard, is located at 1020 Old Derry Road. Gregory and Margaret Young purchased it from Howard on April 16, 1984. In 1996, they added an enclosed porch on the west side to enlarge the kitchen area. They still reside there with their three children, twins, Whitney and Katie, 17, and Jessica, 14.

**AUCTION SALE**  
**of**  
**Dwelling House**  
**in Meadowvale.**

The undersigned has received instructions from the Executors of the Estate of Charles W. Switzer, deceased, to offer for sale by Public Auction on the premises on

**Wednesday, 17th February, 1909.**

at 3 o'clock p. m., that valuable brick dwelling house and lot in Meadowvale, consisting of one half of an acre, more or less, part of Lot No. 10 in the third concession west, Toronto Township, as described in deed registered No. 9122.

The dwelling is a solid brick two storey house containing seven rooms, with furnace, suitor kitchen and woodshed, and with fruit and ornamental trees, and is well planted with fruit and ornamental trees, and is a most desirable residence.

The vendors will produce only such abstracts, title deeds and evidences of title as may be in their possession or power.

The vendors reserve the right to bid once for the property.

There will also be offered for sale at the same time 1 coal sifter, 1 sprayer, 1 hearse, 1 covered buggy, nearly new, 1 set single harness, 1 covered 14 karat gold repeater - also in first class condition cost \$135.00; also one organ.

Terms: - For real estate, 10 per cent cash at time of sale, balance in 30 days thereafter without interest. For chattels, cash at time of sale on application to T. S. Mason, Liegt., Oct., John D. Orr, Meadowvale, Ont., Executors, or to

**H. F. JUSTIN,**  
 Brampton, Ont.,  
 Vendor's Solicitor.

**JOHN SMITH,**  
 Auctioneer.

Dated at Brampton, 26th January, 1909.



Switzer Auction Sale, 1909 ▶  
 (Streetsville Review)



Graham Pearson  
 House and Plaque  
 (City of Mississauga  
 Community Services  
 and James Holmes)

## The Village Stores - 1847

THE FIRST STORE IN THE VILLAGE, IT HAS been recorded, was built in 1847 by Jonathan Robinson, a bookkeeper, and the second by James Ward in 1849. Jonathan and Judith Robinson did not purchase property until September 5, 1854, which was a section of John Simpson's Lot 10 that cost them £60 (\$150). It could be that John Simpson saw the need of a store and financed Robinson's venture. His store was constructed of slabs on a quarter acre (0.2 ha). On October 24th, he purchased another quarter acre for £25 (\$63). James Ward is mentioned in the Peel County Atlas as having the first store, but his name is not in the Land Registry papers. It is difficult in these later years to sort out these discrepancies.



▲ Gooderham & Worts Mercantile  
(Region of Peel Archives)

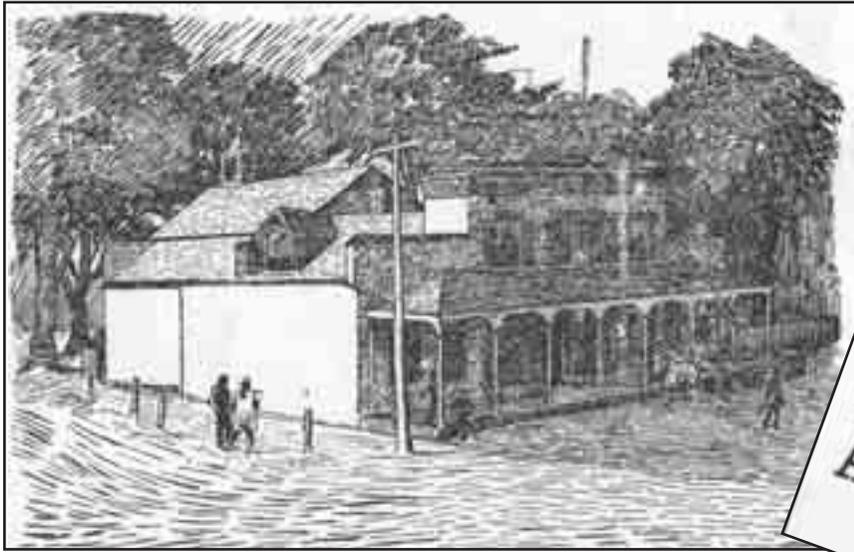
Before these emporiums were established, the people had to travel to Churchville to the north, Streetsville to the west and Toronto to the east. There was not much cash around, so the farmers bartered produce for goods in the store.

Christopher Cheyne held a mortgage on Robinson's store in 1857 and took over the building in 1865. He sold it to William Elliott II in 1874 for \$1,100. When Elliott suffered financial problems and went bankrupt in 1880, Jonadab Hardy purchased the store for \$2,500, and he sold it to William Campbell, a merchant from the Township of Eldon, the following year. When the Robinson store was owned by Campbell, it mysteriously burned down. He sold the lot to Allan McDonald for \$75 on January 18, 1888, and before the year was out it became the location of John D. Orr's blacksmith shop.

James Ward's store was on Lot 11, Con. 3, across the road. It was owned by Mathew Laidlaw in the 1870s, who had owned and operated the Commercial Hotel next door. He closed the store and then



▲ Gardner's Store  
(Region of Peel Archives)



opened it again and Frank Sibbald managed it for a couple of years, followed by John Wills. While Wills ran it, the store burned down. The most valuable thing lost through the fire was Mr. Will Couse's apiary (colony of bees). He had the most extensive honey business in this part of the country. Albert Lambe built a house on this site in 1893.

In 1852, Francis Silverthorn built a store that became the property of Gooderham & Worts when they took over his holdings in 1861. It became the most prosperous Mercantile operation in the history of the Village. In February, 1907, when it was owned by Mr. J. H. Whitlam, fire broke out on a Wednesday morning and the buildings and contents were completely destroyed. The only item Mr. Whitlam managed to save was his piano. In April, he held an auction and sold three buildings and all his possessions and left the village.

Others who operated stores were: Charles Switzer (b.1847, d.1908), who was related to the Switzer family at Lisgar. He owned and operated the Silverthorn/Gooderham store from 1881 to 1904; William A. Gardner, who had a store from 1896 to 1903. His wife Mariette's



◀ Top Left: Charles Switzer Store (Harry Spiers)

◀ Bottom Left: Crockery from Switzer Store (Charles Humber)

◀ Lambe Store Ad, 1909 (Streetsville Review)

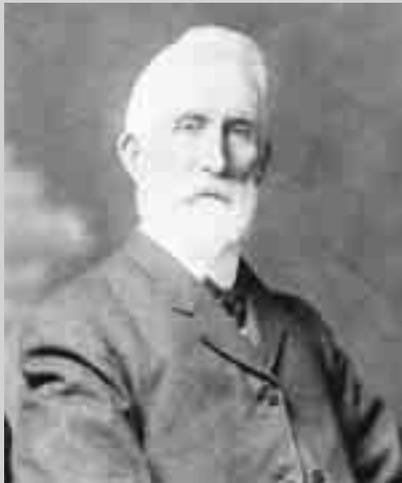
executors sold it to Albert Lambe in 1903 for \$80 and he took over the \$400 mortgage with Francis and Catherine Sibbald; William Lambe started a store in the Gardner building called A.S. Lambe & Son in 1907 that also served as the Post Office. It has been said that Henry Brown had a store and one grocery store ledger is amongst his many mill ledgers at the Region of Peel Archives and it is dated 1911, the year he died. Familiar names are Pearson, Lamb, Watt, Hill, Orr and Gardner. Other than this, no other dates could be substantiated. Francis J. Jackson (former councillor, 1903-1906, Deputy Reeve, 1907, and Reeve 1908-1909) built a two storey brick general store in 1916 next door to Lambe's and his brother, William, who was a Liberal while the rest of the villagers were Conservative, ran it for him. Between 1918-1920, William was the Village's postmaster. Francis sold it to Alfred Hall for \$2,500 in February, 1921. Hall sold it to William Lambe on December 29, 1921, for the same amount. William moved his store there and prospered quite well. The Jackson/Lambe store housed the post office until 1989. Since 1983, the former store at 1060 Old Derry Road, has been resided in by Margarita Fromm, the last postmistress of Meadowvale Village.

# Luther Cheyne - 1847

In 1847, at age 16, Luther Cheyne started to work at his brother-in-law Francis Silverthorn's mill in Meadowvale Village. Luther had been born in Derry West to Christopher (b.1801, d.1887) and Jane Ann Cheyne (1808-1872) on May 27, 1831. Christopher and his brother, Andrew (1793-1856), came to the area with the John Beatty caravan in 1819. They settled on the east half of Lot 14, Con. 1, EHS, a grant of 100 acres (40 ha). Their family originated in Armaugh, Tyrone County, Ireland, where they were born.

Andrew built a one storey Colonial design house of river stones pulled from the Rutledge property on the Etobicoke Creek. As soon as the brothers were

settled, they sent for their parents, Christopher (1754-1844) and Elizabeth (1754-1847). There would be five generations of Cheynes who would live in Andrew's house, three born in it. Christopher Jr. met Jane Ann Hamilton (1808-1872) and they were married in York (Toronto) by Bishop John Strachan in 1823.



▲ Luther Cheyne  
(Region of Peel Archives)

CHRISTOPHER BUILT A SIMILAR HOUSE AS HIS BROTHER Andrew's in 1825. They had Eliza (1826-1854), Mary Hamilton (1828-1873), who married Francis Silverthorn, George (1829-1906) and Luther (1831-1914). Their brother, George, arrived in 1830 from New York. He married Abigail Walker and they farmed Lot 15, Con. 2, WHS, in Chinguacousy, then moved to Orangeville in Caledon.

In April, 1842, Andrew bought the west half of Lot 14 from Thomas Graham. The Cheynes started their own cemetery when father,



Cheyne Cemetery (Kathleen A. Hicks)



Christopher, died in 1844. There would be 19 family members buried there, all except Luther, who was buried in the Brampton Public Cemetery, and 12 friends such as Thomas Graham Jr., 1871, wife, Mary, 1862, and James Graham, 1874. The last person to be buried there was George Cheyne in 1906 at age 77 years. The family also had a chapel. This cemetery is still in existence on the east side of Hurontario Street at County Court Boulevard in Brampton.

When Francis Silverthorn built a store in 1852, Luther worked in this establishment. Then he became the first post master in 1857 when the post office opened in Francis' store. He lived in the Village and remained in this position for ten years. In 1858, he organized the Orange Lodge and was the first Worshipful Master. His brother George was also involved and served as Deputy Master. On June 10, 1858, Luther bought Lots 23-25 at the northeast corner of Pond Street and Barberrry Lane from Francis for \$300 and built a one and a half storey Gothic revival type house that would become known as the Apple Tree Inn in 1920. In 1860, he married Mary Jane Switzer (1843-1873). They had a daughter, Loretta, in 1872, who died at seven months, and a son, William, 1873, who died at age seven. He ran for councillor of Ward 4 in 1861 and won the seat. At this time, he and the circuit minister rode around the countryside by horse and buggy to solicit money to build a Methodist Church. Francis Silverthorn gave him money and lumber but left the area the same year. John Simpson gave a parcel of land to the church trustees and the church was built in 1863. Luther became Deputy Reeve of Toronto Township in 1863, which he held for two years. Mary Jane died in 1873 and Jane Wallace (1851-1946) became wife number two.

### A Cheyne Journey

In 1861, Luther Cheyne journeyed to Washington, D.C. to witness the inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln on March 4th. He also managed to attend a reception given in the White house by the outgoing President James Buchanan. At this time, he had the honour of shaking President Buchanan's hand (1856-1860). When he arrived



▲ (l) President Abraham Lincoln, (r) President James Buchanan  
(Smithsonian Institute)

home, he noted in his diary in detail all the furnishings he had seen in the president's home. On May 10th, he had the pleasure of witnessing the arrival at the Navy Docks of the Japanese fifth expedition comprising of 21 princes and their attendants for a total of 75 people, who had arrived to sign a treaty between the two countries.

Recorded by a family member with William Perkins Bull in 1930s.



▲ The Cheyne House/Apple Tree Inn  
(Region of Peel Archives)

He had three sons and two daughters. In 1876, he was appointed secretary of the Peel Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Luther purchased a grist mill in Brampton in 1884 and left Meadowvale. On March 15, 1890, he sold Lots 14 and 15, Con. 1, EHS, to Robert Armstrong. He only operated the grist mill until 1889, but he remained with Peel Mutual until his death on December 29, 1914. His house became the Apple Tree Inn and today it is the residence of Jason and Susan Henderson, 7053 Pond Street.

## Sons of Temperance - 1850

WHEN A MR. DICK FROM TORONTO visited Meadowvale in December, 1849, as a speaker at Francis Silverthorn's tea, he promptly organized a Sons of Temperance League. It was said that, "The thoughtful men and women of the day resolved to make a determined resistance to the further increase of evil." The message of the Temperance Society was enthusiastically embraced and hotels were discouraged from selling liquor. By 1854 they had 150 members, who also hailed from Streetsville, Churchville, Brampton and Derry West.

It has been written that "Life without liquor was like a farm without horses to the burghers of Meadowvale in the 1840s. Liquor was cheap. Fifteen cents a gallon, one cent a glass in a tavern and five cents a grunt - a grunt being all a man could swallow in one breath."

The Village at this time had two taverns. Public houses were frowned upon because they were considered a corrupt influence and a report put to the Legislative Assembly in 1849 went like this, "The chief danger to an idle working man was the village tavern or city grocery.



(Region of Peel Archives)

**H**ere the idle can be transformed into a drunkard; his moral condition becomes deteriorated and his follies soon generate into vices; he at length becomes unfit for labour and unwilling to labour and theft and lawlessness soon bring into contact with the courts of justice."

At camp meetings, the young people would gather excitedly, only wanting to have a good time and enjoy the pleasures of the day. Behind every bush, it seemed, were booths, tents and wooden stands with intoxicants, mostly whiskey, at easy access.

Then the Temperance Society came to the Village. These members frowned on imbibing alcoholic beverages. "Woe to those who putteth the bottle to his neighbours lips," they were warned vehemently. Temperance measures brought about escalating prices and whiskey went up to \$20 and \$30 a gallon (converted coinage as pounds and shillings were still in use until 1856). Over the fields and valleys,

Temperance swept through the province, overcoming the temptation until taverns and liquor stores started disappearing from the Village streets. By 1920, the two taverns had been turned into private dwellings.

The Temperance League was still operating in 1873 when it rented the Orange Lodge Hall for six months. William Elliott opened a store in 1874 that sold liquor, so perhaps Temperance was on the decline in Meadowvale at this time. The organization was discontinued for a number of years and on April 5, 1892, was revived and called Meadowvale Division No. 303. This initial meeting was held in the Methodist Church with convener Reverend W.T. Hicks, Grand Chaplain. The application for a charter was signed and the officers elected were: Henry Brown, Worshipful President, William Barnhill, secretary, Charles Switzer, treasurer, Frank Sibbald, P.W.P., and H. T. Ferguson, Chaplain.

It was still in full swing on September 18, 1894, with a good attendance of members. Brothers Garbutt and Johnson visited from Summerville. Brother Lyon hosted an interesting program. October 5th was set for an open meeting with a visit from other Temperance Leagues in the District. Division No. 303 was determined “to show to the people of the District what temperance workers are doing to promote the success and happiness of mankind.”

It was not resolved as to how long the Temperance League survived, but when the Ontario Temperance Act was introduced in the House of Commons on March 22, 1916, to be enforced on September 16, 1917, and prohibition came into effect in North America on January 16, 1920, making the sale and imbibing of alcoholic beverages illegal, these members must have been happy campers. Following the 1926 election, the Liquor Control Board of Canada was established. Prohibition lasted until December 5, 1933.

When a South Peel Temperance Rally to vote on the Canada Temperance Act took place on June 16, 1947, Meadowvale was not on the list of towns and villages that participated. Out of the 16,528 people who voted, the “drys had won.” in a 8,121/8,407 against the repeal.

Peel Temperance was still functioning in 1951 when Reverend William Weir of Brampton was chairman of the Peel County Temperance Foundation. In August, Cooksville clergyman Reverend W. Buchanan got 9,000 signatures on a petition for the Committee for Revocation of the Canada Temperance Act. The Citizens of Peel voted on November 26th whether they wanted the liquor laws to be governed by the Canadian Temperance Act or the Liquor Control Act.

To quote from the *Port Credit Weekly* on November 29th, “By a margin of almost 2,500 votes, the electors of Peel County on Monday voted in favor of revoking the 36 year old Canada Temperance Act and putting the county under the Ontario Liquor Control Act and the Liquor Licence Act. Unofficial returns show a majority of 2,496 votes for revocation.

“Revocation of the CTA opens the way for establishment of Government licenced liquor outlets in Port Credit, Toronto Township, Toronto Gore Township and Streetsville. The remainder of the county is still ‘dry’ by Local Option and another vote requiring a three-fifths majority would be necessary in the five municipalities before sale of liquor is legal.

“Monday’s vote was the third attempt to have the CTA revoked. The last vote in 1947 upheld the Act. About 50 per cent of the eligible voters went to the polls with 16,760 ballots being cast, 9,628 for revocation and 7,132 against. After the temperance forces had conceded the vote to the Citizens Committee, a victory celebration was held at the Crofton Villa in Cooksville.”

### *The Organization of Temperance*

*“Though I am old, yet I am strong and lusty*

*For in my youth, I never did apply*

*Hot and rebellious liquors in my blood”*

by Adam from “As You Like It.”

The first Temperance Society known to history was founded in 1808 in Saratoga, New York, followed by the Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance in 1813. This led to the formation of the American Society for the Promotion of Temperance being organized in Boston in 1826. By 1835, America had over one million members.

After Queen Victoria visited a distillery in 1848 at Lochnager, near Balmoral Castle, and partook of a glass of “crathur,” (beer) the temperance circles were horrified. In 1853, the United Kingdom Alliance was founded and proclaimed “to procure total and immediate legislative suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquors as beverages.”

The first two Temperance Societies in Canada were established on the same day, April 25, 1829, in Nova Scotia, one at Beaver River, the other at West River in Picton County.

Temperance in Upper Canada was in full swing in the early 1830s. The first Temperance paper was the “*Canada Temperance Advocate*,” published monthly in Montreal as of 1837.

By 1843, there were 386 societies with over 60,000 members in Upper Canada.

From *Before the Bar, The Temperance Movement in Canada*, pages 33, 36, 38.

## Damaging Floods - 1850

**A**lthough nearly every spring, the Credit River would flood and overflow its banks and cause the local farmers much dismay, some floods occurred at other times of the year. It was in 1850 that flood reports were first recorded detailing the destruction along the River's route.

The most severe flood in Meadowvale occurred on December 1, 1873, which was caused by a sudden thaw during a rain storm. A dispatch was sent on December 4th from Meadowvale. It stated that, "the ice broke up, a temporary railway bridge was carried away, some damage was done to the dam of Gooderham & Worts (which was 15 feet high - 4.3 m) and a large jam of ice and timbers passed down the river about ten this morning."

On September 13, 1878, it was reported in Meadowvale that the flood "reached its highest ever this morning. Fences, bridges, mill dams and, in some instances, cattle were swept away."

In 1893, the wooden bridge over the River on Derry Road, built by Frank Sibbald, was washed away in the spring flood. It was replaced by another bridge. Giant ice bergs would accumulate on the flats and become dangerous as the weather changed with the season.



### ▲ *The Flooding of Water Street* (Region of Peel Archives)

The island was served by a roadway called Water Street, appropriately named because it was flooded every spring. But, this, too, was a hazardous area, as during the spring thaw every year it flooded drastically, causing damage to the homes on the tiny, picturesque laneway, which was renamed Willow Lane. Henry Brown named the pond, Willow Pond, for the laneway that led up to it. He rented out boats for people to enjoy the water. Caldwell Brothers cut ice on the Credit River during the winter months and it was shipped for use in ice boxes around Ontario.

On March 10, 1911, while two men, Henry Brown, owner of the former Silverthorn mill, and Kenneth South, were working to prevent damage to Henry's dam during a heavy rain storm, as the ice jam broke, they were swept away and drowned.

October 15 and 16, 1954, was when Hurricane Hazel hit Ontario. The bridge was washed away again and a third one of iron was constructed, which is still there. Living near the Credit River was treacherous. It caused severe flooding that would take pages to tell about. Somehow, the farmers survived the days when the weather was against them and the good prosperous occasions overcame the times of despair.



▲ Ice Jams on the  
Credit River  
(Region of Peel Archives)

◀ Iron Bridge Looking  
east on Derry Road  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

# Toronto Township Incorporated - 1850

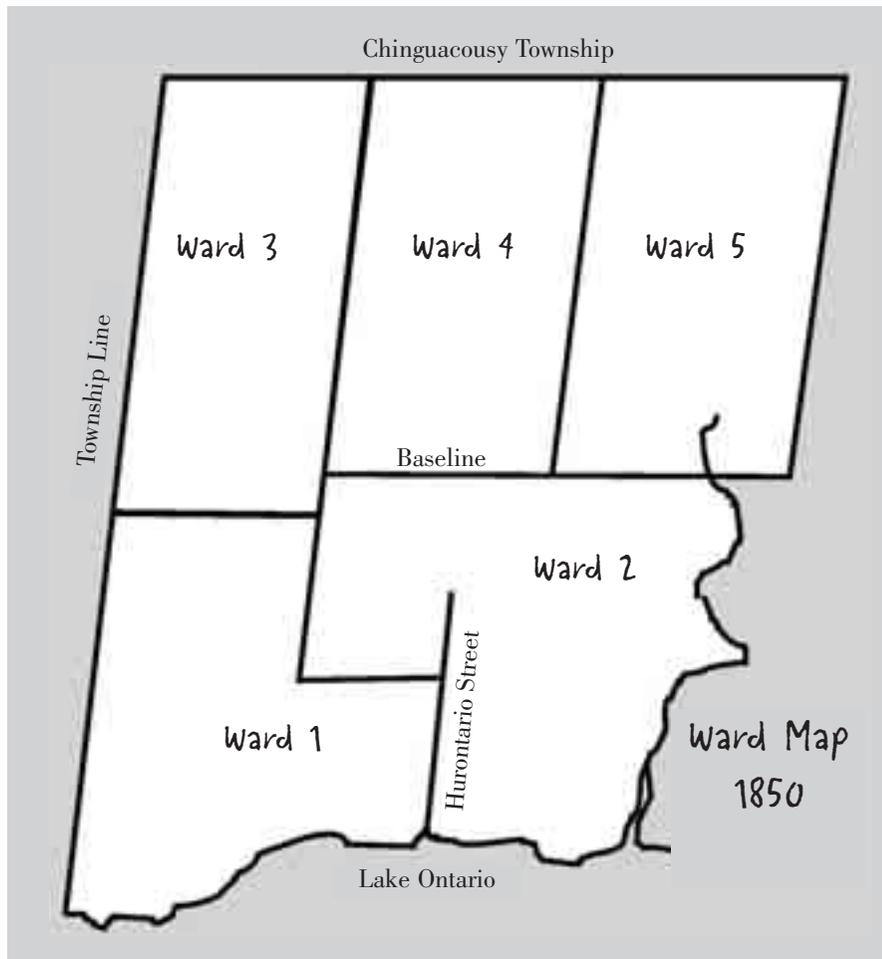
IN 1850, TORONTO TOWNSHIP WAS INCORPORATED under the District Municipal Act, which reads: Incorporation under the Act by the Legislature in the Twelfth year of Victoria, chapter eighty and eighty one; entitled as Act to repeal the Acts in force in Upper Canada, relative to the establishment of Local and Municipal Authorities and other matter of a like nature.

The Township was divided into five wards at a meeting of the Home District Council on October 2, 1849. At an election held the first Monday in January, the councillors for the year of 1850 were decided upon: Ward 1, 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.

46



▲ Charles Romain  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Samuel Price  
(Mississauga Library System)

(Kathleen A. Hicks)



Cottage and Mill Race (Harry Spiers)

## Part Two 1851 - 1900

## The First Schoolhouse, S.S. #15 - 1851

FRANCIS SILVERTHORN'S FATHER, AARON FROM ETOBICOKE, was responsible for Meadowvale getting its first schoolhouse. For a few years, the parents in Meadowvale had been discussing the need for a school, but it took the tenacity of Aaron Silverthorn putting in the first request to the newly appointed Council in the newly incorporated Township of Toronto to make it happen. His request by way of a petition was the first to be presented, which took place on February 11, 1850. It was carried over to the next meeting held on February 16th in Streetsville, then again to the 25th. It was resolved that, "No further action be taken on this petition." Aaron persevered and the following spring, it was passed for the building of a school house in School Section #15.

In the summer of 1851, Meadowvale got its school. Francis donated land on which the schoolhouse was built. It sat on a hillside and gave a lovely view of the surrounding countryside. The first teacher was Samuel James McCulloch Woodwick True. The first trustees

were Francis Silverthorn, Andrew Davidson and John Simpson.



◀ Aaron Silverthorn  
(Silverthorn Family Collection)

The school was used by the Wesleyan Methodist congregation for church services until the church was built in 1863. They were known to be a boisterous group, who during service would bellow, "Amen" and "Hallelujah," stamp their feet,



▲ Second Schoolhouse, 1871  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

clap their hands and pound the desks in their religious excitement.

The same year that free schooling was instigated, 1871, a second frame school was constructed on the Second Line with a stone foundation on a fifth of an acre (0.1 ha) purchased from John Simpson for \$200 by the School Trustees. The front section of the building was covered in board and batten (strips of wood nailed across parallel boards



▲ Meadowvale Public School Award Winners, 1927  
(Region of Peel Archives)

for reinforcement, common in 1860-1880 period). It had delicate archading connecting each batten below the eaves. Extensive use of windows were installed on the south side of the building, which provided sufficient lighting for the reading tasks of the children. The back section was covered with clapboard. It had a plaque on it stating the year it was built (which has disappeared).

This school was utilized as the Community Hall for the residents and all the activities were held with great revelry. The old school was sold to Mrs. Rankin and used as a residence. She sold to Walter Preston, who made several changes to make it appear more like a

house. On August 29, 1974, this house was destroyed by fire, which was caused by defective wiring. At this time it was owned by Miss Edythe Barber, who had the house boarded up and moved to a nursing home in Streetsville. Mr. Raymond Carruthers of Carruthers Construction Company, built a house in 1991 at this location, 7140 Second Line West, but he prefers 1 Barberry Lane, and still resides there today. Edythe's weaver's cottage still exists, north of his gate.

It has been recorded by Louis Southern in the Meadowvale Women's Institute scrapbooks that the first boy to receive a spanking was James Danby Steen, and Harry Sibbald, who had a wild streak,



▲ School as Community Hall  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



Meadowvale Public School 1967 ▲  
(Peel Board of Education)



▲ Meadowvale Public School 2002  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Raymond Carruthers' House, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

was made to stand in the corner on one foot. Some of the teachers who are remembered fondly are: Mr. Gordon Tucker, 1892, Miss McCracken, 1899, Miss Jean Johnson, 1918, and Miss Sadie Carr, 1920.

In 1959, the schoolhouse at 6970 Second Line West became the Community Centre when a much larger one storey red brick building was constructed. This third school has had several additions put on, and today it has 13 rooms and there are also 20 portables to accommodate the 750 students. On June 12, 2000, the school, located at 890 Old Derry Road, celebrated its 40th anniversary and a Peace Garden, that is being maintained by six local builders, was established. Linda Nicholson has been the principal since 1998.



▲ Edyth Barber's Weaver's Cottage, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Home of Raymond Carruthers  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## MEMORIES

"When Robert George Brown was a small boy attending school in Meadowvale, he was sometimes a few minutes late, having walked two or three miles from his farm house on the Third Line (now Creditview Road and presently owned by Mrs. Milson). The school-master locked the door promptly at 9 a.m. and any pupil late was forced to wait outside until recess to enter. On this particular morning in the winter, little Robert George was late and of course was locked out. Instead of waiting, he walked all the way home and told his father what had happened. The elder Brown was a bit upset by this and promptly hitched up the horse and sleigh, and taking Robert George with him, drove to the school and found the door locked. The father knocked on the door and when there was no answer, he knocked louder - nothing! Finally, he seized a piece of firewood that was lying beside the door and smashed the door open. 'Now, damn you, will you let my boy in?' the father cried."

*Told by Ian Davidson to Louise Southern February, 1980.*

Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks



▲ School Master and Class  
(Artist Norman Price, Perkins Bull Collection)

## The Second Hotel - 1852

**M**athew Laidlaw built a two and a half storey red brick hotel in 1852 on a half acre of land (0.2 ha) Lot 11, Con. 3, WHS, purchased from James Crawford on September 9, 1846, for £50 (\$125), that would harbor a well used licenced tavern. It was of a Neo-Classical style with a Georgian balance with a gable roof and a Credit Valley stone foundation. Across the front facade, Laidlaw constructed a two tiered open veranda. It became known as the Commercial Hotel.

Mathew came to Meadowvale in 1834 from Drifffield, Yorkshire, England. In 1837, he sent for his father, Aaron (b.1784, d.1852), mother Ann Danby (1785-1864) and younger brothers, John (1823-1900), Aaron (1825-1891) and William. The oldest brother, Danby, remained in England. Mathew married Ann Farnell. He received a Crown grant, 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 8, Con. 4, WHS, on November 9, 1844, and sold it to Edward Rutherford for £400 (\$1,000) on March 21, 1865.



▲ Mathew Laidlaw  
(Bruce Farnell)



▲ The Hotel in 1922,  
home of William Lambe  
(Region of Peel Archives)

ON SEPTEMBER 19, 1848, HE BOUGHT 67 ACRES (26.8 ha) OF Lot 11, Con. 3, WHS, for £235 (\$598), the west half of the 120 acres (48.6 ha) William Neeland had purchased from John Beatty in 1845. In 1856, he purchased the Bell Hotel and blacksmith shop. He also purchased Village Lot 4 at the corner of Pond Street from Francis Silverthorn on August 29, 1859, for £30 (\$75).

When father, Aaron, died on July 1, 1852, at age 68, he was buried in the Churchville Cemetery. His brother, John, rented property from Joseph Gardner in Britannia for over 20 years. He married twice to Jane Frances (1825-1860) and Ann Large (1832-1887) and had 12 children. He and brother Aaron helped build the Methodist Church in 1863. Then he bought



◀ Aaron and Ann Danby  
Laidlaw's Gravestone, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Lot 17, Con. 3, WHS, in Chinguacousy and moved there in 1866. He also had Lot 8, Con. 5, WHS. Aaron Jr. married Lucy Kerney (1827-1905) of Streetsville and also moved to Chinguacousy to Lot 8, Con. 6, WHS. He had a hotel in Churchville on Lot 14, W 1/2, Con. 2, WHS, purchased from Thomas Clark in 1882, and the Royal Albert Inn at Whaley's Corners. He died on May 15, 1891, age 66.

Some years later, Mathew Laidlaw leased the hotel to Moses Strong, and left the hotel business. He took over the operation of James Ward's store that had been constructed in 1849.

Over the years the hotel underwent considerable alterations by its owners such as Joseph Kerney, who bought from Mathew on May 26, 1870, for \$3,200, Christopher Rutledge, 1875, for \$4,700, Joseph Bessey, 1881, for \$3,420, who sold to George Lougheed, for \$3,600 and he to Frank Sibbald on January 23, 1884, for \$860 and other property. Frank leased it to Ephraim Hopkins for two years and then sold it to John Callaghan in May, 1886, for \$3,380. Callaghan received \$3,500 for it in 1909 from William Royce. On September 1, 1915, Royce made a transaction for \$3,600 with William Kindree, a traveller from Toronto, who on the same day transferred it for the

same amount to William Lambe. John Callaghan was the last to operate it as a hotel. It became the Lambes' home.

William Lambe sold the building to Goldwin Smith in 1944 for \$4,000, and then it was turned over to Ethel Smith in 1948 for \$1. On January 31, 1949, Ethel sold to Harold Livingston Robson for \$6,000. Robson divided the substantial building into apartments. One evening, when he and his friend William Lambe got together over a bottle of booze, they decided to tear down the decorative veranda and second storey balcony. Around 1955, Robson added hipped gable dormers to the roof. Son Gerald took over the premises upon his father's death in 1956 and resided there with wife, Phyllis, and children until he died in 1974.

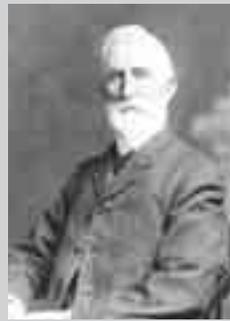
The heritage dwelling, painted white around 1970, is located at 1051 Old Derry Road, and is owned by Gerald's son, Robert, and his wife, Cheryl, and is still utilized as apartments. In 2002, Robert began preparing to reinstate the original veranda/balcony facade to his building, restoring the heritage aspect. As of this printing, he is still determined to carry out this plan.



◀ Robson Apartment Building, 1978  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)

# The First Post Office - 1857

THE FIRST POST OFFICE WAS established in 1857 in Francis Silverthorn's store, which was located on the north side of Main Street (Derry Road), with Luther Cheyne as postmaster. It was opened on August 1st and called the Meadowvale Post Office and thereby the Village legally received its name.



▲ Luther Cheyne  
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ James Gooderham  
(Region of Peel Archives)

Charles Switzer ▶  
(Region of Peel Archives)



Before this, residents had to pick up their mail at Derry West, one mile (1.6 k) east of Meadowvale.

In 1861, the Gooderhams took over Francis Silverthorn's mill and store. Luther kept his postmaster job until 1862 when James Gooderham took on the position. In 1865, James' brother, Charles "Holly," replaced him. When Holly decided to move back to Toronto, Charles Switzer became the postmaster in 1882 and bought the Gooderham store in 1890. Then Mr. J. H. Whitlam was running it and in February, 1907, it burned down. The day after the fire, a Postal representative from Toronto came to the Village to make arrangements to carry on the operation of the Post Office.



▲ James Craig, Rural Mail Carrier  
(Region of Peel Archives)

However, Mr. Whitlam did not want to continue in the position and William Lambe, son of Albert S. Lambe who ran a sawmill, took over the Post Office, which was relocated temporarily in the former Gardner store that Albert Lambe had bought in 1903, located east of his Mill. Makeshift tables were set up to sort the mail. The building was then turned into a store and post office and William had his father, William Gardner, and William Royce take on the postmaster duties until 1917.

Francis J. Jackson (Toronto Township councillor 1903-1906, Deputy Reeve, 1907, and Reeve 1908-1909) built a large two storey red brick building in 1916, that had a flat roof with a brick cornice, next door to Lambe's and opened a general store. A year later the Post Office was moved there with William Jackson as postmaster. William Lambe bought the store in December, 1921, and relocated his business to the larger premises and resumed the position of postmaster until 1936. The Post Office remained there until 1967, with William's son Albert Lambe (1936-1945), James Van Allan (1945-1954), David

Loker (1954-1955), John Smith (1956-1957), James Ogle (1957-1959), Archie Ragan (1959-1960) and Arthur J. Mongeau (1960-1970) handling the mail duties. Rural delivery was started around 1920 and Mr. James Craig was the first rural mail carrier.

In February, 1967, the Post Office was moved to Mr. Mongeau's new house across the street. At this time, 72 locked boxes were installed and Mr. Mongeau delivered the rural mail. He died in 1970 while on the job and his wife, Simone, continued as postmistress until she retired in 1977.

The villagers were determined to keep the post office functioning and so Miss Paddy Ogle, who lived on Mill Lane (now 7076 Old Mill Lane), had the Post Office moved to the front veranda of her parents' residence. In 1981, it was moved back to the Jackson/Lambe store that had just been purchased by Robert and Judith (Jody) Harrison, who became postmistress. On December 5, 1981, Jody officially

opened the Meadowvale Post Office, General Store and Craft Shop with a ribbon cutting ceremony by Mayor Hazel McCallion, Ward 9 Councillor, Ted Southorn, and Bill Thomson from the City of Mississauga's Planning Department.

Margarita (Rita) Fromm purchased the building from Jody on August 2, 1983, and continued the duties the store and post office entailed. When she announced she was going to retire on December 1, 1989, there was a meeting held on October 17, 1989, to discuss the future location of the Postal facility in the Village. The decision was to have post boxes installed for the residents on the corner of Old Mill Lane, which was carried out on November 19, 1990. In 1994, an octagonal wooden Gazebo structure with a wood shingle roof was built to house the boxes, identified as 1081 Old Derry Road, and they are still used today (2004). Marguarita still resides in her heritage designated residence at 1060 Old Derry Road.



▲ Post Boxes on Old Mill Lane  
(Region of Peel Archives)

Former Post Office ▶  
(City of Mississauga  
Community Services)

◀ Post Box Gazebo  
(City of Mississauga Community  
Services)



## The Village's Growth - 1857

BY 1857, THE VILLAGE OF MEADOWVALE WAS flourishing and could boast: a blacksmith, one flour mill, one grist mill, one schoolhouse, two hotels, a wagon shop, the first in the village built in 1848 on Water Street by James Johnson, three general merchants, one Minister, one Postmaster, two sawmills and one shoemaker. Many local farmers grew mostly fall wheat, which was taken to Silverthorn's mill and then "teamed" (a term used for horses and a wagon) to Malton or Brampton to be sent out on the Grand Truck Railway, that had been constructed in 1855.

There also was the Johnson's foundry, built by Hugh Johnson and his brother, Horatio, in 1853, the first in Canada West (Ontario). It was a major industry called Mammoth Iron Works and Foundry that manufactured first class farm equipment, such as reapers, mowers and separators. It started out employing 20 men and would eventually have 70 workers. The Johnsons erected cottages for their employees to reside in. The foundry was credited with making the first reaper in Canada West.

In the Provincial competition for best farm equipment, the Johnsons won first prize two years in succession. At this time, the population of Meadowvale was approximately 200.

The Johnson Wagon Shop was on Silverthorn's Lot 11 and is still in existence on the former Southern/Mead's Lot 89 of the Village plan. The former Johnson Foundry building can be found on Goran Skalin's Lot 87, both on Willow Lane.



▲ Silverthorn Mill  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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### NEWS ITEM

A story on Francis Silverthorn's mill fire ran in the *Brampton Christian Guardian* on November 16, 1853. It read in part: "Meadowvale Mills, consisting of flour, oat and barley mills, were destroyed by fire Thursday the 10th of November. The fire broke out about 12 or 1 o'clock in the morning and was supposed to have originated in the smut machine. The only insurance we understand was about 1000 pounds upon the stock and 800 pounds upon the mill".

Francis was known as "The Honest Miller." He rebuilt the grist mill, had another fire in 1859 and it stood until 1954 when it was torn down. It has been said that the Bank of Canada held the mortgages on Francis' property, with Gooderham & Worts being the biggest shareholder, so that company took over the mill. In the Region of Peel Land Registry, there is no record of the Bank of Canada, only William Gooderham is down as the mortgager and he did indeed take over Francis entire operation in 1861.

# The Orange Lodge - 1857



▲ John Rutledge  
(Perkins Bull Collection)

The Orange Order had been flourishing in Toronto Township since 1820 thanks to the ingenuity of Irishman John Rutledge, who it has been said organized a Lodge in Grahamsville. The first parade in the Home District was held in York on July 12, 1822. Invariably, the

Roman Catholics would oppose the festivities of the Orangemen celebrating England's King Billy, William of Orange, delivering them from Papist authority when he conquered Ireland in the "Battle of Boyne" July 1st, and "Battle of Aughrim" on July 12, 1690, and would start a riot.

The Orangemen of Meadowvale went to the other lodges such as Streetsville, 1822, Grahamville, 1820, and Derry West, 1822, until 1857, when Luther Cheyne, the post master, decided to organize a Lodge in the Village.

It got started with nearly 30 members, some of whom were George Birdsall, Alexander and James Broddy, Luther, George and Andrew Cheyne, William Elliott Sr., Thomas Grafton, Thomas and

George Graham, George and William Hamilton and William Tilt. Luther Cheyne became the Worshipful Master, William Elliott, secretary, Thomas Graham, treasurer, with George Cheyne as the first Deputy Master.

It became Eldon Temperance L.O.L. No. 708, Meadowvale. They rented a hall for 5 shillings (60¢) a month while they raised the funds to build a hall. They could not find a site, so used the upstairs room over the carriage shop on Joseph Kerney's Lot 9, Con. 4, property.

Finally in October, 1872, they opened their new Lodge. In 1873, they rented the use of the hall for six months to the Sons of Temperance. This group prohibited imbibing on the Lodge premises.



▲ Orangemen's Day Parade, 1822  
(C.W. Jefferys/Perkins Bull Collection)

George Gooderham provided a white horse for the July 12th parade each year. The members would march from Samuel Brown's on Derry Road over to Gooderhams and up Second Line. When William Elliott Jr. was Member of Parliament (1878-1882), he would carry the banner. Record books were kept until 1878 and dues were paid to the provincial Grand Lodge until 1884. By 1902, the Lodge no longer existed. When the Lodge was discontinued, the building became Drake's Furniture Shop. In later years, it was demolished.



# The Lambes - 1860



▲ Albert Lambe's Sawmill, 1904  
(Harry Spiers)



▲ Albert Lambe's House, 1904  
(Harry Spiers)



▲ A.S. Lambe & Son Store  
(Region of Peel Archives)

**A**lbert S. Lambe, who had been born in Chinguacousy in 1854 and raised in Meadowvale Village by the Simpsons since 1860, grew up to be an industrious young man. In 1884, Albert bought a saw mill from Frank Sibbald for \$1,300 that had been owned by Jonadab Hardy. He married Mary Ann Piercey from Fergus and they had a son, William, in 1888. On June 30, 1890, he bought the Bell Hotel from Ann Laidlaw Davis for \$300 and remodeled it for a rooming house for his employees and accommodations for visitors to the Village. Around this time, he received a contract from the Eatons store in Toronto to supply a substantial order of lumber.

Mary Ann purchased property on the north side of Derry Road, Lot 11, where James Ward's store had burned down, and in 1893, Albert built a new house on it. George McClintock of Streetsville painted this building for him. On March 12, 1894, Albert purchased 50 acres (20 ha), E 1/2 of Lot 10, Con. 4, for \$2,000, part of the William Birdsall grant. The saw mill was still operating at the turn of the century.

In 1907, Albert's son, William, took over the Meadowvale Post Office and became postmaster. He put the post office in his father's building next door to the mill, and within a year turned it into a store. It became called A. S. Lambe & Son. Bread, not wrapped or sliced, was delivered by train from Toronto in wooden boxes marked Weston's Bread. William married Maude Williamson, the daughter of David and Anne Williamson of Halton County and they had Albert, James, Annie and Dorothy.



▲ Sidewalks put in along Main Street (Derry Road)  
(Region of Peel Archives)

In 1909, a sidewalk was laid on the south side of Main Street (Derry Road) from the Methodist Church to the last building across from Willow Lane. Albert Lambe and Bill Harris had to sign a bond for Toronto Township Council before the sidewalk could be installed, stating that they were liable if any accidents should occur. The local residents and farmers gave of their time, money and labour to prepare the area and Albert supplied the cement and paid Mr. Joe Drennan of Streetsville to install the sidewalk. Gravel was put on Main Street (Derry Road), which was donated by Francis Jackson, Sig S. Reeve and William T. Davidson. In 1922, the Women's Institute had the sidewalk laid on the north side up to Pond Street. Miss Elizabeth Trevorrow was president at that time.

Albert Lambe closed down his lumber business in February, 1909, and at this time it was reported that "Messrs, A.S. Lambe & Son have installed a new lighting system, gasoline. Each light gives over 100 c.p. They have two lights inside the store and one outside. This is a great improvement and makes the store as bright as day."

In 1913, Albert became blind, which caused him to retire. On September 1, 1915, William Lambe purchased the Laidlaw Commercial Hotel from William Royce for \$3,600 and it became his residence.

On December 29, 1921, William paid \$2,500 for Francis Jackson's store that had been operated by Jackson's brother, William, until they sold it to Alfred Hall, and he relocated his business there. It was around this time, when William was out delivering groceries in his Model T Ford car, that he was hit by a train at the station and his vehicle was demolished. He did escape injury, however, ending up with only a scratch on his face and the seat torn out of his pants. His mother died at age 62 on September 28, 1918, and Albert Lambe passed away on November 1, 1925, at age 71. Both are buried in the Churchville Cemetery. William took over his father's holdings and remodeled the old Bell Hotel, which was rented.

In the 1930s, William Lambe had four break-ins in his store in five years. In 1975, this account of the incident was written up by Louise Southern for the Women's Institute Scrapbooks: "Mr. W. Lambe was the owner and after four break-ins at his store in five years, he decided to do something about it. He constructed a signal device which rang a bell in his house when anyone entered the store. Then he hooked up a special switch so he could turn all the store lights on from his home. At 3 a.m., he was awakened by the alarm. Getting up, he picked up his gun and warned his wife not to turn on the store lights until he was in position. Armed, and accompanied by a neighbour, Thomas Preston, he walked the short distance to the store and took a stand at the bottom of a ladder leading to an open window. With everything ready, Mrs. Lambe flipped the switch which bathed the store in light. The two men scrambled for the window only to find Mr. Lambe calmly waiting for them at the bottom of the ladder. There were no more burglaries after this."

After running the grocery store for 30 years, William retired in 1938, turned his properties over to his son, James, and moved to

Florida, where his wife, Maude, died on May 29, 1941, of liver cancer. He returned home to bury Maude in the Churchville Cemetery. He married Margaret Milner of Malton on July 1, 1942. William and Margaret resided in his parents' house. He build a new



◀ Margaret Milner

William Lambe ▶



(Region of Peel Archives)

house, east of his store, which was sold to John and Lula Reeve, then to Bertram Hale, then Donald McLaren and in May, 1947, to Mary Evelyn and Gordon Rae. James and Albert were busy with the Lambe enterprises, while William held mortgages for them and others in the village. Albert married a Miss Wilson from Brampton and they lived in the house across from his father. The Laidlaw Hotel was sold in 1944 and the Bell Hotel in 1948.

William died January 17, 1963, and was buried in the Churchville Cemetery with his parents and first wife. It was said of William Thomas Lambe that his traits were many, he had a respect of his neighbours, loved children, achieved success, lived well, appreciated nature, had a sense of humour, accomplished much and looked for the best in people and gave the best of himself. Margaret passed away in 1970.

Albert's house at 1045 Old Derry Road is owned by the former president of the Meadowvale Village Community Association, James Holmes. The Lambe/Rae house at 1050 Old Derry Road is now owned by Jason Holmes. The Jackson/Lambe store is a residence to Margarita Fromm at 1060 Old Derry Road. The Bell Hotel at 1090 Old Derry Road has been owned by Elisabeth Mowling since 1976.

The old Laidlaw Commercial Hotel located at 1051 Old Derry Road is presently owned by Robert Robson and used as his residence and an apartment dwelling. Another Lambe owned house, 1066 Old Derry Road, has been owned by Les MacDonald since 1967. Lambe Court in the Monarch subdivision to the east of the Village is named for the Lambe's contribution to Meadowvale.



▲ The Lambe/Holmes House  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)

Former Post Office/Store ▶  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



## MEMORIES



▲ CPR Train Station  
(Region of Peel Archives)

"Dad was on his way to deliver groceries from his store and just as he got to the crossing, he suddenly thought, 'It's about time for the 11 o'clock train.' When he looked up, the train was already slowing up for the station, but it was too late for Dad to stop. He was thrown into the back of the truck under some boxes and the first thing he saw was gasoline pouring out of his gas tank, but luckily, it never ignited. By this time, the train was stopped and the crew and some passengers had come on the scene. After making sure Dad was all right, the conductor said to him, 'Pull your coat down, Bill.' He had lost the seat of his pants."

Albert Lambe's account of his father's accident, April, 1975, from Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks

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▲ Bruce Farnell, 2002

"My great, great grandparents were John and Martha Lambe who lived in Chinguacousy Township. Martha died in 1859 and John in 1860, leaving three small children, William, Albert and Mary Ann. Mary was adopted by Mathew Laidlaw and his wife, Ann Farnell, and Albert by John Simpson. He was called Albert Simpson Lambe. My paternal great, great grandparents were William and Mary



▲ Mary and William Farnell (1804-1893)

(Artist John Wycliff Lowes Foster)

Farnell. Ann was their daughter. They came from Yorkshire, England in 1853 and settled north of Sandhill in Chinguacousy Township. They had 13 children, one was my great grandfather John, who married Mary Ann Lambe. John and Mary had four children, Albert, my grandfather William, Annie, who married Harold South, and Martha, who married William Gardner. They bought the house that is now called the Apple Tree Inn in 1890 and lived there until 1920. My dad's uncle, Harold South, bought the Gooderham farm."

Bruce Farnell, 2002

## The Gooderham Connection - 1861

In 1861, William Gooderham (b.1790, d.1881) of Gooderham & Worts, Toronto, took over Francis Silverthorn's mills and store when Francis' business failed due to tragic circumstances such as his mill burning down twice and the Crimean War causing wheat prices to flounder.

The Gooderhams were prominent Toronto businessmen. The name Gooderham came from a Danish leader of soldiers named Guthrum, who in the year 866 A.D. invaded East Anglia and conquered the Kingdom. Ten years later, the Kingdom was divided amongst the soldiers with Guthrum as its crown. Over the centuries, Guthrum was changed to Gooderham. William was the second son of James and Sarah Gooderham. In 1832, William and Ezekiel Gooderham (1794-1870) emigrated to York (Toronto), Upper Canada, from Norfolk, England. Their brother-in-law, James Worts, who was married to their sister, Elizabeth, had preceded them in 1831. He had been sent by William to scout for suitable property for the purpose of operating a milling industry. The Worts family were prominent millers in Norfolk, where windmills were the main source of power. The site Worts chose was near the mouth of the Don River. Here he erected a wind mill, the first to be constructed in York. The millstones, main shaft and castings were transported



◀ William Gooderham  
(Louise Southern)

from England. William and James formed a partnership in the flour milling business, then Worts died in 1834. In 1837, William built a distillery, utilizing the surplus wheat and barley, flour waste and siftings, which were converted into alcohol. Both businesses were flourishing in Toronto. In 1845, his nephew, James Gooderham Worts, joined him with a full partnership.

When the Gooderhams came to Meadowvale, their activity increased the tiny hamlet's economy. They expanded the mill and added a third floor so that it was capable of producing 300 barrels of



▲ Gooderham Mill, 1865  
(Louise Southern)



▲ George, Catherine, Jennie, Jessie, and William Gooderham  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Gooderham Farm  
(Region of Peel Archives)

ground wheat per day. Farmers teamed their grain from Milton and Erin to be ground at the Gooderham Mill. Quite often, the wagons were waiting in line to have their grain unloaded and ground. The mill operated day and night to accommodate the business. At this time there were over 600 grist mills and over 1,500 saw mills in the province. They built a cottage on the Island that Francis Silverthorn had made when establishing his mill site.

The Silverthorn store was gradually customized to carry more staples so people did not have to go far afield to shop for essentials. Being quite progressive for the times, it was managed by Joseph Sutcliffe, who supervised five clerks. There was a grocery section, a paint department, a dress making department managed by Miss Elizabeth Trevorow with three dressmakers, millinery by Miss Maintie Armstrong and three milliners and a tailoring department overseen by Thomas Wilson, who had four tailors and five tailorettes. The Post Office was also located here and was run at this time by James Gooderham. A record taken from 1876 stated that the store's total sales for that year were \$40,000. One year it surpassed \$45,000. With the Gooderhams' expertise at bringing prosperity to the Village the population rose to over 350. In 1881, the store would be sold to Switzer & Partridge. Charles Switzer ran it until 1904 when he sold it to Mr. J.H. Whitlam. While in Mr. Whitlam's hands, it burned down on February 13, 1907.

On April 4, 1865, William Gooderham purchased all of Francis Silverthorn's former farm properties for \$4,000 from John Wilmot, a New Yorker, who resided in Toronto. Then on October 23, 1865, he purchased the Hugh Bell grant, 100 acres (40 ha), Lot 11, Con. 2, WHS, for \$3,300.

In 1869, Ezekiel's son, George (1826-1912), was summoned to work for his Uncle William. He and his wife, Catherine, 1831, came to Meadowvale with their seven children, Elizabeth (1853-1938), Harriet, called Jennie (1854-1934), John (1856-1919), George (1859-1944), Jessie (1861-1936), Archibald (1863-1904), and William Ezekiel (1865-1963). He leased a house on the 94 acre (37.6 ha) Bell farm for \$800 a year from his Uncle William (the six acres [2.4 ha] were used to build a house for Charles Horace "Holly" Gooderham in 1870). He bought the farm, 194 acres (78 ha) of Lots 11 and 12, from his cousin Holly on March 26, 1883, for \$12,000.

George took over the management of the 450 acre (182 ha) Gooderham farm and the Cooperage factory, built in 1865 to handle Francis' operation, that was operated by steam. The factory, located on Village Lot 73, produced staves and barrels necessary as storage containers for shipping flour, produce and other items to market. He supplied thousands of barrels to mills all over Ontario. The coopers making barrels were John Cathcart, George Coulter, James and Thomas Johnson, David Spellman and Richard Ward under the management of William Trevorrow. The local farmers and fruit growers mostly purchased apple barrels. Over 8,000 barrels were made annually. William Trevorrow bought the Cooperage from the Gooderhams in 1884. When Trevorrow died in 1889, it was sold in 1890 to Mr. J. H. Stillman, who used it as a cheese factory until he constructed a larger building, which opened on May 7, 1894. Joseph Gardner of Britannia was one of the farmers who took his milk to Stillman's cheese factory for processing. The cooperage and the workers houses were eventually torn down.

Following the death of William Gooderham on August 20, 1881, Gooderham & Worts started to pull out of the Village. They ran

Francis' mill until 1882 when it was sold to Edward and John Wheler, millers from Stouffville, for \$12,000. The transaction, which included 118 acres (47.3 ha), composed of parts of Lots 11 and 12, Con. 3, excluding the occupied village lots, was handled by James Gooderham Worts. On August 14, 1895, the mill and acreage was bought by Henry Brown for \$7,800. At this time, the mill stone process was still being used. He operated the mill until his death in 1911, when Lillie Brown sold it to William J. Brett, who used it as a chopping mill for grain. Stanley Gorman bought it in 1943, then on August 15, 1946, Luther Emerson, Lillie Brown's son-in-law, an engineering drafting instructor at the University of Toronto, purchased it. He still owned it when it ceased operation in 1950 and was demolished in April, 1954. Only the mill race of the grist mill is any indication of the existence of the Silverthorn/Gooderham mills. The Gooderham cottage still exists at 1101 Old Derry Road and is owned by Derek Teal. The Gooderhams are remembered by Charles Gooderham's mansion, now the Rotherglen Montessori School, and the street, Gooderham Estate Boulevard, in the Monarch homes subdivision to the east of the Village.



Former Mill Office, now Taman's, 7017 Old Mill Lane  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Charles "Holly" Gooderham



▲ George and Catherine Gooderham



▲ James Gooderham



▲ George H. Gooderham at wooden pump

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▲ George Gooderham's House  
(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Gooderham Cottage, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

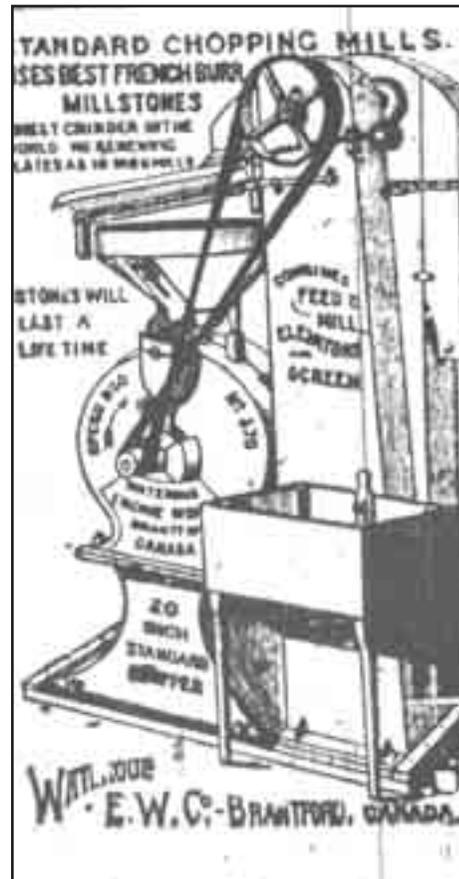
*We have just recently  
remodelled our*  
**MEADOWVALE MILLS**  
*AND THE*  
**-FLOUR-**

*We are now making cannot be ex-  
celled in Canada. Bring along  
your GRISTS and give this  
good Flour a trial, and you will  
be very highly pleased.*

*Special attention is given to  
CHOPPING, for which we  
charge FIVE cents per bag.  
Large quantities of Bran and  
Shorts always on hand.*

*Highest cash price always  
paid for Wheat.*

**WHEELER BROS.**  
Meadowvale, who formerly suc-  
ceeded Gooderham & Worts.



◀ Wheeler's ad, 1891  
(Streetsville Review)

▲ Chopping Mill, 1911  
(Streetsville Review)

◀ Wheeler Business  
Card  
(Charlie Humber)

**Meadowvale Mills**  
*The Very Latest System.*

**Full Roller Flour Mills**  
*Capacity, 200 Barrels Daily.*

**ALBERT A. WHEELER**

Proprietor - W. A. R. MILNE  
Meadowvale, Ont.

## MEMORIES

"Meadowvale was a flourishing little place where a lot of business was done. There were as many people living there then as we have now and everybody was working. Gooderham and Worts employed a great many of them in their different lines of business. The heads of the families were nearly all English, Irish or Scotch and nearly all had large families. The public school used to have 60 to 70 pupils. There used to be young men with whiskers going to school in the winter, big fellows who worked all summer and went to school only in the winter. The Church was one of the places well looked after, and it was always well filled on Sundays. The Sunday School used to have 60 or 70 attending it. Children were made to go to Sunday School and Church to show great respect for the Lord's Day. They don't appear to be doing that much now.

"The young people used to have a good time then, skating and sleighing parties. The Young People's Society would put on debates and spelling matches and choose up sides. I remember being on one and Jane Trevorrow was on the opposite side and they gave Jane the word 'ache' to spell and Jane said 'aik.' I spelled it right and my side won. Some would get up to recite and would forget their lines and then come down to their seats and cry.

"On the 1st of July, they used to have a big day over in Reeve's flats, baseball, all kinds of races and fireworks at night. People used to come from Brampton and all around the area to see the sport. A big platform for dancing was erected and old Mrs. McCabe showed them how to dance the Irish jig. She was a big, fat old lady and she always did a little better if they gave her a good glass of whiskey before she started and she always got it."

From an interview with W.E. Gooderham, 1948, at age 83.  
From the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks.  
Author's note: He was four when he came to the village with his father, George, who had been summoned to operate the Gooderham farmlands in 1869.

## Meadowvale Village Church - 1863

AFTER YEARS OF HOLDING CHURCH services in parishioners' homes and the school since 1821, the Wesleyan Methodist finally got a church building in 1863 on land donated by John Simpson, Lot 10, Con. 3, WHS. Luther Cheyne and a circuit minister had travelled about soliciting funds for this venture and they succeeded. It was a one storey, red brick rectangular structure situated on a river stone foundation. It had trim fashioned out of yellow bricks used for the buttresses and lintels and the "weeping" design beneath the front gable of the roof, with two chimneys and three elongated, round headed windows on each side. One of its attractive architectural features was the rose window by the entranceway. There were box stoves used for heat and oil lamps fastened to posts at the end of the pews at intervals along the aisle. Two of the builders were John and Aaron Laidlaw.

It was announced in the *Christian Guardian* that the dedication of the new Wesleyan Church in Meadowvale took place on January 13, 1864. The speakers were Reverend Dr. Green, Rev. I. B. Howard, Rev. J. A. Williams and Rev. Charles Fish.



▲ Meadowvale United Church, 2002  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)

The Church became the focal point of community activity and social life with tea meetings, concerts, Harvest Home Services, camp meetings and Sunday School picnics.

Meadowvale was part of the Brampton Church Circuit in 1859-1865, which meant that the minister in charge of this area would come and conduct services. Between 1866 and 1928, it was part of the Streetsville Circuit; 1929-1949, Cooksville, and after 1949, it was under the Huttonville Pastoral charge.

In 1866, a Reverends' Revival services was organized by Rev. Charles Fish. In 1872, by Rev. Henry Hanning and 1889 by Rev. W. T. Hicks. The Choir was organized in 1875 and was conducted by Mrs. Baskerville. They would sing at tea meetings. The choir was later led by Charles W. Switzer, then Jenny Gooderham, who was also



the organist. The organ was donated by her father, Charles Holly Gooderham. When a larger one was implemented, the old one was utilized as a music cabinet.

In 1890, upholstered pews were installed and wall to wall carpeting, donated by Joseph Graham, was laid over an underlay of lambs' wool carded by the farmers. At the turn of the century, additions were added at the front and back, such as a porch, a room for a Sunday School and a kitchen. A coal furnace eliminated the box stoves, and in 1957, a new oil furnace was installed.

In 1925, the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches amalgamated to form The United Church of Canada and thus this Church became the Meadowvale United Church.

There was much activity within the congregation over the years. The women belonged to the Women's Auxiliary and the Women's Missionary Society of the United Church of Canada. They organized The Canadian Girls Training Group (CGIT), which began in 1951 and was affiliated with The Women's Missionary Society. The CGIT promoted "Christian Friendship amongst all the peoples of the world through Understanding, Appreciation and Service." After completing its yearly Missionary Exploration and

having made a contribution to the work of the Society, The Explorers Group was affiliated with the Women's Missionary Society on June 3, 1957. There was also the Hi-Neighbour Club. In January, 1962, the Auxiliaries and Women's Societies were amalgamated to form the United Church Women's organization and the women's group of Meadowvale held an inaugural service to commemorate this event.

Every year, the congregation celebrated the Church's anniversary. The Centennial anniversary was held September 29, 1963, and the guest preacher was Reverend Thomas Jones from Streetsville United Church. He gave a dissertation on the early history of the Church.

In 1978, the Church Trustees decided to discontinue church services because of low attendance. The remaining congregation went to Huttonville, Norval or Eden. The Christian Church of Mississauga congregation began services in the church that same year. For 20 years they took care of the building during their occupancy. They changed the heat from oil to a gas furnace, installed air conditioning and brought the electricity up to 220 amps. They wanted to purchase the church, but were given their notice to leave in 1998. The Village residents also contributed over \$80,000 in restoration work, such as a new chimney and a new roof.

The Church, located at 1010 Old Derry Road and owned by the United Church of Canada, was made an heritage site in 1980. In 2000, a Korean congregation began holding regular worship services there. They also did some redecorating to the interior of the building and removed the old addition on the back and had a new addition added to conform to its heritage aspect.



(James Holmes, 2002)



▲ Meadowvale United Church Interior, 2004  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

### NEWS ITEM

A very enjoyable lawn party was held at the Methodist Parsonage here Tuesday night. There was a fair attendance, the proceeds being somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50. Rev. W.T. Hicks occupied the chair. Addresses were delivered by Revs. Hart, Scanlon and Glassford.

The musical and literary part of the programme was sustained by Misses Mason, Mr. W. Steen, Miss Hardy, Miss M. Graydon, Miss Hill, Mrs. C. Switzer, Dunton Bros., A. Fawcett and the Church Choir. Club swinging by Mr. Irwin Steen and excellent music by the Meadowvale Brass Band.

*Streetsville Review*, Wednesday, July 7, 1892.

### CHURCH'S CENTENNIAL - 1963

Beautiful is the large church  
With stately arch and steeple.  
Neighborly is the small church  
With groups of friendly people.

Reverent is the old church,  
With centuries of grace;  
And a wooden or stone church  
Or a poor church anywhere,  
Truly it is a great church  
If God is worshipping there.

Author Unknown

## The Trevorrows - 1865



▲ Trevorrow's House  
(Harry Spiers)

THE TREVORROWS MOVED TO MEADOWVALE in 1865, where William secured work in the Gooderhams' Cooperage Factory and made barrels for the Gooderham and Worts's Mill and other mills in the area.

William Henry Trevorrow had been born on June 24, 1821, in St. Ives, Cornwall, England. At a very early age, he learned to be a cooper. He was so small that he had to stand on a low bench, called a tricket, to put a hoop on a barrel. As a young man, he became a ship's carpenter and in 1848 made his way to Canada, via New York. During the six week voyage, he was sea-sick and he realized that a sea-faring life was not for him.



▲ William Trevorrow  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Elizabeth Trevorrow  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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William met Elizabeth Rawe (b.1821), daughter of Thomas and Juliette Hugo Rawe of Mavagizzy, Cornwall, England, in Toronto and they were married on May 8, 1849, by the rector of the St. James Cathedral, Rev. Henry J. Grasett, in the Holy Trinity Church because the Cathedral had been burned to the ground on April 7, 1849.

They moved to Norval, Ontario, where William operated a milling company and their children were born. They had Margaret, 1851, Elizabeth, 1852, William, 1853, Jane, 1854, and Laura, 1856.

The Trevorrow family enjoyed fishing in the Credit River. It was a sport even the girls participated in. They were all very involved in the community, especially the activities at the Methodist Church. Daughter Elizabeth became manageress of the dress making department at the Gooderham store and when Laura was old enough, she worked as manager of the millinery department, replacing Maintie Armstrong. Jane moved to Philadelphia, where she operated a business

as a manufacturer's agent. She returned to Meadowvale in 1887 and on July 25th married Robert Baillie, whose father operated a store in Meadowvale.

The Trevorrows purchased numerous pieces of property. On June 24, 1874, Jonathan Robinson sold William Lot 27 on Pond Street for \$450 on which he had built a house. This was the start of the Trevorrows buying all the Lots from 78 to 88 on Water Street (Willow Lane) between 1882 and 1884. In the early 1880s, the Gooderhams began to sell off their holdings and William purchased their Cooperage on June 9, 1884, which was on Lot 73. Lot 78 held Cooper's Row, the houses the workers lived in. They also bought Lots 31 and 32 on Pond Street from Joseph Folwell in 1883 for \$50 each. These properties also provided houses for their workers.

William died on January 8, 1889, and Elizabeth sold Lots 78 to 86 and 88 in 1889 and the Cooperage in 1890. She died on November 24, 1908. They are both buried in the Brampton Public Cemetery at 10 Wilson Avenue. Some of their children still remained in the Village. Margaret, a spinster, was one of the first members of the Meadowvale Women's Institute (MWI) in 1910. She wrote a small book entitled, *Meadowvale on the Credit*, in 1922, and in 1929, when the Library was started by the Institute, she was the first paid up member. By trade she was a teacher, an accountant and a bee-keeper. Sister Elizabeth, also unmarried and a dressmaker, was president of the MWI in 1922. Laura, who was a nurse and unmarried and the first president of the Ladies Aid founded in 1913, passed away from a cerebral hemorrhage on February 14, 1926, in Peel Memorial

Hospital. Elizabeth died in 1934, Margaret in 1935 and Jane on August 7, 1939. All but Jane are buried in the family plot.

Lots 27, 31 and 32 were still in the family's name in 1941. Lots 31 and 32 were sold by Jane's estate to Clara Gatehouse on November 25, 1941. Lot 27 was sold in 1943 to Edith and Western Lemay for \$1,800. Annie and



◀ Miss Elizabeth Trevorrow  
(Region of Peel Archives)

David Hart purchased the Robinson/Trevorrow house at 29 Pond Street (now 7025) from the Lemay family in 1959 and took over residency with their two children, Morton and Carol. David passed away in 1969 and Annie in 2002. Morton and Carol were co-owners of this heritage home until November, 2003, when Adam Viarid and Darlene Pearson bought it.

## BEE-KEEPING AS AN OCCUPATION FOR WOMEN

As a rule, to the woman who has had no practical experience with bees, if she thinks of the subject at all, bee-keeping stands for honey, large profits, studies in natural history, and stings, the latter probably being considered the surest and most objectionable adjunct of the business. But a few years acquaintance with the little pets will teach her that stings are but insignificant incidents in the bee-keeper's life, that honey is not always sure, nor profits always large, but the study of the nature and habits of the bee can be depended upon at all seasons of the year to yield a fund of interest to any woman who engages in this occupation.

I started bee-keeping in 1900 with one colony. They did not swarm nor give any surplus honey during the summer, were weak the following spring and gradually dwindled away until the hive was empty. I purchased another colony in May, 1901. From this swarm, I received 30 lbs. (13.6 kilograms) of honey. In the spring of 1902, I had three colonies. I purchased two more and those five colonies gave me 928 lbs. (421 kg) of extracted honey and increased to 16. At the end of the next season, I had 35 colonies and 1,400 lbs. (635 kg) of honey. In 1904, they yielded about 2,600 lbs. (1180 kg), and in 1905, I had 33 colonies that stored 4,700 lbs. (2132 kg) of honey and increased to 49. Last spring the numbers decreased to 40, five being queenless and four too weak to go on alone. They yielded 1,600 lbs. (726 kg) of honey this year and I have 39 colonies this fall.

Bee-keeping may be looked upon as a healthy occupation for women in comparison with many of the avocations to which she is called wherein exercise, fresh-air and sunshine are denied her.

Excerpt from an article written by Margaret Trevorrow for the Beekeepers Association's Annual Report, 1906.

## The Hardy Family- 1866

In 1866, Jonadab (John) Hardy (b.1831), came to Meadowvale Village from Vaughn Township, County of York, and purchased a piece of property, Lot 8 of the Village plan, from John Simpson, Lot 10, Con. 3, WHS, for \$375 on February 1st. Here he opened his own operation, being an agricultural implement manufacturer. The business didn't work out with the Johnson competition doing so well, so he added a new innovation to the village, a steam powered saw mill, which remained in operation at the turn of the century when it was thought to have out served its time. He had married a young lass named Mary Ann in 1854 and they had William, 1855, John, 1858, Sarah, 1861, and Lancelot, 1863.

In 1876, John sold his Meadowvale enterprise for \$3,000 on November 21st to Thomas O'Shaughnessy Jr., who owned his father's property, the west half of Lot 7, Con. 2, WHS. John bought the east half of Lot 6, Con. 4, WHS, on July 19, 1878, for \$7,050 from John Folwell, which he sold to James Benyon in 1879. He also purchased property in the Village in 1880 and 1881, Lot 10, Con. 3. The 1880 parcel was the former Jonathan Robinson store. The indenture reads, "Thomas Clark (William Elliott's lawyer) to dispose of stock in trade and book debts and

equity of redemption in the store for the sum of \$2,500 to John Hardy, land and premises." He also held many mortgages in the village and on December 31, 1881, sold the store to William Campbell. He bought the northeast part of Lot 3 of the Indian Reserve Range in December, 1886, for \$5,000, and it is thought that he moved there.



▲ O'Shaughnessy ad - 1878  
(Streetsville Review)

Thomas O'Shaughnessy (b.1840), operated the lumber, lath and shingle factory constantly. On Friday, February 8, 1878, he ran an ad in the *Brampton Conservator* to promote his business. At this time, Thomas had a brother who was killed by a tree falling on him. He composed his brother's epitaph, which read, "Here lies the body of Patrick O'Shaughnessy who died and was killed by a rampike (a dead tree)." Thomas ran the mill until 1882, at which time Frank Sibbald purchased it. Frank sold the business to Albert Lambe in 1884. He was still managing to eke out a business from this popular 19th Century enterprise 20 years later.

John Hardy's brother, Joseph (b.1823), operated a shingle factory. He lost his wife, Isabella, and was left with six children, Ella, 1855, Eliza, 1856, Rebecca, 1862, John, 1864, William, 1866, and Henrietta, 1869. In 1875, he married a widow named Jane, who had a daughter. Jane was a good mother to her stepchildren and raised



▲ Carthew Gravestone, 2002

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

them as her own. Joseph died and Jane made her livelihood by being a seamstress and sewing for the women of the Village. She also was a midwife and nursed her ailing neighbours. Jane's daughter married, had five children, lost her husband and then passed away. Jane took in her grandchildren and raised them. Jane, who occupied Lots 66 and 67, married a Mr. Carthew, who predeceased her. She died at age 79 in 1902 and was buried in the Churchville cemetery. Her granddaughter, Elizabeth Hallam, who became a nurse, lived in the Village 1935-1940 and 1944-1945 at 7050 Second Line West. In 1937, she bought a memorial window for the United Church and had it installed in memory of her grandmother, Jane. It reads: In Loving memory of Jane Hardy Carthew. Erected by her grandchildren, Alice, Samuel, Elizabeth, Jane and John Hallam. "She Hath Done What She Could." A monument in both these ladies' memory stands at the central gate of the Churchville Cemetery.

Artist, A. J. Casson's mother was Henrietta Hardy, the daughter of Joseph Hardy. His maternal grandmother lived in the mill cottage built by the Gooderhams (now 1101 Old Derry Road). Casson spend many summers in the Village from 1907 to around 1920.

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▲ A.J. Casson

(Region of Peel Archives)

## INFORMATION

In 1917, Casson ventured on his first extended sketching trip to the village of Meadowvale, not far from Toronto. With his brother, John and Bill McCullough, he rented an old white plaster house there which had once belonged to his grandmother. For two weeks, Casson and McCullough painted. Most of Casson's sketches were done in oil on small pieces of academy board. Executed with a palette knife, the Meadowvale compositions are marked by a boldness of design, a directness of technique and a richness of colour. Painted with a heavily loaded knife, the Cowshed and Mill Race at Meadowvale are compelling and original in concept. The Meadowvale trip provided Casson with his first concentrated period of painting and the confidence he gained from it affected his creative attitude from then on. Excerpt from A.J. Casson, *His Life & Works*

# Confederation - 1867



▲ Map of Canada (Historical Atlas of Canada, 1927)



▲ Village of Meadowvale (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Sir John A. MacDonalld  
(Region of Peel Archives)

On July 1, 1867, when Confederation took place and the Dominion of Canada became a reality with John Alexander MacDonalld (b.1815, d.1891) as the first Prime Minister, the inhabitants of Meadowvale numbered 300. The businessmen were listed as Hardy Baskerville, Constable; Michael Clippum, blacksmith; Walter Davidson, boot and shoemaker; Joel Fleetham, tailor; James Gooderham, postmaster; Gooderham & Worts, general merchants and mill owners; Thomas Idle, boot and shoemaker; Horatio Johnston, founder and machinist; John and W.H. Johnston, coopers; John Hardy, agricultural implement manufacturer; Mathew Laidlaw, general merchant; Mrs. George McKee, hotel keeper; William Miller, wagon maker; John Simpson, sawmill owner and lumber merchant.

## The Gooderham Mansion - 1870

In 1870, the Gooderhams built a large red brick Georgian Survival style mansion, decorated with ornate Italianate features at a cost of \$30,000, for William's youngest son, Charles Horace, known as Holly (b.1842, d.1915), who was to operate the mill and store. William had purchased Hugh Bell's original 100 acre (40 ha) grant, Lot 11, Con. 2, WHS, from Bell on October 23, 1865, for \$3,300. George Gooderham leased 94 acres (37.6 ha) in January, 1870.

The elegant two storey house sat on the remaining six acres (2.4 ha) at the northeast corner of Derry Road and Second Line, just east of the property once owned by Francis Silverthorn and now part of the Gooderham estate. It had 21 rooms with a separate wing for the servants' quarters. While this homestead was under construction, Charles and his wife, Eliza Folwell, who were married on September 30, 1862, resided in the mill-workers houses. Charles had been brought from Toronto to Streetsville in 1860 to run the Gooderhams' Alpha Knitting Mills. This is where he and Eliza met. They eventually had ten children.



▲ Gooderham Mansion

(Louise Southern)

ONCE SETTLED, HE PUT UP A SMALL BUILDING FOR A school and 13 Gooderham children were taught by a governess. This was later used as a Band Hall until it was torn down in 1920.

After Holly left the area in 1884, the 10,000 square foot (870 m<sup>2</sup>) house changed hands many times over the years. Angelique Douglas purchased the mansion for \$4,500 on October 1, 1884, followed by Thomas Graham in 1888, who paid \$3,600. In 1895, John Watt Sr., Louise Gooderham Southern's maternal grandfather, bought it for \$2,000 and called it, "Rose Villa," and used it as a tourist resort to accommodate Toronto's elite. George Chavingnaud, an artist, bought it

for \$3,000 in 1904. He sold it to Samuel Curry for \$3,500 in 1905. At this time, it was occupied by Samuel's brother, Walter Curry, a member



▲ Major General Lessard  
(Streetsville Review)

of Parliament. Major General Francois-Louis Lessard, a veteran from the Boer War, paid \$9,000 for it in 1920. When he died at his home in 1927, at age 66, Hubert Page bought it the following year for \$8,750. For a token \$2, it was passed on to Mary Gillespie in 1939.

Bruce and Shirley Neilson purchased it from Gillespie for \$40,000 on November 1, 1951. The Neilsons sold to the Ukranian Catholic Mission and the Most Holy Redeemer on September 15, 1952. R.H. & J. Cook Constructors, held the mortgage and sold it to the Ontario District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synagogue in 1973 for \$175,000.

William Johnson bought it in April, 1974. He

is responsible for the Greek Revival columns that grace the front of the mansion. The 14th owner, Paul Horvat, bought it in 1979 and used it for people to demonstrate their crafts at which time, Louise Southern was the house captain. In 1989 Horvat sold to 810407 Ontario Limited, and the luxurious homestead was turned into apartments. In 1997, Monarch Development took it over for its sales presentation office. Monarch spent \$500,000 renovating the mansion. Over the next four years, Monarch built authentic Victorian homes to augment the historical atmosphere of the tiny hamlet of Meadowvale.

The Gooderhams left behind a beautiful two storied structure that over the years would draw people in to check out its opulent elegance and explore its interior. The house was designated a heritage house when Meadowvale became a Heritage District in 1980, and it is now a private school, called Rotherglen Montessori School, which is located at 929 Old Derry Road.



◀ Watt Residence  
Rose Villa,  
1900  
(Louise Southern)



▲ Rotherglen Montessori School (Kathleen A. Hicks)

### HUNTING WITH CHARLIE

Charles "Holly" Gooderham enjoyed hunting. During his time in the Village, he was known to bag considerable game for his family's table. His companions in his hunting excursions were Thomas O'Shaughnessy, the operator of the saw mill, and Mr. Griffiths, the saddlemaker, whose shop was beside Elliott's Liquor store. They often took cousin George Gooderham on these outings, which were mostly taken to the Caledon mountains.



▲ Charlie Gooderham Goes Hunting  
(Harry Spiers)

According to the artist, Harry Spiers, an incident worth mentioning, related to him by Charles Gooderham, goes like this, "Mr. Gooderham was watching on the outside of a swamp, the other shooters being inside, when the hounds bolted a rabbit right across his path. He took good aim, fired and missed. The rabbit, being more afraid if its foes behind than in front, dashed close by him, forgetting for the moment that it was a gun he was handling, he made a vicious lunge at the intrepid quadrupled with the muzzle of the gun, but this also failed. Possibly the descendants of that rabbit may be laughing over the incident yet: anyway, it's a risky thing to try to do any clubbing with a gun."

# The Meadowvale's Community Hall - 1871



◀ Minerva Castle's Plaque  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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## ▲ Community Centre

*(City of Mississauga Community Services)*

THE SECOND PUBLIC SCHOOL THAT WAS BUILT in 1871 on property purchased from John Simpson was also utilized as the Community Hall. It had a bell tower, picket fence and was enhanced with trees and shrubs. In 1959, this schoolhouse was taken over to be used strictly as a Community Centre, when a larger modern facility was constructed to accommodate the growing number of school children. It was utilized for all kinds of activities.

On Friday, October 21, 1977, a plaque was unveiled at the Community Centre for Minerva Castle, who had passed away in 1976, for her dedicated service to the Meadowvale community. It hangs over the inside front door in her memory. Eight of local artist Goran Skalin's drawings of heritage buildings are also on display here.

In 1981, the Mississauga Recreation and Parks spent \$70,000 to structurally reinforce the foundation, the roof and add a water system with washroom facilities. In 1993, the structure received a paint job that was based on appropriate historic colours. Today, the building stands bare of its bell tower, fence and tree ornamentation, a pale comparison of its former heritage presence in the community.

The Hall, located at 6970 Second Line West, was used for Sunday Church services by Exodus Apostolic Church under the direction of Reverend C. Thompson from 1999 to July 1, 2003. Today, it is used by the Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and other organizations for social events.

## The Meadowvale Concert Band-1871

**T**he Meadowvale Band was organized in 1875 by the Brampton Bandmaster. The first bandmaster was Joseph Trimble, second, Bert Mason. The musical group's talents were utilized at every major event and they were appreciated by the music lovers of the Village. They always serenaded the Village residents on New Year's Eve.

In June, 1877, the Band played at the Britannia School picnic held on the Gardner Farm. The music of this group of young musicians was enjoyed around the area as they played at parties and weddings or whenever the opportunity arose.

By 1890, they held their band practises in the 20 year old building built by Charles "Holly" Gooderham as a schoolhouse for his children and it became called the Band Hall.

On June 22, 1891, Thomas Graham held a grand garden party at his home, the former Gooderham mansion, under the auspices of the Meadowvale Brass Band, lead by Professor F. O. Smith. No expense was spared to make this an elegant event and talent came from Toronto and Brampton to entertain.

Over the years, more interest was shown in the Band so that by the early 1900s, Charles W. Switzer was instrumental in its activities.

THE BAND MEMBERS BECAME NOTICED FOR TALENT IN entertaining and their repertoire contained many of Enrico Caruso's songs. Some of the band members at this time were Erland Copeland, Sinclair Laidlaw, Archibald and George Gooderham, and William Lambe. Archibald, who had been a member since its inception, left in 1901 to reside in Manitoba, where he died in 1904.

The group lasted until 1911 when Thomas Fletcher was the bandmaster. The Old Band Hall was torn down in 1920 and the wood was used for a band stand that can be seen in many of the photos of the Silverthorn Mill

### NEWS ITEM

Meadowvale was "the deserted village" on the 24th. The Band and football team, accompanied by a retinue of our citizens, took the morning train for Cheltenham, where Meadowvale met the Cheltenham football team. The game ended 3 to 0 for Meadowvale. The Meadowvale Band excelled in their playing throughout the day. At 7 o'clock, the visitors again boarded the train. The Band got off at Brampton to assist Prof. Frank Brown at his concert.

Saturday evening the Band paraded the streets and gave the intelligent and well pleased audience a few choice selections.

*Streetsville Review*, Wednesday, June 2, 1892

## The Credit Valley Railway-1879

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◀ Meadowvale  
Train Station  
(Mississauga Heritage  
Foundation)

THE 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 Railway from Toronto to St. Thomas.

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

Work on the rail line commenced on March 13, 1873, with surveying, which was supervised by C.J. Wheelock. The railroad employees blazoned 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 the son-in-law of Queen Victoria, as he was married to Princess Louise.

At the Streetsville junction, where a major train station was located, a line went to St. Thomas and one to Orangeville, 167 miles (66.8 ha) of track that linked Toronto far afield. The Orangeville rail line came along the west side of Meadowvale, but a station was not built until 1900 to accommodate the residents of the Village.

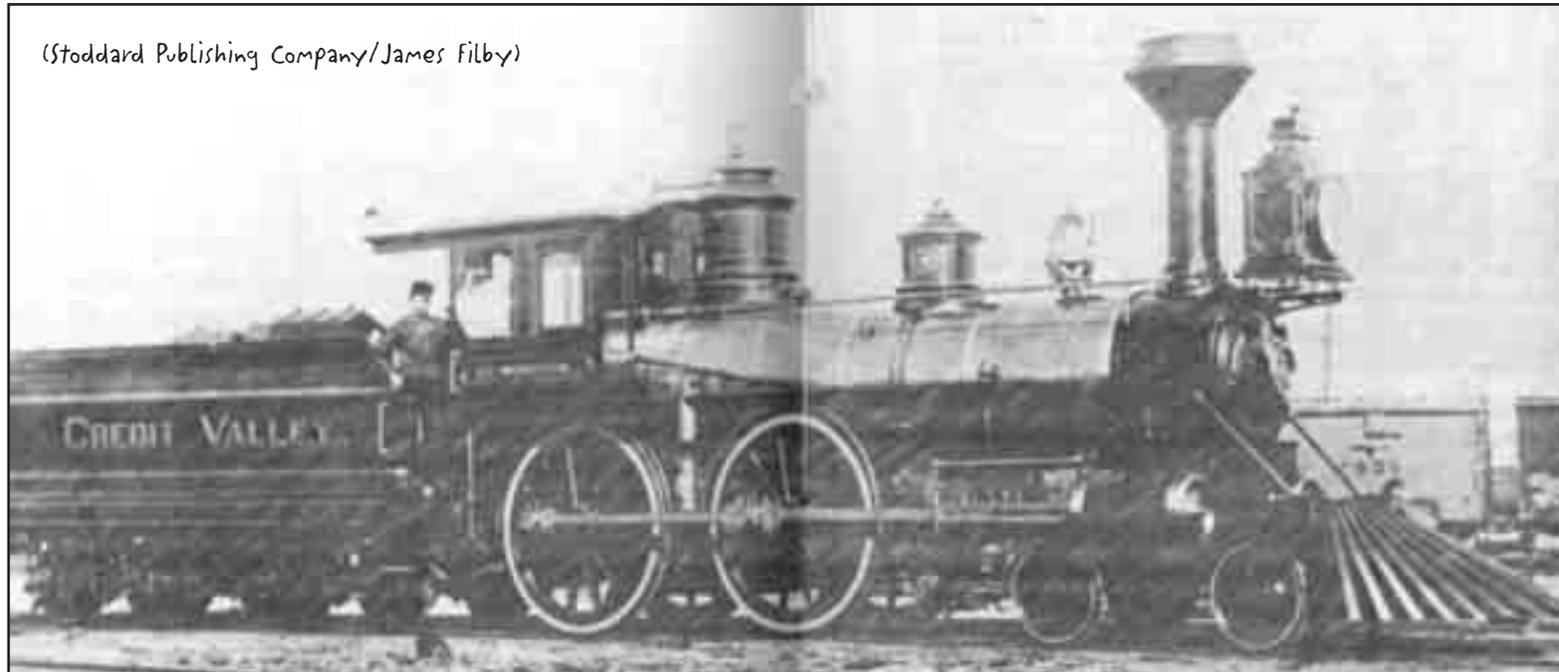
The farmers were now able to ship their produce and milk by train. Stores could have supplies shipped in from Toronto wholesalers, which made for more variety for their customers. The Gooderhams Grist Mill got more business with wheat being sent in by train and flour, barreled and loaded onto wagons,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

The CVR was taken over by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) on November 20, 1883 (official 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 in use, the service was dropped to two trains a day, then every other day.

Some of the station agents between 1900 to 1934 were Dan McCoughrin, Charles Cuthbert, Norman Hiscox and Harry Newman. It was reported in the *Brampton Conservator* on September 15, 1921, that the T.A. Lytle Pickle Company of Toronto stored cucumbers in 27 large wooden vats across from the station while they were fermenting. For the years, 1918-1924, Mr. D. L. McClure of Brampton was in charge of filling the vats, which were full of cucumbers put down in brine, and adding water until they were ready to be shipped into Toronto.

On April 14, 1917, the Toronto-Guelph Radial Line was officially opened. It had taken three years for the tracks to be laid along the proposed route by Mann and Mackenzie, which ran west of the





▲ George Laidlaw  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Charles Silverthorn  
(Silverthorn Collection)



▲ Radial Line Shelter (Gay Peppin)



▲ Radial Bridge (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Radial Car (Region of Peel Archives)

Village where an abutment had been built across the Credit River. A small shelter was constructed and Meadowvale was Stop 47. 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 70 people had been killed, including Francis Silverthorn's cousin, Etobicoke Reeve Charles Silverthorn, on August 25, 1917. The Meadowvale shelter was moved to be displayed at the Halton County Radial Railway Museum. The Ontario Hydro bought the Guelph Radial Line, which had gone into receivership, and the tracks were tore up in 1935.

In 1956, the train service at Meadowvale was discontinued.

The Women's Institute looked into the matter and found that six stations had to be available on the line, so Meadowvale was reinstated as a flag stop. By 1960, a caretaker was being paid \$25 a month for part time service and only \$100 a year was coming in.

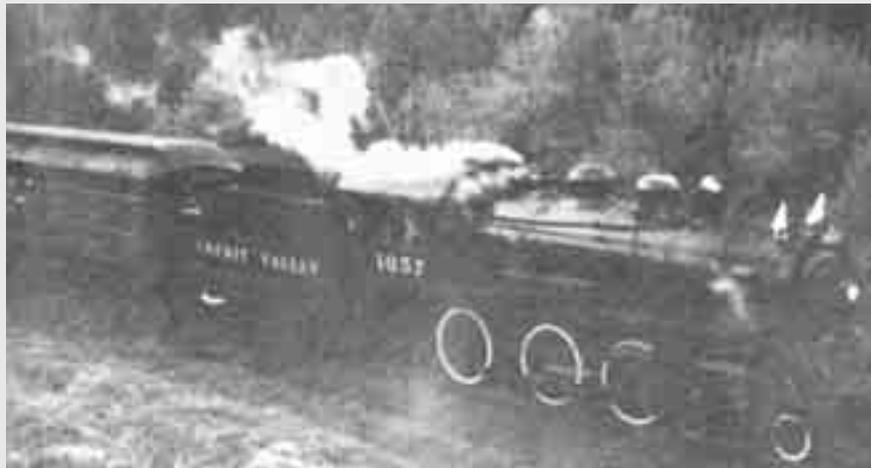
On July 16, 1962, the Toronto Township council concurred with the CPR's request to discontinue service at the Meadowvale Station. The station was then used for the Provimi Feed Company until it was torn down in the summer of 1976. The lumber was purchased by John Landon, a new resident, and utilized in the building of a workshop and garage on his property east of the Credit River. Steven Moran from Streetsville helped tear down the station. During this process, he discovered several telegrams dating from before 1900 shoved under the top of a wall.

## NEWS ITEM

### Chug along the Credit just for Old Times Sake

Colourful fall vistas, Indian summer like weather and the nostalgic romance of a steam powered train were more than enough compensation for any technical difficulties encountered on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority's Sunday train excursion to Orangeville.

Although the steam engine and train fanatics were out in full force with their expensive cameras and sensitive sound recording equipment, most of the 425 paying passengers were just out for a pleasant ride up the Credit Valley.



▲ The 1057 Train  
(James Filby)

Old CPR 1057 did her best in negotiating the long grades around Cataract and the Forks of the Credit just like she worked the old Credit Line from the 1930s til 1959. Those days are gone forever, but a glimpse of the Golden Age of Railroading was given the 1057s passengers as she chugged her way north between the Caledon Hills.

Enormously successful, the Conservation Authority would be well advised to make the autumn colour steam tour of the Credit Valley a regular event.

*The Mississauga Times*  
Sid Rodaway, October 9, 1974

# The Threshing Machine - 1879

Taken verbatim from the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbook No. 3  
Author Unknown

**THE STEAM POWERED THRESHING** machine was first brought on the farming scene in 1879 - a traction steam engine appeared in 1900. A threshing machine outfit consisted of the engine, separator, water tank and straw cutting box. Until 1930, they were a familiar sight on the roads of Peel County. Usually a horse and buggy followed behind the procession to take the threshmen home at night.

When threshing was done in the field the separator was wheeled into the grain field, where the engineer backed the engine around expertly to the power distance. There were teams with loads waiting and, as one pulled up to the table, the belt was slipped on, and with a slapping noise the engine went into action with extra effort, and the separator jiggled and jangled into action with a great rush of small belts and pulleys, as well as the clattering of sieves and canvas. The fire-box belched fire and with a toot of the whistle the threshing started. Soon there was a rustling sound as the straw was propelled through the blower and the golden grain started slithering out of the spout into a waiting bag.

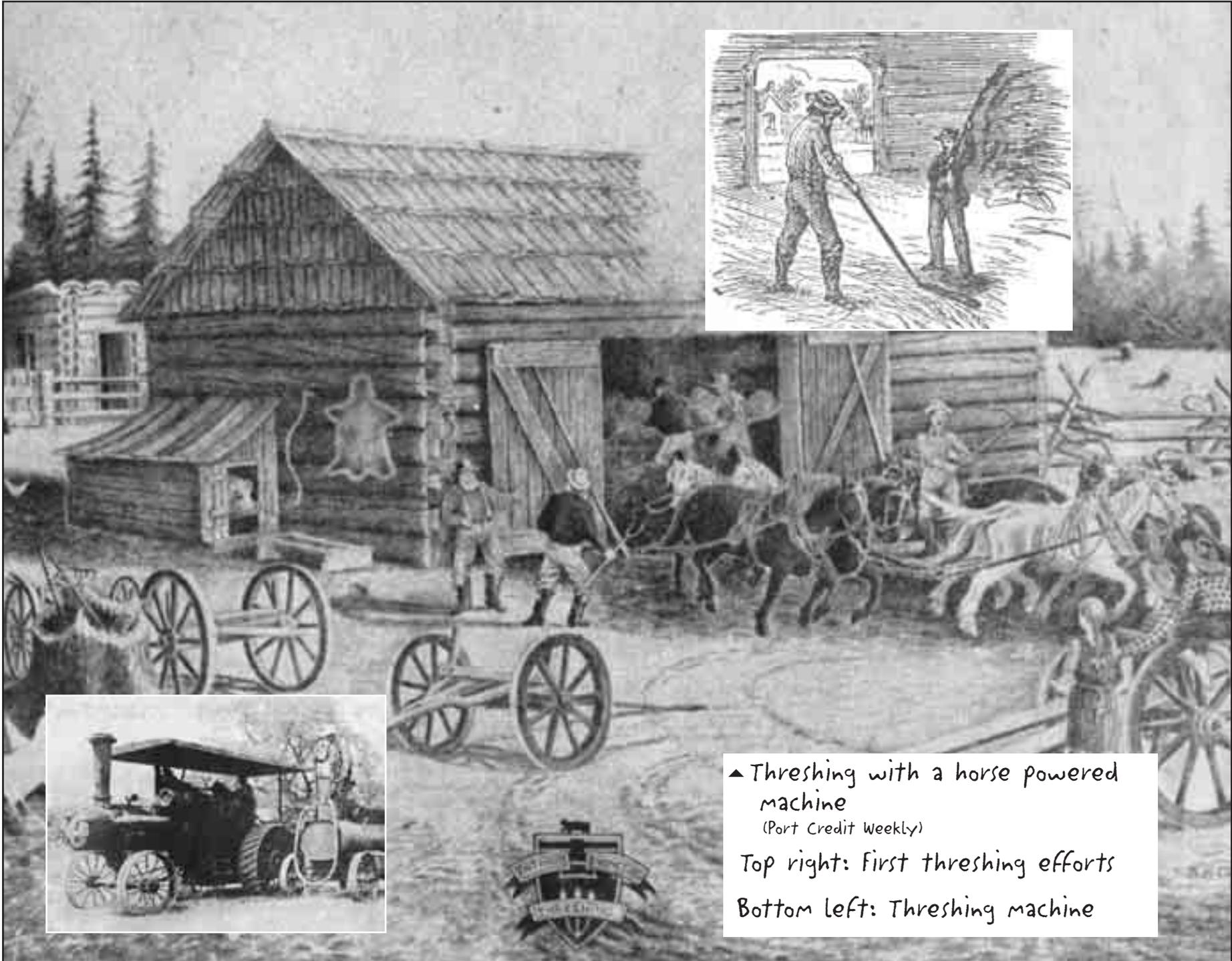


▲ Threshing in Toronto Township  
(Region of Peel Archives)

**T**he tankman, who looked after the big tank that hauled water for the engine, filled the boiler and two small tanks, which he put beside the engine. He also ran the portable saw that ran on a belt from a small pulley, cutting up the pile of old fence rails and poles.

Meals for the threshers were something very special. For several days before the threshing, the farm wife and usually some of her neighbours, were busy preparing food. And what meals they put up. Great roast of meat, potatoes, gravy, several kinds of vegetables, pickles and relishes, tea biscuits and always two or three kinds of pies and the men nearly always had a piece of each kind.

(Author's note: A groundhog threshing machine was first marketed in 1830 that could thresh 300 bushels of grain a day. Before that a farmer would spread the wheat on the floor of the barn and flail it to loosen the kernels. This procedure lasted until someone decided to secure his cattle to a post and have them walk in a circle on layers of wheat and when the kernels fell to the floor, the farmer raked them into bags.)



▲ Threshing with a horse powered machine  
(Port Credit Weekly)  
Top right: first threshing efforts  
Bottom left: Threshing machine

## The Sibbalds - 1882

**F**rancis (b.1841, d.1905) and Catherine Sibbald (1844-1931) arrived in Meadowvale in 1882. Francis had purchased Jonadab Hardy's steam powered saw mill from Thomas O'Shaughnessy on July 25th for \$2,000. He operated it for two years, then he sold it to Albert Lambe and took over Mathew Laidlaw's store for two years. On January 23, 1884, he and Catherine bought one of the Francis Silverthorn's millworkers' cottages on Pond Street from George Loughheed for \$860 plus Lot 9, Con. 2, WHS, which he had bought on November 28, 1878. In this deal, Francis also became the owner of Laidlaw's Commercial Hotel located on Main Street (Derry Road West). He leased it to Ephraim Hopkins and then sold it to John Callaghan on May 1, 1886, for \$3,380.

Sibbald is an ancient surname in Scotland and dates back to 1246 when it was spelled "Sybault." Francis (Frank) was the fourth child in a family of ten born to Thomas Jr.(1803-1887) and Mary McClelland (1813-1889), who had married in 1830. Thomas Jr., who was born in Innerleithen, Peebleshire, Scotland, came to Britannia in 1824 with his parents Thomas Sr.(1774-1858) and Christeen Matheson (1784-1870), who had 11 children.



▲ Millworkers House, 1904

(Harry Spiers)



◀ Catherine Sibbald

(Region of Peel Archives)

THEY BOUGHT LOT 1, CON 3, WHS, ON JULY 23, 1825, THE former 100 acre (40 ha) grant of Timothy Street. It was still in the family in 1909 when it was sold to William John Coulter for \$5,500. Thomas Sr. was a carpenter and cabinet maker. They attended Streetsville's St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, where they are both buried. Thomas and Mary received a grant of 100 acres (40 ha) SE-1/2 of Lot 2, Con. 2, WHS, from the Crown on April 23, 1863, and they worked the farm for nearly 30 years and retired to Streetsville. They are buried in the Britannia Church Cemetery.

Catherine was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Reeve Gardner from Britannia. Joseph's parents had been the first settlers there in 1821. Frank and Catherine were married on March 17, 1869, and moved to Fergus where Harry was born. They returned to Britannia and Catherine bought Lot 2, SE-1/2, Con. 3, WHS, 50 acres (20 ha) for \$2,334 on March 28, 1873, where they resided until they moved to Meadowvale Village. They had Robert, Mae, Maude, Emily, Florence, Clara, Joseph and William. On November 3, 1886, Catherine bought Lots 12 thru 20 in the village from Fred Gardner and sold Lot 12 in 1905 to George Russell and the rest to Stephen Cook on October 1, 1906.

Frank Sibbald had a wagon shop in a foundry he had bought from a Mr. Irwin, who moved to Shelbourne, and it

was reported in 1891 that he was turning out first class rigs. In the summer of 1892, Frank's washing machine establishment, managed by Mrs. Bremmar and Mr. Tarnis, was running full blast. He was instrumental in building a wooden bridge across the Credit River. It was washed away in 1893 in a spring flood and another bridge was erected in its place that lasted until Hurricane Hazel in 1954 when an iron one was put up, which is still there. Frank also kept a colony of bees for honey and he moved several colonies to various farms as far south as Cooksville. Frank died on September 10, 1905, at age 64. Catherine became the first president of the Meadowvale's Women's Institute when it was formed in 1910. She passed away in 1931 and was buried in the Britannia Cemetery with Frank and his parents.



▲ Sibbald Gravestone  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Harry, Mae, Maude, Robert, Frank, Florence, Will, Clara, Emilie, Catherine and Joseph  
(Region of Peel Archives)

## MEMORIES

"Our paternal grandmother was a welcome visitor on occasions, from Ontario. She was a tiny lady, always in black, though grandpa still lived. Her dresses had boned bodices, long sleeves and high boned collars, and frilly, silk, black petticoats that tied around her little waist. She wore cute bonnets, wired and beribboned, black of course, with maybe a touch of purple, and tied under her chin. Her first request when settled was for mending, and mother, always busy with other duties, could always oblige, and brought out garments sadly in need of patches. Grandma would set a sad iron to heat and turn out the neatest job ever. Language was a fetish with Grandma Sibbald and no grammatical error was let slip by without correction. If Dad would tell the boys to 'go do' something, she would say, 'Now Rob, don't push but pull, say, Come on, not go.' She did a neat trick of swallowing an egg that intrigued us. She would break it into a cup, then tilt her head, tip the egg into her mouth and declare the egg went down unbroken."

Dora Head of Saskatchewan, 1967  
Daughter of Robert Sibbald

## The Reeves - 1883

**S**igsworth Simpson Reeve (b.1856, d.1943), grandson of John Simpson, came to Meadowvale in 1883 when he purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of Lots 11 and 12, Con. 3, WHS, from Charles Holly Gooderham for \$5,250.

His family originated in Braintree, Essex County, England. His great grandparents, Jonah (1746-1807) and Elizabeth (1754-1826), who were married March 18, 1773, had 13 children. Their son, William Beckwith (1789-1868) was the first Reeve to venture to Upper Canada (Ontario), Canada, in 1821. He bought property in Derry West, Lot 8, Con. 1, WHS, August 24, 1821, 100 acres (40 ha) from William Hill for £45 (\$113). His brother, Thomas, joined him 13 years later. William was married to Diana Gates (1792-1867) and they had five children, William (1813-1887), Alfred (1814-1827), Elizabeth (1815-1906), Frederick (1817-1824), and John (1819-1879).

William's son, John, married Hanna Louise Simpson (1832-1927) in 1854 and Sigsworth, the second child of ten, was born in 1856 in Burnhamthorpe, one of Toronto Township's small villages. They lived on property that John was farming for his father, who had acquired the north half of Lot 6, Con. 2, NDS, in 1846 from James Tracey. He purchased the farm for \$625 on May 28, 1862. When Sig was ten, John sold the farm and moved his family to Churchville, where Sig attended the S.S.#14 Union School.



▲ Reeve House  
(Harry Spiers)

► Sigsworth S. Reeve  
(The Crawford Collection)

Before moving onto the property in Meadowvale in 1883, which was situated on Derry Road, west of the Credit River bridge, Sigsworth built a two storey frame house. Once settled, he farmed the land and was classed as a farmer and dairyman. He bred Holstein cattle and hogs and was quite involved in provincial exhibitions around the province. He won many prizes, especially for his Holstein cattle. He married Sara McClure (1859-1938) in 1890 and they had three children, Frederick (1891-1964), Thomas Warren (1893-1972) and Ester (1897-1977).

Sig was very community minded and many events for the village were held on his property. He was a trustee of the Meadowvale Methodist Church. Around 1910, he built a two storey house.

When he passed away in 1943, he was buried with other family members in the Churchville cemetery. His son, Thomas, resided in the Reeve house until 1959 when he sold his 104 acre (41.6 ha) farm, for the Meadowvale Botanical Garden. The garden never materialized and in 1973 the property was sold to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC) for its new headquarters and conservation area. The second Reeve house, located at 1265 Old Derry Road, is owned by the CVC and is used by a community service group.

## The Charlton Family - 1885

WHEN JOSEPH GARDNER JR. DIED IN December, 1885, at age 68, he bequeathed his farm to his son, Robert, who sold it for \$7,300 to his sister, Sophia (b.1852, d.1939) on November 3rd.



▲ Robert and Sophia Charlton  
(Brampton Conservator)

Sophia had married Robert Golden Charlton (1850-1941) on April 2, 1879. He was the son of John (1807-1893) and Mary Bull (1817-1903)

Charlton, the fourth

son of six children. Britannia circuit pastor, Reverend G. Gough, performed the nuptials in the bride's home. The newlyweds lived in London, Ontario, for two years, then Port Elgin for five before coming to Meadowvale. They had six children, John, Robert, Clara, Cora, Jessie and Sarah.

They moved into Joseph's house and took over the 100 acre (40 ha) Gardner farm, Lot 8, Con. 4, WHS, that was located between Third and Fourth Line West (now Creditview and Mississauga Roads). The property had originally belonged to grantee Mathew Laidlaw, who had received the acreage on November 9, 1844. Joseph had bought it at auction on April 1, 1879, for \$6,450, following Mathew's death.



▲ The Robert Golden Charlton farm  
(Region of Peel Archives)

It consisted of mixed farming with a market garden, apple orchard and a dairy. The dairy was quite productive and they sold cream to the Streetsville Creamery. The lane leading to the farmhouse was lined with maple trees. The original frame house burned down in 1896 and was replaced by a substantial two storey brick house. They farmed for 43 years and then moved to Streetsville for nine years and then to Clarkson in 1938 to reside with daughter, Sarah, Mrs. Harry Gerhart. They had 14 grandchildren.

Their son, Robert (1881-1969), who was married to Mary Ellen Arnott and had six children, and sister, Clara, stayed on the property. Clara had graduated as a nurse in Plainsfield, New Jersey, in 1919 and went overseas with the American Red Cross following W.W.I. In 1937, the Charltons celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in style and were even written up in the *Streetsville Review* in April, 1937. The family lived on the farm until October, 1947, when they sold to Joe Milton for \$8,000 and moved to Chinguacousy Township.

The entrance to the Charlton/Milton farm was Argentia and Creditview Roads, where a subdivision sprang up around it called Meadowvale South.

## The Caldwell's - 1898

**J**ohn and Mary Caldwell moved to Meadowvale in 1898. They had lived in Malton where they had moved in 1873 with their two year old son, John. They had eight more children there, Minnie, Charles, Bill, Alex, Dave, Vinie, Albert and Nelson.

They took up residence in the one and a half storey frame house John had purchased on the west side of Second Line West. John worked at the saw and grist mill for Henry Brown. In March and April of 1901, diphtheria was rampant in the village and Doctor Marshall Sutton, the Health Inspector, visited regularly. The Caldwell's son, Albert, died in March at age ten. Sigsworth Reeve's children were all sick with the disease as well and the school was closed because of the epidemic. Sig had bought property from Charles Gooderham on April 20, 1883. His house at 1265 Old Derry Road is still there and is owned by the Credit Valley Conservation.

John died in 1916. Their son, Charlie, lived in Meadowvale for the rest of his life. He was a carpenter and decorator, who was well thought of. Vic Ives, who was born in the village in 1922, says, "He was a sweet old guy who had a very tragic life.



▲ The Caldwell House, 1986



▲ The Caldwell House

(Photos courtesy of Rena Bishop)



▲ The Caldwell House restoration in 1987.



▲ Bishop House, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

HE LOST HIS WIFE, DAISY BROOKS, WHOM HE HAD married in 1906, in 1913 and he was left with three children to raise." Charlie died in 1954.

The Caldwell House at 7020 Second Line West has been owned by Irish born Catherine Ann (Rena) Bishop since 1986. She purchased it from Gary and Gayle Fohr for \$115,000 and has completely restored it and still resides there.



(Phyllis Williams)

Part Three 1901 - 1950

## Meadowvale's Progress Early 1900s



▲ Meadowvale Mills  
(Harry Spiers)

BY THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, MEADOWVALE WAS flourishing. Henry Brown was operating the Silverthorn/Gooderham mill, which were the busiest of the mills still in operation. The volume of business in the Village at this time was under the auspices of Brown, Callahan, Lambe, Switzer and Orr. The goods sold in the stores were now substantial not to warrant travelling far afield for necessary merchandise. The hotel, built by George Bell in 1844, now operated by John Campbell for Albert Lambe, was still doing a good business with transient trade. John Callahan was operating the former Laidlaw Commercial Hotel.



▲ The Commercial Hotel  
(Region of Peel Archives)

### FIRST BANK

The first and only bank to come to the Meadowvale Village was the Merchant's Bank of Canada, which opened on October 28, 1909, on the west side of the Graham house on Derry Road. It was open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Merchant Bank was absorbed into the Bank of Montreal in 1922, which had been granted a charter in 1822 in the Town of York (Toronto). The building is now gone and a residence is located there.



▲ Orr's Blacksmith Shop

(Mississauga Library)

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In 1900, John D. Orr, whose mother was a Switzer, was a blacksmith by trade. He was working out of his blacksmith shop located next door to Lambe's store on an eighth of an acre (0.05 ha) of Lot 10, Con. 3, facing Derry Road that he had purchased from Allan MacDonald on August 16, 1888, for \$190. He was the licence inspector and constable of the Village. His shop was located where the original Robinson store had sat. John resided on Lot 89, where the old Wagon Shop, built in 1848 by James Johnson on Water Street (Willow Lane), was located, which he also used for his blacksmithing. He sold his blacksmith shop in 1915 to Francis Jackson, who became the major owner of John Simpson's property. In 1910, Jackson purchased 150 acres (61 ha) from William Harris for \$8,900. Upon Orr's death, his Water Street (Willow Lane) property was sold in 1921 to William E. Gooderham, son of George Gooderham, who came to the village when he was four. There was a house on the property and he lived there until his death in 1963.

The CPR Railway Line was only a mile (1.6 k) from the Village and a small station had just been built there. Passenger trains passed



▲ View From Main Street (Derry Road)

(Charles Humber)

through on a daily basis from Toronto to places up to 100 miles (165 k) away.

Meadowvale was becoming considered a summer resort area and many people came to board for the summer to enjoy the tranquil sultry days, where the grassy meadows and drooping willows and tall elms along the Credit River lent to an environment that was pleasing and aesthetically effective. Many tourists boarded at John Watt's palatial estate, Rose Villa, that had been built by the Gooderhams in 1870.

The community was active with various events that had good turnouts, especially the corn roasts over a roaring bonfire. There were black bass to be caught in the Credit River, suckers, catfish, chubs and eels. Hunters would seek out foxes, hawks, crows, rabbits, pigeons and squirrels in the woods. Games of quoits (horseshoes) were enjoyed and football was played on the flat area at Sig Reeve's place, west of the bridge, or on the square between the store and mill. There was swimming in the summer and good skating on the River in winter along with sleigh rides on the passable roadways.



▲ John Watt's Rose Villa  
(Harry Spiers)



▲ Home of Francis Jackson  
(Harry Spiers)



▲ Orr's Outbuildings



(James Holmes)

## News Item - 1901

### NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM

**A**ndrew Henry Crozier, a Meadowvale Poet, composed a National Anthem for the British Empire in 1901. The music was written by Mr. H. H. Godfrey, the popular song writer from Toronto. It was sanctioned by His Royal Highness King George V. Crozier was granted permission to use the portraits of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in promoting his music sheets.

There are three verses with the chorus:

God save our noble Emperor  
God save our gracious King  
Long may he wield the sceptre.  
While we his praises sing.

He had the voice and piano parts of his masterpiece published by the Review-Herald Publishing house in Streetsville. They sold for 25¢ and the Band part by Whaley, Royce & Company, Toronto, at 50¢ a copy.

It is intended that the new anthem shall supercede the old one and become the recognized National Anthem of the whole of the British Empire.

*The Brampton Conservator, August 9, 1901*  
The Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbook

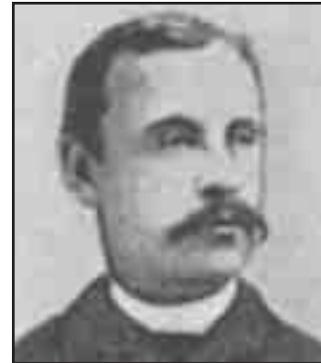


▲ King Edward VII



▲ Queen Alexandra

(Streetsville Review)



▲ Andrew H. Crozier

#### THE CROZIER FAMILY

Andrew Crozier's interview in the William Perkins Bull files from the 1930s states that his parents, John (b.1821, d.1908), and Mary Jane (1833-1910), had arrived in Canada in 1866 with six children and lived in Milton, where John's Uncle Tom resided. The family hailed from Dromore, County Tyrone, Ireland. On April 1, 1885, John bought Colonel William Birdsall's (1791-1877) Manor House and farm east of Meadowvale Village from Harriet Ann Harris for \$8,300, who had purchased it in 1881 from Francis Birdsall for \$3,679. Their farm was located on the southeast corner of Derry Road and Mississauga Road that was known as Harris' Corners and then Croziers' Corners, the west half, 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 10, Con. 4, WHS, that had been Birdsall's 1836 grant. Andrew, who was born April 12, 1884, inherited the

house in February, 1908, when his father died. His siblings were Isabella, 1868, Mary Ann (1870-1916), John (1872-1932), Margaret (1876-1936), and William, 1886. Just before corresponding with Perkins Bull in 1933, Andrew discovered the Colonel's diary in the garret by the stairs.

Andrew wrote poetry for *Truth Magazine* and was a Peel correspondent for *The Toronto Daily World*. His National Anthem received great praise throughout Canada and the ads stated that no collection of sheet music is complete without it. It sold for 25¢ a copy. Andrew became a friend of sketch artist, Harry Spiers, when he came to Meadowvale from Selsea, Sussex, England, with his wife and several small children. The story goes that Spiers' parents were well off and he married against their wishes, so he came to Ontario and settled in Toronto in 1900. He came to Meadowvale Village in November, 1902.

In the winter of 1904, Spiers showed Andrew a painting of The

Rabbit Hunters representing Charles Holly Gooderham. Andrew suggested he take it to John Eaton, president of Toronto's Eatons store.

He did and he made his first sale. Andrew corresponded with William Perkins Bull when the author was working on his collection of books on Peel County in the 1930s. Andrew told William Perkins Bull that his father, John Crozier, was a first cousin to Rev. John Baptist Crozier, D.D. Bishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland and to Rev. Wm. Robert Crozier of the Diocese of Derry, Ireland. In one letter dated April 7, 1933, Andrew said he was walking on a scaffold, a pole broke, and he tumbled 12 feet (3.7 m) and was seriously hurt. In another, May 17, 1937, he tells of having been in a car accident in March, 1935, and being in poor health. He couldn't have been residing in his parents' house at this time, because Jennie Crozier sold the property in 1934 to William Pratley for \$9,600. Andrew passed

away in August, 1941, and was buried with his parents in the Streetsville Trinity Anglican Church Cemetery.



## NEWS ITEM

It was fitting that the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland should take place on March 17 at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh. The ceremony was performed by the Archbishop of Belfast in the presence of all the bishops of Ireland, many of the clergy and ministers of other denominations. The see of St. Patrick, in which Dr. Crozier, was installed was founded in the year 445. The new primate is a nephew of the late John Crozier of Meadowvale.

*The Conservator*, April 10, 1913

## CROZIER'S CORNERS

The many friends of Mr. William Montgomery were glad to see his figure on the line again.

Mr. Jos. Owens has secured his old position on the Brown farm.

The many friends of Mr. John Morrisey are pleased to see his smiling countenance not disfigured.

George, raise the line in the future.

Mr. Wm. Hiltz is engaged for the ensuing year on the Flynn farm. Frank is rushing business.

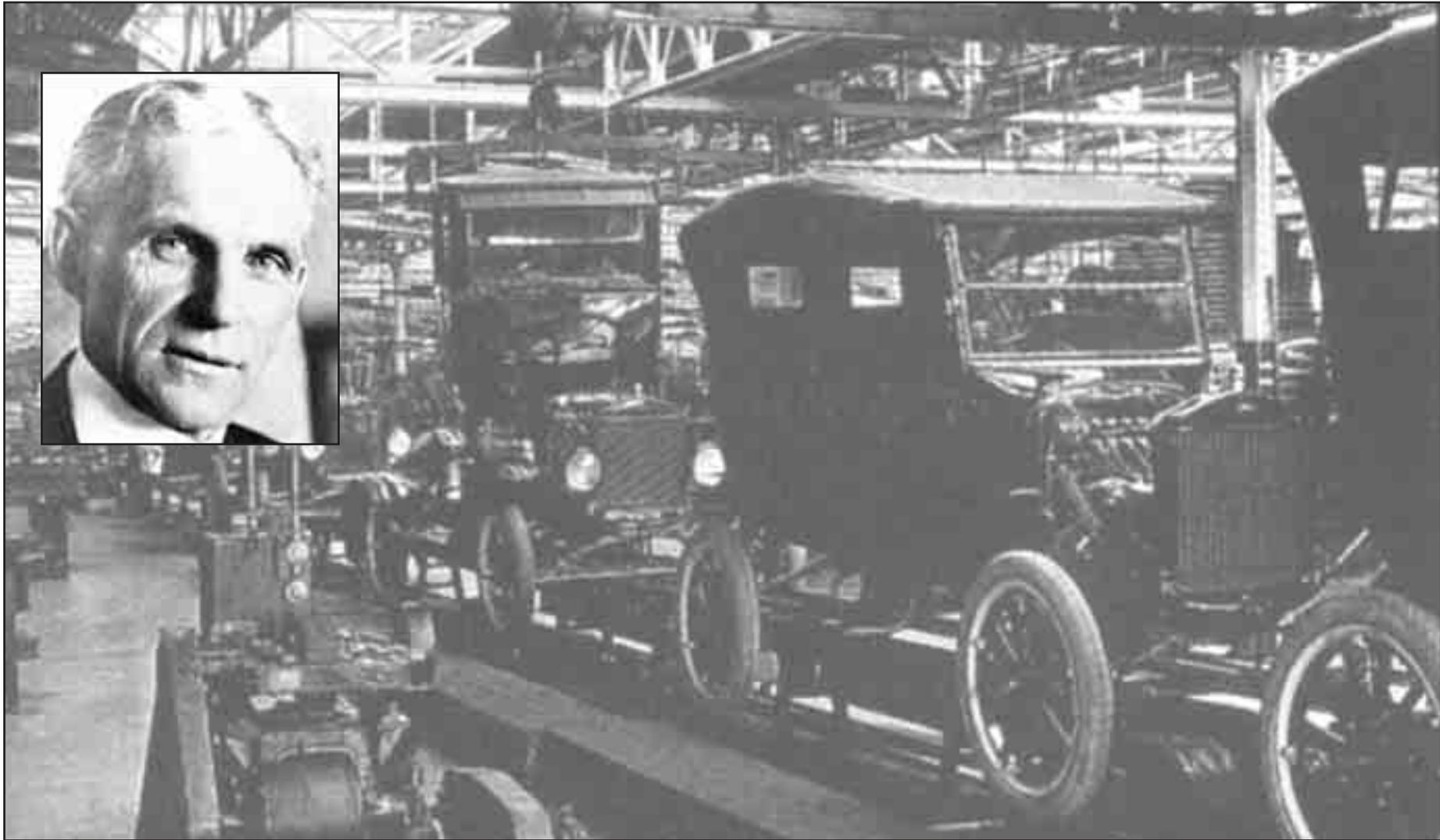
A. C. Crozier is cutting a large amount of wood for the coming season.

Mr. Edward Owens has resumed work again after a severe attack of la grippe.

Molly Dok

*The Streetsville Review* Column, March 29, 1894

## The First Automobiles - Early 1900's



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### ▲ Ford Plant

(Enersource Hydro Mississauga)

**Inset: Henry Ford**

(Other photos courtesy of the Ford Motor Company's Archives)

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, A PHENOMENAL sight appeared on the streets of North America - the automobile. Because everyone was used to horse drawn wagons, the new contraption became called “the horseless carriage.”



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

The first gasoline-powered automobile was invented by Americans Charles and Frank Duryea in 1893. They started manufacturing at their Duryea Motor Wagon Company factory in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1895, Frank Duryea entered a car race sponsored by the *Chicago Times Herald* and he finished the 52 mile (87 kilometers) course first at a speed of 6.5 miles (11 kilometers) an hour.

Henry Ford 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.

The right to manufacture cars in Ontario was acquired in 1904 by 31 year old Gordon McGregor, the president of a wagon factory in Walkerville (Windsor), which became the Ford Motor Company of Canada. The first car lot to appear in Toronto Township was Moore Motors, established in Port Credit in 1914 by Fred Moore, which was



▲ William Lambe at Meadowvale Station  
(Region of Peel Archives)

an authorized Ford dealership, sanctioned by the Ford Motor Company. The first operator's licence in Ontario was issued in 1927 at a cost of \$1. The first year, 444,472 licences were issued.

The first car in Meadowvale was owned by Albert S. Lambe. He had sold some lumber to a customer and received a convertible type automobile in lieu of cash. Mr. Lambe never drove his car with the licence plate 4738 - it just sat in his garage until his son, William, drove it.

In 2000, according to the Ministry of Transportation, there were 8,121,374 licenced drivers in Ontario. Ford Canada celebrated its 100 year anniversary in 2003.

# The Meadowvale Literary Society - 1903

THE MEADOWVALE LITERARY SOCIETY WAS started in 1903 with T. S. Jewitt as president, W. A. Gardner, vice president, C. W. Switzer, chaplain, Miss Charlton, secretary/treasurer and Miss J. Pearson, organist. They had meetings almost every night during which they held debates, recitations and essays. One interesting program was a study of the Merchant of Venice in four acts with music provided by the Meadowvale chorus.

The Society founded its own paper called The Meadowvale Mirror. The first edition was published on Wednesday, October 28, 1903, and sold for 5¢. Orange J. Church of the *Streetsville Review* was the publisher and Harry Spiers, the artist, was the editor. The paper was only one page that was published twice a month, which contained editorial notes, the upcoming meeting program, a continuing essay, meeting notes, market reports, debate report and village gossip. It also gave an opportunity to advance one's literary prowess.



◀ Charles W. Switzer

(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Orange J. Church  
(Region of Peel Archives)

One interesting item in the January 6, 1904, issue read: \$10,000 Reward. On Friday afternoon last, between the hours of four and six o'clock, a house on Main Street was taken possession of, the members of the said house being "conspicuous by their absence." The above reward will be given to anyone who can bring these "Ramblers" to justice. The people of Meadowvale are strongly advised to never leave their house "alone by itself" while these Ramblers are still at large.

(No further information on the Literary Society could be found.)

## A Mecca For Artists - Early 1900s

MEADOWVALE WAS KNOWN FOR ITS TALENTED artists. The Village became a paradise for artists, who came from all over Ontario to paint the beauty of the location: A. J. Casson, Charlie Goldhammer, Owen Staples, Tom Roberts, Carl Adhorns, Tom Stone, Walter Sutton, Harry Spiers, George Chavignaud, Edwin Thurston and Fred S. Haines. These latter three purchased houses in the village and became actively involved in the community.

Walter T. Sutton said, "Painting is a most interesting and absorbing work, but the emphasis is on work. Painting will take your mind off the most pressing problems. It is a work in which one can lose oneself." Sutton did landscape and floral scenes. He had been born in Brampton and had studied under Canada's portrait painter, J.W.L. Forester, for which he paid \$2 a lesson.

George Chavignaud was born in Finis terre, France, in 1865 and was educated at the College of Charlemagne in Paris. He came to Toronto, Ontario, to live in 1884 and was employed as an art director for a publishing firm. He settled in Meadowvale in 1904 to reside in the Gooderham house for a year, left for Lambton Mills in 1910 and returned to the Village again in 1929. He travelled much of Europe and died in Meadowvale in May, 1944. Some of his work was donated to William Perkins Bull in the 1930s for his books on Peel County.



▲ Mill Cottage - 1904

(Harry Spiers)

**A**lfred Joseph Casson (b.1898, d.1992), was a member of the Group of Seven from 1925, when he replaced Frank Johnston, to when they disbanded in 1932. He had a connection with Meadowvale through his mother, Henrietta Hardy, who had been born in the Village. Casson, who had a Quaker upbringing, first came to the Village in 1907 at age nine with his parents, John Edwin and Henrietta Casson, and brother, John, to spend the summer with Grandmother Hardy. She lived in the Mill cottage on Willow Lane (now 1101 Old Derry Road) that she rented from Henry Brown. He had been born on Baldwin Avenue in Toronto and the family had just moved to Guelph, where his father worked for a jam manufacturer. Even though his parents, had no interest in art, he had started painting as soon as he could hold a brush, and at this early age, he loved

to explore the countryside, which he would paint. He returned many times to the birth place of his mother to paint, especially the Meadowvale Mills.

Casson moved to Toronto in 1916 where he attended Central Technical School to study art. Alfred Howell, his teacher, took an interest in his work. In 1917, his first painting was exhibited at the Canadian National Exhibition and it was here that he met artist Fred Haines, best known in Meadowvale for his Indian mural, who managed the CNE Art Gallery. Through these connections, his artistry evolved from 1920. He travelled about Ontario extensively, setting up camps and traipsing through the small communities to find the ideal settings for his drawings, sketching and painting.

He worked as a commercial artist and received many awards and honorary degrees. As his fame rose, a small oil sketch, 12" by 15" (30 cm x 38 cm), would sell for \$5,000 and larger oils for \$25,000. His paintings were exhibited at the Rogers Gallery in Toronto. One of his landscapes sold for \$37,000 at auction in Toronto. He claimed, "It's partly my association with the Group of Seven that jacks the price up. And, of course, it's partly my age." In 1980, he was the last surviving member of the Group of Seven. When he turned 88, Casson was honoured with a birthday bash at the Royal York Hotel with dinner for 600 guests at \$200 a plate that was donated to Alzheimer's Research. His wife, Margaret Purdy, whom he married in 1924, suffered from the disease. He died in 1992 at age 94.

Paintings done by George Chavignaud, Tom Roberts and Tom Stone are among the collection at the Region of Peel Archives and Art Gallery.



▲ Fred Haines  
Water Street  
(Basil Welch)

*Author's Note: This painting was done when Haines bought the second house from left in 1903.*

◀ Thomas Stone's Credit  
Near Meadowvale  
(Perkins Bull Collection)

## MEMORIES

"It's rather a pretty little village. One of the nice things is the community spirit. Of course, in the early days, the Church and Sunday School were important social contacts. I have quite a bit of space around me. It's like living in the country. You're not all cramped in close together. The Village was also once a well-known artists haven, with the area's lush meadows and flowing river providing appealing landscapes for such painters as George Chavignaud, Tom Stone and Fred Haines. I can remember when students from the Ontario College of Art boarded with village residents during two consecutive summers in order to take advantage of being close to natural surroundings."

Quote from Louise Southern, June 4, 1986  
*Mississauga News* article by Michael Lightstone.



▲ Louise Southern

"From the time I was a little boy, I can remember the artists coming out to Meadowvale to paint the mill, the barn, the mill house and other beautiful historic buildings in the area, including Apple Tree Inn, the cottage, flats and the dam. George Chavignaud lived in the village in those days, and Tom Stone, a lesser known artist, was enchanted with the village. Fred S. Haines came and painted, and while not one of the Group of Seven, was closely associated with them. On summer days, we would often hear a terrible clammering and clattering outside the house and look out to find that there was a row of cars parked on the grass outside the fence and half a dozen people would be setting up their easels on the front lawn. Later we took the fence down and they would come and drive right onto the lawn.

"I regularly went to watch A. J. Casson, A. J. Jackson and others, but I had no idea who they were at the time. And Casson did become a member of the Group of Seven. What I do remember is that each and every one of them gave paintings to my mother as their way of saying thank you for allowing them to paint on the property. All in all, I have some great memories of Meadowvale."

Henry Allan Luther Emerson Excerpt from MHF letter Jan 21, 1998



▲ Allan Emerson

## Fred Haines and The Mural - 1903

**F**red Stanley Haines, who was born in Meaford, Grey County, Ontario, in March, 1879, achieved national prominence for his pastoral scenes in oil. Haines first came to Meadowvale in 1896 with the burning ambition to be an artist and study in Toronto. He only had \$1.50 to sustain him. He studied under Reid and Cruishank at the old Central Ontario School of Art, which became the Ontario College of Art. In 1901, he began to display his work in the Ontario School of Art and became a member in 1906.

He married Bertha Moorehouse and they bought a house on Water Street (Willow Lane) on November 3, 1903, for \$400. They had a daughter, Dorothy, who attended the Meadowvale Public School, where Fred was a school trustee. During the summer of 1910, he painted a mural called “Indians on the Credit” in vivid, clear colours. It was painted on three roller blinds, 18 feet by 40 inches (5 m x 100 cm) and glued to the school wall. The mural depicted two Indians in a canoe on the Credit River, paddling towards an Indian village. According to the *Streetsville Review*, his masterpiece was dedicated that fall.



◀ Fred Haines

(Region of Peel Archives)

AFTER ACHIEVING THIS ARTISTIC ENDEAVOUR, HE STUDIED at the Belgium Academe Royale des Beaux Arts in Antwerp, Belgium, where he received a gold medal. He returned to Canada in 1914 and continued his etchings, many of which are hanging in art galleries here and abroad. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has a Frederick S. Haines collection. They sold their house to Margaret Trevorror on February 25, 1916, for \$900.

Haines took on many challenges and became secretary of Graphic Art at the Canadian National Exhibition (1920) and commissioner of Fine Arts (1924), President of the Ontario Society of Artists (1924-1927), Director and curator of The Toronto Art Gallery (1927-1932), Principal of the Ontario College of Art (1932-1951), President of the Royal Canadian Association of the Arts (1939-1942), and was a founding member of the Canadian Society of Painters and Etchers and the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colours. After leaving the College of Art in 1951, he turned full time to his landscape painting, which was his first love.

In 1958, Haines donated 14 canvases to the new Thornhill High School and several canvases to his alma mater, Meaford High School.

Haines died of a heart attack on November 21, 1960. He was buried in Thornhill Holy Trinity Cemetery.

Over the years, Haines' mural was badly mutilated and tarnished and used as a dart board by the students. The school became the Community Hall in 1959 when a larger school was built. The Haines family transferred ownership of the mural to the South Peel Board of Education on January 1, 1964.

On June 5, 1969, Louise Southern, granddaughter of George Gooderham, wrote a letter of concern to Councillor Grant Clarkson about the destruction of Haines' mural. She received a response on June 8th from Deputy Clerk, John T. Corney. It informed her that her letter would be considered by the Town of Mississauga Council at its June 9th meeting. As it turned out it was deferred until June 16th in order for a report on the matter to be compiled. On that day, the Council decided the municipality could not afford to take on the cost of such a project.

Several Councils were approached over the next 10 years and finally in October, 1975, when former councillor Grant Clarkson was vice chairman of the Peel County Historical Society, he found out that the Ministry of Culture in Ottawa was going to preserve old murals. Through this contact, The Conservation Institute of Canada took on the responsibility of financing the project. A team of restoration experts, headed up by Ferdinand Petrov, was hired to undertake the preservation and reconstruction of the mural. The project cost was

established at \$15,000. The City of Mississauga Council agreed to handle \$500 travel costs to Ottawa for three days accommodations for three people.

Although the colours of the mural were faded with the years, there was hope of it being restored to its original splendour. The work began in January, 1976. A three man team was directed by Peter Vogel, consultant conservator of fine arts for The Conservation Institute.



Organic glue was put on the front of the mural and a temporary canvas affixed to it to prevent it being damaged during the removal process. It was a painstaking task to chisel the 66 year old invaluable piece of art out of the wall. When the mural was finally removed, the Toronto Art Gallery arranged transportation and storage of the art piece. In Ottawa, it was put on a vibrating table that shook off all the

#### ◀ Restoration of Mural

(Mississauga News)

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#### ▲ Mural: Mississauga Indians Travelling on the Credit River

(Region of Peel Archives)

lathe and plaster pigments. Permanent glue was put on the back and it was re-canvased and mounted on a stretcher. The front canvas was lifted off, then it was cleaned, retouching was done and then it was varnished. There were 400 hours involved. It took one year exactly to complete the work.

The mural, now in three frames, was housed at the Peel Museum and Art Gallery, 9 Wellington Street East, Brampton. It was unveiled on Thursday, October 6, 1977, along with a Fred Haines Art Exhibition loaned by the Grey County Board of Education. It was entitled, "Mississauga Indians Traveling on the Credit River" and was on display until November.

When the Delta Meadowvale Inn opened on October 16, 1980, with Alex Lindquist as General Manager, the mural was put on display in the foyer for three years. At the opening was Peel Museum director, Bill Barber, and Grant Clarkson, the former president of the Peel County Historical Society and former chairman of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA), and Jack Alquire, senior vice president of Markborough Properties. It was then moved to the Board Room of the CVCA, where it still hangs today. It is now owned jointly by the CVCA and the City of Mississauga. Grant Clarkson and the City of Mississauga are in the process of having it restored again and moved to the Mississauga Civic Centre.

The house the Haines resided in at 1147 Willow Lane became an heritage building in 1980. It has been owned by Basil and Margaret Welch since 1968. Margaret passed away in 2002 and Basil still resides there.



▲ Fred Haines' House (Region of Peel Archives)



▶ Basil Welch's House, 2002 ▶  
(James Holmes)

## Artist Spiers on Meadowvale - 1904

THE PICTURESQUE VILLAGE OF MEADOWVALE is situated on the Credit River in the County of Peel, Province of Ontario. In its immediate neighbourhood are to be found some of the finest farms in the country, and, as a result of which, those who guide the plow, harvest the crops and dispose of the grain, as a reward of years of toil and industry, have accumulated enough of this world's goods to build substantial homes for themselves, and massive and serviceable barns for their stock. But with all their previous success there is still no stopping the seasons as they come and go, call for work, and there is ever a pressing onward to some future day, when perhaps, fortune's sunny smile may ease down the burden of toil and one may rest, as it were on their oars, and take a retrospective view of their life's work, and even if all has not been accomplished as desired, their duty done in the field into which they are called to work will always be to them, like an ever flowing stream, a continued source of satisfaction.

Quote by artist, H. (Harry) Spiers "A Souvenir of the Village of Meadowvale on the Credit," 1904

Spiers was born in 1869 in Sussex, England.  
He died in 1936 in Dedham, Mass.



▲ Residence of R. Golden (Harry Spiers)

### MEMORIES

Historical research as it applies to the Village of Meadowvale, the facts are not incompatible with beauty and imagination. The very word, "Meadowvale" is both musical and stimulating to the mind's eye and above all it is entirely descriptive. Nestled on the banks of the Credit River is a little Village of Meadowvale. The very existence of this rural retreat in the midst of frantic industrialization is charmingly incongruous. Here is a place of peace and tranquillity bountifully blessed by Mother Nature.

Reminiscencing of Mrs. Chadwick, 1956  
from the Meadowvale Women's Institute scrapbooks



▲ John Watt Residence



▲ Fred Haines' House

Gardner Homestead ▶



(Drawings courtesy of the Mississauga Library System)



◀ Church and School

Harry Spiers Cottage ▶



# The Gooderham/South Farm - 1910



▲ Haying, John Farnell, William Gooderham, Robert Golden and George H. Gooderham, 1900  
(Region of Peel archives)



▲ George Gooderham House, 1904  
(Harry Spiers)



George Gooderham with  
Shepherd dog, 1905 ▶  
(Region of Peel Archives)

GEORGE GOODERHAM CAME TO MEADOWVALE IN 1869 TO take over the supervision of his Uncle William's business interests. He would manage 450 acres (180 ha) of the Gooderham farmland that was under cultivation and the Cooperage. He and his wife, Catherine, were married in 1851 and they had seven children, who grew up in the tiny hamlet, attended the Gooderham school then the Meadowvale Public School, and became involved in all aspects of community activity.

On February 11, 1870, George leased a white frame house and 94 acres (37.6 ha) of the original Hugh Bell's 100 acre (40 ha) farm, Lot 11, Con. 2, and 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 12, Con. 2, W-1/2, from his uncle, William Gooderham, for \$800 a year and resided there with his family. The house Bell had built was located on Lot 12, on the east side of the Concession Road (Second Line West). He bought the property on March 26, 1883, for \$12,000 from cousin, Charles Holly Gooderham. George sold the farm to Stephen George South on March 31, 1910, for \$11,000 and moved into one of the Gooderham houses in the Village where he died in 1912 at 86 years of age.

Stephen and his wife, Jane, had six children, Milford, Harold,



▲ Mrs. Stephen G. South  
(Region of Peel Archives)

William, Ken, who died tragically in a drowning accident in 1911 with Henry Brown, and two daughters. In 1919, Stephen constructed a large two storey red brick house on Lot 11. He owned the property until October, 1936, when he sold to his son, Harold, and moved to Trafalgar Township. Harold took over the first house and divided it to accommodate two families and his brother, William, moved in. He bought a 100 year old barn from Lot 11, Con. 3, SDS, near the Lakeview Rifle Ranges property, thought to be that of Wesley Watson,

one of Lakeview's earliest residents, and transported it by horse and wagon to Meadowvale and reconstructed it. It was a two storey timber frame structure with a gambrel roof of corrugated steel metal set on a moulded concrete block foundation.

On October 15, 1938, Cecil Treanor bought the South's Lot 12 acreage for \$6,000 that had the white house on it. Harold and his family moved into his father's red brick house. For several years, the Treanors rented out parts of their home to a variety of families at a cost of \$5 and \$10 a month. Cecil's daughter, Dorothy Jean, and her husband, Bruce Kurtz, bought 1.7 acres (0.7 ha) on August 4, 1964, and built a house. They lived there until 1969 when they sold their home to their son, Wayne, and his wife, Trudy, and moved to Brampton. Cecil sold out to Frederick Gruell in 1965 and Gruell sold most of the farm land to Fieldrun Holdings Inc. in 1986.

Harold sold off much of the Lot 11 property in November, 1955, to Dolphin Company Limited for development by Meadowvale Development Ltd. His daughter, Frances, and husband, Alex Copeland, who were married in 1944, built a red brick bungalow on a half acre (0.2 ha) in 1959. They still reside there. Their only son, Larry, born in 1947, is a Doctor and works in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Ohio State University Medical Centre in Columbus, Ohio. Larry and his wife, Lisa Jo, have three children, Laura, Nicole and Kelly.

Harold died in 1972 and his widow, Annie Farnell, remained in their home until 1980 when she sold the house to Lorne Davidson and moved in with her daughter, Frances. Lorne resided there for five years and sold it to Ron and Brunia Shahr. Annie died in 1986 at 90 years old.

The Bell/Gooderham house is located at 7235 Second Line West. The last house George Gooderham lived in was the McKee house at 7050 Second Line West. Stephen South's brick house at 7059 Second Line West, designated in 1980, has been owned by Miles and Elizabeth Backhouse since 1995. The South's Barn, at 978 John Watt Boulevard, was torn down in 2001.



▲ The South Barn  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



◀ Stephen South House  
(Region of Peel Archives)



The Bell/Gooderham  
House, 2003 ▶



▲ The Bell/Gooderham House, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

# The Meadowvale Women's Institute - 1910



▲ Women's Institute, 1910 (Mrs. Charles Gardner)

The Meadowvale Women's Institute (MWI) was founded in 1910 and had its first meeting on May 5th with Catherine Sibbald as its president. The 15 members met at the home of the secretary, Mrs. J.J. Stewart. Mrs. E.G. Graham and Miss Susan Campbell from the Brampton Women's Institute had organized the group. Mrs. Graham inducted the officers. The MWI motto was, "For Home and Country."

The first Women's Institute in Ontario was founded by Mrs. Adelaide Hunter Hoodless (b.1857, d.1910)



▲ Adelaide  
Hunter Hoodless



▲ Catherine  
Sibbald

(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)

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. Her great achievement with this organization warranted her a stamp in 1993 during the first special issue of stamps honouring women.

The group kept records from the outset, but the minutes up to 1922 were destroyed by a sister of a member who died, as she thought they had no value and burned them. The women were quite active in their community, holding events such as picnics and concerts in the Meadowvale Public School and taking tours to points of interest around Ontario, one being the Alexander Graham Bell's homestead in Brantford, and visiting other Women's Institutes in Peel. To raise funds, they held euchre parties, auction sales, garden parties, teas, bake sales and did catering. In February, 1933, they held a Mid-Victorian Party at the home of Miss Minerva Castle and some members wore 19th Century gowns; one was an 85 year old green and silver taffeta and several wore their grandmothers' wedding dresses.

The Peel County Women's Institutes were instrumental in the founding of Peel Memorial Hospital. At a meeting of the Institute held in Brampton on February 28, 1910, the idea for a hospital was suggested by Susan Campbell. Mrs. E.G. Graham, president of the Peel County Women's Institute, and 500 women got behind the proposal. All but two of the branches pledged to work on campaigning for funds. Their goal was reached and the formal opening ceremony took place February 2, 1925, with Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Henry Cockshutt (1921-1927), on hand with Reverend R.N. Burns carrying out the dedication.

During World War I (1914-1918), the ladies knit socks, mitts, scarves and gloves and sent them in gift boxes with fruit and candy to the Meadowvale men serving overseas. Upon the return of these veterans, the MWI held a celebration and presented them with watch fobs with engraved lockets. They carried out the same procedure during W.W.II (1939-1945), donating gift boxes to the Canadian Red Cross for the men in the armed forces.

In 1927, the MWI rented a small section of land for \$1 at the north-east corner of Derry Road West and Mill Road from William Lambe to be used for a park. A committee was organized and a planting design was drawn up by Miss Mary Eliza Blacklock of Rowancroft Gardens, who donated perennials and shrubs. A lattice type summer house was provided by Miss Helen Beardmore and a flag pole was installed thanks to Miss Mary Yates, who operated the Apple Tree Inn.

In November, 1929, the MWI started a Library, which was opened in a small shed they set up in their park. Member Minerva Castle was the first librarian. They gathered contributions and maintained the Library. The women, whose membership rose to 60, held garden parties, teas and bake sales and purchased the property on July 1, 1930, for \$400. In 1953, the park was transformed into a children's playground and the Library was at this location until 1965 when it was moved to the Meadowvale Public School. The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) bought the park for \$2,000 in 1968. The MWI used the money for bursaries for students at the Meadowvale Public School. An Art Shoppe was opened in the library building on July 4, 1970, by some residents who were loaned the property from the CVCA. It only stayed open for a year. The park is now the location of the Meadowvale Heritage plaque and the sewage

pumping station that has been disguised to resemble an old coach house. It was built when the sewers were put through the Village in 1988.

The Women's Institute held a Garden Party the first two years and the Meadowvale Band, under the direction of Charles W. Switzer, provided the music. They sponsored a skating club and tennis club, held an annual children's picnic at the end of the school season and an annual Halloween party. Over the years, they donated to the Peel Memorial Hospital (now called The William Osler Health Centre) and Nurses Residence in Brampton. In 1937, they furnished a hospital room along with the Derry West Women's Institute, and they donated a cardiograph machine. They sent preserves of fruit and jam to the patients of Peel Manor Home for Senior Citizens (opened in 1898 and called The County of Peel House of Industry and Refuge) and gave contributions to The Hospital for Sick Children (opened in 1875), Christie Street Veterans Hospital (1918) and the Canadian Institute for the Blind (founded in 1918), and assisted needy families in the community.

Lady Tweedsmuir, Susan Charlotte Buchan, encouraged the women's organizations to record their history when her husband, Lord Tweedsmuir, John Buchan, was Governor General of Canada (1935-1940). The Meadowvale Women's Institute scrapbooks are impressive, four large black covered binders with aluminum fronts designed by Doris McPherson. Miss Ida Davidson, daughter of William T. Davidson, started to compile Meadowvale's history in 1948. The curators varied over the years, but the most prominent was Louise Southern, great granddaughter of William Gooderham's brother, Ezekiel, who was an early member, was on the MWI Board in 1965 and was curator from 1974 to 1993.



Lady and Lord  
Tweedsmuir  
(Region of Peel Archives)



Anniversaries were held over the years. The 35th on June 13, 1945, was celebrated at the home of Mrs. Jessie Pearson. The renowned food critic/cook/author, Kate Aitken, who had a house on Mississauga Road, was the special guest speaker. On June 22, 1960, the 50th anniversary was held at Rowancroft Gardens. The 60th was a Special Tea on Tuesday, May 12, 1970, at the Meadowvale Community Hall. The president was Mrs. Harry Christie and the secretary, Miss Frances McCracken. For the 75th anniversary of Federation Women's Institutes of Ontario, the MWI hosted a commemoration Anniversary Tea in the Community Hall on May 13, 1972. Ladies came from all over Peel, Streetsville, Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon, even a

Ruth MacKendrick from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, visited. The 80th was celebrated on June 9, 1990, at Terra Cotta Inn. Jane Christie was president, Irene McKee, treasurer, Frances McCracken, secretary and Louise Southern, curator.

In 1990, the membership was low so the group disbanded at the 1993 annual meeting in April after 83 successful years. A farewell luncheon was held at the Delta Meadowvale Inn in June.

The Peel District Women's Institute still exists with Joan Folkard, who has been a W.I. member since 1972, as president. There are over 10,000 ladies involved in the Women's Institutes in Ontario.



Meadowvale Women's Institute (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Sewage Pumping Station, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

## The Fortnightly Club - 1910

“THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB” WAS THE LAST literary society to be founded in Meadowvale. Professor Frank Brown got it organized in 1910 with J.J. Stewart as president. At its meetings, the speakers dealt with philosophy, prophesy, music and poetry. At this time, Meadowvale was noted for its literary and debating societies. Various people from the community donated their time to lead the groups, whether it was the school teacher, junior pastor or resident artist. There was the Reading Circle that held readings and debates that caused some controversial moments. The Meadowvale Literary Society had been functioning since 1903.

The groups were under the direction of Professor Frank J. Brown and William L. Davidson, who were the force that added enthusiasm and spirit to the organizations. Not only the local people were involved, but people from the surrounding communities.

During the winter months, the meetings, which were held at the public school, were well attended and the camaraderie was electrifying. They were informative, which made for profitable evenings. They created an interest in literary matters and musical involvement that was uplifting.



▲ W. Lorne Davidson  
(Ian Davidson)



▲ Frank Brown  
(Region of Peel Archives)

The closing meeting of the season in June, 1912, when Stewart stepped down as president, had M.P.P. Samuel Charters as guest speaker. The orchestra with musicians, Mrs. Haines, Miss Pearson, Miss Davidson, Mr. Thurston, Mr. Davison and Mr. Ross, played “The Ambassador.” Mr. Cyrus W. Brown came in as president and Mr. J. Francis Jackson as vice president.

(No further information could be found.)

# The Arrival of the Telephone - 1910

THE CONVENIENCE OF THE TELEPHONE arrived in the area of Meadowvale in 1910, when telephone poles were put up Hurontario Street and extended along the side roads. The men involved in installing the telephone lines camped on the David Wedgewood farm in Derry West.

The cost of a telephone ranged from \$6.65 per subscriber to \$12. When a severe thunderstorm hit the area on August 27, 1911, a string of telephone poles were toppled in Palestine to the east. At this time there were over 50,000 telephones across the province.

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▲ The men involved in installing telephone lines camped on the David Wedgewood farm in 1910  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Telephone, 1880



▲ Touch tone telephone, 1967



▲ Alexander Graham Bell

(Photos courtesy of  
Bell Canada Historical Services)

The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in Brantford, Ontario, in 1874. The Bell Telephone Company of Canada was founded in 1877. The first telephone to be installed in Toronto Township was put in James Hamilton's general store in Port Credit in 1881.

The northern part of Toronto Township was considered a rural area and in the first decades, not every household had access to having a telephone installed. On April 29, 1929, a right of easement was passed for telephone assess to be installed in all the rural areas of Ontario. At this time, each home owner was included on a party line with six other families. It took until the late 1940s before rural service in Ontario was expanded to include most of the northern farm areas. It was announced by Bell Telephone in August, 1946, that 22,000 telephones would be installed to the rural areas of the province at a cost of \$10 million for the rural development program. It was stated that within five years the company hoped to be serving 55 per cent of the rural families. The program would require the erection of thousands of miles of new poles and wire so that every street was serviced. Some telephones were being installed at some exchanges by doubling up on the party lines to accommodate the hundreds of waiting applicants.



▲ *The Famous Words*  
(Bell Homestead Museum)

Reduction of the number of parties on a line was one of the major objectives of the company. It was noted that of the phone users questioned, 71 per cent objected to others listening in to their conversations.

The improvements and how quickly things progressed, depended on the money Bell Telephone had available. Party lines decreased down through the years and got to the point where there would be three, then two on one line. They were still being used in some rural areas up until the 1980s. In the Halton/Peel 1983 telephone directory, instructions said to dial 611 to reach a party line customer. Any references to party lines ceased with the 1984 directory.

In 1962, dial service finally came to the countryside. In 1980, non urban service improvements were instigated and poles were torn down and new lines put up and new phones installed. Remote dial offices were built and by 1997, everything was digital.



▲ *Hamilton's Store*  
(Toronto Public Library)



▲ *Bell Homestead*  
(Bell Homestead Museum)

# Rowancroft Gardens - 1914



▲ Rowancroft Gardens  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ former Mary Blacklock's Residence, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



Miss Mary Blacklock ▶  
(Region of Peel Archives)

ROWANCROFT GARDENS WAS STARTED IN 1914 BY MISS Mary Elizabeth Blacklock. She had purchased five acres (2 ha) of Lot 10, Con. 3, WHS, in October, 1913, for \$1,500 from Francis Jackson and established a botanical gardens. She had a two storey Georgian style house of wood siding constructed. On April 10, 1918, she bought another 2.4 acres (1 ha) for \$732 from Goldwin Smith. By 1920, business was flourishing to the point of employing seven people, who were required eight months out of the year. During the growing season, several more workers were hired.

It was a favorite spot for people to stroll, especially in June when the peonies were in full bloom.

Miss Blacklock was born in 1860 in Hastings, Ontario, to John and Louise Blacklock. When she was a young lady, her family moved to Toronto, where her gardening expertise was nurtured and took root. She planted a garden at their Davenport Road home. She sold plants for 5¢ and 10¢ and shrubs for 25¢ and contributed the money earned to the St. Anne's Anglican Church Building Fund.

She began to correspond with horticulturists and collected seeds from all over the world until she had an outstanding collection of flowers in her garden and tremendous knowledge in her head.

When her father passed away in 1910, she travelled to Europe to visit nurseries and meet the experts she had been writing to. She visited Kew Gardens in London, England, the gardens of the Frenchmen, Dessert, near Tours, France. Here she found peonies, which became her passion. From Mons. V. Lemoine in France, she was introduced to lilacs she adored and would eventually transport to Canada.

Upon her return home in 1914, before World War I started, she established Rowancroft Gardens. Her French peonies and lilacs were much appreciated when she introduced them here. Seeds from this stock replenished their supply of lilacs, of which the fragrance was thoroughly enjoyed during the blooming season in the spring.

She entered the floral competitions at the Horticultural Shows around the province. She took a first prize at the Toronto Horticultural Show for her irises and a first at the London International Show for peonies.

Miss Minerva Swann Castle began to work with Miss Blacklock in 1915 as a helper. She was tremendously horticulturally conscious and gardeners began to flock to Rowancroft Gardens to learn from her astonishing plant knowledge. It has been said of her that she had an intense interest in all growing things, a capacity for hard work and a keen sense of humour that endeared her to the customers in the Village.

Miss Castle, as a member of the Meadowvale Women's Institute, was instrumental in starting up the first library in Meadowvale in 1929 and she became the first Librarian. In 1937, she served as the president of the Streetsville Anglican Church Chancel Group. On August 7, 1941, she purchased a piece of property from Miss Blacklock and had a one and a half storey three room frame house built on the same laneway and was given the right-a-way to get out to Derry Road. She was a founding member of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority in 1954 and was also very active with the Toronto Garden Club for many years.

Miss Blacklock passed away in 1956 at her home in her 96th year. Upon Miss Blacklock's death, Minerva Castle became partners in Rowancroft Gardens with Miss Ethel Winter. Their business flourished. Miss Castle's favorite peony was the Grace Adams, named for

one of the Garden's workers. It was a large white bloom with golden stamens in its center. Miss Castle became known and respected across Canada for her supreme stock and as being one of the country's best plantsmen. She was an accomplished grower of peonies and perennials. Her peonies were shipped as far as Australia.

Throughout her lifetime, she was presented with many awards: In 1961, she was given Britain's Royal Horticultural Society Award of Merit for the Sorbus Rowancroft Pink Coral Mountain Ash; in 1964, she received a Dominion Life Membership pin at the 75th anniversary of Trinity's Church Women's Auxiliary; the Federal Government's Centennial Medal in 1967 for her Red Cross involvement and her contribution to the horticultural industry; in 1969, she received the first gold medal ever presented from the Toronto Garden Club for achieving the most outstanding contribution to Horticulture in Canada. Dr. Leslie Laking was the presenter.

Miss Castle passed away on January 1, 1976, at age 84. Her funeral service was held at the Streetsville Trinity Anglican Church on Monday, January 5th, with services conducted by Reverend David Busby, Rev. David Adams and Lay Reader, Sam McCallion. She was buried at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

Hazel McCallion, then Ward 9 Councillor, said, "Her passing is a great loss to the Region of Peel and I feel a little part of history has departed."

On Friday, October 21, 1977, over 100 people gathered at the Meadowvale Community Hall to pay tribute to Minerva Castle. The evening was organized by the Women's Institute, of which she had been a devoted member since its inception in 1910. Councillors, Hazel McCallion and Larry Taylor, Chief Librarian Noel Ryan and Rev. David Busby assembled for the unveiling of a plaque that would be hung in the Community Hall. It was unveiled by a relative, John Beck. It read: "To commemorate the Generosity of Minerva S. Castle to the Village of Meadowvale, 1891-1976."

Before Miss Castle passed away, she sold her property to Frank Baldesarra, who lived in the village of Meadowvale. He has quite a history with the property, where he has built himself a spectacular two storey red brick mansion. He tore down her house in September, 2002, and rents the elegant Blacklock house at 1160 Old Derry Road.

## Arthur Hill - 1916

DURING THE START OF WORLD WAR I (1914), Arthur S. Hill, who had been born in 1899 on Pond Street in Meadowvale, was residing in Toronto. On January 16, 1916, he enlisted in the Canadian Army and became a private in the 124th Infantry Battalion. His parents, Richard and Grace, had purchased Village Lot 28 from Ann Barnhill on May 23, 1896, for \$200. The property had been sold by Francis Silverthorn to William Wilson on February 11, 1859, who sold to Thomas Idle on December 20th. A one and a half storey plank house with a medium pitched gable roof, thought to be built by Idle, became their home.

Arthur had his training and was attached to the 60th Battalion of the Westmount Rifles on December 25, 1916. He was sent overseas and when the Battle of Vimy Ridge began in France on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917, he was there with brother Fred in the 15th Machine Gun Unit.



▲ Arthur Hill and brother, Fred, France, 1917  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ The Hill House, 7015 Pond Street

(James Holmes)

He recorded this encounter as “The barrage, one of the heaviest up to that time, commenced at 5 a.m. and it was quite a sight to see, the shells bursting over German Lines. Eventually the barrage lifted and the infantry advanced, capturing all positions, with the exception of the Pimple - the highest point of the Ridge - this was captured on the second day by storming it from the rear.”

Shortly after this devastating involvement, the 60th Battalion was disbanded and he was transferred to the 87 Battalion, a unit from Quebec. He returned home safely.

When he retired in 1957, he came back to Meadowvale and the house where he had been born, 7015 Pond Street. He died there on February 2, 1986, at 87 years of age. The Hill house was designated an heritage building in 1980 and it is now owned by David Moir.

## The Apple Tree Inn - 1920

THIS VERNACULAR ONE AND A HALF STOREY structure, built in 1860 of Classical and Gothic



▲ Luther Cheyne

revival stylistic elements, was the original house of the Village's first post master, Luther Cheyne, which he built on the corner of Pond Street and Barberry Lane. It had coach houses on the property, one of which remained well into the 1970s.

John and Mary Ann Lambe Farnell purchased the house on Lots 23 and 24 from Tobias Mason, executor for Christopher Cheyne, on January 17, 1891, for \$500. The Farnell family originated from Yorkshire, England, and came to live in Sandhill, Chinguacousy Township, in 1853. Mary Ann Lambe was raised by Mathew and Ann Laidlaw. They had four children, Albert, William, Annie and Martha. They also bought adjoining Lots 22 and 25 on June 15, 1896. John died in 1914 and Mary Ann sold the house and all the property to Miss Helen Beardmore and Miss Mary Yates on June 15, 1920, for \$2,500. She died shortly thereafter.



▲ Mary, John and Annie Farnell at their home, later the Apple Tree Inn  
(Bruce Farnell)

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The ladies opened a Tea Room and called it Apple Tree Inn. It was named for an old apple tree near the house that was resplendent with white blossoms every spring.

These young ladies became popular for boarding artists. In the summer of 1921, Ontario College of Arts send students to Meadowvale to paint the landscape. They enjoyed the experience so much, they returned in 1922. The proprietresses kindly accommodated the tourists and catered to their comforts. Miss Yates used to place advertisements in the Toronto Press Club paper so the Inn had an exclusive clientele.

Miss Yates had been born in England, so she operated her establishment in the manner of an English Inn. Her hobby was perfecting the iris, of which she had many varieties in the Inn's garden. Miss Beardmore also had a green thumb and leaned towards roses. She had the hill behind the Inn terraced with bricks, which were smothered in rose bushes of every colour. Between 1922 and 1925, she was



president of the Ontario Rose Society, which was founded in 1913 and had a name change in 1955 to Canadian Rose Society, because the membership had progressed throughout Canada.

During the summer, the ladies held a ritual of “Afternoon Tea” in their fragrant garden. The women of the neighbourhood, treasured as great cooks, supplied the elegant desserts. On Halloween, the ladies invited the children into their dining room, aptly decorated for the occasion, for special delicacies.

Helen Beardmore passed away on October 19, 1940, and Mary inherited the Apple Tree Inn. She only stayed in operation until December 1, 1944, when she sold it to Aemiluis Jarvis for \$3,000 and it became a family residence. It is now a heritage building and located on one acre (0.4 ha) at 7053 Pond Street. Jason and Susan Henderson purchased it in January, 2002, and are in the process of restoring it.

▲ The Apple Tree Inn, 2002  
(Region of Peel Archives)

◀ Helen Beardmore and Mary Yates  
(Region of Peel Archives)



The Apple Tree Inn  
(Region of Peel Archives)



◀ The Henderson  
House  
(James Holmes)



▲ The famous apple tree was cut down  
around 1980.

# Louise Gooderham Southern - 1921



▲ The Southern House  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



▲ Katherine, Mary Davidson, Louise  
(Region of Peel Archives)



Louise Southern ▶  
(Region of Peel Archives)

LOUISE SOUTHERN, WHO WAS BORN ON MAY 5, 1912, came from hardy pioneer stock. Her family originated in Great Britain and came to York (Toronto) in 1832 from Norfolk, England. Her grandfather, George Gooderham, was sent out from Toronto in 1869 to take over the Gooderham interests for his Uncle William. He made a tremendous mark in Meadowvale that is still remembered today.

Louise's father, William Ezekiel (b.1865, d.1963), was four years old when his father, George, moved here and he attended school in the schoolhouse his second cousin,



▲ George Gooderham  
(Region of Peel Archives)

Charles Holly, had built on the property to accommodate the Gooderham children. Her mother was Mary Jane Watt (1873-1962).



▲ William Ezekiel  
(Region of Peel Archives)

The first trip Louise made to Meadowvale was in 1918 at age six with her parents, and four year old sister, Katherine (Kay), for a visit to her Gooderham relatives.

In 1921, her father bought property on Willow Lane (Water Street) for \$12,000, that had been owned by blacksmith, John D. Orr, and was the location of James Johnson's wagon shop. There was a plank on plank salt box house available and William had a Mr. Brigg work on upgrading the house and a veranda was added. The family came to Meadowvale every summer. Then they moved to the Village permanently.

Louise attended the Meadowvale Public School, and after graduation, she took the Toronto/Guelph Radial to attend Islington Continuation School and Etobicoke High School. She graduated as a nurse from the Toronto General Hospital in 1939. It was here that she met and fell in love with a patient, Sam Southern.

In 1946, she and Sam married and moved into the family homestead with her parents. They had two sons, William and Robert. Louise kept busy with her new family and community activities such as the Meadowvale Womens Institute (MWI), which she joined in 1951. Louise had many fond memories of her life in the Village. Some are recorded in the Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbooks that are at the Peel Heritage Complex Archives. She joined the MWI



▲ Mead's House, 2003 (James Holmes)



▲ Southern/Mead Outbuildings, 2003 (Mathew Wilkinson)

board in 1965 and was curator from 1974 to 1993 and helped compile the scrapbooks. She also served as a District Director for Peel. When her father passed away in 1963, she and sister Kay inherited the house. She lost her husband, Sam, in 1975.

She sold her house in 1998 to Bruce and Elva Mead and moved to Elora to be near her son, Bill. She passed away on Friday, December 20, 2002, and was buried in the Churchville Cemetery.

The Gooderham/Southern house is located at 1101 Willow Lane, however, it has been relegated to a pool cottage and a new elegant structure has replaced it as the main house that was built in 1999 by the Meads, who came to Canada from Summerville, South Carolina. Bruce was born in Port Credit and came to the Village at age four and was back, renewing his love of the area. The Meads had parts of an 1890 house shipped to their location and incorporated into their new house. They have put a big investment into the restoration of the Southern house and the former wagon and blacksmith shops and have made them a showplace that compliments the heritage aspect of Meadowvale Village.

In November, 2003, they sold their Village homestead to Patrick and Betty Chartrand and moved in March, 2004, with the intention of living on their yacht and travelling around the world.

## Hydro in Meadowvale - 1922

SIR ADAM BECK, KNIGHTED IN 1914, was an electricity advocate, who had introduced the first Power Bill into Legislation in 1906. The Bill was passed on June 7th and Beck was made Chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

In 1911, the Rural Distribution Act was passed and Port Credit was the first community in Toronto Township to turn in an application for hydro power.



▲ Meadowvale's Main Street (Derry Road West)

(Charles Humber)

On July 5, 1912, the first electricity was supplied. In early 1913, the residents of Cooksville and Clarkson put in applications and soon hydro wires 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.

By-law 949 was passed on July 1, 1922, authorizing the establishment of Rural Hydro. A contract, that had to be signed by the Toronto Township clerk, John Kennedy, and the property owners, stated that the owners had to pay all charges for their electricity used by Rural Hydro, which was operated by the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario for the municipality. The Ontario Hydro instigated a sales promotion to encourage farmers to install electric power and it worked well. Meadowvale was served by an office in Brampton, which



◀ Adam Beck

(Hydro One Archives)

covered the largest area in the Township. The north-easterly section, such as Malton, was handled by the Woodbridge office.

In 1963, the Toronto Township Council requested a Private Bill of the Legislature to amalgamate the southern area and the northern Rural Hydro area into one Hydro Electric System. Streetlights were installed in Meadowvale and Churchville. On December 11, 1963, the Hydro Commissioner and Reeve of Toronto Township, Robert W. Speck, sent letters to the rural consumers welcoming them to the Toronto Township Hydro system, which took effect on January 1, 1964. At midnight December 31, 1963, the street lights were turned on with several Villagers in attendance.

## NEWS ITEM

“And out of the darkness came light.” this phrase is so familiar to most of us and this is exactly what happened in the village last week.

The big news, of course, was the advent of street lighting in Meadowvale. On what seemed to be the coldest night of the winter to the few residents who attended the lighting up ceremonies, a Hydro man climbed up a ladder to one of the control switches and within seconds the Meadowvale sideroad was turned into a path of light.

All this took place on New Year’s Eve at 7:30 p.m. with Councillor Roy McMillan, Deputy Reeve Chic Murray and Hydro Chairman Elmer Wright in attendance. Ian Davidson was present to represent the village.

We returned to the Meadowvale Garage afterwards at the invitation of Syd Buttle to have hot chocolate, which was appreciated by all. He can always be relied upon to donate prizes to any of our local organizations during their fund raising campaigns and his candy counter is a meeting place for all trick-or-treaters on Halloween.

*Meadowvale News column in the Brampton Times and Conservator.  
Written by Sheila Funnel, January 8, 1964*



**HYDRO RURAL FAMILY  
MORE THAN DOUBLED  
SINCE THE WAR**

**H**YDRO now serves 313,285 rural customers—more than double the 156,000 served at the end of the war—bringing electricity and a better way of living to an additional 157,285 Ontario farm, hamlet and village customers.

At the end of the war there were 21,569 miles of rural lines bringing electricity to the rural areas of Ontario. By September, 1951 the miles of line had increased to 37,235. During this period the horsepower demand in the rural areas showed a remarkable increase. The demand at war's end was 172,351 horsepower. By 1950 it had more than doubled to a total of 316,681 horsepower.

On the farm, Hydro power is a low-cost blood man—helping to produce more at a reduced cost. In the home it makes possible the use of modern electrical appliances which lighten work, save time and make life easier for all. Yes, the coming of Hydro to the farm provides a better way of life for thousands of people in the rural areas of the Province.

**Let Us All Remember Hydro Is Ours..  
We Should Use It Wisely**

**ONTARIO**  **HYDRO**

# The Meadowvale Library - 1929

THE MEADOWVALE LIBRARY WAS OFFICIALLY opened on November 1, 1929, by the Meadowvale Women's Institute (MWI) in a small cabin that had



▲ *The First Library*  
(Region of Peel Archives)

been moved onto property the MWI rented at the corner of Derry Road West and Mill Lane that was used as a park. The suggestion that the MWI establish a library came from Minerva Castle at a meeting of the group. It was organized by Minerva, who became the first librarian, and MWI president, Helen Beardmore.



Minerva Castle ▶  
(Region of Peel Archives)

**T**hey gathered book contributions from family, friends and MWI members and managed to collect over 2,000. They raised money from various events to stain the exterior and interior of the shed and furnish it with shelves, a desk, chairs and red curtains that brightened up the simple decor. A Franklin stove provided warmth for the cozy abode. They also received grants from the Toronto Township and Peel County Councils.

In the beginning, the Library was only open on Friday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fees to become a member were set at 50¢ for adults and 25¢ for children. Miss Margaret Trevorrow, who wrote "*Meadowvale on the Credit*" for the Women's Institute in 1922, was the first paid up member.

In 1944, the Library became a member of the Peel County Library Association for a \$25 annual fee. An extension was put on the building in 1948 and it was rewired and painted and had new shelving added.

Miss Castle retired as librarian in 1952, and Mrs. Ivan Ryman took over the position until 1957. At this time they boasted 88 members.



◀ Librarian  
Mrs. Evelyn Rea,  
1965

Jane Christie and  
Roy K. McMillan,  
1968 ▶



▲ Librarian Mrs. Evelyn Rea

(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Official opening with Mayor Hazel McCallion, 1984

In December, 1956, the Meadowvale Library was amalgamated with other community libraries to form the Toronto Township Library System. Mrs. William Conklin was the librarian from 1957 to 1960 when Mrs. Evelyn Rea took on the position.

The Library continued at this location until April, 1965, when it was moved to the Meadowvale Public School. It was officially opened

on May 13, 1965, by William Davis, Minister of Education. At this time it was operated jointly by the Toronto Township Library System and the Toronto Township School Board. It was now open Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The books were supplied by both Boards. This new venture between these Boards, thought to be the first of its kind in Ontario, did not work out amica-

bly and the Boards dissolved their joint involvement. The Library closed on June 30, 1966, and the Toronto Township Library System's Bookmobile service was utilized under Evelyn's supervision.

A new Library opened in the Meadowvale Community Hall on Second Line West in 1973 with Evelyn continuing on as Librarian. She and her husband, Gordon, had lived in the Village since purchasing one of William Lambe's houses in 1947. She retired on August

25, 1980, after 20 years of service. Gordon passed away in 1991 and Evelyn in 1993 and their home at 1050 Old Derry Road was sold to Jason Holmes in 1994.

A Meadowvale Branch Library, the 12th in the Mississauga Library System, was opened with great fanfare in the Professional Centre at 6855 Meadowvale Town Centre Circle on January 28, 1984, with

Pamela Frick as Librarian. It was a 6,300 square foot (584 m<sup>2</sup>) facility with over 35,000 books. The two libraries operated simultaneously in the area until the Village Library was closed in 1990.

In 1993, Hannah Von Bulow was the Librarian when the Meadowvale Branch Library was moved to the Meadowvale Town Centre, 6677 Meadowvale Town Centre Circle, where it had a collection of 85,000 items in 1,858

square meters (20,000 square feet). It was closed down in early 2003 for a new ground floor location in the Centre and renovations. The grand reopening took place on May 24th, with Ward 9 Councillor Patricia Saito doing the honours. Director of Library Services, Don Mills, and Mayor Hazel McCallion were in attendance. Kathy Oakleaf has been the Librarian since 2000. The Meadowvale Library has a monthly circulation of 48,000 items.



▲ Meadowvale Library October 21, 2004. L. to R. Harwant Singh, Azmat Saad, Jaqueline Kucera and Joy Davies (Kathleen A. Hicks)

# Meadowvale Jingle - 1930



*We come from the town of Meadowvale,  
We are a jolly lot.  
You cannot name a single thing  
That Meadowvale hasn't got.*

*There's a body called the Institute  
That are working for a Park  
A lovely place for boys and girls  
To have a little lark.*

*We have a lovely little Church  
And a pastor good and true.  
Just bring a friend along next week  
And fill an empty pew*

*Miss Yates has a fine Tea Room  
And it seems to be a sin  
That thru the long wintertime  
You never can get in.*



*And if you want to go away  
Just jump up on the car  
And if you don't like Radials  
Just go by the CPR.*

*Our miller is Mr. Brett,  
Our grocer Mr. Lambe.  
And all we need is a butcher shop  
To feed us up on ham.*

*Author unknown  
From the Meadowvale Women's  
Institute Scrapbooks*



## The Village Smitty - 1932

**I**n 1932, Ernie Martin (b.1906, d. 1990) came to Meadowvale and became the Village Blacksmith. He bought the Francis Sibbald residence on Pond Street, one of the workers' homes built by Francis Silverthorn. He and his wife, Ethel (1910-1992), had one son, Howard, born on June 22, 1932.

In the days of the horse and buggy, a blacksmith was a vital part of a community and Meadowvale had had a blacksmith in the village for nearly 100 years. In the 1840s, the local blacksmith shop was located on Lot 10 on the south side of the dusty trail that became Main Street (Derry Road) in 1856. George Bell was the first blacksmith in the village. He worked his trade along with his hotel business, and others followed. In 1867, Michael Clipsum did the work required in this capacity.



▲ Martin Residence (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Ernie and Howard Martin, 1985  
(Region of Peel Archives)

FROM 1871 TO 1873, IT WAS THOMAS ELLIOTT. IN 1888, John D. Orr operated a blacksmith shop on Lot 10 until 1915. At the turn of the century, Albert E. Rowcliffe, who came from Alton, Ontario, was working his blacksmith shop also on Lot 10 on property that he had purchased in 1897 from Mary Graham for \$110. In 1902, Mary Graham took the property back for non payment and sold it to Albert Lambe.

In 1900, Ernie Martin had come to Canada at age six with his parents, James and Flora Martin, and siblings to live in the City of Toronto. There had been over 300 years of blacksmiths in his family and so, his father, who had been a certified blacksmith in England, set up shop at Runnymede Road and Dundas Street, charging \$20 for shoeing a horse.

At age 12, Ernie was taught the blacksmith trade. His brother, William, started a Smitty in Malton and Ernie came to Meadowvale. Ernie operated out of an old building behind the former Laidlaw Hotel. At this time, he began to shoe the local farmers horses and repair their harrows and other farm equipment. Then in 1937, he built a shop on the end of his property that faced onto Second Line West.

When farming in the area began to decline after World War II,



▲ Howard Martin  
(Region of Peel Archives)

1945, he had to turn his talents to ornamental iron work. He would also convert wagon wheels to rubber tired wheels. He continued to make shoes for the horses used by the Brampton Dairies, but they put them on the horses.

In 1958, he was written up in the *Brampton Conservator* by Flo Haw and she started

the article off with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, *The Village Blacksmith*, written October 5, 1839:

*Under the spreading chestnut-tree  
The Village Smithy stands;  
The smith, a mighty man he is,  
With large and sinewy hands;  
And muscles of his brawny arms  
Are strong as iron bands.*

*His hair is crisp, and black, and long,  
His face is like the tan;  
His brow is wet with honest sweat,  
He earns what'er he can,  
And looks the whole world in the face,  
For he owes not any man.*

*Week in, week out, from morn till night,  
You can hear his bellows blow;  
You can hear him swing his heavy sledge,  
With measured beat and slow,  
Like a sexton ringing the village bell,  
When the evening sun is low.*

*Children coming home from school  
Look in at the open door;  
They love to see the flaming forge,  
And hear the bellows roar,  
And catch the burning sparks that fly  
Like chaff from a threshing floor.*

*Thanks, thanks to thee, my worthy friend,  
For the lesson thou hast taught!  
Thus at the flaming forge of life  
Our fortunes must be wrought;  
Thus on its sounding anvil shaped  
Each burning deed and thought.*

Ernie's son, Howard, joined him in the business and became quite a master at the trade. In 1970, they became carriage makers and started the Meadowvale Carriage Works on Pond Street at the suggestion of John Perri, who operated Perri Farms on Second Line West at Britannia Road. Perri had a successful business called Antique Horse Drawn Carriages and sold and rented old-carriages. He mostly operated through tourism in Toronto and the Royal Winter Fair doing show demonstrations. The Martins took his advise and it turned out to be a lucrative operation through John Perri Sales. Ernie retired in 1971 and Howard carried on. Howard did not use blueprints for constructing carriages. He took an old carriage apart, studied how it was made and learned from that, then as his expertise matured, he was able to build his own designs.

The first carriage he ventured to make was a single-seat buggy. Everything on his carriages, from the steel frames to the woodworking were all done by hand. He purchased springs ready made and bought the wheels from the Mennonites in Elmira. He sent the carriage away to have the upholstery and painting done. It took nearly a month to make a carriage. A Waggonette Break could take up to three months.

There had been a wagon shop in the Village in 1848, which was located on Water Street (Willow Lane) where the Gooderham/Southern's house was later built. So history repeats itself in the Martins' shop, which is still in existence on Second Line West and is used as a storage shed. Howard Martin resided in the village with his wife, Joyce, at his father's former residence, 7079 Pond Street, until October, 2003. The former Silverthorn worker's house is now owned by Tony and Siobhan Kirkolic.



Martin's Blacksmith Shop  
▶  
(Region of Peel Archives)

◀ Orr's Blacksmith Shop, 1900  
(Mississauga Library System)



◀ Martin's Blacksmith Shop, 2002  
(James Holmes)





Martin's Wagonettes and carriages (Howard Martin)

## Red Cross Branch - 1940

DURING WORLD WAR II (1939-1945), A BRANCH of the Red Cross was organized in Meadowvale. Thirty ladies were involved. The convener was Miss Minerva Castle, who was assisted by Mrs. Carl Jensen. By War's end, the group had knit 568 pairs of socks, 80 turtleneck sweaters and over 1,000 other items such as gloves and scarves. They worked on hospital supplies, rolling bandages etc. that were sent to the Toronto Township Red Cross headquarters. The first headquarters of the Red Cross in Toronto Township was located in Lakeview, which was founded in 1935.

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A cushion and handmade quilt were donated to the cause and a draw was implemented as a fund raiser. Wool was donated for the knitting projects and gloves were made to be used as draw prizes.

The ladies held euchre nights to raise money for their war effort. Strawberry jam was made and included in parcels for the men in Europe. It could not be determined how long this branch functioned, but knowing the efforts of Minerva Castle, probably until her death in 1976.

All meetings for the Branches were held in the Red House on the Lake Shore Road. Today, head office of the Region of Peel Branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society is at 5700 Cancross Court.



▲ Welfare Convenor, 1964 (Peel Branch of the Red Cross)

## The War Honor Roll 1861 - 1945

The Honor Roll for Meadowvale was compiled in 1973 by Louise Southern. It goes like this: Reverend J.R. Black and Robert Golden as participants in the Civil War (1861-65); Major General Lessard and William Philpott, Boer War (1899-1901); W.W.I. (1914-18), Robert D. Andrews as Killed in Action (He was a private in the 75th Battalion and he died at Valenciennes, France. A memorial tablet was placed for him in the school in his honour. He is the only one of the men, who went into this War from Meadowvale, who lies buried in the fields of France.) and 22 names of men who participated, some of which are, George H. Gooderham and Thomas W. Reeve; W.W.II (1939-45) 23 men listed, such as Roy Pearson Brett, Robert Elliott, Luther P. Emerson and John Prebble. Killed in Action, George Guthrie, Alfred Ives, William Reed and Charles David Thompson.

During the two World Wars, the Meadowvale Women's Institute sent parcels to the boys overseas and when they returned, they held a welcome home party in the Community Hall.

## The Prebble/Logan Residence - 1941

**G**eorge and Marguerite Prebble bought this house on Village Lot 83 on September 1, 1941, from William Trevorrow's daughter Jane's estate. George designed and built very impressive bridges that could be raised and lowered to provide a pedestrian walkway across the small stream in front of his house. At Halloween, the teenage boys would push the bridge over and the next day come and reassemble it. The third bridge was washed away during the flood of Hurricane Hazel in 1954 and he put up a fourth. He died in October, 1965, and Estelle Prebble sold the house to Lorne and Sandra Heslip in 1969, who sold a year later to Clayton Peterson. Then it came into the possession of William and Mary Moorehead in June, 1972, and John (Mike) and Ruth Logan purchased it on October 3rd. They still reside there, 1155 Willow Lane.



▲ The Prebble/Logan House  
(City of Mississauga Community Services)



▲ House overlooking the fourth bridge (Region of Peel Archives)

# Snowstorm - 1942

THE BLIZZARD OF THE WINTER OF 1942 immobilized the people of Peel County. That first fateful night in February, George Preston helped his pregnant wife into their sleigh and headed towards Hurontario Street and the Peel Memorial Hospital in Brampton.



▲ Mr. & Mrs. George Preston with baby Peggy Marie, 1942

The road was impassable, the drifts high and the wind was blowing furiously as George encouraged his horses to surmount the tremendous height of the snow. When the horses could not buck the drifts, he knew they were not going to get to the Hospital in time to meet the stork, so he pulled in at the Derry West farmhouse of Charles Beamish.



Nurses Miss Helen Cole and Mrs. Barbara White Kee



◀ Peggy Marie turns one

As it turned out, miraculously enough, two nurses had also come in out of the storm, Helen Cole and newlywed, Barbara Kee. Mrs. David Thompson was visiting the Beamishes and she, too, was a nurse. One would have been enough, but three was overwhelming.

They all assisted in the birth of Peggy Marie Preston on February 8, 1942.

Peggy grew up being told of her auspicious birth that treacherous winter night. She became Peggy Marie Borer in 1964 and the Prestons eventually moved to North Bay.



*Snowstorm of 1942*



*(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)*

## The McKee Family - 1946

**G**eorge Samuel McKee and his wife, Irene, came to the Village of Meadowvale on May 1, 1946, with their six months old daughter, Lynn. They purchased Lots 10 and 11 of the Village plan, on Second Line West, from Mabel and Wilfred Archer, who had bought the property in 1942 from George Gooderham, the son of George Gooderham, who had resided there when he died in 1912. The McKees took up residency in the Archer house and settled into their new community.



▲ The McKee House  
(Irene McKee)



▲ George McKee  
(Irene McKee)

George was the son of John and Elizabeth Copeland McKee of Dundalk, Ontario. In September, 1940, at age 20, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and received his training at No. 1 Wireless School in Montreal and Bombing and Gunnery School, Jarvis, Ontario. He graduated as the rank of Sergeant as a Wireless Air Gunner. In July, 1941, with the war raging in Europe, he was sent overseas to England. In January, 1942, he went on the S.S. Burma, via Capetown and spent some time in Nanyuki, Kenya, for operational training, before being sent to Egypt. During the voyage, the ship was

struck by a torpedo that fortunately did not explode.

He then took up active duty in Egypt with the 148 RAF Squadron and was based at Benghazi, North Africa. Many war experiences, such as raids on Belgrade, Yugoslavia, and sowing mines in the Danube River, prevailed. After 307 hours of flying time, he was hospitalized in England for nervous exhaustion and then sent home in July, 1944, with impaired health. He was discharged from the RCAF on December 4, 1944, with exemplary service.

George McKee and Irene Wilson had met in Grade 11 at the Dundalk High School in 1937. When they got married on October 14, 1944, they resided in Toronto and then they took up residence in Malton, where George worked as an Air Traffic controller at Malton Airport (now the Lester B. Pearson International Airport). Then they moved to Meadowvale. They had Karen in 1948 and Eloise, 1951. Their three daughters would bless them with eight grandchildren.



▲ McKee Family (Irene McKee)



▲ Lynn, Irene, George, Eloise and Karen McKee, 1984  
(Irene McKee)

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▲ McKee/MacLean House, 2002 (James Holmes)

The McKees were members of the Meadowvale United Church. In 1947, George became a member of the Streetsville Legion, Branch #139, which he remained for the rest of his life. Irene was employed as first secretary at the Meadowvale Public School from 1962 to 1976. She was a member of the Meadowvale Women's Institute and was a secretary-treasurer for the Peel District Women's Institute for four years. George was on the executive of the Meadowvale Village Association when it was formed in 1969. He retired from Civil Service in 1983.

After 46 years in the Village, George died in the Credit Valley Hospital on Saturday, July 18, 1992, age 72. In 1999, Irene sold their home at 7050 Second Line West to Michael and Tracy MacLean, and moved to a condo in Brampton. The MacLeans still reside in the heritage house, built by the Gooderhams in the 1870s.

## Memories

"When George's cousin, Alex Copeland, who lived in Meadowvale, returned from overseas, George went to visit him. He saw that the house across the road was for sale so we bought it. Our house was on 2/5ths of an acre and there were no houses on the north side of us, just Ernie Martin's blacksmith shop. On the south side lived Miss Edythe Barber. Her house was originally the first school house and it was destroyed by fire in 1974, leaving only the basement. In 1991, Ray Carruthers removed the remains of the basement and built a new house there and he and his wife, Phyllis, still live there. In those early days, the Village had an open, friendly feeling and we walked everywhere, especially to the Post Office or to Syd Buttle's Garage. George would take the children down to swim in the Credit River. Everyone knew everybody in the Village. Eight of the women formed a club where we played cards once a week in each other's homes - first canasta, then it turned into a two-table euchre club. Lots of fun!"

Irene McKee, 2002



Part Four 1950 - 2000

## Commemorating the Silverthorns - 1951

**O**n Good Friday, March 23, 1951, Francis Silverthorn's granddaughter, Mary Glassford Jenkinson, of Sault Ste. Marie, presented a brass cross to the Meadowvale United Church in memory of Francis and Mary Silverthorn and family. It reads: "To the Greatest Glory of God" And in loving memory of Francis Silverthorn U.E. 1815-1894, His wife Mary Hamilton Cheyne, 1828-1873, and children. Presented By his granddaughter, Mary Emma Glassford U.E. and her husband John Hayes Jenkinson, 1951.



▲ Francis Silverthorn  
(The Silverthorn Family)

There was a great turnout for the event, with many Silverthorn descendents such as Gideon and Nell Silverthorn and their children, Margaret, Gideon Charles and Don, of Etobicoke. Reverend Ross Cummings conducted the service.

It was said that "As long as the Credit River flows, it will sing the song of Francis Silverthorn, who built Meadowvale for God, his family and for his country in terms of sacrificial service."



▲ Meadowvale United Church (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ The Cross (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ The Silverthorn Family from Etobicoke (L. to R.): Gideon, Gideon Charles, Nell, Donald and Margaret  
(The Silverthorn Family Collection)

## Scouting in Meadowvale - 1953

**T**he 1st Meadowvale Scout Troop was organized in 1953 when Meadowvale's population was 300.

The registration brought in eight scouts and one Pack Scouter, Ronald Penrose, who were supported by the Group Committee Chair, Samuel Southern, Secretary, John D. Dillon, and members at large. The Troop held their meetings at the Meadowvale Public School on Wednesdays evenings.

The Group was presented with its charter by Commissioner Bert Clark on February 9, 1954. During this celebration, John Prebble and John Haw were invested as Troop Scouters and presented with the Group Scarf with its unique design in green and black. By April, 1955, there were 12 scouts and 23 cubs with seven Scouters for the Sections. The Troop consisted of two patrols named the Eagles and Panthers.

A Ladies Auxiliary (L.A.) was started in 1955. The L.A. supported special events for the Group and published a monthly newsletter that kept everyone informed on the activities.



▲ Scouts and Cubs with Grant Clarkson

(Region of Peel Archives)

THE L.A. EXECUTIVE COMPRISED THE PRESIDENT, Mrs. R. McKee, vice president, Mrs. George Camplin, secretary, Mrs. George Rutherford, and treasurer, Mrs. J. Sears. The L.A. also organized the annual Father and Son Banquet, which was held at different venues such as Huttonville United Church and the Meadowvale Community Hall.

The Scouts were extremely active earning badges, learning Morse code, taking monthly camping trips, visiting the Toronto Township Fire Hall and Police Station, exchanging meetings with other Troops and watching films taken at various "Jamborees." Several Scouts earned the Collectors Badge by displaying their coin and/or stamp collections. Special events were celebrated such as the UNICEF Halloween gala.

A newspaper article in 1955 gave a full schedule of activities which started with a trip to Buffalo on February 12th and 13th. They were involved with International scouting on a small scale by sharing camping with their American counterparts with weekend camping trips once a month even in the dead of winter when they would enjoy hot chili con carne, stews and soups to keep them warm. This earned them their winter camping badges. On February 16th, during a troop meeting night, they visited the Brampton Fire Hall to view the equipment and learn of its use. On February 26th guests from Buffalo, Mr. and Mrs. Marmoy and Mr. and Mrs. Huchock, attended the Father and Son Banquet held in the Meadowvale Public School, attended by the District Commissioner Frank Mason and Provincial Field Executive Jack Atkinson. A delicious dinner was prepared by the ladies of the L.A. On March 9th, the Troop had a visit from a Provincial Police constable who instructed them in highway safety and traffic control. March 12th and 13th was a weekend camping trip with visiting Troop 292 from Buffalo. They visited the Lake Shore Swimming Club for instructions in swimming skills for swimming badges and received their marksmen badges through the Marksmen Club when target shooting was held to secure their badge.

In 1963, when the District Cubmaster was Doug Frost, Cub Danny Camplin was presented with his 14th proficiency badge, the most a Cub can earn. The Cubmaster was Ralph Miller. At this time, the 1st Meadowvale Group included three Cub Packs, two Scout Troops, with a full complement of Section Leaders, and an active Group Committee.

When Markborough Properties began to construct subdivisions in the Meadowvale area in the 1970s, new Scout Troops were formed: 2nd Meadowvale, 1978; 3rd Meadowvale, 1982; 4th Meadowvale, 1986, 5th and 6th, 1988. In 2003, there were 660 registered members of youths and adults involved in 33 sections.



▲ Gang Show, 1975

(Phil Frost)



◀ Danny Camplin presents \$60.00 cheque to Barbara Kee, Chairperson for Retarded Children's Association, June 14, 1962

(Region of Peel Archives)

## Toronto Township Meeting - 1953



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THE SILVERTHORN MILL WAS TERMED A FIRE hazard by Councillor Carleton Stewart at a Toronto Township council meeting in April, 1953. The residents of Meadowvale were concerned because children were playing in the mill and with the mill being right in the middle of the Village, it could cause quite a disaster if it caught fire and took several houses with it.

One of the last authentic old water mills in Ontario was in jeopardy. "It has not been in operation for four or five years," said Councillor Stewart. "If the owner would take proper precautions, the people would be happy to have the mill preserved as a landmark," said Stewart.

"It seems too bad. The mill was there before the houses - their houses were built around it and now we talk of having it destroying to save the houses," said Reeve Anthony Adamson. "I'd like to see a summer stock theatre there. It would be an ideal spot for one."

"Emerson thinks it is very valuable - all the old equipment is pioneer stuff," said Councillor Stewart.

“We should get in touch with the Minister of Agriculture,” said Reeve Adamson. “It is a unique building. The students of the School of Agriculture have been measuring it for the past 20 years.”

Council asked Alan Van Every, the Township solicitor, to write Emerson warning him that if he does not put the mill in proper shape, council must take action to have it condemned as a fire hazard.

Excerpt from an article in the *Toronto Star*, April 16, 1953, entitled “*May Destroy Water Mill Old Meadowvale Landmark.*”

Author’s note: The owner, Luther Emerson, said that the hand hewn timbers in the mill were just as good as the day they were nailed in place, but the stone foundation had started to crumble. Luther came to Meadowvale Village in 1946 from Milton when he purchased the old Silverthorn Mill. Luther was married to Grace Brown the only daughter of Henry and Lillie Brown, who had owned the mill in the early 1900s. He ran the mill until 1950 and ceased operation and just used it for storage. The last winter, before it was dismantled in April, 1954, he stored grain in the mill and by spring, it was still in first class condition. The Silverthorn mill was torn down and the only sign left is the remainders of the Mill Race!



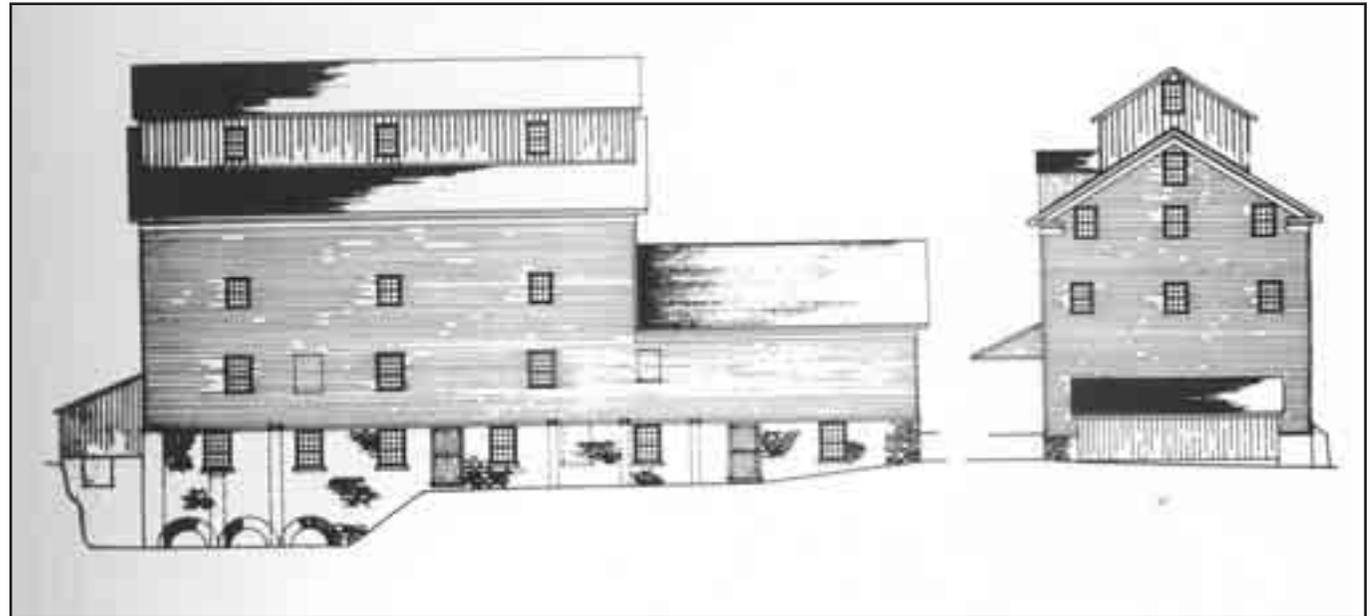
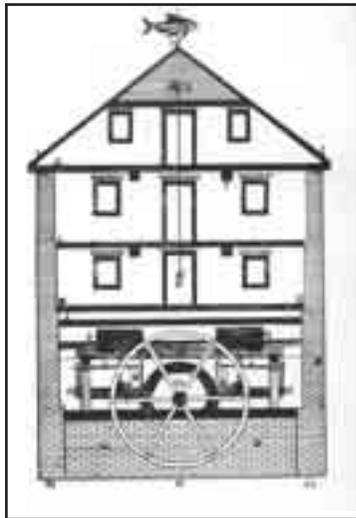
▲ (University of Toronto)



▲ Meadowvale Mill, 1954  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Mill Race (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Mill at Meadowvale, 1950 (Drawing School of Architecture, University of Toronto)

## NEWS ITEM - 1954



▲ *The Meadowvale Mill* (Eric Arthur)

will be poorer for its disappearance. The people of Meadowvale can only hope that what takes its place will be as historically rich and colourful as the Old Mill.”

April, 1954, item on Silverthorn Mill by Cliff Bowers, Meadowvale Women’s Institute Scrapbooks

Author’s note: W. E. Gooderham still lived in the Village at 89 years old. He observed the workers’ wrecking bars ripping another page from the history of Toronto Township. The post mail box gazebo stands in the area of the once majestic mill structure, a small, insignificant replacement indeed.

“The historic old flour mill at Meadowvale is silent except for the occasional squeal of protest from its iron roofing spikes as they are rudely ripped from the great axe-hewed joists where they have laid undisturbed for the past 106 years. Quickly, the workmen tear loose the solid, squared timbers, slide them down the roof and watch them plunge to the frozen earth below. Silently, the old man at the window nearby watches the wrecking of what was once the busiest flour mill on the Credit River - but he smiles, too, as he remembers.

It’s passing this week has heralded the end of one of our links with a slower, more peaceful age. Peel County and Ontario generally

## Credit Valley Conservation Authority - 1954

AFTER SEVERAL DAMAGING FLOODS IN Ontario, the Ontario Government passed an Act in 1946 to form Conservation Authorities to deal with the watershed problems. Within ten years, 19 Authorities were established with a membership of 287 municipalities covering an area of 12,013 square miles (31,114 sq. k). They were to carry out supplementary measures policies, “to improve land use, restoration, proper woodlot management, prevention of pollution, investigation of underground water supplies, wildlife studies and recreation uses.”

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) was established by Order-in-Council on May 13, 1954, with its aim being to conserve and rebuild the Credit River Valley. The CVCA’s jurisdiction extended from Orangeville heading southward, following the Credit River for 55 miles (90 k) to Lake Ontario. The Authority’s area was enlarged on February 17, 1955, to include, “the watersheds of Cooksville Creek and streams between the westerly boundary of Toronto Township and the Etobicoke watershed.” The first offices of the CVCA were located on the 310 acre (124 ha) Terra Cotta conservation area and Douglas J. Reddington was the first chairman of the Board.



An immediate establishment of a 5,163 acre (2,425 ha) multiple use conservation area took place at the forks of the Credit River. In the next few years, the Board began to purchase land along the banks of the River. By August 30, 1962, 875 acres (350 ha) were preserved as park land and under the Reforestation Advisory Board the Tree Planting Service planted 146,050 trees that spring.

By 1964, the CVCA had added another 500 acres (200 ha) near Orangeville, 450 acres (180 ha) including Caledon Lake and other small lakes, which was mostly bush and swamp and four forest conservation areas of 635 acres (254 ha), where a million trees were planted, Terra Cotta's five lakes of 350 acres (140 ha), that were visited by 75,000 people in 1964, who trekked the nature trails laid out by Professor A.F. Coventry, where 80 camp sites were available.

In 1966, a \$6 million flood control plan was put in affect, from a flood control action that was initiated in 1956. Roy K. McMillan was the chairman of the CVCA at this time. The plan was presented in 1963 to 16 municipalities in the watershed. Several engineers and planners re-vamped the original 1956 plan and it was sent to the Department of Natural Resources in Ottawa. No word came from Ottawa and in desperation a delegation was sent in January, 1964, to stress the importance of implementing this plan for the Valley. In 1965, the Federal Government turned down the assistance of financing. Negotiations then proceeded with the Provincial Government to build reservoirs under a scheme inaugurated by Queen's Park. A meeting was held with the Department of Energy and Resources to get provincial backing on the flood control plan. Plans were then put in effect to control floods at Glen Williams and the construction of a dam reservoir at Orangeville. The \$1.1 million dam project that entailed the purchase of 609 acres (243 ha), was completed in 1969 and dedicated on June 17, 1970.

On October 23, 1963, the CVCA purchased 119 acres (47.5 ha) in Meadowvale from Luther Emerson, who had owned it since 1949. The north section has become the Meadowvale Conservation Park. It was the original Beatty/Crawford/Silverthorn acreage. Reeve Robert Speck said that "This piece of land, one of the last open areas available in the Township, is being set aside for the use of future generations as the Township grows." The purchase included the Crawford colonial house and the site of Francis Silverthorn's former grist mill. The CVCA utilized the house for offices from September 24, 1965 to

September 1, 1987. Jack Bailey of Streetsville renovated the house and a new furnace, floors, wiring and insulation were added. In 1987, new offices were constructed at 1255 Derry Road West (now Old Derry Road) on 104 acres (41.6 ha) purchased in September, 1973,



▲ Former Reeve House, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

for \$450,000 that had been the site of the Reeve Farm and Meadowvale Botanical Gardens. Also in 1973, the CVCA, having purchased the Rattray Marsh acreage in 1971, started to acquisition residential lots along the lakefront, putting a five year, \$3.3 million Mississauga Waterfront Plan into effect with the blessing of National Resource Minister Leo Bernier. Shortly after getting settled in new offices, the CVCA establishing the Glassford Arboretum Trail, named for the late Clark Glassford, who had served as CVCA chairman and contributed to the development of the Credit Valley landscape.

Vicki Barron joined the CVCA in 1977 and became the general manager in 1986. After a successful career, she retired in May, 2001. On May 14th, Rae Horst, who has been on the CVCA Board as a Town of Oakville representative since 1997, took over as the new CVCA general manager. Horst has a master's degree in geology from Laurentian University and a MBA from the University of Toronto. She has held senior managerial positions with the Ontario Government Ministry of Natural Resources. She resigned as senior policy officer of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to take on this new challenge. She is aptly qualified to head up the august conservation body.

In 1999, the CVCA became the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC). The Chairman of the CVC Board as of 2003 is Ward 2 Councillor, Pat Mullin. She followed Frank Dale, who took on the position in 1998 following a stalwart representation of Harold Kennedy, who was chairman from 1991 and served on the board for 24 years.

The Credit Valley Conservation celebrated 50 productive years in 2004. At this time the CVC tree planting program has proved successful with the planting of over six million trees.



▲ CVCA Headquarters, 1963 (Region of Peel Archives)



Silverthorn House, 2004  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



◀ Geese on the Credit River

Silverthorn House/CVCA Office, 1970 ▶

(Region of Peel Archives)



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▲ CVC Headquarters, 2004 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Roy McMillan  
(Mississauga Review)

## MEMORIES

"I was a member of the Authority two years prior to being Chairman, so I have been with it 16 years now. The municipalities according to population appoint their representative. The government appoints three members to the Authority, any one of whom may be appointed as chairman. I was appointed by the municipality 1958 through '64; and I was provincially appointed ever since by a resolution the Conservation Authority made in September, 1964. The job of chairman is really the same as a leader of any organization; number one is to encourage the furtherance of policies for the development of the conservation areas, and, after the policies have been set, to see that they are carried out. Also, I have to keep an eye on expenditures. The chairman has to sit in on the preparation of the budget and give whatever assessment on that. We have five regular committees and I oversee their function and follow that through to termination of whatever their recommendations are. We have several sub-committees from these other committees and it is the duty of the chairman to attend all meetings or assign a vice-chairman when he can't go. He has to make presentation and representation to the chairmen's organization for the whole of Ontario. He has to be in liaison with the environmental branch of the Provincial Government. So there are several duties to perform."

Roy McMillan, 1974.  
From "VIPs of Mississauga," page 237  
CVCA Chairman 1960-1975

## Sydney Buttle, Mr. Meadowvale - 1954

**O**n April 9, 1954, Sydney Buttle purchased the Meadowvale Village garage on Derry Road West from Albert Golden for \$22,500. Golden had bought the property in 1945 from Albert Lambe and had constructed the block and stucco facility. He moved to Port Hope to operate a Regent gas station. Included in the purchase was a one storey block house, where Syd, his wife of 17 years, Emma Joy (b.1917,

d.1993) and children, Marilyn, 1938, and Arthur, 1948, resided.

Syd was born in Downcaster, Yorkshire, England, on October 19, 1904, to William (1875-1949) and Annie Stamp (b.1880) Buttle. He had a brother Fred (1901-1986) and two sisters, Dorothy (1905-1988) and Frances (1907-1989).



▲ Sydney Buttle  
(Buttle Family Collection)



▲ Syd's Texaco Station  
(Buttle Family Collection)

SYD CAME TO CANADA ON HIS OWN UNDER THE EMPIRE Settlement Scheme in 1928, sailing on the White Star liner Celtic (II) from Liverpool. He arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia on March 17th.

He lived in various places around the province and did a variety of jobs such as working for the Canadian Pacific Railway, before moving to Meadowvale.

Syd contracted with McColl-Frontenac Oil Company Limited for his gasoline and oil. The station, called Meadowvale Garage, had two service bays with a graveled driveway.



▲ Meadowvale Sign, Sydownvale  
(Buttle Family Collection)



▲ Syd's Texaco Station  
(Buttle Family Collection)

He added a variety store with a snack bar and converted one of the bays into a hardware store and sold appliances and other household goods. The snack bar was a meeting place for the people of the community to congregate and exchange the news of the day.

Over the years Syd built the business into a thriving rural operation. It was a family business where Joy, besides keeping the books, prepared breakfasts and light lunches and Marilyn and Art, when they were home from school, gave a hand serving in the store and working the gas pumps. Marilyn graduated from the University of Western Ontario's nursing program in 1962 and worked in nursing education and as a research assistant at the University of Toronto. Art moved to Alberta in 1968 to work as a bush pilot and went on to hold various positions in the computer industry. The only day the business was closed was December 25th.

Syd was a community man, outgoing, hardworking and always ready to do a good deed. He had a great personable manner for serving people. So much so that his customers referred to him as the "Mayor of Meadowvale." He had served on the Streetsville Town Council in 1945 and many important decisions were mulled over around the pot bellied stove in his garage.

One Halloween when former Police Chief Bill Teggart was starting out on the Toronto Township Police Department, (1956) he was assigned to Meadowvale. He has said that he never had so much fun as that Halloween. Syd put up a barbecue and made hot dogs for the kids and everyone had a good time. Most of the kids were orderly. About the only thing they did was string toilet paper in the trees and soaped up the police cruiser's windows.

A lot of Syd's business was generated from people who lived in Milton and other western towns, who passed by on their way to work at A.V. Roe Canada. When the Avro Arrow project was cancelled in 1959, his business dropped off drastically. Fortunately, this was short lived as jobs were acquired with DeHavilland and McDonnell-Douglas.

On September 22, 1961, Sydney and Joy purchased one of the Lambe houses two doors west at 1066 Derry Road for \$6,000 from widow Emily Austin.

She and her late husband Jabez, had bought the house in 1943 for \$2,500 from Marjorie Mann, who had purchased from William Lambe in 1939 for \$1,800. The house had been called The Cantelon Cottage and Syd and Joy rented it out. In 1967 they sold it to Richard and Pauline Martin, who sold it to Leslie and Jean McDonald on November 10, 1969, and they still reside there.

On January 20, 1965, Syd signed a lease with Texaco Canada Limited and the station became known as Syd's Texaco Station. Syd was one of the founders of the Meadowvale Fair in 1969 and was instrumental in sponsoring a boys' Soap Box Derby that used to be run on the Second Line at the 401 overpass.

Syd sold the garage and house to John and Soula Evans on September 25, 1973, and moved to Streetsville, where he died on January 16, 1985, at age 81, and was interred at the Streetsville Public Cemetery. Syd and Joy were blessed with four grandchildren, Pascal, 1970, Trulie, 1972, Colette, 1973, and Mathew 1981.

By this time the garage was dealing with MBH Petroleum Services. John Evans operated the Meadowvale Village Gas and Variety at 1056 Old Derry Road until he passed away on October 5, 1982. His wife, Soula, still owns the buildings and her son, Frank, manages the business. The garage is operated by Gus Dourmissis as KD Auto Service.

The building was designated a heritage site in 1980, when the Village of Meadowvale became the first Heritage District in Ontario.

It is one of only a few of such structures still in existence in Mississauga. One of the others is the William Bayliss garage at 411 Lakeshore Road East in the Lakeview area, built in 1951.

In 1995, Monarch Development Corporation recognized Syd's contribution to the community by naming one of the streets in its new subdivision, Buttle Station Place.



(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Syd Buttle and Sandy Robson  
(Buttle Family Collection)



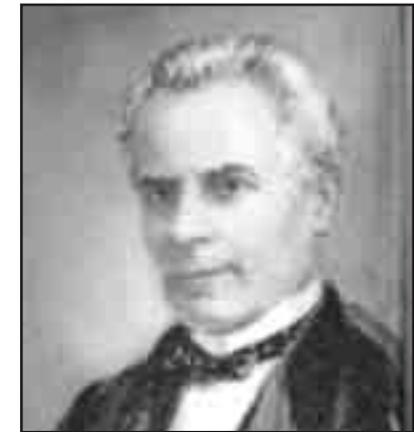
▲ Meadowvale Village Garage, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## MacDonald-Cartier Freeway (Hwy.401) - 1957

IN 1953, OFFICIALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT of Highways (now the Ministry of Transportation) came through Toronto Township approaching property owners to purchase land along the stretch from Scarborough to Hurontario Street for the extension of what would become the MacDonald-Cartier Freeway, known as Highway 401.

This thoroughfare had been in the planning stages since before World War II (1939-1945). Because of the war, it was postponed for six years. An 18-1/2 mile (30 km) stretch of four lanes was opened from Scarborough to Oshawa in December, 1947, and called Highway 2A. For a Toronto bypass, 18,000 acres (7,200 ha) at \$100 an acre (hectare) was acquired and the highway was extended for 24 miles (38 km) from Highway 2 at the Rouge River to Highway 27 and opened in 1956 with a ceremony. It was opened to Hurontario by 1957, to Milton in 1958 and completed to Windsor by 1960.

Eventually, it extended 510 miles (816 km) from Quebec to Windsor, which involved the construction of 520 bridges. In 1961, the first service centre was constructed, which eventually grew to 20. In 1962, widening of the Toronto bypass from four lanes to 12 from Markham Road to Islington Avenue, a distance of 19 miles (30 km), got underway and traffic for this area rose to 380,000 cars a day.



▲ John A. MacDonald and George Etienne Cartier  
(Shell Canada Archives)



▲ Aerial view of 401  
(Ben Madill)

In 1965, it was officially named the MacDonald Cartier Freeway by Prime Minister John Robarts to commemorate two Fathers of Confederation, Sir John A. MacDonald, the first Prime Minister of Canada in 1867 and Sir George Etienne Cartier of the MacDonald-Cartier government (1858-1861).

It was finished in 1968 and completely opened to traffic. At this time, Professor E.G. Pleva, of the University of Western Ontario stated, "Highway 401 is the most important single development changing the social and economic pattern of Ontario. It is still transforming the province's economy and the social, work and spending habits of its people."

401 Map (City of Mississauga) ▶



## NEWS ITEM

### 401 Bridges Over Etobicoke and Credit

Tenders are being called today for erection of steel for two bridges on Highway 401 in South Peel. Highway's Minister James N. Allan has announced that contracts will be let for steel to build bridges over the Etobicoke Creek at the Third Line, Dixie, and over the Credit River near Streetsville. The Third Line bridge will be erected on property which was formerly part of the Art Varney farm. It was purchased by the government last year.

This construction brings closer the completion of the super-highway 401 from Windsor to the Quebec border. Portions of the highway have already been completed between Toronto and Newcastle, in the Prescott area, and between Windsor and Woodstock.

It is believed that a cloverleaf or overpass will be constructed over Number 10 somewhere near Meadowvale.

*Port Credit Weekly*  
Thursday, August 2, 1956



▲ Traffic on Hwy. 401, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Girl Guides - 1958

**T**he girls of Meadowvale who wanted to be in the Girl Guides joined the 1st Derry West Company,

which was started in 1958 at Derry West. The 1st Derry West Brownie Pack was formed in 1966 and held their meetings in the Meadowvale Community Hall on Second Line West. This Unit was part of the Brampton Division. The Leaders were Mrs. K.A. Merritt, Mrs. Bruce McCallum and Mrs. Herman McKinnon. Mrs. Merritt was a Guider for over 25 years.

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 and companies were started in Toronto, Winnipeg and Moose Jaw.



▲ Suzanne Davidson, left, receives her gold cord, the highest Girl Guide honour, from White Oak's Area Commissioner, Mrs. J. McKinley, while her mother, Mrs. J. Davidson, looks on. May, 1962  
(Region of Peel Archives)

In these early days, the Guides camped at Rowancroft Gardens and were warmly welcomed by Miss Minerva Castle. They also camped at the Wilson Farm on the Credit River. Since 1963, they have used Camp Wyoka, which is near Clifford, Ontario, approximately 160 kilometres (96 miles) north of Mississauga. Camping gives the Guides



▲ Camp Wyoka  
(White Oaks Area)



▲ C.V.C.A. Chairman, Roy McMillan, presents Bonnie Lummis  
with the first conservation badge, July, 1961  
(Region of Peel Archives)

the opportunity to work and play together in an outdoor setting, where they take part in swimming, nature study and crafts.

In 1970, the 1st Meadowvale Company was established with Mrs. M. Rowe and Mrs. E. Hoerd as Guiders. They met at the Meadowvale Public School.

The aim of the Girl Guide organization is to help girls and young women to become responsible citizens, who are able to give leadership and service to their community, whether local, national or global. Guiding has a three part promise: "I promise to do my best, To be true to myself, my God/faith and Canada; I will help others, And accept the Guiding Law."

The northern part of Mississauga has grown so rapidly that Divisions and Districts have had to be divided and subdivided. The Meadowvale area is now in the Sugarbush District, Kekindewin Division, White Oaks Area. In 2004, there were 38 units, which involves 599 girls.

# Plans for a Botanical Garden - 1958



◀ Minerva Castle  
(Region of Peel Archives)

In 1958, Howard Dunington Grubb, the founder of Sheridan Nurseries in Sheridan, Toronto Township, in 1913, was asked by Minerva Castle of Rowancroft Gardens to organize a Botanical Gardens in Meadowvale. He looked the situation over, became excited about the project and on January 7, 1959, purchased 104 acres (41.6 ha) of Thomas Reeve's Lot 11, Con. 3, located on Derry Road, west of the village, for a botanical garden.



▲ Howard Dunington Grubb  
(Sheridan Nurseries)



▲ Part of the Reeve farm  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

DUNINGTON GRUBB SAID, "BY CONCENTRATING OUR EFFORTS in one large site, we hope to make an important contribution to the future of horticulture in Canada." Preliminary sketches were drawn up, which included an administration centre, greenhouses, picnic areas and a children's playground. The annual maintenance costs would run \$100,000.

The Meadowvale Botanical Garden was recognized by the Federal Government as a charitable, educational, non-profit corporation. The success of the garden depended upon annual fees and life memberships through benefactors and founders. An eight foot high (2.4 m) cinder block wall at the roadway identified the garden.

Maintenance began and a rock garden was put in, a hedge garden that contained 30 varieties of evergreen and deciduous hedges, a rose garden with climbing hybrid tea roses and floribunda varieties, an arboretum, a large enclosed area for dwarf flowering trees. Other than this, it progressed slowly.

Mr. Grubb died in 1965 and the project had not fully materialized because of lack of interest and funds. On September 27, 1974, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) bought the acreage for \$450,000. The first thing the CVCA did was remove the unsightly cinder block wall that had deteriorated over time. The CVC headquarters is now located on this property at 1255 Old Derry Road. The Reeve house, owned by the CVC, sits at 1265.

## MEADOWVALE POEM

*A little bit of England transplanted o'er the seas,  
A lovely stream keeps running past a clump of willow trees,  
The land is turned and harrowed, the cows are watching by,  
We love this bit of England 'neath a Canadian sky.*

*The sheep are in the meadow, the birds sing in the trees,  
They call to one another as they're swaying in the breeze,  
The lilac and the iris are nodding with their bloom,  
A little bit of England on a glorious day in June.*

*Written by: Anne Charity MacDonald, 1965  
From the Meadowvale Women's Institute's scrapbooks*



Garden Sketches



▲ Credit Valley Conservation Office, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## News Item - 1960



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▲ Women's Institute 50th Anniversary  
(Ida Davidson)

▲ The Meadowvale Women's Institute celebrates its 50th birthday this year. The 1959/60 officers are, Mrs. W. Vast, president, Mrs. H. G. Coates, secretary and Mrs. Harry Christie, treasurer.

*The Brampton Conservator, Thursday, April 7, 1960*  
Taken in part from article by Doris McPherson

## News Item: Oldest Resident Dies at Age 98 - 1963

**W**illiam E. Gooderham, one of the oldest residents of Peel County

died quietly in his home in Meadowvale on Wednesday, March 20, 1963. Mr. Gooderham had been born in Scarborough Township on January 15, 1865. He moved to Meadowvale Village when he was four. His grandfather was Ezekiel Gooderham, the brother of William, of the first distillery family to come to North America. Comically enough, he was a non-drinker. His father, George, came to Meadowvale to supervise the holdings taken over from Francis Silverthorn. With the purchase of more property, the Gooderham estate grew to 400 acres.

After graduation, William worked for the Watt Milling Company in Toronto.



▲ William E. Gooderham (Region of Peel Archives)

HE MARRIED MARY JANE WATT OF TORONTO IN JUNE, 1907, in Streetsville. He always owned a race horse and rode daily until age 75. He exhibited his horses at fairs around Southern Ontario, especially the Brampton Fall Fair. He had a marvelous sense of humour and entertained people by imitating his co-horts in the village. He also sang tenor in the United Church Choir.

He had been predeceased by his wife, who died at age 88 in 1962. He was survived by their two daughters, Louise Southern, with whom he lived at the time of his death, and Kay.

Newspaper article from Meadowvale Women's Institute Scrapbook

## MEMORIES



Gooderhams out ►  
for a sleigh ride,  
1940  
(Region of Peel Archives)

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Mr Gooderham's family always had roast goose for Christmas dinner and he remembers the huge plum pudding his mother made - lots of suet and big raisins boiled in a cloth in a big iron pot.

Mr. Gooderham and his brother hung their stockings behind the wood burning stove in the dining-room on Christmas Eve. They got up before dawn and took the filled stockings upstairs and ate the contents in bed in the dark - nuts, raisins, candy and an orange. One Christmas, they got fur caps for presents and Mr. Gooderham's cap fell off the hook and the new puppy chewed a hole in it.

After Christmas dinner everyone went skating on the pond. There was always a shinny match between Churchville and Meadowvale. The boys skated down the river from Churchville. They made the shinny sticks out of little maple trees, the root of the saplings shaped the end of the stick. At night, they set fires to big pine stumps on the pond. Skates were wooden and were fastened to the boots with a screw in the heel and with straps.

During Christmas week, cousins used to drive down from Terra Cotta in a horse drawn sleigh. New Year's Eve, the Meadowvale Band went around the village playing the old Year out and the new Year in.

*Interview with Mr. W. Gooderham, 1958. From "A Glimpse of Christmas Past" by Doris McPherson*

## Meadowvale Village Community Association - 1969

**I**n 1969, the Meadowvale Village Community Association (MVCA) was founded to work towards the preservation of the quality of life in the tiny community. The concerned citizens knew that road widening and residential encroachment would eventually have a devastating impact on the Village and they wanted to preserve the old-fashioned charm and character of their neighbourhood. The first executive was Joan and Joe Guerts, Les and Jean McDonald, Ian Davidson, Bruce Wilson and Al Stewart. Meetings were held in the Guerts' home.



▲ Jim Holmes  
(Kristy Elik)

WHEN PAT AND JIM HOLMES MOVED INTO THE FORMER Albert Lambe house in 1970, they got involved and meetings of the executive were held at their home. That year, Jim became the first president.

In 1972, the residents were notified by Peel County Road Commission that there were plans to widen Derry Road. The MVCA knew this action would require the removing of the existing heritage homes. So the executive started to work toward strengthening the organization for the trying time ahead. The MVCA was incorporated in 1976 and its objectives were: to foster a strong community spirit; to provide a forum for residents to air their views and complaints for appropriate action; to participate in local and government affairs for the common interest of the community; and to preserve the historic values and beautification of the area.

In 1978, the MVCA approached the City Council with its concerns about the preservation of the Village. The residents figured by having the Village designated an Heritage Conservation District it would prevent the possibility of the roadway being widened. The Heritage aspect was also supported by the Mississauga Local Architectural Conservation Authority (LACAC). The City backed up their request by initiating a study be carried out on designation as a heritage district. A beautification programme was put into effect as the Village would have to be inspected by the City of Mississauga Council, the Region of Peel Council, the Ministry of Culture and Recreation and The Ontario Municipal Board for approval of the plan.

The members intent was to maintain the properties and grounds to obtain an attractive, authentic repair. They wanted to retain the old country charm of the Village. This program included tree planting on Derry Road West (now Old Derry Road), and seeing to the City's installing of utility lines underground, preservation of the green belt areas and parklands, preservation of the historical buildings and landmarks, restoration of the foot bridge at the end of Willow Lane, and refurbishing of the seminary. Their objective was, "Expand and compliment the ideals of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority for the benefit of all Mississaugans."



▲ Old Derry Road, 2004 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Everything fell into place when the designation as Ontario's first Heritage Conservation District was given by the Ontario Municipal Board on November 27, 1980. With the completion of the paperwork, the MVCA celebrated in grand style with a dedication ceremony on September 13, 1983.

The MVCA's longest battle was the proposed widening of Derry Road to accommodate the excess traffic brought about by development to the west. The issue: Should the solution to increasing traffic volumes along Derry Road sacrifice the sanctity of a unique conservation area set aside for future generations? Meetings were held, alternative routes were suggested and 20 years of concern finally

brought results. The Ontario Municipal Board made the final decision on the proposed routes and the route chosen was north of the Village. The new Derry Road West was opened on November 5, 1994, by Mayor Hazel McCallion.

In 1986, the MVCA hosted the three day celebration for the Village's 150th anniversary. Jim Holmes remained at the helm until 2001.

The MVCA, with Laurie Bruner as president, continues to be one of the oldest and most active residents' association in the City of Mississauga, living up to its motto, "To preserve the quality of life."

## Markborough Properties - 1969

MARKBOROUGH PROPERTIES LIMITED unveiled plans on April 25, 1969, for “the most comprehensively planned and most closely related group of new, urban communities ever undertaken in North America.” The company had purchased 3,000 acres (1,200 ha) in northern Mississauga and Streetsville that would be a \$1.7 billion venture.

The project, which would develop three major residential communities, clustered like a three leaf clover around a central prestige business park, would be handled by Markborough’s Vice President of Operations, H. Peter Langer. It was recorded that Markborough’s agreement with the Town of Mississauga “paves the way for the greatest growth in the Town’s history.”

An office was opened in the renovated 112 year old McClure farmhouse off Creditview Road until a pavilion could be built. Before starting to work on developing these subdivisions, Markborough decided to utilize the name of the area and call them Meadowvale South, the first to be built, Meadowvale West and Meadowvale North. The blueprint concept for the communities was done by Project Planning Associates of Toronto, headed up by Mississauga resident Macklin Hancock.

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▲ Opening of Information Centre, 1971: L. to R. Councillor Glenn Grice; Markborough Executive Vice President H. Peter Langer; Deputy Reeve Grant Clarkson; Streetsville Mayor Hazel McCallion; Markborough President Brian McGee, M.P.P. Peel South, Doug Kennedy; Peel County Warden Lou Parsons  
(The Mississauga News)



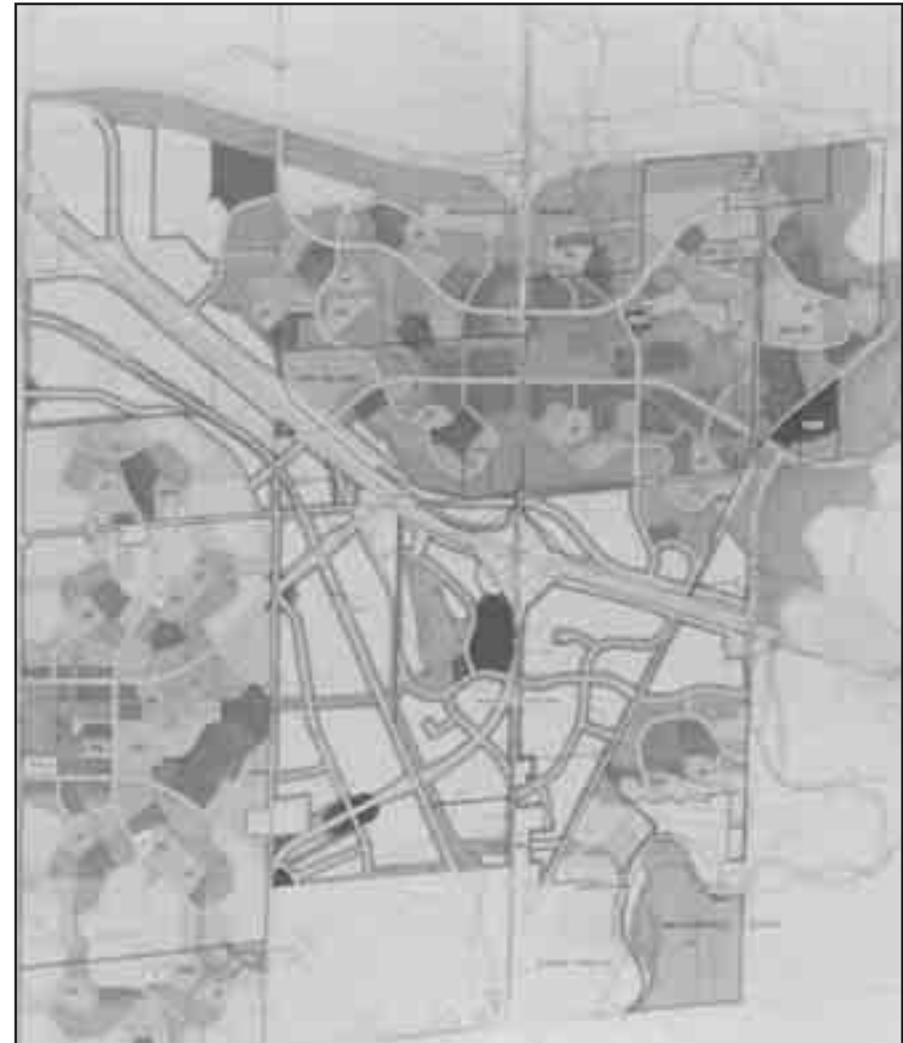
▲ Aerial view of Meadowvale, 1968



▲ *Tree planting ceremony*  
(Mississauga News)

A Christmas tree planting ceremony commemorated the start of construction on the project on December 14, 1970, with H. Peter Langer, Deputy Reeve Roy McMillan and Mayor of Streetsville, Hazel McCallion. At this time, Peter Langer commented, “This tree is just one of hundreds we will be planting throughout Meadowvale, because of our commitment to preserve the natural beauty of the area and to improve on it wherever possible.”

Meadowvale South is located east of Mississauga Road, south of Highway 401 and extends into Streetsville. It would consist of single family housing and green belted industry in locations adjacent to the 401. Meadowvale West lays south of Highway 401 on both sides of Winston Churchill Boulevard. The housing would be a mixture of detached and semi-detached homes, townhouses and high rise apartment buildings. The setting of Meadowvale West centered around the



▲ *Proposed land use*  
(Markborough Properties)

12 acre (4.8 ha) man-made Lake Aquitaine, where bicycle trails and picnic areas added to the enjoyment of the outdoor environment. The West subdivision also included the Meadowvale Town Centre, commercial, recreational, cultural and social amenities. Meadowvale North lies north of the 401 and was developed as a fully-integrated

Business Park with prestige office and industrial buildings, business related retail and a major sports park. In the late 1990s, an upscale single family and townhouse project was developed in the easterly section, adjacent to the Credit River Valley.

The entire three-community undertaking would include Junior Public Schools, Senior Public Schools, Secondary Schools and Separate Schools and a Community Centre that would have a swimming pool and tennis courts.

Markborough Properties had been founded in August, 1965, with three major shareholders, Aluminum Company of Canada, Richardson Greenshields and the Bank of Nova Scotia. In 1967 the company went public and by 1969, it was one of the leading developers in Canada. In 1973, after a hostile take-over bid by another developer, Hudson's Bay Company acquired 64 per cent interest in Markborough and in 1978, purchased the remaining shares, making Markborough a wholly-owned subsidiary.

Encouraged by its success in Meadowvale, Markborough developed thousands of acres (hectares) of land, residential, industrial and office buildings, shopping centres, hotels and golf courses in the Greater Toronto area, across Canada, the United States, and London, England, over a 30 year period.

Control of Hudson's Bay was subsequently acquired by the Woodbridge Company (Thomson Family) and the companies were separated with Thomson retaining control of Markborough, until its merger with Cambridge Shopping Centres Limited on June 9, 1997.

In the fall of 2003, a street in the Business Park was named Langer Drive in honour of the Langers' involvement in the development of the new Meadowvale.



H. Peter Langer  
(Markborough Properties)



▲ Markborough Logo

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▲ The job gets underway



▲ Subdivision

(Photos courtesy of Markborough Properties)

## MEMORIES



▲ F. Peter Langer

"I joined Markborough Properties in the fall of 1974, with the primary responsibility of selling serviced lots and multi-family residential blocks to pre-selected quality builders. The unique concept of a fully integrated master-planned community where people could live, work, shop, learn and play, had tremendous appeal to both a growing population looking for a higher quality lifestyle and to corporations seeking prestige, park-like settings and a 'readily available work-force' for their facilities. Over the next decade, Meadowvale averaged over 1,000 new home occupancies per year and attracted hundreds of well-known corporations to its Business Park.

"Perhaps my biggest thrill was hosting international tour groups of planners, architects, engineers, developers and politicians, who came from every corner of the planet, to see what could be accomplished by a developer with a commitment to excellence, working in close harmony with a progressive and enlightened Municipality - both politicians and staff."

F. Peter Langer Vice President, Ontario Land Development Markborough Properties Inc. 1974-1995.



▲ Charlie Humber  
(Charles Humber)

"My Aunt and Uncle's farm on the Third Line, now Creditview Road, just north of Derry Road West, was the first farm bought by Markborough Properties. Their old farmhouse became Markborough's headquarters. It was owned by my Uncle, Lester Prosser, and the name of his organization was L & L Farms named for my Aunt Lefa and himself. She was my mother's sister and I stayed at that farm for three years, between 1956 and 1959.

"Their farm backed down to a little creek and there was a dam with a pond that had been created and a marsh with blue heron and loads of bobolinks. There isn't one bit of evidence now as to where that farm was. It has absolutely disappeared. There is a partial row of trees left that was the laneway. That is all that is left. Everything is gone. It is unbelievable. My Aunt says, 'I just don't want to talk about it.' It hurts her so much.

"I thought the house had been demolished, but at the suggestion of author Kathleen Hicks, I recently visited Churchville and found my Aunt's house beautifully restored and happily lived in by a new family, who were very hospitable. Needless to say my aunt was overjoyed."

Charles J. Humber, Former Toronto Township teacher. Publisher of the Heirloom collection.

Author's note: The Prosser house is the former James McClure house.

## Meadowvale Fair - 1969

**M**eadowvale's residents still held enthusiasm and camaraderie for their Village over the years of growth and revolvment. The first country fair, founded by the Meadowvale Village Community Association, took place in 1969. It was held under the willow trees in the Meadowvale conservation area that became the Credit Valley Conservation Park in 1973, located north of the Village off Second Line West.

Much entertainment was enjoyed by the hundreds of people who came out. The games chairman was Bill Strachan and he oversaw the tug-of-war, races and other participating contests. The Streetsville Strutters and the Scottish Country Dancers, kilts bobbing, gave a lively show. A barbecue, which was tended by Basil Welch, brought forth burgers, hot dogs and corn on the cob, followed by delicious desserts that were contributed by Mr. and Mrs. Al Stewart, Jim Alexander and Mrs. Joan Geurts. A steer was provided by Ian Davidson and roasts were cooked in the ovens of some of the villagers and slabs of beef were served on a kaiser and sold for \$1.50. The Meadowvale Women's Institute had a Tea Tent. There was also a Craft Tent and various booths that added to the fund raising event. The evening concluded on a dance.

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*Jim Alexander  
tends the corn ▶  
(The Mississauga News)*

ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1970, THE EVENT WAS REPEATED.

It was chaired by Bruce Wilson and over 500 people turned out to enjoy the festivities on this beautiful sunny day. It was officially opened by Ward 4 councillor Grant Clarkson. Some of the events held were pony rides run by Ian Davidson's Meadowvale Stables, a pet show organized by Marg, Lynne and Kathy Welch, an auction, an arts and craft show handled by Betty Sanyana, children's programs throughout the day, a young people's art show and dancing in the

evening. The highlight of the day was the equestrian competition in the format of a rodeo contest. The day was cut short by a rainstorm at 4:30, but the event had been quite a success and the funds raised were to be used to maintain the historic aspects of the Village.

No other fairs were ever held because of a controversy with the

Conservation Authority over using the park and charging for parking. But in 1997, Michael Balkwill and Nancy Mossip, who own the former Crawford/Silverthorn house, organized a street party. Old Mill Lane was blocked off and the fun began. All the Villagers congregated to have a good time. This has become an annual event.



▲ *Streetsville Strutters in action*  
(The Mississauga News)



▲ *Tug of War*  
(The Mississauga News)

## The Holmes Family - 1970

**I**n 1970, Jim and Pat Holmes and their baby son, Jason, moved to Meadowvale Village, where they purchased the Albert Lambe house, which was built in 1893. They had two more children, Daniel, b.1972, and Melissa, 1973.



▲ Jim Holmes  
(Kristy Elik)

Jim had been six years old when his father, Dr. Ray Holmes (b.1918), a dentist from the Kingsway, his wife, Rita (nee Quinn, b.1921) brought their four children, Lorie, 1943, Jim, 1944, David, 1946, and Cathy, 1948, to Derry West, where Ray had purchased 147 acres (59.4 ha) of Lot 11, Con. 1, WHS, from Luther Emerson on April 2, 1951. On the property was a house and barn built in 1871 by James Hunter. The couple wanted a country atmosphere in which to raise their children. Ray was not a farmer, but he started a vegetable garden, purchased several horses and rented property to farmers for crops and grazing cattle.



▲ Lambe/Holmes House, 2002  
(James Holmes)

THREE MORE CHILDREN WERE BORN IN THEIR NEW HOME, Billy, 1954, Margarita, 1957, and Genevieve, 1963.

In 1968, Ray started construction to turn his family farm into the Derrydale Golf Course. With the whole family pitching in, they opened in the spring of 1970. In the early years, David was the superintendent and Jim, president and general manager, with all the children working at the course at one time or another. The course was an instant success at \$2.50 a round. All the boys had to have outside jobs to maintain themselves until the course was able to pay decent salaries.

Jim married Patricia Allen in Ottawa in 1967 and they moved to Port Credit, where they rented an apartment in the Belvedere Apartments on the Lakeshore Road. At this time, Jim was working for Federal Equipment of Canada, distributors of International Harvester construction equipment. Pat worked as a legal secretary for Blenkarn, Roche & Milman in Port Credit.



▲ Four generations of the Holmes family, 2003. Top row: Nicole, Jason (3rd gen.), Patricia, James (2nd gen.).  
Bottom row: Lily (4th gen.), Ray, Rita (1st gen.), Kristie, Eddie (4th gen.) (James Holmes)

Jim recalls that Mrs. William Lambe used to babysit for his parents when he was a kid growing up in Derry West. Jim often drove her back to the Village, so he was aware of the two storey homestead she resided in that had previously been the home of Albert Lambe. When Mrs. Lambe died, Jim heard that there was an estate sale on the

Lambe house, so he approached the executors and was able to make the purchase for \$18,000. Once established in Meadowvale Village, Jim and Pat got involved in local affairs and together with other Meadowvale Village Community Association (MVCA) executive members, dealt with issues such as the widening of Derry Road and the



▲ *The Hunter/Holmes House*  
*(City of Mississauga Community Services)*

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encroachment of new housing abutting the Village. The MVCA wanted to “preserve the quality of life” in the Village, as its motto states, and thus through their efforts, Meadowvale Village became the first Heritage Conservation District in Ontario in 1980. From 1970 to September, 2001, Jim was president of the MVCA and Pat sat on the Board.

When Jim and Pat’s son, Jason, married Nicole St. Croix in 1994, Jason purchased the Rae residence at 1050 Old Derry Road. They had three children, Kristie, 1995, Eddie, 1996, and Lillie, 1998. Now there are four generations of Holmeses living on Old Derry Road and Derry Road West.

Jim now works full time at Derrydale Golf Course. His son, Danny, runs the grounds and daughter, Melissa, the food and beverage. Son, Jason, has his own golf course aerating business that takes him all over Ontario.

The Lambe/Holmes house at 1045 Old Derry Road, which Jim has restored over time, was designated in 1980, as it is located in the Heritage Conservation District. The Hunter/Holmes house at 185 Derry Road West, was designated a heritage home on May 25, 1981.



◀ *Derrydale Golf Course, 2003*  
*(Kathleen A. Hicks)*

## Road Controversy - 1972

### THE RESIDENTS OF MEADOWVALE VILLAGE

got up in arms in 1972 when they were informed by the Peel County Roads Commission that Derry Road West, that ran through their Village, was destined for upgrading to make it into a major arterial highway, which would result in it being widened to four lanes. The residents became incensed at the thought of losing their quaint old village environment and the historical value of Meadowvale Village, as most of the 19th century houses are on the very edge of the narrow roadway and would be demolished in the process of this undertaking. It caused quite a furor.

The decision to widen Derry Road came about because of a heavy burden of traffic that had occurred as the area developed and a new “Town of Meadowvale” was established by Markborough Properties Limited. The residents were also disturbed that Markborough decided to utilize the Meadowvale name for their subdivisions.



▲ *Derry Road in the Village, 1978*  
(*Mississauga Times*)

The Meadowvale Village Community Association (MVCA), formed in 1969 to initiate Meadowvale Village’s heritage conservation plan, held public meetings at the Community Hall for the residents. These homeowners petitioned Peel County Council to have their tiny hamlet declared an historical site. The Council decided to try and protect the cultural heritage of the Village. From the villagers’ dissension, a study was instigated with DeLeau Cather Canada Limited, a consulting firm.



▲ Old Derry Road (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Derry Road West at Mavis, 2004 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

As with any such undertaking, time passed slowly and little was accomplished. Then a public meeting was called for February 5, 1976, by the Region of Peel to discuss the possible rerouting of Derry Road West with residents of the Village. The plan, brought out of the study by the consulting firm, was unveiled and it detailed an alternate route to by-pass the Village. This opportunity allowed for questions to be answered.

Their persistence brought about the Region of Peel's decision to construct a by-pass to the north of the conservation area, which would divert traffic around the Village. It was good strategy on the part of the MVCA, because in 1980 Meadowvale Village was designated the first Heritage Conservation District in Ontario.



▲ The Road Plan (Region of Peel)



The opening of Derry Road West, 1994 (The Mississauga News)

Construction on the Derry Road West bypass eventually was underway and took quite some time to accomplish. The new roadway was opened on Saturday, November 5, 1994, with a barbecue for the community and a ribbon cutting by Mayor Hazel McCallion. The 20 year battle was finally over at a cost of \$25 million. A By-law was passed on May 3, 1996, and the roadway through the Village then became Old Derry Road.

## Meadowvale Conservation Area - 1973

**O**n June 9, 1973, The Meadowvale Conservation Area was opened as Mississauga's largest park by Premier William G. Davis and Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) chairman Roy McMillan. The first 119 (47.5 ha) acres of the former Francis Silverthorn property had been purchased by the CVCA in December, 1963, from Luther Emerson.

In 1974, the Meadowvale Botanical Gardens property of 104 acres (41.6 ha) was added for a total of 223 acres (90 ha). Four parcels of 37.6 acres (15 ha) were sold over the years and the area now stands at 185.4 acres (75 ha). The park harbours the CVCA offices, a workshop, gatehouse, a washroom building, two picnic shelters, an equipment storage shed and an erosion controlled nursery with a shade house, equestrian availability, paved walking trails and nature trails.



▲ Opening, 1973, with Premier William Davis and Roy McMillan

(Mississauga Review)

THERE IS AN ACCESS ROAD AT THE TOP OF SECOND LINE WEST that takes you into the dense woodland where there is a parking lot for 165 cars. The Conservation area has been leased by the City of Mississauga as a park since 1988.



▲ Premier William Davis  
(Mississauga Review)



▲ Conservation Park sign  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

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▲ Play area  
(Mississauga Review)



▲ Geese in Conservation Area  
(Region of Peel Archives)

## Meadowvale Solar Experiment - 1974

THE IDEA FOR A SOLAR EXPERIMENT WAS conceived in July, 1974, by Blair Fergusson, Douglas Lee and Douglas Lorriman. Fergusson was a professor at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute School of Business. Lee was a partner in the Toronto architectural firm of Lee, Elken, Becksted, Paulsen, Fair and an architecture professor at the University of Toronto. Lorriman was with the firm of Raymond Moriyama. He went to the University of Waterloo School of Architecture where he spent 18 months of his school term on a thesis on the application of solar energy for heating buildings in the Canadian climate.

The group received Federal funding in a grant of \$60,000 from the Canadian Government, which was approved by the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs in Ottawa. They founded the Mississauga Solar Demonstration Project Limited (MSDP), which would be responsible for building one of the first solar heated houses in Canada for experimental purposes. Lee, Elken, Becksted, Paulsen, Fair were contracted to design the structure and M. Anthony Wallis Associates Ltd. to supervise the construction. The report given stated, "The precise goals of this experiment are to evaluate and compare the performance of the various system components under operating field conditions."



▲ Experimental Solar Project House. (Inset) Front of House. (Doug Lorriman)

The new subdivision by Markborough Properties, Meadowvale South, was chosen as the site of this experimental project for its contemporary, innovative housing styles that were ideal.

According to the report, "The solar heating system consists of three primary subsystems: the collection subsystem (captures the energy from the sun and converts it into useable heat energy), the storage subsystem (heat is stored as hot water in 2,200 gallon [10,000 litre] concrete tanks in the basement) and the distribution subsystem (a conventional forced air ducting network)." The data on the experiment was to be supervised by the National Research Council of Canada.



The two storey house, constructed at 2940 Quetta Mews, was built of hard burned bricks with three inch Styrofoam insulated walls, insulated attic, windows with insulated curtains and an insulated poured concrete basement. It had 1,500 square feet (149 m<sup>2</sup>) of living space with a large brick fireplace located in the center of the house to be utilized either by the livingroom or diningroom. It also had a kitchen, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, laundry room and a one car garage. The masons who constructed this energy-efficient home were with the Ontario Masonry Contractors of Downsview.

The Lorriman family rented the house, which had to be scientifically monitored by Doug. He was to use his experience living in the house to relay the innovation of the experiment and judge

the features of the solar heating system accordingly. Data collected during the three year experimental period by MSDP resulted in many papers being written and presented at technical conferences and coverage by newspapers, magazines and television. Information produced by this experiment has been used to further the design and development of reduced energy house design throughout Canada. Therefore, the project was considered successful.

In 1977, the Lorrimans purchased the house and resided there until 1985. Then the house was sold to Patricia and Michael McGlynn. Unfortunately the McGlynns were not able to find a company qualified to maintain the solar system, so in 1995, they replaced it with a gas furnace.

### NEWS ITEM

Experts say that among all the alternatives, solar power has the greatest potential to supply pollution-free electricity. But it's lagging now because of sky-high installation costs.

The sun's energy is used in two different ways, passive solar power and active solar power. Passive solar power cuts electricity use. It absorbs and intensifies heat from the sun to warm buildings or water. Active solar power actually adds to the electricity supply. In these systems, the sun's rays activate photovoltaic cells to produce an electric current.

Active solar is still a tiny niche market in Toronto, it's just too expensive - up to \$65,000 to supply a single house.

A Cambridge company, ATS Automation Tooling Systems, says it has developed a new photo cell that will slash costs and make the system much easier to install. ATS says, however, that mass-market production could be decades away.

On the industrial side, several companies around Toronto - including the Ford plant in Oakville - have installed solar walls, which collect the sun's heat and use it to warm the building.

In part from a *Toronto Star* article  
Written by Peter Gorrie, Dec. 21, 2002

# Meadowvale Lions Club - 1976

**I**n October, 1976, The Streetsville Lions Club celebrated its 25th anniversary and the members decided to form a new Lions Club in Meadowvale. The Streetsville president Alex Watson, Governor Dick Hember, and members Al Ross, Ted Sheehan and Jim Astles, met with Peter Fraser and Rick Collett, residents of Meadowvale, to establish the club. In June, 1977, the Meadowvale Lions Club received its charter with 27 members. Lion Jim Astles was the charter president.

The first enterprise of the newly formed club was to assist its sponsors with their Streetsville Bread and Honey Festival in June, a successful annual event. To raise funds for the club's charitable ventures, the Lions started a Minstrel Show, that was held in the Streetsville Secondary School, held a Family Festival at Lake Aquitaine and a Winter Carnival with dog sled races and sold Easter bunnies and Christmas cakes. A Magic Show and Bingo were later added.



▲ Annual Family Festival, Sept. 1997  
(Meadowvale Lions Club)

BY THE 1980s, MEMBERSHIP TOPPED 50 MEMBERS AND A Lioness Club was established with the Lions wives and interested women from the community. As the Club edged into the 1990s and the recession, many members relocated and membership dropped to 25.

However, the Lions never lost their dedication and determination to serve Meadowvale as the needs of the residents required assistance in

many areas. In 1995, the Lionesses were incorporated into the Lions Clubs by Lions International.

In the new Millennium, the Meadowvale Lions continue the challenge of supporting their many charitable initiatives: sight conservation, hearing and speech action, environmental services, youth exchange, the Boy Scouts, Senior Entertainment Nights, Crime Stoppers, Peel Children's Safety Village, the Arthritis and Crohn's Societies and many others. The club celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2001 with goals of quality and productivity in its projects and responsiveness towards the needs of the Meadowvale and Mississauga community.

In 2004, the Meadowvale Lions Club has 20 members and hold meetings on the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Meadowvale South Recreation Centre. Geoff Wetterell is president.



▲ Meadowvale Lions, June, 1987 (Meadowvale Lions Club)



▲ Carrie Lightbound Olympic K4 Rowing, sponsored by Lions, March, 1999 (Meadowvale Lions Club)



▲ Mayor Hazel McCallion honours the 5th Meadowvale Scout Troop, Dec. 1999 (Meadowvale Lions Club)

## Meadowvale Town Centre - 1978



**M**ayor Ron Searle cut the ribbon at the opening of the Meadowvale Town Centre on January 25, 1978. This deluxe shopping mall was constructed by Markborough Properties, the company that built Meadowvale West, where the Town Centre is located, South and North subdivisions.

### ▲ Meadowvale Town Centre

(Markborough Properties)

THE FIRST MANAGER WAS MURRAY RICHARDSON. IT WAS officially opened on March 13th.

There were 21 stores in the indoor mall, which included the largest Dominion Supermarket in Canada, having 52,000 square feet (4830.9 m<sup>2</sup>) of shopping space.

For the first anniversary, a three dimensional 40 foot (12.2 m) clock tower was unveiled in January, 1979, with Mayor Hazel McCallion cutting the ribbon. The ceremonies included a fireworks display.

Phase two took place in 1980 when the Centre was expanded to 51 stores, clothing outlets, a bakery, Woolco, an Appleby's Restaurant and Fast Food Court. This section was opened on October 21, 1980, with a ribbon cutting ceremony carried out by Mayor McCallion. Also in attendance was Councillor Ken Dear and Markborough representative, H. Peter Langer.

The Town Centre, located at 6677 Meadowvale Town Centre Circle on 40 acres (16 ha), was under redevelopment in 2002. Bentall Retail Service LP and Penretail Capital Management converted the existing mall into an effective, dominate retail centre that now has 387,000 square feet (36,000 m<sup>2</sup>). The transformation reconfirmed the strength of this established retail mode with highly respected tenants such as Shoppers Drug Mart, Canadian Tire, TD Canada Trust, McDonalds, Tim Hortons, Bank of Montreal and Radio Shack.

In December, 2003, the Town Centre was acquired by First Capital (Meadowvale) Corp. The manager is Tony Viegas.



▲ Second Phase opening with Mayor Hazel McCallion cutting the ribbon, 1980 (Mississauga News)

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▲ Interior (Markborough Properties)



▲ Meadowvale Clock

## Lake Aquitaine Park - 1978

WHEN MARKBOROUGH PROPERTIES BUILT Meadowvale West, Executive Vice President H. Peter Langer decided to utilize some of the property for parkland that would have a manmade lake within its boundaries, a lake design contest was established. The lucky winner was Project Planning Association, a Toronto engineering consulting firm.

Excavation for the lake began in September, 1976. It was situated on a 41 acre site (16.6 ha), which comprised a 12 acre (4.8 ha) lake, 28 acres (11.4 ha) of parkland and a 1 acre (0.4 ha) siltation pond. The lake was 1780 feet (542.5 m) in length, 460 feet (140.2 m) in width and had a depth of 14 feet (4.27 m) to a maximum of 16 feet (4.88 m). When the excavation was completed, in November, 1977, 380,000 cubic feet (290,563 m) of earth had been removed, It utilized 182.3 tons (163.35 tonnes) of reinforced steel and 4400 cubic feet (3364.4 m) of concrete, 11,630 tons (10,330 tonnes) of limestone material that lined the edge of the Lake. The flow of water began in the spring of 1977 and reached the required water level by August 16, 1977.



▲ Lake Aquitaine (Markborough Properties)

It held 37,000,000 gallons (168,202,000 litres) of water. Shortly thereafter, the Lake was stocked with 3,300 rainbow trout. The park landscaping included 1265 trees and 15,684 shrubs of 48 varieties with 127,927 square yards (116,935 m<sup>2</sup>) of sod. There were 15,200 feet (4633 m) of asphalt walkways laid that were edged by 58 light standards. Large boulder stones, some 6 feet by 6 feet by 4 feet (1.8m x 1.8m x 1.25m) were situated around the Lake's edge. Bridges were constructed with dock facilities, a retaining wall, an amphitheater and play structures. The cost of constructing the Lake and Park was \$2,500,000. The residents have the pleasure of sailing, paddle boating, picnicking and fishing.

In the spring of 1977, a contest for local residents was initiated by Markborough's V.P. of Marketing and Public Relations F. Peter Langer to give the lake a name. Several names were submitted and most of the entrants wanted Aquitaine for Aquitaine Avenue nearby. So municipal officials and the developer agreed the waterway would be called Lake Aquitaine.

For a publicity shot prior to the official opening on Saturday, June 24, 1978, Mark Searle, Mayor Ron Searle's son, was asked to be in a photograph in a boat on the lake with a beautiful mermaid perched on a rock, a la Copenhagen style. This was accomplished and appeared in the *Mississauga News*.

The theme for this special all day event was "An Old Fashioned Picnic." The festivities started at 11 a.m. with a parade from Millrace Court to the Park entrance that

included marching bands, floats and antique cars. At noon, Mayor Ron Searle cut the ribbon to officially open Lake Aquitaine. It had been suggested that instead of having the ribbon on shore that something more significant should be done. So the ribbon was strung between two barges and Ron had to take out a sailboat to cut the ribbon. The day long celebration, which included many participatory events, culminated in a fireworks display.

The Park is officially owned by the City of Mississauga, but Markborough Properties maintained it for the first ten years. The Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) monitors the Lake and Lake Wabukayne to the south, which are part of the Credit River watershed. In 1996, Lake Aquitaine underwent a regeneration of the site by the CVC, making the Lake conducive to an urban fishery.



▲ Ron Searle  
(The Mississauga News)



▲ Park sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Borge's Banjo Reunion stirs up some musical waves (The Mississauga News)

## Meadowvale Rotary Club - 1979

The Rotary Club of Mississauga Meadowvale, of District 7080, was chartered in October, 1979, with 29 members. The first president was Jim McIvor. The Streetsville Rotary Club sponsored the club and they held their meetings at the Streets Restaurant owned by fellow Rotarian Jerry Townsend.

The Rotarians have been extremely active over the years. Their main fund raising activities are Bingo Night at the Meadowvale Bingo Hall, which raises \$40,000 annually, and the sale of Canada Packers Hams. This program, that commenced in 1983 in Districts 7070 and 7080, brings in \$100,000. Each District has 48 clubs.

Their community involvement includes supporting DAM for Youth and Interact for Meadowvale Secondary School students that started in 1998 with D'Arcy Gibson as chairman. They hold a Food and Clothing Drive twice a year involving students from Our Lady Mount Carmel and Meadowvale Secondary Schools with all donations given to the Salvation Army.



▲ Mississauga's latest Rotary Club attended by Eric Ladner (left) Jim McIvor and Mayor Hazel McCallion, 1979  
(The Mississauga News)

EVERY YEAR THEY HOLD A CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON WITH live entertainment for 110 Seniors. They support many charities and organizations including the Boy Scouts, the Victorian Order of Nurses, St. John Ambulance, Peel Partners for a Drug Free Community, bullying Solutions in Meadowvale Conference and Camp Enterprise. In 1987, they sponsored the Credit Valley Rotary Club.

The Club is also very involved with Rotary International, which has many humanitarian projects world wide including Polio Plus. Rotary's goal is the eradication of polio by the year 2005.

In 2004, the Rotary Club of Mississauga Meadowvale has 20 members and the president is Ravi Khosla.

## The Delta Meadowvale Inn - 1980



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◀ Delta Meadowvale  
Resort

(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE FIRST hotel in the area of Mississauga Road and Highway 401 took place on Wednesday, October 1, 1980. Cutting the ribbon was Mayor Hazel McCallion and General Manager Alex Lindquist. Also in attendance was H. Peter Langer of Markborough Properties Limited, the mastermind behind the skillfully developed subdivisions, Meadowvale West, South and North and the manmade Lake Aquitaine.

The 1910 Fred Haines' 18 foot (5 m) long mural, depicting the Mississauga Indians on the Credit River, was displayed in the lobby. Reno C. Negrin & Associates, Vancouver, were the architects and Jackson-Lewis Company Limited, Toronto, the building contractor.

The \$15 million, 14-storey Delta Meadowvale Inn, situated on 25 acres (10 ha), is a deluxe facility, constructed and owned by Markborough Properties, with 192 guest rooms, each with a balcony, 14 meeting/banquet rooms, Arabella's Dining Room (named for Thomas Harris' wife, Arabella, as the Inn is located at the former Harris Corners), the Streetsville Lounge, with pianist Paul Wooster at the piano, Sweeney's, an entertainment oasis, where Craig Runke's Band played, Mother Hyde's Kitchen (named for Streetsville Innkeeper's wife, Cornelia Hyde), a main Ballroom called the Mississauga

Heritage Ballroom that would accommodate 375 guests attending conventions, weddings, banquets and dances, and a Coffee Shop. To keep everything running smoothly, the Inn started with a staff of 180 full time and 50 part time employees.

A Health Club, operated by Ralph Leizer, opened in December with six squash courts, six racquet ball courts and an exercise room. Seven shops were attached to the Inn for the convenience of its patrons.

In 1991, the hotel was enlarged to 40,000 square feet (3,716 m<sup>2</sup>) that included a second ballroom, a second guest room tower and a state-of-the-art meeting facility are called "The Pavilion." This brought the guest rooms to 374. A name change also occurred and it became the Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre.

The Resort was sold in February, 1996, to Host Marriott Corporation, at which time a franchise agreement with Delta Hotels was instigated and is still in effect. In 1997, the guests rooms were refurbished and the following year, the banquet outlets were updated to give a more sophisticated ambiance. The Ballroom was renamed The Hazel McCallion Ballroom and Sweeney's became the Britannia Room.

In 2004, the Delta Meadowvale at 6750 Mississauga Road has 320 employees and the General Manager is Martin Stitt.

(The Mississauga News)



▲ Opening ceremonies, 1980. (L.to R.) Alex Lindquist, Jack Alquire, Bill Barber, and Grant Clarkson  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Rear view of the Meadowvale Inn  
(The Streetsville Booster)

# First Heritage Conservation District - 1980

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▲ Meadowvale Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)

**M**eadowvale was the first village in Ontario to be designated an Heritage Conservation District in 1980 thanks to the residents of this unique hamlet that still retains its 19th Century charm and has a community spirit of by gone pioneer days. At this time, it had 80 homes and 300 residents. Although a tiny village that has been preserved, it has managed to retain its heritage aspect.



▲ Site Map (City of Mississauga)

IN 1978, THE MEADOWVALE VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (MVCA) board, formed in 1969 to work towards this goal, approached Mayor Ron Searle about their concern to preserve the quality of life in the Village. The City of Mississauga then became actively involved in the Village's conservation and preservation. The Council designated Meadowvale Village for a study to be done by its Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Commission (LACAC) and Planning Department to establish it as a Heritage Conservation District. By-law No. 398-79 went like this: "A By-Law to define an area to be examined for future designation as a Heritage Conservation District under Section 40 (1) of the Ontario Heritage Act, S.O. 1974, Ch. 122, enacted June 11, 1979, as amended." The Review committee comprised of one member from LACAC, appointed by that committee,

one member from the Planning Department, appointed by the Commission, and three local residents appointed by the MVCA, which all had to be approved by the City Council. The City of Mississauga hired Bill Thomson, a graduate of Berkley University, to be principal planner of Urban Design and one of his tasks was to prepare a Meadowvale Heritage District Plan. He said, "This is probably the most significant piece of heritage conservation the city will ever do. And because the residents see it as their plan and were instrumental in helping to draw it up, that makes it pretty special."

The City of Mississauga Council unanimously approved the plan on June 9, 1980. The Ministry of Culture and Recreation endorsed it on September 5, 1980. Then the Ontario Municipal Board approved designation of Meadowvale on November 27, 1980, as Ontario's first

Heritage Conservation District.

Mrs. Leslie Taman, born and raised in Meadowvale, wrote in the Streetsville Review, "Seven long years of planning, countless letters and meetings, several council and regional presentations, public meetings etc., culminated in mid-June when the MVCA received word that Meadowvale Village had officially become a Heritage Conservation District, the first of its kind in Ontario."

On Tuesday, September 13, 1983, before 350 residents and friends, chairman of the MVCA, Jim Holmes, welcomed Mayor Hazel McCallion and Gideon and John Silverthorn, descendents of Francis Silverthorn, to this auspicious occasion. Then the Mayor unveiled the historical plaque to a round of delightful applause. There are now 62 properties designated in Meadowvale Village.



◀ Plaque unveiling, 1983  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Heritage Plaque  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

#### HERITAGE DESIGNATION

One major focus of the Ontario Heritage Act passed in 1974, is to “support, encourage, facilitate the conservation, protection and preservation of the heritage of Ontario.” Through this Act, the Ontario Heritage Foundation strives to encourage widespread public participation in the important task of conserving our architecture and local heritages.

Due to the specific nature of heritage conservation, the legislation suggested the appointment of a local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC) to aid municipal councils with the administration of their heritage programmes. Acting as an advisory body to council, it is primarily responsible for recommending properties or districts deserving of designation under Part IV and Part V of the Ontario Heritage Act. This enables municipal council to protect and enhance historical properties and districts.

Excerpt *Churchville: Reminders of the Past*.

#### NEWS ITEM



▲ Grant Clarkson  
(The Mississauga News)

#### Clarkson wishes to spare Meadowvale

Councillor Grant Clarkson pleaded again last week for the preservation of historic Meadowvale - a little village about to be swallowed up by sprawling urbanization.

“Meadowvale has more style and pride in the past than any other spot in Mississauga,” Mr. Clarkson told a meeting of general committee. “If there is any way at all, it should be maintained.

“Meadowvale could be preserved in the same fashion as the Town of Kleinberg in Vaughan Township; a town where a private developer will install boardwalks and gas lights to recreate a century old appearance,” said Mr. Clarkson. He said that there is a law in Mexico which prohibits any changes being made to the exteriors of buildings in a particularly historic old silver-mining city, although interior alterations are permitted. “We have an asset in Meadowvale and it shouldn’t be lost.”

*The Mississauga News* Nov. 5, 1969

## Meadowvale Community Centre - 1982

**M**arc Neab was the manager of the \$2.5 million Meadowvale Community Centre when it was officially opened on January 23, 1982, by Mayor Hazel McCallion, Councillor Ted Southorn and MP Doug Fisher. The 37,000 square foot (3437 m<sup>2</sup>) facility was built by C.A. Smith Contracting Limited. It housed a racquetball court, swimming pool, work-out room, aerobics studio, squash courts, a banquet hall and meeting rooms.

The architect of this impressive structure was Stafford Haensli. The structural engineers came from M.S. Yolles and Partners Limited and the electrical and mechanical engineers from R.J. Black & Associates. The Landscaping was carried out by Baker, Salomona, Hess Ltd.

A non-profit committee of residents called The Meadowvale Community Centre for Fund Raising helped raise over \$55,000 from residents, service clubs, community groups, professional and corporate sponsors towards the cost of the Centre.



▲ Meadowvale Community Centre, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

IN 1994, A FITNESS CENTRE WAS ADDED, BRINGING THE square footage to 43,550 (4069 m<sup>2</sup>). Some of the programs still in operation since its opening are Teen dances, the Meadowest Preschool and the Meadowvale Seniors Social Club.

The Centre, located at 6655 Glen Erin Drive, is owned by the City of Mississauga. Jim Wynne has been manager since 1996.

## Meadowvale's 150TH Anniversary - 1986

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▲ Meadowvale Public School Students

IN 1986, THE 380 MEADOWVALE RESIDENTS celebrated the sesquicentennial or 150th anniversary of their Village. The auspicious occasion was organized by a subcommittee of the Meadowvale Village Community Association, which took a year of planning. The committee chairman was Kelly Robertson, vice chairman, Tracey Price, treasurer, Joy Ogle, and secretary Marie Laine.

The festivities began on Thursday, June 19th, with an evening of entertainment by way of a play with a heritage theme put on by the Meadowvale Public School students.

The excited participants gathered to commemorate the founding of their village on Saturday, June 21st. There was an open house all day at the Community Hall. A red double decker bus transported people about the village. A large tent had been erected for a respite from the heat of the day. A baseball game was held in the morning and musical entertainment was provided by the Brampton Clown Band and Rock Band Andromedia.



The official opening was heralded by a parade through the village at 4 o'clock. Then at 5 o'clock, 150 red, white and blue balloons were released to drift to the blue sky of this gloriously sunny day and a time capsule and tree planting ceremony was carried out in the park by Mayor Hazel McCallion.

A chicken barbeque took place at 6 o'clock and at 8:30 p.m. a dance called the Famous Meadowvale Stomp was enjoyed.

One of the highlights of the day was a commemorative logo, depicting the Meadowvale Mill, that was designed by local artist Goran Skalin and put on an anniversary plate. The plate was 9 1/4

inches (23.5 cm) and 500 had been fired. They sold for \$30.

Skalin said of the village, "It's a great place to bring up children. You know your neighbour and your neighbour knows your children and if you need someone's help everyone pitches in." He has one child and has lived in the village since 1973. His residence is the oldest house in the Village called the Truman house that was built by John Beatty, the Village's first resident.

The celebration turned out to be a memorable event that any of the original pioneers would probably have enjoyed being a participant. In a way, they were.



Goran Skalin's Plate ▶  
(Goran Skalin)

(Photos courtesy of  
Region of Peel Archives)

## The Meadowvale Theatre - 1989

**M**eadowvale Theatre, located at 6315 Montevideo Road, got its started in 1989 under the management of Paul Eck. The official sod turning ceremony, carried out by Mayor Hazel McCallion and Ward 9 Councillor Ted Southorn, took place on October 17, 1987, to kick off construction on Mississauga's first performing arts facility. It was the culmination of four years of dedicated work by performing art oriented community minded individuals.

The \$4.5 million building was designed by architect, Rod Robbie, who did Toronto's Sky Dome, and was constructed by Bradsill Limited. The elaborate structure has an 80 foot by 40 foot (24 m x 12 m) stage, the third largest in the Metro area, that has a full 66 foot (20 m) high fly tower, 395 seat capacity, an orchestra pit for 40 musicians, a rehearsal hall, grey carpeted lobby with natural lighting, embellished with indoor plants and art displays, the perfect location to hold luncheons or receptions. The sound system is top notch and the lighting and special effects are computer controlled. Staff technicians are on hand to assist groups with their productions.



▲ Sod turning ceremonies, 1987, with MPP Steve Offer, Mayor Hazel McCallion, Councillor Ted Southorn, Linda Lake and Gary Clipperton  
(Mississauga News)

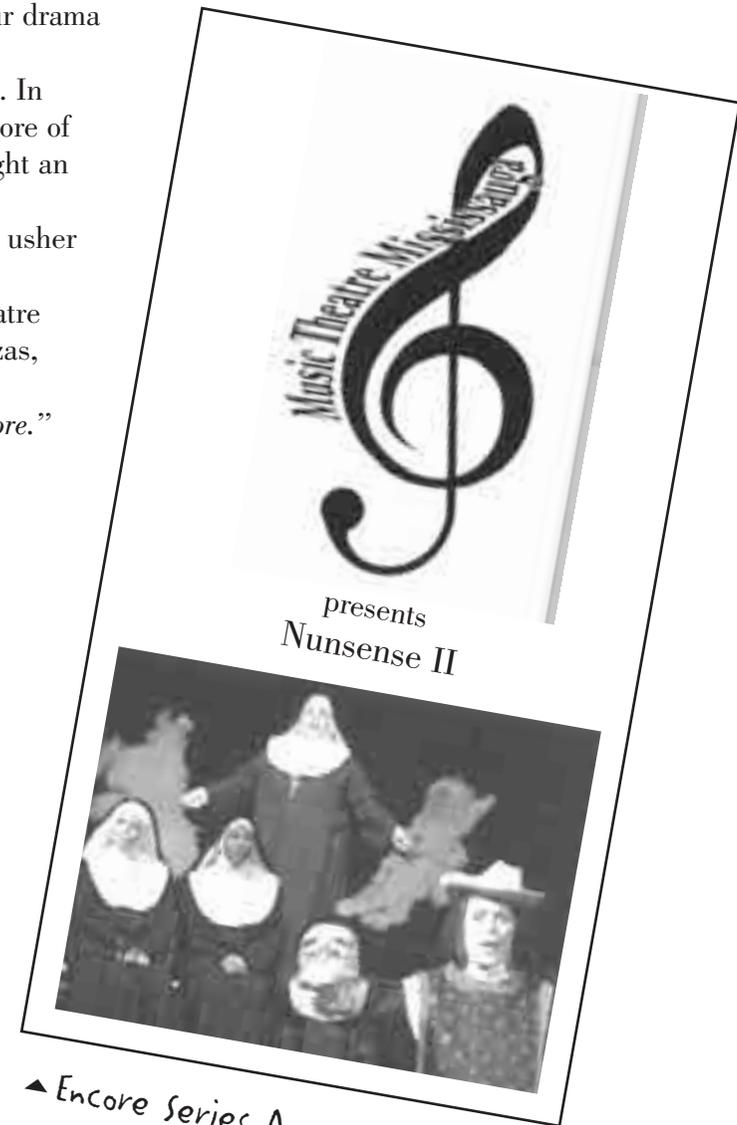
UPON ITS FIRST PRODUCTION OF "MAME," IT BECAME AN immediate hit with the residents of Mississauga. The potpourri of events consists of art exhibits, seminars, workshops on production and management, meetings, theatre art classes, product introductions and a puppetry program.

The Meadowvale Theatre is owned and operated by the City of Mississauga and it sits on land that was generously donated by the Peel Board of Education. Professional and amateur drama and musical groups can rent the facility to present their productions.

The year 1990 proved successful as the theatre catered to a cultural starving public. In November, 1990, it became the location to enjoy Sinfonia, the 15 piece professional core of the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra. The final ticket tally for Sinfonia in 1991 brought an 80% increase in sales, proving that location is everything.

Many seniors have become volunteers at the Theatre. They give tours of the facility, usher or are office helpers.

Groups such as the Canadian Opera Company, Music Theatre Mississauga and Theatre Unlimited began to produce their plays at Meadowvale. By 1994, musical extravaganzas, comedies and pantomimes were on the play bill: *“Letter From Wingfield Farm,”* *“Primadonna,”* *“Billy Bishop Goes To War,”* *“Forty Second Street”* and *“H.M.S. Pinafore.”* In 1995, the theatre going public enjoyed, *“Assassins,”* *“Bye, Bye, Birdie,”* *“The Real Sleeping Beauty”* and *“Cinderella.”* The 2001/2002 season programme included *“Grease,”* *“Me and My Girl,”* *“Anne of Green Gables”* and *“Oliver.”* In 2003 one play enjoyed was *“Cabaret,”* 2004, *“Annie”* and *“Guys and Dolls.”* The general manager is Chris Giacinti.



▲ Encore Series Announcement

◀ Meadowvale Theatre  
(Mississauga News)

## News Item - 1989

### “Landmark Goes up in Flames”



(Mississauga News)

Mississauga Firefighters were left helpless Sunday morning trying to quell a \$500,000 blaze that leveled a landmark in Meadowvale Village.

Investigators suspect arson after a vacant Pond Street home unexpectedly went up in flames. No injuries were reported. Firefighters arrived minutes after receiving a call from next door neighbour, Rosemary Wilson, to find the two storey stucco home enveloped in flames. Mrs. Wilson, who was alone in her house, said she fell asleep

watching television about 2 a.m. and thinks noises from the fire awakened her three hours later. She called the police immediately.

Captain Grant McRorie of the Mississauga Fire Department said, “Every room was ablaze, the walls had collapsed and the roof was ready to cave in. The only thing left standing was the chimney.”

The residence was in the village protected under the Ontario Heritage Act. But despite historical significance, fire trucks travelled nearly three kilometres to the nearest fire hydrant for water. McRorie said, “Nearby fire hydrants would have helped, but wouldn’t have saved the house.”

“The century old Victorian style home served as a welcome door into the heritage district from the north,” said Jim Holmes, chairman of the Heritage Conservation Review Committee. “It’s a great loss for the community because it had great architectural value and was one of the oldest homes in the village.”

*Mississauga News* article, May 21, 1989  
Longtime residents Ian and Jean McPherson had just sold the property to Maida Construction  
8000 Pond Street

## Archaeological Digs - 1991

WHEN A SUBDIVISION IS GOING TO BE PUT IN A certain area of a city or town, it is beneficial to have an archaeological dig carried out. The process of land development has included archaeological surveys for the past 15 years to make certain that the site to be developed does not harbor a native or early pioneer habitation such as villages, farmsteads or cemeteries. Under the Ontario Planning Act, the Environmental Assessment Act and the Ontario Heritage Act, land developers have to do a heritage assessment. The land development company contracts with an archaeological consulting firm and gives it the opportunity to do a dig before construction gets underway.

In 1990, Markborough Properties submitted an archaeological report along with a draft plan application for its North Business Park to be constructed east of Mississauga Road to the Credit River and north of Highway 401. When the draft plan received approval, they gave Archaeological Services Inc., based in Toronto, the contract to do an archaeological dig, which was carried out in 1991. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) and the University of Toronto at Mississauga were also involved. Over 35,000 artifacts were uncovered and were taken to the University of Guelph.

A second dig carried out at the same time was conducted by Consumers Gas. Councillor David Culham and others were involved. More than 40,000 broken pieces of pottery and other things were uncovered and they are

stored at the Region of Peel Archives. None of these artifacts were in one piece, just shards identified as 17th century.

A third dig was also carried out on the area south of the Markborough site that became called the Antrex site. Part of the site was located in a former farm field and this area was excavated by Meyer Heritage Consultants Inc. during 1991 and 1992. The rest of the site was located in a woodlot, which was excavated by Archaeological Services.

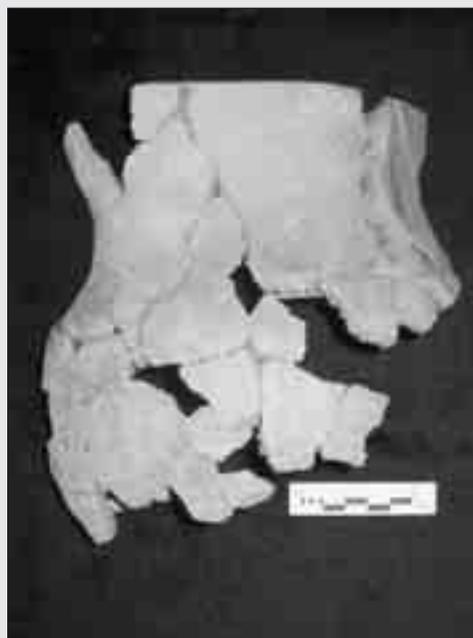
This firm, under the guidance of president Ron Williamson, began excavation of the Antrex site in the summer of 1992. The procedure of such an undertaking is tedious and backbreaking work, but fulfilling in the aspect of discovering something significant. What was discovered in this small corner of Mississauga was astounding and amazing - a 600 year old Iroquoian Village.

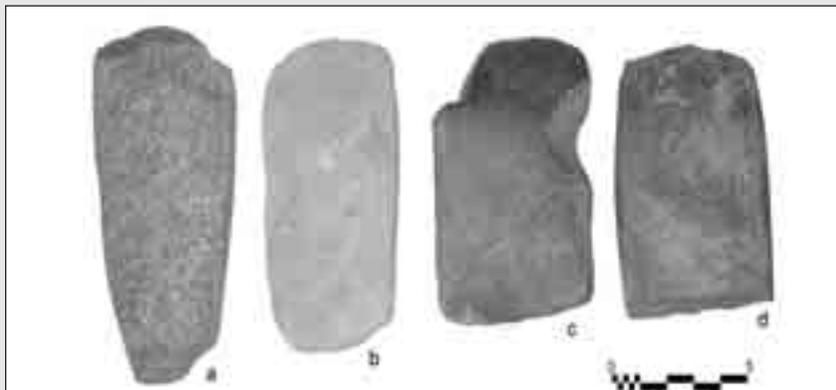
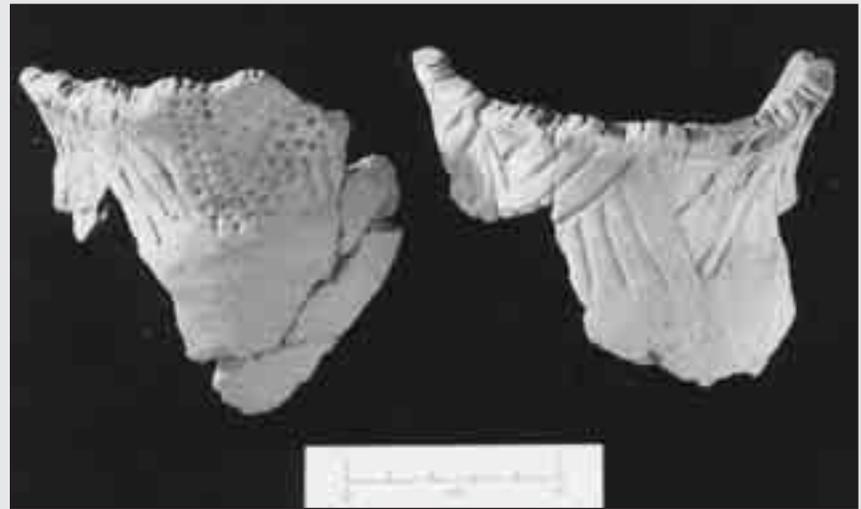
Work continued into 1994, uncovering the former location of nine longhouses and over 30,000 artifacts. But the work was just beginning, as the archaeologists had to sort, clean and catalogue the artifacts and in doing so reveal the life of the Iroquoian of the 13th century A.D. Once this was done a complete report on the project had to be submitted to OMNR.

For the complete story of this magnificent discovery, written by David Robertson and Ronald Williamson, consult pages 90-105 in the Mississauga Heritage Foundation's "*Mississauga The First 10,000 Years.*"



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(Photos courtesy of Architectural Services)

## Saving the Leslie House - 1993

IN 1993, THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA COUNCIL agreed to spend \$100,000 to move and restore the Leslie Log Cabin, referred to as “an architecturally significant example of early Ontario log houses.”

Apparently the project was approved by City Council in 1987, and \$250,000 had been set aside in the capital budget to restore the building. In 1993, after the move had been made and the restoration completed, Council decided to close the Leslie log house reserve account and have the remaining \$150,000 moved into the City’s general capital reserve account.

The 200 acre (81 ha) farm, where the log cabin was originally located, Lot 12, Con. 5, WHS, was purchased for £50 (approx. \$125) by John and Esther Beatty Leslie, from Kings College in 1845. The Leslies emigrated from Sutherlandshire, Scotland, with seven children. Son, John (b.1806, d.1893), married Isabella Steen (1813-1897) and he bought the north half of Lot 12, Con. 5, from Kings College also in 1845. Son, Robert, was instrumental in the building of Benares (1856) in Clarkson and the Barber House (1862), Barbertown.

On January 21, 1884, John Leslie Jr. sold the log house and its 100 acres (40 ha) to Christopher Rutledge, historian Mary Manning’s grandfather, for \$7,000. Manning’s mother grew up there. The one and a half storey, 26 feet by 36 feet (7.9 m x 10.9 m) house became known as the Old Leslie Place.

On May 9, 1919, Rutledge turned the property over to his son, James, who in 1924 sold to Wilbert (1889-1963) and Sylvia Burton Leslie (1900-1948). They had two sons, George (1921-1936) and Jack (1923-1974). On December 16, 1930, they sold to Frederick J. Reeve for \$7,200, and on June 1, 1948 it became the home of Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Ledden. It had stood empty for 18 years before they bought it.



▲ The Leslie House (City of Mississauga Community Services)

Children in the area used the house for target practise, so it received a lot of vandalizing, not a pane of glass was intact.

The Leddens restored it, assisted by neighbour, Bruce Kizirian. The old clapboard was removed to discover that the logs were still in prime condition. The fireplace had been dismantled, so a new one was installed with a wide mantelpiece made from a square piece of timber taken from a barn that had been torn down. They renewed and polished the wide pine board flooring, added braided rugs and gave it a pioneer decor with antiques such as a horse-hair sofa, a pine rocker, a hand carved liquor cabinet and a Seth Thomas mantle clock.

On April 11, 1956, Ledden sold 92 acres (36.8 ha) to Mathew Brockman. Some property had been expropriated for the 401 Highway that year and the house sat on six acres (2.4 ha) at 7250 Mississauga Road, when it became the property of Markborough Properties in November, 1968. The City leased the house for years and then it was donated to the City by Markborough. The one and a half storey building was moved onto a City owned apple orchard, originally the Pinchin property on Mississauga Road, which the Pinchins leased.

Mennonite craftsmen were hired to repair the rotting hand-hewn logs that had been damaged by carpenter-ants. The logs are pegged and joined by dovetail joints and Mennonites are the only ones still utilizing these old building methods.

The Leslie Log House, located at 4415 Mississauga Road, was given heritage designation in 1987. On June 30, 1996, the City unveiled a heritage plaque.



▲ The Leslie House (City of Mississauga Community Services)



▲ Moving the Leslie House (Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

## City Water at Last - 1995

THE HEADLINES IN THE MISSISSAUGA NEWS of June 29, 1994, read, "Meadowvale residents to get City water, but will pay up to \$6,405 for hook up."

Up until this time, no watermains served the historic Village of Meadowvale. The residents only had well water. Septic tanks were used until 1988 when sewers had been put in and a sewage pumping station, designed like a coach house, was built at the northeast corner of Mill Lane and Derry Road, where the Women's Institute park had been located.

With the increased development to the northwest quadrant of Mississauga, watermains were brought closer to the Village's doorstep and the villagers moved on securing this opportunity. Ninety-three conscientious homeowners put in a petition to Regional Council for the convenience of municipal water services.

The Regional Council passed the request, but Ward 6 Councillor David Culham protested that the villagers were "asked to pay far too much for reliable water service." The Region was requesting the residents pay \$99 a metre. Culham stated, "They should only be charged \$33."

With this \$1.3 million project underway, the villagers would have to pay \$345,000 of that cost with the Region handling the remaining.

Each homeowner would be hooked up to the city water service at a cost of \$105 per metre (3.109 feet) of lot frontage up to a maximum of 61 metres (200 feet). Construction got underway in 1995 and Old Derry Road was in quite a mess for most of the summer months. But the end result was worth it to the villagers. Only Willow Lane, once called Water Street, because of the constant flooding every spring in the 1800s, still has not received the service, nor sewers.

In this modern age of technology, no one should be without the conveniences of the public water and sewer systems. Over the past 30 years, the residents of Meadowvale Village have persevered trying to preserve the heritage of their small piece of historical heaven. They have been up against tremendous obstacles, like road widenings, houses being torn down, no water and no sewers. Then in the spring of 2002, they were informed that the Region of Peel was going to bring a sewer system up the Credit River to Brampton, disturbing one of our ancient waterways.

Well, as history would repeat itself, the stalwart villagers were not going to sit still for this further invasion, and a meeting was held on September 18, 2002, in the Meadowvale United Church. The Villagers were out in full force, filling the tiny church to capacity. They gave their opinions on this latest invasion of their heritage district and the Region of Peel representatives realized they were up against fierce adversaries. Shortly after the meeting, the village residents were notified that the Region's plans were changed and the sewer system would be going up Creditview Road instead.

I ask myself, how can the people in authority allow this constant trespass on our history? Always setting out to destroy instead of preserve. They are obviously not heritage conscious, just doing their job without thinking of the consequences. Thank goodness for the stalwart villagers, who have managed over the years to thwart the nay sayers. Our past and history are a vital part of what we are as a people. If we do not preserve it there will be nothing for the upcoming generations to learn about their forefathers, who persevered and left us a legacy to be proud of.

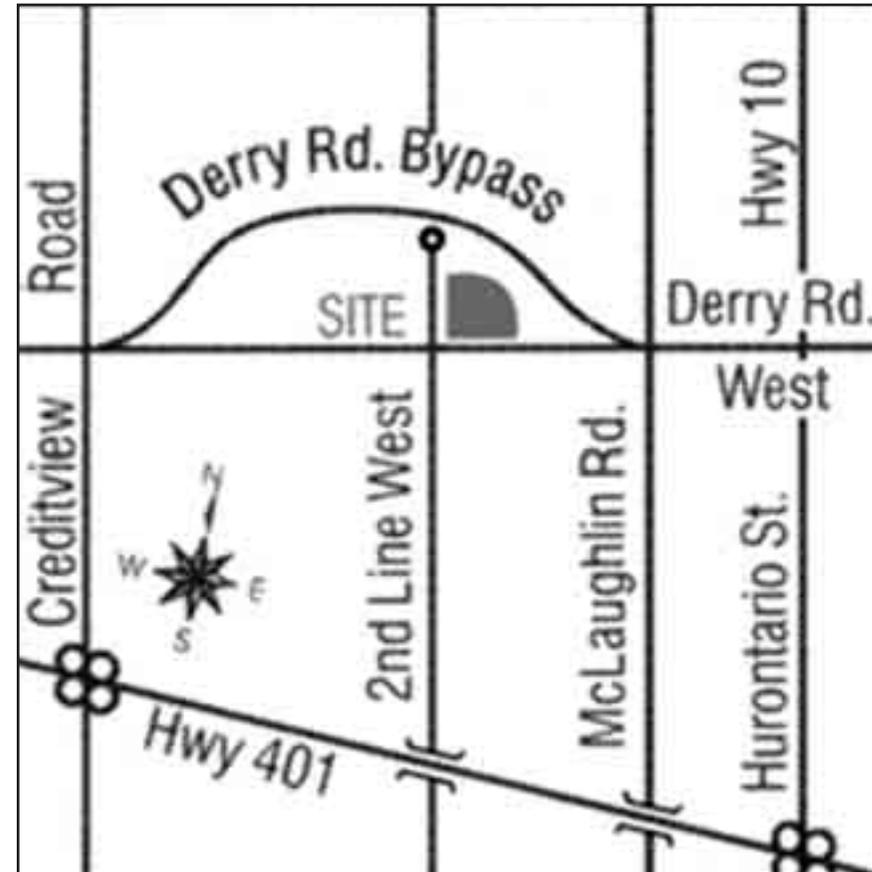
# Monarch Development Corporation - 1996

In 1996, Monarch Development Corporation, that had been founded in 1917 in North York, Ontario, came to Meadowvale to build 525 homes on a 93 acre (37 ha) former Bell/Gooderham property, Lot 11, Con. 2, WHS. Mark Parsons, regional vice president for new construction, was in charge of the luxurious project that would incorporate the historical aspect of Meadowvale Village into their houses. The designs featured, “brick detailing, quoining, gingerbread trim, board and batten exterior paneling” on the exterior and “high ceilings, in-home offices, art niches, rounded corner beads and key-hole arches” on the interior. The price of the homes ranged from \$259,900 to \$411,900.



▲ Mark Parsons

The Charles “Holly” Gooderham 10,000 square foot (928 m<sup>2</sup>) mansion was on Monarch’s new acreage (hectares) and this gorgeous Georgian Survival style house was restored at a cost of \$500,000 and then utilized as the sales office.



▲ Site Location  
(Monarch Development Corporation)

MONARCH IS A REAL ESTATE COMPANY THAT IS IMMERSSED in residential land development, highrise and townhouse condominium construction throughout North America. This was its 16th community in Ontario and every care had been taken to blend the old with the new.



The houses, of Victorian and Gothic designs by Viljoen Architect Inc., were appropriately named: The Silverthorn, The Crawford, The Laidlaw, The Simpson, The Southern, The Rowancroft, The Graham, The Douglas, The Johnson, The Lessard, The Gillespie, The Dawson and The Baskerville for the pioneers who established or resided in Meadowvale Village. The streets bear names such as Gooderham Estates Boulevard, Elliot Parliament and Crawford Mill Avenue.

Mark Parsons has been with Monarch since 1984. He and his wife, Noelle, resided in the Gooderham house until the model houses were built and then purchased one of the Douglas model houses and resided there with their three children, ages 7 to 12, while further construction was being carried out. They just took

leave of their elegant two storey home-stead in the fall of 2002.

### Gooderham House

There is still some development to be done in the Monarch location, west of Mavis Road, south of Derry Road West. It has been a joy for Mark and his crew to work there. "Monarch always takes a keen interest in supporting local heritage," Mark concluded. "It is good business to support the past because it lays a firm foundation for the future."

The former Gooderham House was sold in September, 2000, and it is now the Rotherglen Montessori School. The new Monarch Sales Office is located at 7044 Gablehurst Crescent. In 2002, Monarch Development was given an Urban Design Award of Excellence from the City of Mississauga for creating an historical district of outstanding architectural designs with its Gooderham Estates.



▲ Opening Day, May 30, 1996. L. to R. Jim Holmes, Mark Parsons, Louise Southern, Mayor Hazel McCallion and John Latimer (Rena Bishop)

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Monarch Models (Photos courtesy of Monarch Development Corporation)

# Highway 407 - 1997

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▲ Pre: Construction at Dundas Street

IN 1995, THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION representatives came through the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) purchasing property for a new highway - Canada's first electronic tollway. The 69 kilometer (43 mile) stretch of expressway 407 ETR, from Markham to Hwy 403, Mississauga, was designed and built at a cost of \$930 million by private-sector Canadian Highways International Constructors (CHIC) and was opened on June 7, 1997.



▲ Post: Entrance Ramp

In a short time, it was classed as one of Ontario's safest highways with 300,000 drivers using the freeway every weekday. It surpassed all expectations as a key transportation corridor with 79 million trips made in 1998 and 439,000 transponders in use.

In April, 1999, the Ontario government sold a 99 year lease of Hwy. 407 to a Spanish-Quebec consortium (Grupo Ferrovial of Spain with 61 per cent, SNC-Lavalin of Quebec with 23 per cent and Caisse de depot et placement of Quebec with 16 per cent) for \$3.1 billion, which made it the largest privatization in Canadian history.

Another stretch of 39 kilometers (24.4 miles) was constructed and opened on July 28, 2001, that brought the thoroughfare from Pickering to Burlington. A special ceremony was held at the intersection of the 407 and Guelph Line in Burlington for the opening of the ETR's west extension on Monday, July 30th, with Transportation Minister Brad Clarke as the guest speaker.

Other extensions have been completed to the 407 ETR to form a seamless, congestion-free transportation thoroughfare that covers 108 kilometers (65 miles) from the Queen Elizabeth Way in west Burlington to Highway 7, just east of Brock Road in Pickering.

Although 407 International Inc. is losing money (\$19.7 million in the first quarter of 2003 and \$19.8 in the second quarter), which was expected in the first few years of its ownership because of the financial costs, drivers are up three percent as was projected.



Open at Dundas Street 407 ETR ▶

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◀ Opening of 407 ETR: Brad Clark, Minister of Transportation Ontario, right, Jose Maria Lopez de Fuentes, President and CEO, 407 ETR, left.

(Photos courtesy of 407 ETR)

# Wards 6 and 9



▲ Top left to right: Grant Clarkson, Glenn Grice, Caye Killaby, Larry Taylor. Bottom left to right: Ken Dear, Ted Southorn, Patricia Saito, and George Carlson  
 (Photos courtesy of the Mississauga News)

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WHEN IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT TORONTO Township would be incorporated as of January 1, 1850, a special meeting of the Home District Council 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.

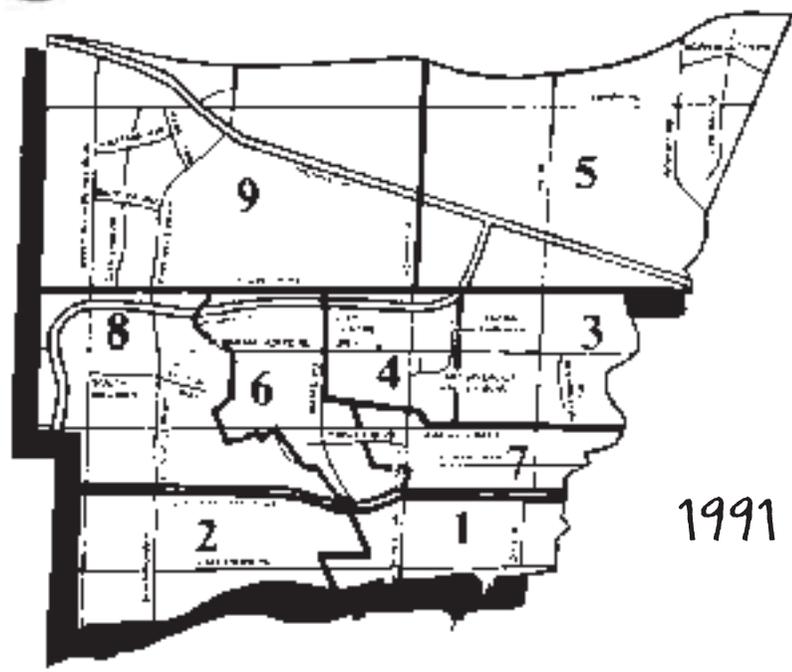
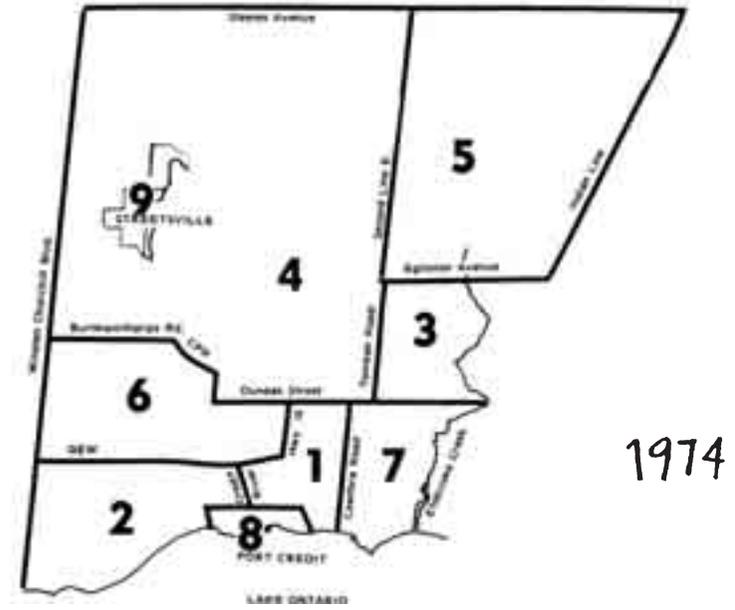
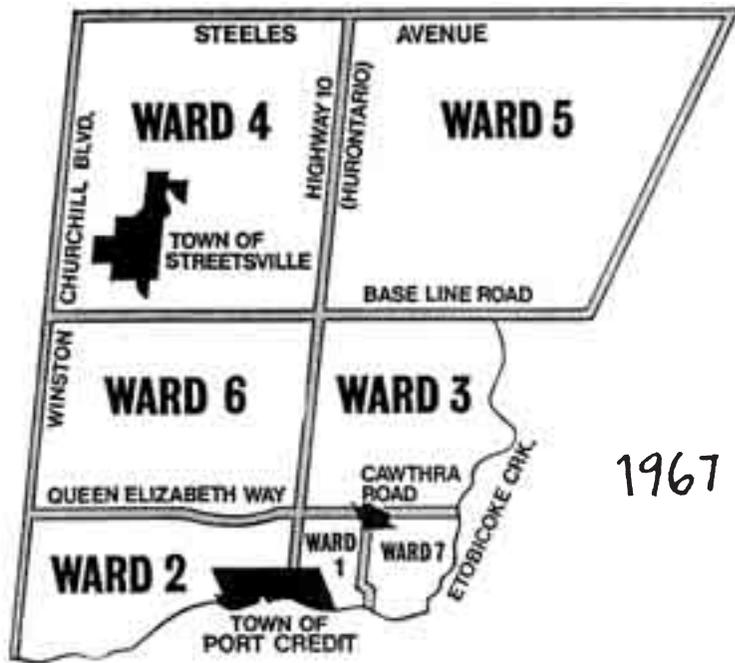
At incorporation, the Toronto Township Council was granted the authority to hold municipal elections. In those days, elections were carried out yearly on the first Monday in January when five councillors were elected. The councillors then chose the Reeve and Deputy Reeve. Meadowvale Village was in Ward 4 and Joseph Wright was the first councillor.

In the early 1900s, the councillors were listed in the council minutes and they were given the supervision of roads and bridges in five divisions. Wards were not mentioned until years later.

There were five wards until 1959 when it was decided to create seven wards, which became official in 1960. Meadowvale was still in Ward 4 with Roy McMillan as councillor. Since that time the boundaries have been changed in 1970, 1977, 1983 and 1990 as urbanization dictated. Each time the wards changed they were established by Municipal By-laws.

Meadowvale was in Ward 4 until 1978 when the Ward boundaries were officially changed and it became Ward 9. In 1991, it was made Ward 6 and Ward 9. The councillors holding office for these Wards since the Town of Mississauga was formed on January 1, 1968, are: Grant Clarkson (1968-1970); Glenn Grice (1971-1973); Caye Killaby (1974-1976); Larry Taylor (1977-1979), Ken Dear (1980); Ted Southorn (1981-1991) and Ward 9 Patricia Saito (1992- to present), Ward 6 George Carlson (2000- to present).

# Example of Ward Changes



# Meadowvale Parks



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**Credit Meadows Park**  
6289 Creditview Road, 51 ha (125.9 a)

**Eden Grove Park**  
3071 Tours Road, 1.3 ha (3.3 a)

**Gatineau Green Park**  
116 Falconer Drive, 2.4 ha (5.9 a)

**Glendinning Park**  
50 Falconer Drive, 0.7 ha (1.8 a)

**Glen Eden Park**  
7230 Copenhagen Drive, 5.4 ha (13.5 a)

**Hunter's Green Park**  
6830 Glen Erin Drive, 4 ha (9.9 a)

**Hyde's Mill Hollow Park**  
6200 Creditview Road, 15.4 ha (38.4 a)

**Lake Wabukayne Park**  
2788 Windwood Drive, 7.3 ha (17.6 a)

**Leslie Trail**  
2199 Meadowvale Blvd., 10.6 ha (26.4 a)

**Maple Grove Park**  
7075 Millcreek Drive, 1.4 ha (3.5 a)

**Maplewood Park**  
6835 Glen Erin Drive, 3.7 ha (9.4 a)

**Meadow Green Park**  
6595 Falconer Drive, 3.7 ha (9.4 a)

**Meadowvale Conservation Park**  
Second Line West, 65.6 ha (164 a)

**Meadowvale North Sports Park**  
2725 Meadowvale Boulevard, 6.4 ha (16 a)

**Mullet Creek Park**  
6720 Century Avenue, 9.6 ha (24 a)

**Pine Cliff Park**  
20 Pine Cliff Road, 3.5 ha (8.7 a)

**River Run Park**  
51 Falconer Drive, 4 ha (9.9 a)

**Settler's Green Park**  
6440 Glen Erin Park, 3.1 ha (7.8 a)

**Syntex Green Park**  
2180 Syntex Court, 3 ha (7.3 a)

**Tillsdown Park**  
1620 Sir Monty's Drive, 1.7 ha (4.2 a)

**Totoredaca Park**  
2715 Meadowpine Blvd., 25.9 ha (64.7 a)

**Windrush Woods**  
2780 Gulfstream Way, 4.9 ha (14.8 a)

**Windwood Park**  
2795 Windwood Drive, 5.2 ha (13 a)

### **Lake Wabukayne**

Lake Wabukayne was part of the Cadillac Fairview Erin Mills development. The 42 acre (1.8 ha) lake was originally called Cook's Pond for the Cook family who owned a farm there in the early 1800s that harbored a creek, one of the Credit River tributaries, that fed the pond. At the time of the Erin Mills development, a dam was constructed in 1976 to create this lake as part of a stormwater management facility designed to treat run-off from the surrounding watershed before it drained into the Credit River. It was named for the local subdivision that took its name from one of the Mississauga chiefs who signed the 1805 First Purchase.



## The Oldest House



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▲ Goran Skalin's House at 1125 Willow Lane. Inset of Art Studio was former Johnson's foundry (James Holmes)

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN THE VILLAGE OF MEADOWVALE IS said to have been constructed in 1825 by John Beatty who had the grant of Lot 11, Con. 3, WHS. The pioneer frame homestead sits on a stone foundation that is supported by huge hand-hewn beams. The exterior walls are constructed similarly to that of a log cabin, but from rough sawn one inch by six inch (22 cm x 15 cm) red pine planks instead of logs.

Located at 1125 Willow Lane, it has had many owners over the years and has been the residence of artist, Goran Skalin, and his wife, Johanna, since 1974. Goran has an art studio on the property that was once the Johnson's Foundry. This rough barn like structure, built in 1853, compliments the heritage aspect of the village. The Skalins' buildings were put on the Heritage Conservation District's list in 1980.

# Heritage Buildings

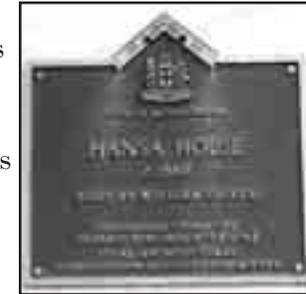


▲ The Gooderham/Haines/Welch Residence,  
1147 Willow Lane (City of Mississauga Community Services)

This house, on Village Lot 86, was built in 1865 by the Gooderhams on Water Street (Willow Lane). The artist Fred Haines owned this house from 1903 to 1916. Euphemia Cowan, a teacher, purchased it in 1949 from Olga and Elmer Bayton, who had bought it in 1942 from Jane Trevorrow Braille's husband, Robert. Ronald Gooderham bought it for a summer cottage in 1959 and rented it out to Michael and Patricia Evans, who purchased it in September, 1967. They only owned it for three months when Patricia sold it to Basil and Margaret Welch. Basil still resides there as Margaret passed away on November 4, 2002. Margaret had said that Haines had a studio in the rear of the house that was torn down, and you can still see the impression of it in the back yard. This author checked it out and the area does reveal the old addition etched in blocks covered with overgrown grass.

On October 3, 1834, William Oliver bought 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 9, Con. 1, WHS, from Kings College. He built this house before he died in 1864. The Oliver family lived there until 1918 when Jennie Oliver sold the property to Jennie Armstrong for \$10,000. Her executives sold to Harold Gray in 1928 for \$13,500. It became the home of Albert Kilpatrick on 20 acres (8 ha) in 1929. In 1943, Kilpatrick sold to B.H.Bull & Son and in 1961 it became the property of the German Canadian Club Hansa. The Club built a larger premises in 1972 and this building at 6550 Hurontario Street, which was designated a heritage house on September 6, 1977, is now used for meetings and it has a boat museum upstairs.

Plaque ▶



▲ The Oliver/Hansa House - 2002 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ The Gooderham Mill Office now Taman's (Stephen Wahl)

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**Apple Tree Inn**  
7953 Pond Street  
Luther Cheyne, 1860

**Beatty/Skalin House**  
1125 Willow Lane  
John Beatty, 1825

**The Bell/Gooderham House**  
7235 Second Line West  
Hugh Bell, 1855

**The Bell Temperance Hotel**  
1090 Old Derry Road  
George Bell, 1844

**The Blacklock House**  
1160 Old Derry Road  
Built in 1914

**The Boathouse**  
7070 Old Mill Lane  
Francis Silverthorn, 1852

**Brown/Vooro/Bull House**  
620 Derry Road West  
Samuel Brown, 1866

**Gooderham Mansion**  
929 Old Derry Road  
Constructed in 1870

**Gooderham/McKee House**  
7050 Second Line West  
Built by Gooderhams, 1865

**Gooderham/Southern House**  
1101 Willow Lane  
Gooderhams, 1865

**Graham/Pearson House**  
1020 Old Derry Road  
Thomas Graham Jr., 1862

**The Hill House**  
7015 Pond Street  
Thomas Idle, 1860

**Johnson's Foundry**  
1125 Willow Lane  
Hugh Johnson, 1853

**Johnson's Wagon Factory**  
1101 Willow Lane  
James Johnson, 1848

**Laidlaw Commercial Hotel**  
1051 Old Derry Road  
Mathew Laidlaw, 1852

**Albert Lambe House**  
1045 Old Derry Road  
Albert Lambe, 1893

**William Lambe Store**  
1060 Old Derry Road  
Francis Jackson, 1916

**Lambe/MacDonald House**  
1066 Old Derry Road  
William Lambe, 1943

**Lambe/Rae House**  
1050 Old Derry Road  
William Lambe, 1942

**Martin's Blacksmith Shop**  
Second Line West  
Ernie Martin, 1937

**Meadowvale Schoolhouse/  
Community Hall**  
6970 Second Line West, 1871

**Meadowvale United Church**  
1010 Old Derry Road, 1863

**The Mill Cottage**  
1101 Old Derry Road  
The Gooderhams, 1865

**Millworkers Houses**  
7067-7079 Pond Street  
Francis Silverthorn, 1848

**Orr's Blacksmith Shop**  
1101 Willow Lane  
Gooderhams, 1870

**Penrose/McPherson House**  
1074 Old Derry Road  
Mathew Laidlaw, 1856

**Sigsworth Reeve's House**  
1265 Old Derry Road  
Sig Reeve, 1910

**Robinson/Trevorrow/Hart House**  
7025 Pond Street  
Jonathan Robinson, 1860

**Silverthorn House**  
7050 Old Mill Lane  
James Crawford, 1840

**Simpson House**  
1200 Old Derry Road  
John Simpson, 1870

**South/Copeland House**  
7059 Second Line West  
Stephen South, 1919

**Terry Wilson House**  
7091 Pond Street  
Beck Wilson, 1939

Rosemary Wilson's House  
7105 Pond Street  
Beck Wilson, 1942

Others

**Elliott/Davidson House**  
7558 Creditview Road, Churchville  
William Elliott, 1840

**Hunter/Holmes House**  
185 Derry Road West  
James Hunter, 1871

**The Leslie House**  
4415 Mississauga Road  
John Leslie, 1845

**McClure/Prosser House**  
7550 Creditview Road, Churchville  
James McClure Jr., 1857

**Joseph Tilt House**  
7140 Hurontario Street  
Harry Hill, 1880

## The Oldest Person



▲ Ernest and Emily Morris, 1930

**E**mily Morris, who turned 94 on September 5, 2004, is the oldest person this author could find in the Meadowvale area of Mississauga. Emily was born in 1910 to Albert and Avis Green Talbot, the third of seven children, in Hagbourne, England. Her mother passed away when Emily was seven years old, and her father never returned from the First World War (1914-1918), so she and her siblings were considered orphans.

IN 1923, EMILY AND HER SISTER FLORENCE AND FOUR OTHER orphans were brought by ship to Canada by the Salvation Army to work on farms. They landed in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and travelled by train to Ontario, where Florence stayed in Toronto and Emily worked on a farm in Claremont until she was 18. She went to Toronto to live with Florence and her husband, John, and the Salvation Army got her a job as a housekeeper for a young family.

She met Ernest Morris in 1929 and they were married on August 29, 1930. Emily said she was never happy in her life until she got married. They had a son, William, on November 8, 1932, and he was followed by Phyllis, 1941, Carol, 1942, and Patricia, 1945. Emily says she never returned to England because Ernest did not like to fly. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1980 and Ernest passed away in 1984.

When Emily celebrated her 90th birthday in 2000, she was most happy to welcome Mayor Hazel McCallion as a guest at her party. She is blessed with nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.



▲ Ernest and Emily Morris, 1980



▲ Emily and Mayor Hazel McCallion, Emily's 90th birthday, Sept. 5, 2000

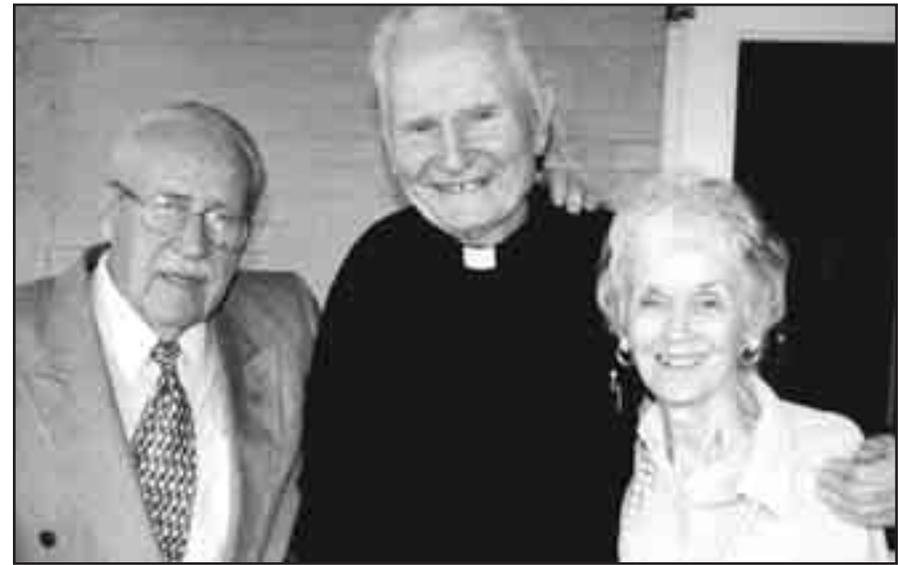
(Photos courtesy of Emily Morris)

## The Longest Married Couple



▲ Ray and Rita Holmes

**R**ay and Rita Holmes celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss on June 22, 2002. They were married in 1942 in St. James Church, Annette Street in Toronto, where Rita was born. They spent their honeymoon in Peterborough, where they lost their marriage licence and someone was kind enough to mail it back to them.



▲ Ray and Rita Holmes with Father Edward Colleton, 2002  
(Ray Holmes)

Ray had just graduated from Dentistry at the University of Toronto and was trying to build up his practice in the Kingway. They lived in a third floor walk-up on Bloor Street across from The Old Mill, where three of their children were born, Lorie, 1943, James, 1944, and David, 1946. They moved to a larger residence, where Cathy was born in 1948.

They have resided on Lot 11, Con. 1, WHS, in old Derry West, since they purchased 147 acres (58.8 ha) from Luther and Grace Emerson on April 2, 1951, for \$18,500. They decided to move to Toronto Township because they wanted to raise their children in a country atmosphere. Back then, Derry Road was a two lane gravel road with a wooden bridge over Fletcher's Creek.

There was a lovely red brick, two storey house, built by James Hunter in 1871, and a substantial barn on the property. Ray had no farming instincts, but loving to garden he put in a vegetable garden and rented out the barn to Bob Marchington, a friend of Ted Conover's, for his cattle.

The Conovers were neighbours and became good friends. His involvement with Bob inspired Ray to become interested in Hereford cattle. Ray purchased a Hereford bull and a few cows and started to breed them, then sold the calves. He grew hay and sold it for feeding cattle. The Reid brothers would come over and bail the hay with the help of the Holmes kids. He also purchased several horses and daughter, Lorie, became quite a horsewoman. They had three more children, Billy, 1954, Margarita, 1957, and Genevieve, 1963. Ray continued his practice and drove the children in to St. Joseph's School each morning, then they came home by Gray Coach bus.

In 1968, Ray's friend Gordie Delaat, a golf pro at the Weston Golf Course, came to visit



and they walked Ray's property and Gordie said what a great place to have a golf course. Ray thought it was a good idea and turned his family farm into the Derrydale Golf Course, which was opened in the spring of 1970. Son, David, became the superintendent and Jim, president and general manager. All of their children worked at the course at one time or another. Ray worked in the clubhouse on Saturdays and Sundays. The course was an instant success at \$2.50 a round, however it was not enough to maintain several families' livelihoods, so the boys had to have outside jobs until the course was able to pay decent salaries. Ray retired in 1978. In 2003, it cost \$40 for a round of golf, and for several years the family has been able to make a good living from their home turf.

▲ Derrydale Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)



Derrydale Golf Course (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ The Holmes' 60th anniversary family gathering  
(Ray Holmes)

In fact in 1982, they bought another golf course in Erin called the Erin Heights Golf Course. That is where Ray and Rita held a family reunion to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Ray and Rita have had a great life, with tremendous quality time with their family because of their business. They now have 23 grand-



The Hunter Holmes House ▶  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

children and four great-grandchildren, with four generations living in the Derry West/Meadowvale area.

The Hunter/Holmes home at 185 Derry Road West was designated a heritage house on May 25, 1981.

## MEMORIES



▲ Ray and Rita looking back...

"One of the boys in my class at the University of Toronto said they were going to the Embassy Room at the Park Plaza. 'Hey Holmsey, you want to come?' he asked. I said, 'Sure.' And I took a young lady named Helen Kelly. As we were dancing another classmate, Harold Craig, said, 'Do you want to change partners, Holmsey?' I said, 'Okay.' And this cute, tiny girl wearing an organdy blouse stepped into my arms. She never stepped on my feet and I never stepped on her, she was a feather in my arms. I was a terrible dancer, but I never danced so well as I did that night. It was Thanksgiving weekend of 1938 and I asked her to go to a movie and that was the start of Rita's and my history together."

Interview with Ralph Sherman Holmes (Ray), Dec. 3, 2002

# Terry Wilson's Views on The Village



(James Holmes)



(Kathleen A. Hicks)



(James Holmes)

## MEMORIES

"My views and comments on the village are based on treasured memories of living in a community that, I feel, was a completely idyllic setting, and one that was not diminished until the 1960s. Only those who lived in the village prior to the 1960s would be able to fully appreciate the type of existence that I look back upon. A Meadowvale tradition for generations was tobogganing on Granny Gardner's (nee Myrtle Orr) hill. Her house was the focal point in winter for the children of the Village. With the first December snowfall, the children would run breathlessly to the top of Granny's Hill to experience the best tobogganing in the village. Another village tradition for about thirty years was villagers taking a drink of water from the pipe coming from the overflowing well at Tait's as the water ran into the creek along Mill Street. A cool drink from Tait's well on a hot summer day was really enjoyed. If you have breathed in the sweet, fresh fragrances of the meadows in spring, followed a cow that has escaped through a broken fence walking down the lane, observed the pheasants congregating along the roadsides in the early morning, and heard the absolute silence of a hushed winter evening in the village, you will understand better than most these fond reminiscences."

By Terry Wilson from his "A Guide to Ontario's First Heritage District" booklet, 2001.

Terry's mother, Rosemary, the local historian, came to the Village in 1950. Terry has lived in the village all his life.



(James Holmes)



(Kathleen A. Hicks)



(Kathleen A. Hicks)

# Small Villages and Hamlets

As the pioneers established themselves throughout Toronto Township, small villages and hamlets sprang up, mostly at the four corners of interchanging roadways.

These small communities, the backbone of North America's history, were usually located as a crossroad hamlet, an intersection that had a store, a tavern, a school and church and was named for the resident or inhabitant who was industrious in his community and often had the most land, which he usually donated a portion of for the school or church.

All flourished in the 19th century until the depopulation started in the early 1900s, then they gradually disappeared. Many fond memories lingered down through the years from the descendants of these small communities and when people were asked "Where were you born?", they would respond Palestine, Derry West, Britannia or Churchville.

There isn't much information on some of the tiny hamlets, such as Elmbank and Richview, but the Mississauga Heritage Foundation and this author are

trying to rectify that. Switzer's Corners, named for the Irish Switzer family, who owned Lots 9 and 10, Con. 6, and Lot 9 and 11, Con 5, WHS, from 1830 to 1928, was located on Derry Road at Winston Churchill Boulevard. In 1871 when the post office opened, it was changed to Lisgar, named for Sir John Young Lisgar, who became Governor General of Canada in 1869. (It is now the

location of Meadowvale West and the Lisgar Residential district subdivision that came about with the 1974 extension of the westerly boundary of the newly formed City of Mississauga to Ninth Line, north of Dundas Street.) The Post Office was opened from August 1, 1871, to September 1, 1915, with the first



▲ Marshall's Dew Drop Inn and Lisgar Post Office (Mrs. Elmer Waite)

postmaster being Sam Alexander. Another location was the Marshall's Dew Drop Inn, which was destroyed by fire in 1961. A little east of the four corners had stood the Eden United Church. It was originally the Methodist Church, which was established in 1840 as Switzer's Methodist Church on the west half of Lot 10, Con. 6. A new church was built in 1869 on Isaac Waite's Lot 11, Con. 6, and a cemetery was started. The Methodist Church was damaged by a fire in 1908 and a cyclone in 1923 and was rebuilt. In 1925, it became the Eden United Church. It was used until the 1970s and dismantled in August, 1980, but the cemetery still exists. There had also been the 1830 log Switzer's School located on Lot 10. Then a brick school was built in 1877 and called Eden Public School, S.S. #17 at 2285 Derry Road West. It was closed down in 1960. The Chimo Hotel opened in



1988 at this location and the school was to become a boutique and be used along with the 13 storey-144 room hotel. This did not occur, however, and it was demolished in December, 1992. The hotel is now the Radisson. Harris Corners, named for Thomas Harris, was at the Mississauga and Derry Roads intersection. When the Delta Resort and Conference Centre was opened in 1980, a Dining Room was named for Harris' wife, Arabella. Harris Corners was later changed to Crozier's Corners, named for the Crozier family, who owned property on the southeast corner.

So in this series of historical documentation, we are going to pay homage to some of these small communities that were big in their day. In this book, we have Churchville, Derry West, Hanlan's Corners, Palestine and Whaley's Corners.



▲ Eden Public School (Mississauga Library System)

◀ Eden United Church (Mississauga Library System)

## Churchville - 1819

CHURCHVILLE, WHICH HAS BEEN PART OF the City of Brampton since 1974, was legally established in 1819 by Amaziah Church, a Loyalist from Virginia, on what is now Churchville and Creditview Roads, just a short distance below the original Steeles Avenue/Toronto Township/ Brampton boundary. Church was born in Sheffield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, on January 7, 1765, the son of Samuel and Rhoda Bush Church. As a young lad, he served during the latter part of the American Revolution (1775-1783). After the war, he and his wife came to Lower Canada (Quebec) and took up residence in St. Andrew's, where their children were born.

It was said by William Cook in a history on Churchville that Church actually came to this area in 1815 and squatted on the land. That year, as the story goes, Amaziah Church blazed the first trail through the wilderness north of Toronto Township, the first white man to follow in the footsteps of the Indians who went before him.



▲ Churchville Cemetery Gates (Marianne Galliford)

**H**e had a difficult excursion on his way to his destination, as did all the pioneers who ventured into virgin territory, making their way through the overabundant forests, traversing the thick underbrush to their destination, circumspect to the dangers of hostile Indians, ferocious animals and treacherous terrain.

When Amaziah arrived, he explored the Credit River, trekking up and down the river, searching for the best area of land the river flowed through. The property he chose was ideal to accommodate the operation of a mill. The location was picturesque with a valley and low lands nestled between rolling hills. With him on his journey, were his wife and sons and they carried the necessary equipment, the irons and stones, required for Amaziah's occupation of millwright. It was not long before he installed a brushwood dam with which to utilize the river for power and this was followed by the construction of a saw and grist mill. But this section of land was not purchased from the Mississauga Indians until 1818 and the survey was carried out in 1819 for land grants, so he was a squatter. Cook said there was no land record available for the area Church had chosen, Lot 15, Con. 3, WHS. The Land Registry has only 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 15 recorded to Andrew Scott, August 5, 1822, so Church very well could have been granted the other 100 acres. Churchville is recorded as having been founded in 1815.

The surveyors' records of 1819, indicate that the Third Line (Creditview Road) had to bypass Church's Mill, which made his mill the first in the New Survey and verifies that he was indeed there. The first recorded land grant in the Churchville area was to William Coates, October 19, 1821, E-1/2, 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 13 and 200 acres (81 ha) of Lot 14, Con. 4, WHS. By 1825, most of the area was settled by Ebenezer Austin, W-1/2, Lot 13, Con. 4, 1822; Robert Moore, Lot 14, Con. 3, 1823; John Wallace, Lot 14, Con. 5, 1824; John Armstrong, E-1/2, Lot 13, Con. 5, 1825, and W-1/2, Lot 14, Con. 5; and Robert Nesbitt, E-1/2, Lot 15, Con. 5, 1825.

The land that became Churchville was taken up rapidly by settlers and so the village's growth progressed faster than Meadowvale's did. Church's mills were a contributing factor in the development of the area named for him. The white pine forests in the vicinity provided a trade for one to make a living, the virgin soil was ideal for farming and the meadows plentiful for cattle grazing. Farmers for miles (kilometres) around brought their wheat to Church's mill to be ground.

Andrew Scott donated one acre (0.4 ha) of Lot 15, Con. 3, WHS, for the Churchville Cemetery on August 5, 1822. When Amaziah Church died on September 7, 1831, at age 65, he was the first to be interred there. At this time the population was around 80 and besides his mills, there were two general stores, a tannery and a distillery.



▲ Amaziah Church's  
grave marker  
(Marianne Galliford)



▲ William Lyon Mackenzie  
(Toronto Historical Board)

His son, Orange Church (b.1801, d.1864), who had married Susan Farraud (1803-1847) and had nine children, took over his father's holdings and the mill progressed. In 1833, he replaced his father's grist mill with a three storied frame building. He began to hold Reform political meetings in 1834 on the second floor of this enormous structure. A meeting that caused quite a stir in the village was held on November 11, 1834, when William Lyon Mackenzie and Samuel Lount were the guest speakers.

The news of the gathering at Church's Mill reached York, where The Town Line Blazers, who originated from Limerick, heard about it and Harry Cole sent his son, Joshua, who rode his faithful steed Eclipse, to rally up the supporters, who were opposed to Mackenzie's tyrant ways. A meeting was held on November 10th to plan a strategy for the following night's political meeting. The rabble-rousers turned out at Church's Mill, armed with bludgeons made of hickory wood to down the Grits. Attending the political meeting to hear Mackenzie and Lount speak were Highlanders from Glengarry, Frenchmen from Lower Canada and lumberjacks, who were working on Ostrander's timber.

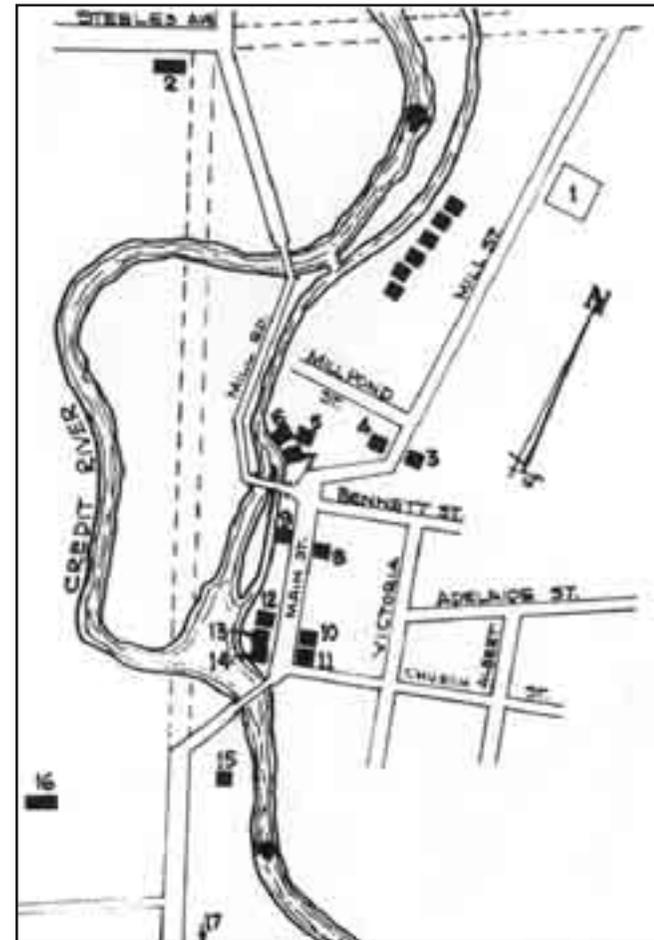
Lount's speech was poignant, as he spoke fluently on, "the bravery of the Canadian people and their loyalty to British ideals. The government has condemned the constitution of this country, which has given the Governor General of Canada greater power than the King possesses in Great Britain."

Mackenzie then delivered his speech, followed by Martin Switzer, who proposed a resolution approving Mackenzie's platform and urged its adoption with armed forces if required. The Blazers peppered the speakers on the platform with rotten eggs and a skirmish ensued, as the Blazers, hickory bludgeons aloft, attacked the conservative rivals in full force. One Blazer positioned himself at the exit to attack whomever attempted to leave the hall. In the scuffle, Tories also fled and he sent 15 men into the water, eight of which were Tories. Mackenzie and Lount were driven from the platform and had to flee the building. The meetings continued until 1837 when the Mackenzie Rebellion took place in Toronto on December 4th.

Orange Church was recorded as a trustee of the Churchville Cemetery in 1842. When records were started to be kept in 1865, he was not on the list of trustees, as he had died in 1864. Church's Mill was closed down around this time.



▲ Downtown Churchville



▲ Map of Churchville

The year, Amaziah Church passed away, 1831, there were a number of new businesses established in the thriving village: Miner's Distillery, Howland's Store, Richard Paynter's Tannery and Wiman's General Store and Daniel Row had a stave and shingle factory.

Erastus Wiman, who was born in 1793, in Paris, Oneida, New York, arrived in Churchville in 1830 with his wife, Theresa, and opened a store on a quarter acre (0.1 ha) of Lot 15, Con. 3, WHS, purchased from Thomas Stoyell of Toronto for £30 (\$75). On July 2, 1831, he ran this advertisement in the *Brampton Christian Guardian*:

### Erastus Wiman's General Store

Churchville, July 2, 1831

#### Merchandise

Dry goods, groceries, glass, cloth, flannels, calicoes, chintz, muslins, scarfs, gloves, thread, pins, needles, tapes, hosiery, Ladies straw bonnets. Sythes, tobacco, powder, shot, putty, ox chains, cast steel axes.

Goods sold at reduced prices for cash or produce of most kinds. Ashes will also be taken in payment for goods.

*(Ashes were used to make soap.)*

On May 9, 1834, Erastus purchased 100 acres (40 ha) of the west half of Lot 14, Con. 3, from William Patrick for £125 (\$313). On May 15, 1834, he sold the store to William Leslie. He died on September 19, 1834, and was buried in the Churchville Cemetery with his friend Amaziah Church. His son, Erastus, registered a plan for subdividing his father's acreage on July 6, 1855, which was surveyed by James Bridgeland, a provincial land surveyor. In 1888, the Cemetery Board purchased a small section of the Wiman property for \$200 and it was registered in memory of Erastus Wiman.

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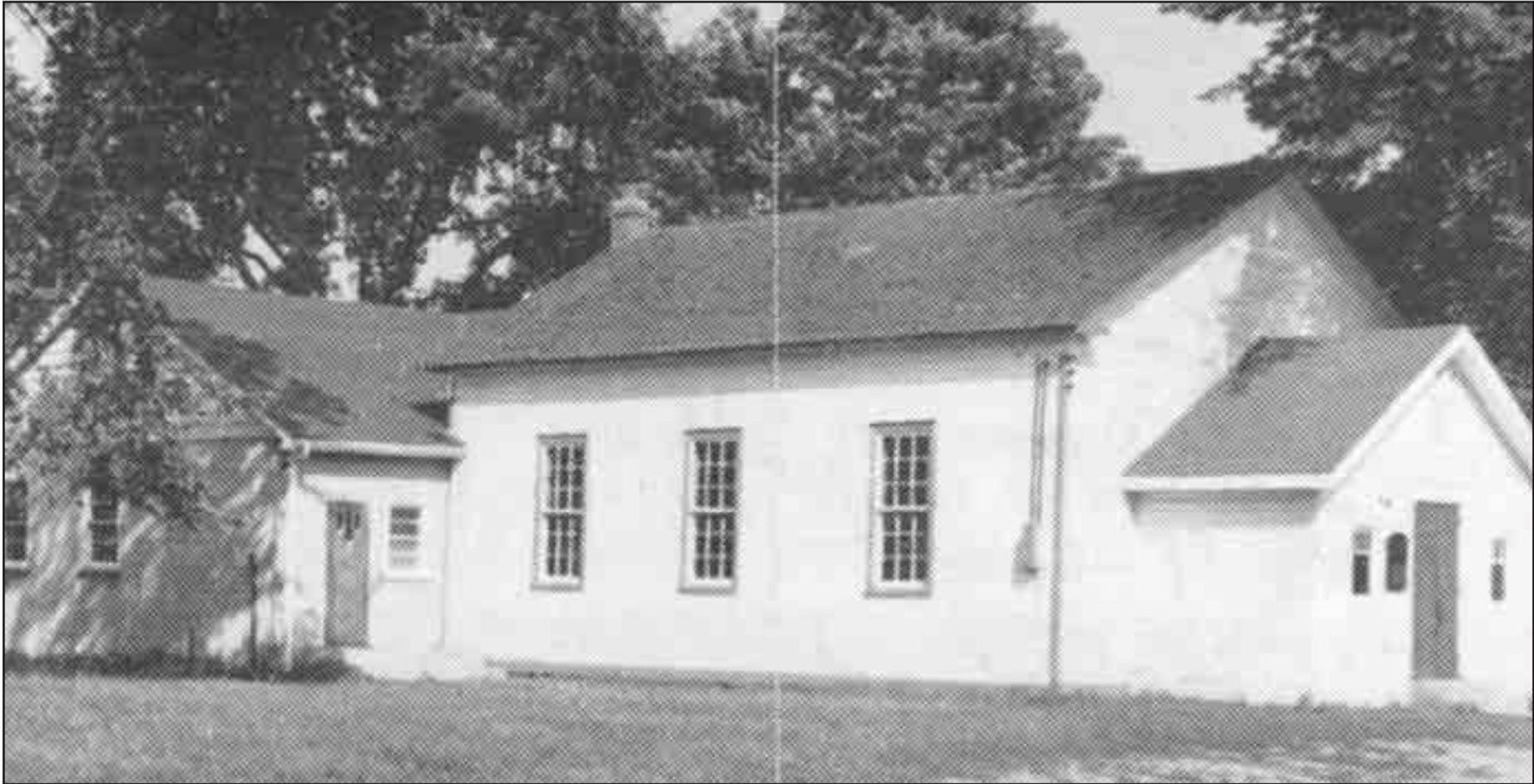
▲ Early House and Hotel

Erastus Jr. went to New York, where he was a partner in R.G. Dunn and Company, a mercantile agency. He was instrumental in the founding of the Dominion and Montreal Telegraph companies that became organized into the Great North Western Telegraph Company in 1880 and he was elected president in 1881. He died on February 9, 1904, at St. George, Staten Island, New York.

Churchville was an exceptionally prime area for white pine lumber, which was in demand in England and the United States. As in Meadowvale, it became an important industry that drew purchases from as far away as Lower Canada. Farmers became lumberjacks and joined French Canadian experts in the field, cutting and shipping sleds of lumber over the snow packed roads. Wheat farming also became part of the small hamlet's economy. With the wheat milling progression, men were hired to "team" the barrels of flour to the town of Port Credit, where it would be shipped to other areas. The men were paid \$1.50 a day.

The Churchville residents were strong in the Methodist faith. There were three Methodist denominations, Primitive, Episcopal and Wesleyan Methodist, with the Episcopal being the strongest. Services for the Episcopal were held as early as 1827. They were served by travelling ministers, John Carroll and John Black, from York, who held a service every second Thursday in the Church's Mill. It has been written that Rev. Carroll received \$1.50 for four month's work and a pattern for a pair of overalls at the local store. The Primitive were included in the York Mission Circuit in 1831 when Reverend Lauden visited and held services. In 1835, Reverend William Lyle took over. They built a chapel in 1839 but by 1853 interest had faded out. The Episcopalians erected a small white frame building in 1845 to conduct services on Sunday morning and evening. The first minister was Reverend Anderson. The Sons of Temperance Hall was on the same site and used for Sunday School classes and meetings. The community involvement included church socials, teas, entertainment concerts and picnics, mostly involving the churches for which anniversaries were always a time of celebration.

The Wesleyans utilized the Episcopal chapel until they built a 30 by 40 foot (9m x 12m) brick church across the road at a cost of \$300, which was dedicated on March 1, 1857, with Reverends Wood, Dixon and Jones handling three services. It was renovated and had stone



### ▲ Churchville United Church

*(Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)*

added on the front in 1864. Records of meetings of the Trustees began in 1865 when the Board consisted of Fletcher Hall, William Whitehead, Richard Willis, William Elliott, Francis Birdsall, J.E. Pointer and William Thomson. When Fletcher Hall left in 1873, Levi Hall was appointed to be a trustee and he became the secretary for a number of years. In 1884, all Methodist denominations were united and services were held in the brick church and the Episcopal's white frame church was used as a Sunday School.

The Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Church amalgamated in 1925 to become the United Church of Canada and the

church became the Churchville United Church. In August, 1950, a thunderstorm caused the brick front of the church to shift so that the door would not open, therefore, it was constituted unsafe and the Episcopal white frame church again became the church and the brick one was torn down in 1952. The church was renovated with the carpenter in charge being Jake Roher and a new Sunday School was built on the rear of the building. The church closed down in 1970 and the congregation went to Huttonville. This building is now owned by Mae Hughes.

St. John's Anglican Church was built in 1844 with Reverend MacGeorge of Streetsville as pastor. It was erected under the Streetsville Parish. It closed around 1860 and was reopened for services in 1878 until 1885 when it again closed. It was located on the Creditview Road and has been demolished.

In 1892, Mr. R. Madden became the caretaker of the non-denominational Churchville Cemetery. He received \$2 for the digging of each grave, which was paid by the person responsible for the funeral. It was his only compensation. In 1895, John Marchment became caretaker and out of his \$2 he had to give 50¢ to the treasurer. Marchment did receive \$3 for cutting the grass and weeding. Thomas Reeve was asked in 1891 to sell two acres (0.8 ha) to extend the cemetery, which was accomplished at \$100 an acre (hectare). In 1892, Mr. D. J. McClure erected a fence at \$1.86 a rod (5 m). In 1893, pine, oak, elm and maple trees were planted, as well as posts and chains added at the front of the cemetery. Notices were posted in 1894 by the Trustees that read, "No horse or dog is allowed within these grounds saving those horses drawing the hearse." In 1898, the cost of a plot ranged from \$2 to \$6. The officers of the Board were D. Neelands, president, Alex Hutton, vice president, George Wilson, treasurer, and Levi S. Hall, secretary.



▲ Churchville Cemetery, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Dedicated Churchville people donated their time to maintaining the cemetery over the years. In 1969, Ian Davidson took over the task of secretary/treasurer until 1984. For the past 20 years, Marianne Galliford has supervised the cemetery. She fought for seven years to have the Cemetery designated a heritage site, which took place on June 17, 1991, and a plaque was installed in August.

Economic prosperity prevailed and new industries came into the area. By 1847, when the population hovered at 200, Churchville boasted: two grist mills, two saw mills, three dry goods and grocery stores, two wagon and carriage factories, two blacksmiths, two tanneries, two cabinet makers, two cooperages, a shoemaker, a tavern, two saddle and harness makers, one common school, S.S #14, one female school, a Post Office, opened in 1836, operated by Mr. D. Perry (which closed down on July 15, 1918), a Methodist Episcopal Meeting House, the headquarters of two missionaries and Row's stove, shingle and lath mill. In May, 1854, a fire broke out in Daniel Row's factory, now steam operated. Neighbours came to the rescue and the fire was extinguished before it consumed the Village. A few buildings received fire damage and Row lost a considerable amount of shingles. Fortunately, everyone had fire insurance.



▲ Churchville Schoolhouse



▲ Central Churchville

In 1856, the town also consisted of three blacksmiths, two carpenters, only one cooperage operated by John Allport, two tailors, two hotels, two Inn keepers, only one tannery, four wagon makers, two shoe makers, a Justice of the Peace and was much more advanced than Meadowvale.

Sophia Emily Reeve, the daughter of Hannah Simpson and John T. Reeve (John bought 16 acres [6.3 ha] of Lot 14 from Erastus Wiman in 1877-1878 for \$800), said in later years that all the food at her home in Churchville was prepared on Saturday for Sunday, so that no work was done on the Sabbath, and the boys had to clean their boots for Sunday service. Two of her chores were washing the back stairs and cleaning the kitchen knives. On Sunday, the children could not even use their swing which was located in the driving shed. Their father would throw the swing over a beam on Saturday and it would not be put down until Monday morning. And “that was that.”

With the depletion of the forests, the Village turned to wheat milling as its main industry. By 1860 the population peaked at 400. After Brampton was chosen as the County seat at Confederation in 1867, Churchville’s population declined, as people moved to the more industrious areas or residents worked at jobs far afield.



◀ Orange Church Jr.

Amaziah’s grandson, Orange Church, was born in 1875 to son Edwin and wife, Annie Gray. They moved to Streetsville in 1883 and he became a newspaper man at age 18 when he and Vance Statia purchased *The Streetsville Review* in 1893. He married Lena May Watson in 1899 and they had three daughters, Pearle, Lillian and Beatrice. He went on to be a councillor in 1914 and then Streetsville’s Reeve, 1918-1924 and 1929-1939, and Warden of Peel County in 1924. He sold the paper in 1943. Orange Church II died in 1947 and was buried in the cemetery where his grandfather and father were interred.

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▲ Churchville



▲ *former Lloyd Golden's Store, 2002* (Kathleen A. Hicks)

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In 1877, a writer of the era stated, "Churchville, from its location on the Credit River, has the best water privileges of any place in the country." Granted, the water line has diminished in the past century because of the depletion of trees along its banks to its mouth in the Port Credit area. Down through the decades, Churchville had flourished with mills and factories and moved ahead faster than the other communities in the Township and was a productive agricultural basin for prosperity and farming success. It could have prospered more, however it languished when the Credit Valley Railway wended its way through the Township in 1879 and by-passed the tiny hamlet. Gradually, the population became less and farming became passe. The once prosperous village moved quietly into the 20th century.

In the late 1940s, Toronto Township had not been able to organize a fire department in Meadowvale Village, so in 1950 a representative approached Churchville store owner Lloyd Golden and Tom Cattle, a retired City of Toronto fireman, about forming a fire brigade. Agreeing that the Village and surrounding communities required fire protection, Golden and Cattle commandeered 23 volunteers, who were supervised by Tom, as Platoon Chief, and the Churchville Fire Department got underway in 1951.

The Department used Ollie Burton's garage to house the 1942 Ford Truck that Toronto Township provided. Golden had a siren put on the roof of his store and three of the volunteers' phones were utilized for emergency calls, Golden's, Albert "Ab" Callaghan's and Al Kean's.

A meeting of Toronto Township Council on June 17, 1953, resolved, "And whereas Council deems it necessary to properly house and protect the Fire Equipment of the Township therefore be it resolved that the Solicitor be instructed to immediately draw up an option to purchase between the Township and Mr. O. Burton of Churchville for the purchase of Burton's garage for the sum of \$4,000 to be used as a Township Fire Hall."

Tom Cattle retired in June, 1954, and Ab Callaghan became Platoon Chief with Al Kean as District Chief. Gordon Galliford joined the department in 1966. He became Captain, then District Chief, a position he held until he retired in June, 1993, after 27 years of dedicated service. John Hockett took over this position. Ab Callaghan remained Platoon Chief for 40 years and retired in 1994, then Warren Piper took over for a year, followed by Paul Carpe.



▲ *Churchville Fire Department* (Paul Carpe)

Upon Ab's retirement, the Department held a going-away party in Eldorado Park in Brampton. It is presently in the works to name a park after this dedicated community volunteer. And firefighting runs in the Callaghan family: Ab's son, Dan, is a Captain at Brampton Fire Department's Station #2 on Bramalea Road; his daughter, Kathy, was a volunteer for several years with Churchville; his granddaughter, Lindsay, is with the Toronto Fire Department and was the only girl on the Department's Firefighters calendar last year; and his grandson, Mackenzie, a Churchville volunteer, is going to Fire College in Toronto, making three generations of firefighters.

In 1974, Churchville was amalgamated with the Brampton Fire Department. In October, 1980, the house next door to the Fire Hall caught on fire and before it could be extinguished, the Fire Hall roof and some records were burned. The Hall roof had to be completely rebuilt and the interior was restored and was reopened the following summer. The same building is used today. In 1994, there were 14 volunteers still under Platoon Chief Ab Callaghan. Over the years there have only been four Platoon Chiefs and 10 District Chiefs at Station 217. A 50th anniversary was celebrated on July 7, 2001, at the Peel Regional Police Association building at 10675 Mississauga Road, Brampton.



▲ Churchville Fire at Firehall, 1980 (Paul Carpe)

#### INFORMATION

These members of the Churchville Fire Department dedicated over 25 years of volunteer service and were the backbone of the Association, which consisted of only 89 members over the 50 years.

Albert Callaghan - 43 years (died Dec. 8, 2003)

Al Kean - 35 years

Sid Manser - 35 years

Sid Galliford - 32 years

Gord Galliford - 27 years

Jack Harpley - 25 years

Joe Roeterink - 25 years

Submitted by Paul Carpe

Platoon Chief

Churchville Fire Department



▲ Churchville Fire Department (Paul Carpe)

In 2004, there are still 14 volunteers under Platoon Chief Paul Carpe, including a father and two sons, Glenn Mottershead and sons, Jeff and Jason, and Michael Kneebone, whose father-in-law also served as a volunteer. His parents came to Churchville over 75 years ago. Many of the volunteers have gone on to become full time employees of various fire departments in the Region of Peel.

When the Fire Department was started, not much was left of the Churchville Village of bygone days. In 1955, United Lands Corporation made land purchases and the booming farming community converted to thriving subdivisions.

Being on the Credit River, constant flooding devastated the village. On October 15/16, 1954, Hurricane Hazel brought about the newly founded Credit Valley Conservation Authority declaring the area a flood plain. Commercial activity ceased and business establishments were converted to residences, such as Golden's store that closed on the May 24th weekend, 1967. The Hydro installed street lights in 1963 and Consumer's Gas became available in September, 1975. In 1973, new land regulations were set out and in 1974, an Act was passed and Churchville was included in the Parkway Belt, where the 407 Highway is now located, that cut across the Region of Peel and became part of the City of Brampton.

In 1988, John Hockett and Marianne Galliford went to Jim Holmes, president of the Meadowvale Village Community Association, to get information on how to get Heritage District designation. Then a Residents Association was formed under John Hockett's initiative for the purpose of having Churchville designated a heritage district. The Brampton Heritage Board printed up a booklet called "Churchville: Reminders of the Past," which included drawings of 27 dwellings within the village with descriptions for this purpose. A heritage study was done by the City of Brampton and the Brampton Heritage Board. The Brampton Council enacted a By-law on October 10, 1990, to preserve Churchville as a heritage district. It was approved by the Ontario Municipal Board on May 2, 1991. The interested parties, who had worked diligently throughout their quest, saw their efforts materialize. Since then, many young couples have moved here to raise their families in a country atmosphere. John and Marianne are no longer involved with the Heritage Board, but John lives in a heritage house and Marianne's family has owned property in Churchville for over 70 years.

In 1988, when a gas pipe line was being installed, an archaeological dig was done and an 11th century Woodland Indian village and an 18th century Iroquois Indian village were uncovered on the west side of the Credit River on the Pengilley property, where strawberry fields once dominated. A long house and many artifacts were uncovered and the artifacts are now housed at Guelph University.

Like Meadowvale Village, Churchville, a community that was once vibrant with activity, is still thriving and remembered. The streets are quiet and have a quaint country appearance, where only a few of the former buildings remain and newer homes have been built. The last historical memories of the small village, founded by Amaziah Church, are a huge monument dedicated to the hamlet's memory that was constructed in 1971 that sits on the site of the brick Church that was torn down after a bad storm in 1950, the old Sunday School building, roads named Churchville and Church, the picturesque Churchville Park and a two and a half acre (1 ha) cemetery with weather worn tombstones of Churchville's early pioneers and a newer section where descendants are still being buried. Only Creditview Stables owned by Jim Rush and the Perennial Garden Centre operated by Ross and Sarah Pengilley remain in business.



▲ Former Sunday School, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Churchville Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)

In 1995/97 when the 407 ETR Highway was being put through, the Canadian Highways International Constructors company moved the 142 year old McClure house and 155 year old Elliott/Davidson house to where Churchville slumbered. Having been declared an heritage conservation site reserved for heritage homes, the area has been revived. You can not reach Churchville anymore via Creditview Road because of the 407 ETR. You have to travel up Hurontario Street to Steeles Avenue and go west four kilometers (2.5 miles) until you see the Churchville sign on your left.

Churchville has become a favorite movie location, because of its diversity of blending the old with the new and the benefits of the country atmosphere and the picturesque Credit River. To quote John Hockett, "Amaziah Church knew what he was doing when he chose this area and would indeed be proud today to know he has not been forgotten."



▲ Firehall, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Fire Hall, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Churchville Road Sign (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Brampton Mayor Peter Robinson (1991-2000) opens Churchville Bridge after refurbishing in 1996.

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▲ Churchville Bridge (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Credit River, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Aerial View of Churchville, 1990. Taken for Churchville's 175th Anniversary (Vernon (Bud) Young)

## MEMORIES



▲ William J. Teggart,  
1956 (William J. Teggart)

"I have pleasant memories of the days back in 1956 when as a young rookie constable I patrolled the beautiful little village of Churchville. There was a small Fire Hall operated by volunteers, where we often stopped our cruisers to chat with the old timers and other local residents. It was "community based policing" at its best, long before the term had been coined.

"I recall the cold fall night of October 31, 1971, when the village was shocked by one of the most brutal and sadistic murders in the history of the region. I was a Detective Sergeant in charge of the investigation into the murder of Hubert Smith, a 19 year old labourer from Brampton, whose body was found in a ditch full of blood near the north entrance to the village. It was the scene of a desperate struggle for life by the victim, who had been stabbed 14 times and bore the defense wounds on his hands which were cut to the bone and the broken off blade of a butcher knife was left protruding from his skull. His older brother, Victor Smith, was found staggering on the road nearby, suffering from severe stab wounds.

"A major investigation commenced, which resulted in the arrest of 22 year old Clifford Lawrence and 24 year old David Jefferson, itinerant workers from the Brampton area. The suspects were jointly

charged with the murder of Hubert Smith and the attempted murder of his brother Victor. If you can imagine, the total paltry sum received in this brutal murder and robbery was \$22.50.

"Lawrence and Jefferson received long indeterminate sentences and were incarcerated in the Ontario Hospital for the criminally insane in Penetanguishene, Ontario. Victor Smith recovered completely.

"The murder of Hubert Smith has long since been forgotten and a house stands near the site where his body was found. But I like to remember better days when I took my children, Bill and Laurie, to their favourite spot at the bend of the river near the bridge and go fishing for a day. We had good times and a lot of fun with the fine folks in the beautiful village of Churchville."

William J. Teggart  
Former Police Chief (1987-1990)



▲ Detective Sergeant W. J. Teggart with suspect  
Clifford Lawrence, 1971 (William J. Teggart)

## The Four Corners of Derry West

**D**erry West was founded in 1819 by Irishman, George Graham (b.1784, d.1863), who had travelled to this area from New York with the John Beatty caravan and his brothers, Thomas, Joseph and James, and two sisters, Sarah and Margaret. He had been born in County Tyrone, Ireland.

During this trip, he had experienced trouble at the American border when an altercation ensued with the guards. Graham struck a guard with his whip and he was chased several miles (kilometres), but managed to elude his pursuers. He had to hide and people from the caravan brought him food during the night. He did not rejoin the group until they reached the Sixteen Mile Creek at Oakville, when he knew his pursuers had turned back.

The Grahams were of Scottish ancestry, staunch Anglicans, having experienced religious persecution by Roman Catholics in Ireland before coming to America. They had a family story that they were descended from a warrior of prowess, who in 420 A.D. during the reign of Fergus II, breached the Roman wall and won it in the name of Grahams' Dyke. (The Roman's invaded Britain in the 1st Century A.D. and called Scotland Caledonia.



▲ George Graham's House built in 1839  
(Region of Peel Archives)

TO WARD OFF THE SCOTTISH PICTS OR CALEDONIANS, the Roman Empire Hadrian constructed a wall, two decades later Antonine's Wall was built. These two walls served as defense against the Caledonians during Roman occupation, which lasted until 409.) The Graemes (later Graham) moved to Ireland, then James and Richard Graeme brought their family to America in 1812 and settled in Pennsylvania.

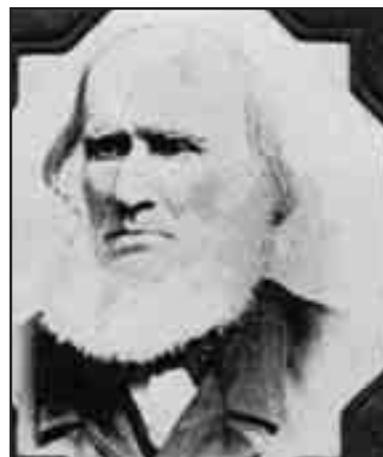
George and his wife, Mary Henderson (1785-1865), who had married in 1805, had five children, Mary, 1808, Thomas, 1811, Annie, 1813, James, 1816, and Joseph (Jose), 1818. They got settled on their grant, 100 acres (40 ha), east half of Lot 12, Con. 1, EHS. The paperwork on the part of the British government was slow and therefore George's grant was signed on June 2, 1823. George built a 12 by 16 foot (3.7m x 4m) log house with a bark roof, a chimney of stones and mud, with one window and a floor of crudely cut cedar boards. He plowed the fields around the stumps left by the trees he had used for his house and planted his crops and buried potato cuttings around the stumps, which would give a substantial winter crop. They had Eliza Jane in 1821 and Sarah, 1824.

Derry West owes its name to the Grahams, who owned most of the land from Hurontario Street (Centre Road) to the northeast corner of Toronto Township where Thomas founded Grahamsville. To quote Mrs. Margaret McCracken from the Grahams' history in the Derry West Women's Institute scrapbooks, "Two villages in Toronto Township, Grahamsville (or Graham's Corners founded by Thomas Graham) and Derry West owe their names to the Grahams. May the future years of Toronto Township and Peel County not obliterate the true identity and great historical meaning attached to these two small villages in Peel County." When a name was requested for the Post Office in 1851, George Graham submitted Derry Walls and the Postal Department changed it to Derry West. He had wanted to call the area where his grant was Derry Walls in honour of his forefathers, who aided in holding the gates of Londonderry, Ireland, in 1690, during the Battle of the Boyne. This song states it, "Full many a cold and wintry night and sultry summer's day, Have passed and gone since James took flight, from Derry walls away." (referring to King James II). Brother Thomas (1781-1844) was granted 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 15, Con. 2, EHS, on November 26, 1819, the first grant in the New Survey. He sold 20 acres (8 ha) to Alexander Broddy in 1823 for £30 (\$75) and 80 acres (32 ha) to Hugh Graham in 1827 for £75 (\$188). Thomas bought 200 acres (81 ha) of Lot 15, Con. 6, EHS, from grantees John and William Leeper on May 1, 1828, for £50 (\$125), where he founded Grahamsville. According to William Perkins Bull, George spent a lot of time taking care of Thomas' Grahamsville property shortly after they arrived while Thomas was in New York. Making

it look as though George did not live in Derry West during those first years. But, he is the founder and the families that came here from New York in 1819 did settle here. Thomas did not purchase the property where Grahamsville is located until 1828, so one has to wonder what the true facts are where the founding of Grahamsville is concerned. Thomas also received the east half of Lot 14, Con. 6, in 1831, which he sold to Thomas Phillips, and the west half of Lot 14, Con. 1, in 1840, which he sold to Andrew Cheyne in 1842, who owned the other half as well as his 100 acre (40 ha) grant of Lot 15, Con. 2. James was granted 100 acres of Lot 13, Con.1, in 1840 and Haslit and Hugh Graham were given 100 acres each of Lot 14, Con. 2, in 1846. George received a 100 acre grant of Lot 13, Con. 2, EHS, on April 15, 1836, which he sold to William Robinson and David Neelands. He received the west half 100 acres of Lot 12 in 1848.

George founded the Orange Lodge LOL No.10 1822. His Lodge was part of the big John Rutledge contingent that went to the York (Toronto) Orangemen's Parade in 1822. Rutledge was George's brother-in-law, being married to sisters. It was called the Graham's Lodge because there were so many Grahams involved. Another controversy arises here because in Perkins Bull's *Boyne To Brampton*, he states that John Rutledge formed the first gathering of Orangemen in 1820 in Thomas Graham's Tavern in Grahamsville.

In 1839, George built a brick house and had another house built on the east half of the property. His farm was passed on to his son, Jose.



▲ (L.) James Graham, (R.) George Graham (1819-1894)  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Thomas Graham, son of George, and wife, Mary Ann Morrison, on their 60th anniversary in March, 1898, grandparents of Harry. (Region of Peel Archives)

Son, Thomas, who had married Mary Ann Morrison (1819-1903) in 1838, lived in a second house, where they raised 11 children. Thomas' son, John, took over this house and also raised a large family there. In these early pioneer days, men were trusting and would make conditions with each other and allow others to live on their land, build on it, set up business and even farm it. This is probably why so many dates are difficult to prove.

George Graham died on June 11, 1863, at 79 years and wife, Mary, on May 1, 1865. They were both buried in the Anglican Cemetery.

Left: George Graham's gravestone.

Right: Thomas Graham's gravestone ▶

(Kathleen A. Hicks)



His son, Thomas, was active in the community, too, and started Orangedale Lodge LOL No. 5 in 1834 and was master for 40 years.

He was a councillor on the Toronto Township Council for 1875, 1876, 1878, 1879. He saw the 60th anniversary of LOL No. 5 Lodge in 1894 and died April 5, 1898. Thomas' son, Thomas Harry Graham, was on Councillor 1932 to 1936 and Deputy Reeve 1937 and 1938.

On July 7, 1908, John Graham lost his daughter, Mary Olive, to tuberculosis. Shortly after this tragedy, his wife, Eliza Armstrong, also died of the disease. Then in the fall of 1908, his house burned down and a family heirloom was snatched from the fire by Harry Graham as the roof collapsed. It was a four foot long (1.2 m) toy fire engine that third great Uncle Thomas, who had been a New York fireman at age 18, had brought to Upper Canada.



▲ The fire engine, Harry Graham, John, Stephen, and Harry Jr. (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ The last Graham residence, 1910 (Region of Peel Archives)

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John built a two storey brick house to take its place and it was still standing in 1960 when there was only one Graham residing in Toronto Township, Harry Graham, who lived at Derry Road East and Cawthra Road (First Line East). Harry's great, great grandfather George's farm had been retained by six generations. What a proud heritage! He sold his farm that year to Gordon Hutchinson, and moved to Brampton. Hutchinson remodeled the house and sold it to a Mr. Todd in 1968. It was eventually torn down. The original Lot 12, Con. 1, property was sold on September 30, 1955, by great grandson John Donald Graham to John Ursino for \$42,000.

A church called Hurontario Church or Carter's Anglican Church was the foresight of Joseph Carter, who arrived here with his wife, Sarah, and two children with the Beattys and Grahams to take up his 200 acre (81 ha) grant, Lot 11, Con. 1, WHS. This conscientious and public spirited man was a highly respected teacher. He had run an Academy he had founded in New York that had 200 pupils and made him \$2,000 a year. He was also a Justice of the Peace. He had brought his 200 book library with him, said to be, "one of the finest collections in Upper Canada." He also had trekked with him



▲ Derry West Corners, 1908 (Region of Peel Archives)

mahogany bedsteads, tables, chairs, a cooking stove and carpets. While he was in York upon the Irish contingents pursuit of grants, he met with Reverend John Strachan, who assured him of having support in establishing a church and school in the New Survey. Strachan suggested that, "In order to make up for the scarcity of clergy, schoolmasters should be allowed to read the Church services and approved sermons on Sundays in their schoolhouses, in places where there were no churches."

In June, 1827, he decided a church was needed and had it built on his own property. The neighbours gathered, the Armstrongs, Tilts, Grahams and Rutledges, and up went the church, which was an ornate building fashioned much like an English cathedral. At a meeting, 75¢ was donated and a man took it and went across the street to the tavern and spent it on whiskey, which was used to christen the cornerstone. When Reverend Strachan met Carter, he said, "I hear that this church of yours was begun in drunkenness and ribaldry - disgraceful." Upon these words, he refused Holy Orders for Carter's church. Carter was so despondent and discouraged by the insult and rejection, he put his farm on the market in September.

On October 4th, auctioneer Henry Mosley conducted an auction for Carter's sale of goods and property, listing household furniture, livestock and implements of husbandry. His property was sold to William Orr. Carter returned to New York a disappointed man.

As it turned out, Reverend James Magrath of St. Peter's Anglican Church in Erindale did preside there as this was part of his church district. The Presbyterians also held services in the Anglican Church until they built a church in 1840. The second Anglican Church was constructed of mud bricks with the cornerstone, laid on September 14, 1842, by Reverend R.J. MacGeorge of Streetsville. The Church closed down in 1873, and the organ was given to the Campbell's Cross Church in Chinguacousy. It stood empty for many years and then was demolished. The last person to be buried in the Anglican Cemetery was Mary Graham in 1936. By this time, it was described as "full except for some vacancies in some family plots." It had once been enhanced by 24 elms, maples and ironwood trees and encased by a cedar post fence topped by barbed wire, now it was in a deplorable state. In 1973, the Derry West Women's Institute installed a Derry West heritage plaque in the cemetery, so the small community would not be forgotten. By 1982, the trees, fence and many headstones and markers were gone, but it was clean and tidy. In 2004, it has survived the rigours of time as modernization creeps up around it.

Other prominent farmers in Derry West were William Beckwith Reeve (1789-1868) and the Tilt brothers, John and James, who were born in Armagh County, Ireland. William came to Canada from England in 1821 with his wife, Diana Sophia Gates (1792-1867) and two children. He purchased 100 acres (40 ha), the north half of Lot 8, Con. 1, WHS, from William Hill for £45 (\$113) then in 1827, he purchased the south half from Philip Cody of Sydenham (Dixie) for £50 (\$125). They had three more children and their farm prospered and their family thrived and married into local families such as the Gardners and Simpsons and gave them many grandchildren. William was a magistrate in 1843,



▲ John Tilt  
(Region of Peel Archives)

justice of the peace, 1850-1851, and a census agent for Peel, 1851. When he died in 1868, his farm was sold for \$11,960.

The Tilts came to Derry West in 1822. John Tilt (1798-1876) met and married a young lady named Elizabeth (1796-1880) and they had



▲ William Tilt's Farmhouse (Region of Peel Archives)

eight children, Thomas (1827-1861), Mary, Jane, Elizabeth (mother of Mrs. Timothy Eaton), John (1832-1840), James (1835-1889), Joseph (1837-1905), and William (1838-1910). John received a grant of 100 acres (40 ha) north half of Lot 12, Con. 1, WHS. He built a frame house known as Derry West Cottage. He and Elizabeth operated a grocery and liquor store out of the front of their house. He received his first liquor licence in 1835. John also operated a store at Westervelt Corners. He was a trader, storekeeper and magistrate and acted in a legal capacity in Division Courts. According to an item in an 1861 *Orangeville Sun* on the Orangeville Division Court, 20 cases were on the docket and among the legal gentlemen present was John Tilt of Derry West. John bought the south half of Lot 13, Con. 1, WHS, in 1860 for \$760, part of the James Beatty grant and his son, William, built a red brick house and barn there. William married Nancy Heane (1843-1884), and they had five children, William, James, Fred, Elizabeth and Minnie. The Tilts were fond of horses and

had a livery stable on Hurontario Street. William raised race horses, Oxford Down sheep and Whiterock hens, which he entered in fairs around the province and won many prizes. William's son, James, would follow in his father's footsteps. James was the first breeder of Hackney horses in Peel County. In 1886, he became a successful exhibitor and entered his horses in the Toronto Industrial Exhibition (became the Canadian National Exhibition in 1912) and also Guelph, London and Ottawa exhibitions, securing many prizes. John's son, James, became a lawyer in Toronto and was a member of the firm Mulock, Tilt, Miller and Crowther.

When John and Elizabeth moved to Brampton in 1871, son, Joseph, took over the farm. He and his wife, Jennie Blackburn (1852-1908), who would have eight children, had a grocery store for awhile, then the house was used as a hotel. In 1880, the house was hit by lightning and burned, a loss of \$3,500. Joseph had it rebuilt by Harry Hill, who used lumber and bricks made on Joseph's farm.

John's much younger brother, James (1817-1879), became a shoemaker and Innkeeper. He had a frame Hotel at the four corners with a shoe shop next door, situated between the Moffatts and Moores. He and his wife, Jane, had six children. When he lost his hotel in the fire of 1865, he rebuilt. Two of his sons became shoemakers and went to Chicago to find work and eventually became one of the leading shoe and boot makers in the Windy City with J.E. Tilt & Company. It was James's daughter, Margaret, who married a Moffatt and died tragically in the fire.

Joseph moved to Brampton in 1890 and his nephew, William, son of brother William, and his wife, Jennie, took over John Tilt's farm. William added a brick addition onto the homestead to accommodate his wife and children. Their housekeeper was Mrs. Ross. William Tilt was still on the property in 1953 when some acreage (hectares) was expropriated for the highway. But the Land Registry papers state that Frank Ball was the reputed owner. The house still stands today at 7140 Hurontario Street.

John Golden purchased the west half, 100 acres (40 ha), Lot 10, Con. 1, EHS, from Alexander Thomson for £25 (\$63) on April 12, 1822. This property remained in the family for five generations and it ended up being the William J. Golden Farm until he died in 1957. It was sold to Ethel and Benjamin Craig that year. Mathew Sheard built



▲ Joseph Tilt's Farmhouse, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

a house and garage at the corner in 1927. Cameron Sheard bought the southeast corner in 1939 from William Golden for \$600 and built a house and gas station, which he leased to White Rose Oil Co. Cameron bought Matt's property in 1939 and he sold it to Roy Westlake in 1946. Cameron sold his house and station to Shell Oil in 1968 and he and his wife, Bertha, moved to Brampton.

On December 27, 1849, David Hunter (1810-1857), son of Joseph and Elizabeth Hunter from Monaghan, Ireland, who settled in Derry West in 1836, purchased 98 acres (39 ha), the east half of Lot 11, Con. 1, EHS, from Kings College. Father, Joseph, who had 14 children, and his second wife, Jane, accompanied him. One year later, James Hunter purchased the west half of Lot 11. Four acres (1.6 ha) were reserved for a school lot, which was built in 1856. In October, 1851, David sold his acreage to Thomas Brown for £1,250 (\$3,125). He was married to Jean Hamilton and they had nine children and lived in a clapboard farmhouse called "The Willows" on Blue Lake Road near the village of St. George, Ontario, south of Galt. David was the father of Adelaide Sophia Hoodless, their last child, who founded the Women's Institutes in Ontario in 1897. He died several months before his famous daughter was born on February 27, 1857. His Derry West farm was purchased by David and Margaret Wedgewood



▲ Bryans' House (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ William Golden's House (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Matt Sheard's Garage and House (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Cameron Sheard's House and Service Station  
(Region of Peel Archives)

in 1908. It was last owned by a descendant and called the Robert Wedgewood Farm until 1950.

James sold his property in May, 1868, to William Harrison, then Charles Uphill bought it in 1878, and Wesley Wright in 1890 and Joseph Sheard in 1893. On September 17, 1868, James bought 197 acres (80 ha) of Joseph Carter's grant Lot 11, Con. 1, WHS, from William Cummings for \$6,000, and built a two storey red brick farm house in 1871. In 1875, his daughter, Jemima, married James McCracken and they resided with her parents. James sold 50 acres (20 ha) to McCracken for \$3,000 in January, 1882. This acreage remained in the McCracken family until 1943. James died in 1884 and his son Robert took over the Hunter farm. In November, 1884, the property was sold to Charles Hunter and he sold 47 acres (18.8 ha) to Samuel Brown in 1886 for \$3,000 and 100 acres (40 ha) for \$5,250 to George Cheyne in 1894. Today the Hunter house and property are owned by Ray and Rita Holmes, who purchased 147 acres (58.8 ha) from Luther Emerson in 1951. Ray and his family operate Derrydale Golf Course at 185 Derry Road West.

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David and Elizabeth Wiggins came from Enniskillen, Ireland, in 1856 to farm 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 12, Con. 1, WHS, next door to the Tilts, which they bought from the Crown on June 28, 1856, for £200 (\$500). They had 14 children, most of whom were born on their farm. His father, Captain John Wiggins, who had arrived with George Graham, was one of the founders of the Derry West Orange Lodge and his four sons were members. Samuel Wiggins received a grant of 50 acres (20 ha), Lot 8, Con. 1, EHS, on January 8, 1858. David sold to Thomas Sutcliffe in 1870 for \$1,916.

Other prominent farms in Derry West belonged to John and Margaret Price, started in 1833 and remained in the family until 1956 with one acre (0.4 ha) resided on by Harry Price until his death in 1966. The James Loughheed grant of 1843, Lot 7, Con. 1, EHS, stayed in the family until 1918 when it was sold to Robert and Whyte Anderson, who split their partnership in 1925 when Whyte moved across the road. Robert's farm was called "Poplarways Farm." The Department of Highways purchased four acres (1.6 ha) along its edge in 1956 for the construction of the 401. In 118 years, 1843-1961, it had six owners, but only two names, Loughheed and Anderson. Lot 9, Con. 1, WHS, S-1/2, 100 acres (40 ha), was sold to William Oliver in 1834.



▲ Captain John Wiggins



▲ Elizabeth (Harris) Wiggins

(Ellen Wiggins)



▲ Wedgewood Farm (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Margaret (Mrs. David Wedgewood), Nellie, David Wedgewood, the four Wedgewood children  
(Miss Jean Lougheed)

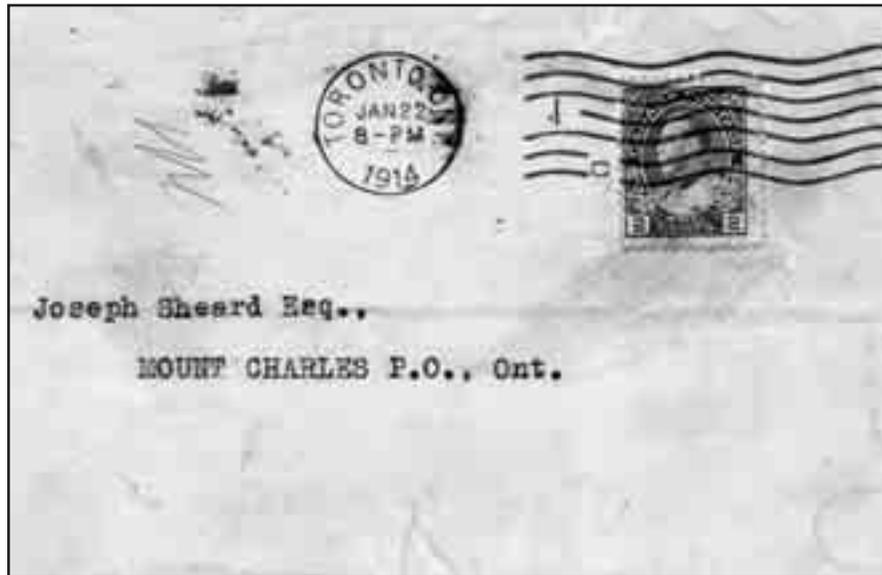


▲ Wedgewood Farm (Region of Peel Archives)

He built a storey and a half house around 1860 before he passed away in 1864. The house now sits on 20 acres (8 ha) owned by the German Canadian Club Hansa. Josiah Oliver sold 80 acres (32 ha) of the farm to Noble Giles in 1905 and after passing through several owners, it became Derrybrook Farm in 1954, owned by Kenneth Thorndyke.

The 200 acres (61 ha) of Lot 15, Con. 1, EHS, belonged to Kings College. The west half, 100 acres (40 ha) was sold to John Neelands for \$6 an acre (hectare) in 1841, the east half to Alexander Grant in 1851. In 1881, John sold to James Daley. Daley sold 100 acres (40 ha) to Simon Elliott in 1886. Elliott reneged on his payments and John sold the acreage to William Thomson in 1888. Thomson sold his farm to Frank J. Short in 1915 and Short remodeled the Neeland house's interior and added a veranda on the front. He tore the barns down in 1917 and constructed a larger barn with stables and painted it red. In 1921, he sold 52 acres (20.8 ha) for \$8,000 for the Brampton Golf Club. In 1946, he sold all the property except a small field to John Alexander for \$15,000. Alexander sold the house and barn to Isabel and Fred Stratford in 1946 for \$25,000 and built a restaurant on the west side of Hurontario and called it "The Yellow Briar." He sold most of his Lot 15 acreage and houses were built on it. The original Neeland's farm is now the southeast corner of the intersection of Steeles Avenue and Hurontario Street, where a Kaneff plaza now stands.

In 1840, the Derry West Presbyterian Church was built on Lot 10, Con. 1, WHS, across from the Anglican Church, which was on the north side of Derry Road. This was the Brown family's acreage. Services prior to this were held in the Anglican Church with Reverend Andrew Bell (1828-1836) officiating. Reverend Rintoul of Streetsville ministered to the congregation from 1836 to 1840, followed by A.S. Porter of Derry West (1840-1848) and Rev. James Pringle (1848-1886). When the church congregation merged with Brampton in 1886 and the church was no longer used for services, the building stood empty for several years and then it was demolished. John Wedgewood purchased the materials to use for a shed. Sunday School services continued in the Temperance Hall under superintendent James McCracken and Sunday School teacher Agnes Moore. Sunday School was discontinued in 1906.



▲ 1914 Envelope of Joseph Sheard of Derry West  
(Canada Post Corporation)

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The first Post Office established in Toronto Township, it has been written, was here in Derry West in 1826, but it did not last long. It was called Toronto, named for the Township, and run by Joseph Carter. It was closed when he left in 1827. A permanent Post Office was opened August 6, 1851, with Thomas McLear as post master and the people from Meadowvale came here to pick up their mail until they received a post office in 1857. William McClare took over from 1854 to 1863, followed by William Wilson (1863-1871), Thomas McCallam (1872, 1879-1882), D. Sanderson (1873-1875), Charles Armstrong (1877-1879, 1882-1883), George Earl (1885-1886), Harper McClelland (1887-1893, 1899-1900), and Henry Riddler (1893-1898). The Post Office closed down a couple of times, one being July 15, 1901 and reopened in 1902 with William Davis as post master, then April 16, 1904 and reopened in 1906 when it was moved to James Odium's Hotel. He died and his wife, Sadie, continued until 1910, followed by Campbell Steen until it closed in 1915 when rural mail delivery began on July 1st.

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT—		OFFICE CLOSED—		
6-8-1851		1-		
OFFICE RE-OPENED—		15-		
1-3-1906				
CHANGES IN NAME				
FORMER NAME				
NAME OF POSTMASTER	MILITARY STATUS	DATE OF BIRTH	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	DATE OF RESIGNATION
Thomas Mc Lear			6-8-1851	
William McClare	Shown as 20	1854	April 1854	
William Wilson			1-5-1863	6-6-1871
Jos. Mc Callam			1-4-1872	Nov. 1882
D. Sanderson			1-1-1873	27-9-1875
Charles W. Armstrong			1-1-1877	26-4-1879
Thomas Mc Callam			1-7-1879	1-4-82
C. W. Armstrong	(see general)		1882	9-4-83
George Earl			1-4-85	12-4-86
Harper McClelland			1-7-87	6-1-93
Henry Riddler			1-4-93	23-12-98
Harper McClelland			1-3-99	25-9-1900
William Davis			1-1-1902	16-4-03

▲ Post Masters' List  
(Canada Post Corporation)

The Derry West Public School was built in 1856 on the southwest corner of Lot 11, Con.1, EHS, that had been granted to Kings College. Four acres (1.6 ha) was reserved for a public school, School Section #13. The first school was constructed of logs, the second of bricks. Some of the teachers down through the years were Mr. Johnston, said to be the first, Mr. McVittie, Charlie Young Moore, Tena Tead, Emma Forkes, Henry Weir and Thomas Graham.

At a special meeting of the School Board on January 19, 1884, it was moved by Josiah Oliver, seconded by George Cheyne, that there be a new schoolhouse erected in the year 1884. A vote showed 16 in favour of a new school, eight against. A building committee consisting of Thomas Graham, George's son, Charles Uphall, David Brown, Josiah Oliver, Johnston Golden, George Evans and Len Sanderson. A location was selected on May 23rd, tenders were accepted from William Adams for mason work at \$674 and W.A. McCulloch for carpentry work, tinsmithing and painting at \$560. The building furniture cost \$1,338. The trustees were Thomas Graham, Johnston Golden,



(Top): School Class, 1909  
(Region of Peel Archives)

(Bottom left): School and  
Sheard Barn

(Bottom right): Schoolhouse,  
1966 (Nicolas Karagan)





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▲ Karagan Family, 1966 (Nicolas Karagan)

Josiah Oliver and George Cheyne. New desks were put in in December, 1922, a well was drilled in 1939 and toilets installed in 1940. In 1954, an Annex was built on the side. The school closed down in 1966. The old schoolhouse was purchased from the Board of Education on July 4, 1966, by Nick and George Karagan, who still own the property. They converted the building into a restaurant and opened the Olympic Flame Drive-In. In 1982, the building was demolished and a new one storey building was constructed and opened as the Olympic Flame Family Restaurant, which they operated until 1997. Steve and Peter Dimakarakos leased the restaurant in 1997 and renamed it Grill One. In September, 2002, Derry West Village Public School, named for Derry West by principal Jennifer Travis, opened on Twain Avenue. It is the first cluster school built by the Peel Board of Education.

Derry West had a drastic fire on a hot, windy Saturday in 1865, which caused the village to lose its prosperity. It broke out at Moffatts when hot ashes set on the back porch were fanned by a wind. The fire swept through the village, which consisted of Thomas Grafton's house,

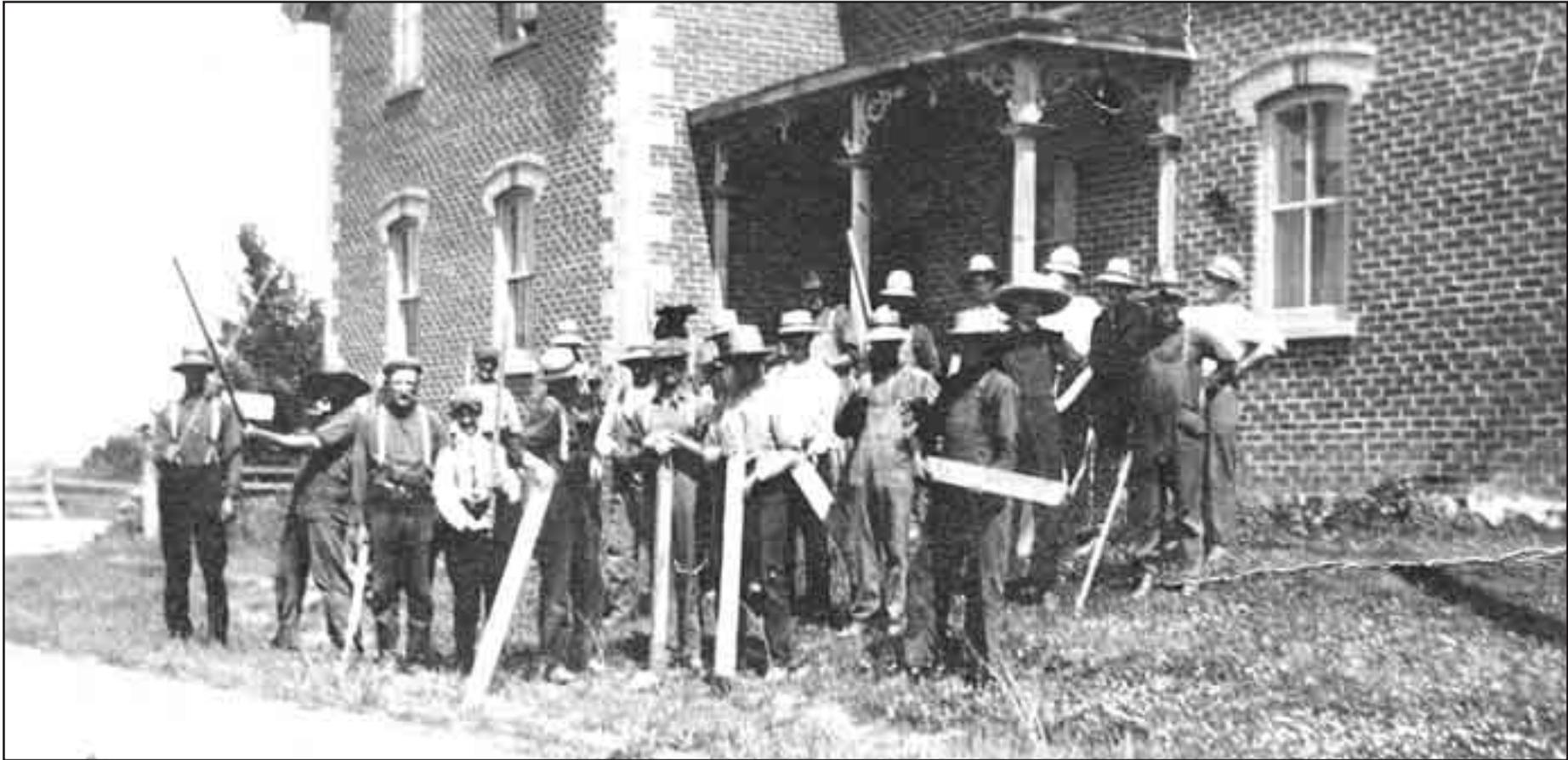
McVittees' house, a hotel/tavern, Mr. McClare's store, Sparlings and the public school on the east side of Hurontario Street. Across the road was Moore's house, James Tilt's, the shoemaker, and Moffatts. Mrs. Moffatt lost her life when she ran back into the burning house to retrieve a gold watch. About the only building left at the intersection was the school and a couple of houses. The hotel run by Francis Dundas was burned and Charles Armstrong built another on the same site. The others replaced their buildings and within a year, things were back to how they were before the fire.



▲ Fenian Raid Certificate

and hotel keeper, Thomas Grafton was the blacksmith, John Tilt, a lawyer, and James Tilt ran the grocery store and was a boot and shoe maker.

After the fire, a small red brick Armories was erected near the Anglican Church and cemetery where the Militia came to train as they were destined for the Fenian Raids in 1866. This building was torn down in 1940. Some of the Derry West men involved in the Fenian Raids were Robert Hunter, John Wiggins, three Moores, ten Grahams, three Johnstons, three Rutledges, two Odlums, two Bells and five Armstrongs. These gentlemen received land grants in northern Ontario for their involvement. At this time, Derry West's population was 100 and William Wilson was the Post Master



▲ *The Rescuers of the Temperance Hall* (Photos courtesy of Region of Peel Archives)

A Temperance Hall was built in 1870 on the northwest corner of Derry Road on land donated by James Hunter. Hunter, a staunch Presbyterian and elder of the church, saw the need for a temperate way of life for the drunken and rivalry of the men of the area. It was stipulated that when the hall was no longer needed, the property was to revert to the Hunters. When the Presbyterian Church was demolished, the Hall was used as a Sunday School until it was discontinued in 1906. Concerts and meetings were also held in the Hall. The Hall was empty for a number of years and in 1916, people began to take boards and such from the building. The farmers got aroused and in indignation said if anyone came around, the school bell would ring. When the bell rang, the rescuers would converge on the building to

prevent it from being ransacked. In 1885, a petition was taken up by the senior students of Derry West Public School to have the hotel's licence revoked because one of the teachers was often drunk and disorderly. This was one of the first Temperance acts in Toronto Township. When it was closed down, the building was eventually sold to Robert Anderson.

In 1877, Derry West had a hotel, two Churches, a Sons of Temperance Hall, a schoolhouse, a blacksmith shop, a grocery store and an Orange Hall. The Orange Hall was used for tea meetings, concerts, dramas and plays and church dinners. "The Workmen" an Insurance Fraternity held their meetings there.



▲ Dr. Charles Moore



▲ Sir William J. Gage

When Charles Young Moore was teaching at the Derry West School, William Gage, who had been born in Toronto Township and lived on the other side of Palestine, used to walk to Derry West to be taught by him. They both desired to study medicine and Moore did achieve his goal, following in his father's footsteps. His father, Doctor Charles Moore, had been Peel County's youngest doctor and had died in 1856 at age 29. Young Moore practiced in Brampton for 40 years and died in 1913. Gage did teach school at Broddytown Public School and later began a career in the publishing field. In 1910, he was president of the Toronto Board of Trade. He was knighted in 1913 and became Sir William J. Gage. He died January 13, 1921 in his 72nd year.



▲ Mrs. Thomas Graham

In 1929, the Derry West Women's Institute was organized at a meeting held in the home of Mrs. Thomas Graham on May 29th. The Peel County secretary, Mrs. William McClure, opened the meeting. Mrs. Graham, who became the charter president, was Lottie Irene Price from Britannia. She was a registered nurse on the staff of Peel County Children's Aid Society as a social worker. She sang in the Britannia Church choir and taught Sunday School and became Sunday School superintendent. She also nursed at



▲ Mrs. Howard McCracken

Program, 1929 ▶



Pine Nursing Home in Clarkson and at Peel Manor.

When she retired in 1965, she joined the North Peel Red Cross as a homemaker, sang in St. Paul's Church and was president of the Rebecca Unit of Upper Canada for Women. Mrs. Mathew Sheard was first vice president, Mrs. George Fenwick, second, Mabel Bryans, secretary, Mrs. H. McCracken, treasurer and the four directors were Mrs. Elgin Bryans, Mrs. Frank Short, Mrs. James Tilt and Mrs. Fred Oram. Thirteen ladies joined the Institute.

That same year, 1929, the women started up the 4-H Homemakers Club, which was part of the Home Economics Service of the Extension Branch, Ontario Department of Agriculture. Young ladies between 12 and 26 were eligible to join. They were supervised by local leaders appointed by the Women's Institute. Leaders were given a two day training for each project implemented into 4-H. As the Club flourished, many girls won provincial honors such as Ruth Wilkinson and Merle Earle. They adhered to the 4-H pledge of "head, heart, hands and health to a worthwhile life." They brought to

farming a greater scientific and practical knowledge and to their community their pledge to “clearer thinking, greater loyalty, larger service to a better living.” By 1962, Peel County had 16 active successful groups thanks to the Women’s Institutes. In 1963, when the 50th anniversary of 4-H, which had its inception in 1913 at Roland, Manitoba, was celebrated, there were 72,000 young people across Canada involved in 4-H. By 1965, Peel County had twenty 4-H Homemakers Clubs. In 2004, 4-H still is flourishing in Ontario.



▲ *Women’s Institute 10th Anniversary*

It was decided in 1939, to keep a Tweedsmuir history and scrapbooks were started with the first convener, Mrs. Howard McCracken (1940-1946). Four scrapbooks were compiled and they were eventually donated to the Region of Peel Archives. The Derry West Women’s Institute is still functioning today, only in Brampton. As the families moved north of the Village, the ladies continued their participation as part of the Peel District.

During a dreadful blizzard on February 9, 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beamish, whose house faced Hurontario Street, ended up with over 100 stranded motorists at their house. George Preston of Meadowvale had started off by sleigh with his pregnant wife, and they could not get through the tremendous drifts and found refuge at the



▲ *Derry West Four Corners. Tearing down Sheard house, 1968.*

Beamishes. Fortunately two nurses and a visiting nurse were able to give assistance and Peggy Marie Preston was born. Mr. and Mrs. George Fenwick also housed about 50 motorists in their ten room house. Passengers from two marooned buses spent the night in the Derry West Public School.

In 1955, a petition for stop lights at the Derry Road-Hurontario Street intersection was forwarded to Colonel Thomas L. Kennedy, who then sent it to the Deputy Minister of Highways for Ontario, Mr. M.A. Elson, This petition was instigated when Ross Reid’s car was in a fatal accident and passenger, William Megill, was killed. There had been many car and truck accidents at the corner, another being the 1953 car crash that killed Robin McKergan. Mrs. Ruth Houch, Canada’s delegate to the United Nations, headed up a delegation that went to the Roads Committee of the Peel County Council to make their appeal for stop lights. John Johnson, chairman of the Derry West Public School Board, was anxious to see results, because 20 children had to cross the highway for school. He made the request for a school guard. Police Chief Garnet McGill was sympathetic to the situation and said, “We will try to hire a guard. We realize they have a terrific traffic problem at Derry West.” Of course, stop lights did eventually come to the four corners, as the picture above reveals.



### ▲ Shop on Wheels Presentation

Ever since the Peel Women's Institute instigated the founding of the Peel Memorial Hospital in 1925, all the Institutes were dedicated to making contributions to the Hospital. In 1965, the Derry West branch purchased the Shop on Wheels for the Hospital Auxiliary that carried notions, sundries, candy and cigarettes to the patients. President and curator of the Tweedsmuir Scrapbooks, Mrs. Margaret McCracken, presented the gift to Mrs. Carl Moore, president of the Auxiliary on February 15th.

Thanks to the ingenuity of Mrs. McCracken, the County of Peel Museum in Brampton opened in 1968.

In 1965, Mrs. McCracken had broached her idea of establishing a museum as a Centennial project at a Women's Institute meeting, held at the home of Mrs. Roy Westlakes. The members supported her plan and sent letters to other Peel County Women's Institutes, members of parliament and councillors. The interested women grew to 600 being involved. The Peel Historical Society, under the direction of president Russell Cooper (1965-1972), also assisted with the project. In April, 1966, at a Peel County council meeting in the Municipal chambers with Warden Mr. J.J. Graham presiding, Russell Cooper and Mrs. McCracken made the appeal for a museum. The Council decided in December to lease the old Registry Office at 7 Wellington Street East to the Peel Historical Society as a museum. The Council would carry out the repairs and improvements and municipal taxes would be exempt. The June 22, 1967, meeting of the Society brought about the establishment of this historic building as a museum and art gallery. Quite an achievement! The official opening took place Sunday, November 17, 1968, with Dorothy Duncan as the first curator. In 1980, the museum expanded by adding the Old County Jail, constructed in 1866 at 9 Wellington, to its complex. It was opened in November, 1980, by the Honourable William Davis, Premier of Ontario. The Curator was Bill Barber (1976-1995).

In 1966, the oldest person in Peel County was 94 years old Frances Margaret Ann Price Irvine of Derry West. She had been born in a log house on Third Line, East, on December 27, 1871. The Prices had the only Peel Confederation baby in their son, William John Henry, who was born July 1, 1867. Frances married Chris Irvine March 21, 1894. She passed away in 1967. At this time, all that remained of the hamlet of Derry West was the schoolhouse she had attended, which was closed, and service stations on two of the corners.

Some major farms in the area around this time were the Charles Wardlow Farm, that had been Thomas Graham's grant, Lot 14, Con 1, W-1/2, EHS. George Cheyne bought the property in 1868 and built a house that Wardlow purchased in 1910 for \$6,600. He gradually sold off his property and the house was demolished in 1965 to make way for the site of the Peel County Courthouse. The Horace Watson Farm that had been William Irvine's Lot 15, Con. 3, EHS. Irvine had built a log house that Watson tore down in 1920. Irvine had defaulted by mortgage and it went to Jesse Watson in 1892. He built a house in

1904 and a barn in 1907 that remained in the family until Horace sold to David Laycock for \$90,000 in 1959. Several of the families in these small hamlets resided on the family farms for five and six generations. The Kenneth Wilkinson Farm was James Stewart's grant from the Crown in 1848, Lot 14, Con. 3, EHS. Stewart sold to William Wilkinson in 1889 and three generations resided there. A house was built in 1902 and a barn in 1922 was constructed by Norm McMurchy and barn dances for the community were held here. The property was sold in 1967 to Hasty Properties Limited.

There is little left at the four corners of Derry West, only two service stations, Shell and Petro Canada, the Grill One Restaurant and the Anglican Cemetery on the northwest corner. Petro Canada is a

descendent of the British American Oil company (as B.A. became Gulf Oil, then Petro), that put up a station on the southwest corner in 1956, having purchased the property from Gladys Smith for \$26,000. In 2004, it is managed by John Sheppard. The Shell Oil Company purchased the southeast corner of Derry Road and Hurontario on January 23, 1968, from Cameron Sheard. They tore down the house and station that was there and put in a Beaver facility. In 2001, there was a redevelopment proposal in the process to build a Shell branded Station, food store and car wash at that location. In August, 2002, the Beaver was torn down and the new station was constructed and opened in the spring of 2003. It is hard to believe that this area was once a thriving community.



Top left: Derry West Anglican Cemetery, 2003

Above: Four Corners, 2003

Inset: Derry West Plaque (Photos courtesy of Kathleen A. Hicks)

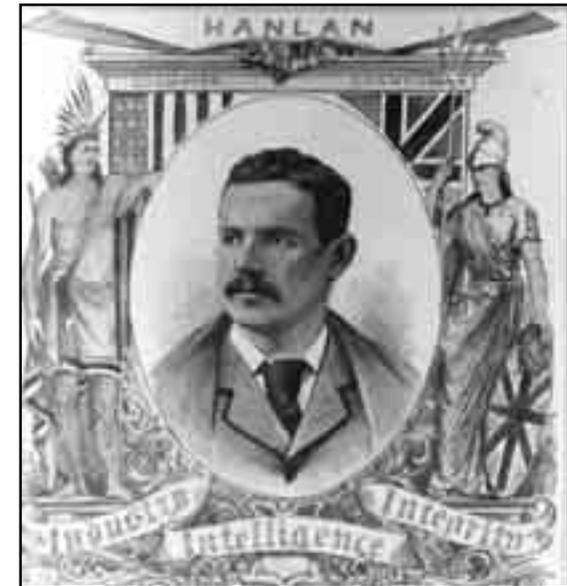
Bottom left: Aerial View, 1982 (Nicolas Karagan)

## Hanlan's Corners

**H**anlan's Corners was located at the four corners of Second Line East (Tomken Road), and Britannia Road East. It was named for oarsman, Edward Hanlan, at the height of his fame in 1878. Fondly called Ned, he became Canada's first international champion and a North American champion oarsman and was the world's rowing champion from 1880 to 1884.

Hanlan was born the son of poor Irish immigrants at Mugg's Landing on July 12, 1855. His father built a hotel and became a Toronto Island innkeeper. There is a 20 foot (6 metre) bronze statue of Ned on the Canadian National Exhibition grounds by Stanley Barracks that was erected by Toronto sportsmen in 1926. It is the only known monument to a sculler in the world. He also has an Island in Toronto Harbor named for his family, Hanlan's Point, where his father's hotel had been. He was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 1955. A mini-series, produced by CBC-TV in 1984 called "*The Boy in Blue*," was made about his life that starred Austin Willis and Cynthia Dale as Hanlan's wife, Margaret Sullivan. They had eight children. He died in Toronto of pneumonia on January 4, 1908.

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Ned Hanlan ▶



▲ Ned in competition



▲ Ned Hanlan's Statue (Photos courtesy of Canada Sports of Fame, Toronto) (Hanlan's Statue was moved to Hanlan's Point on June 12, 2004)

At Hanlan's Corners, Lots 5 and 6, Cons. 2 and 3 EHS, there were five small houses on the corners of the farm lots, Fogartys, Johnsons, Dohertys, Steads and Howells. D. W. Johnston operated a carriage and blacksmith shop that employed three blacksmiths, a carpentry shop with three carpenters, and a paint shop. There was a log school, S. S. # 11, Lot 4, Con. 3, EHS, between Second and Third Line that was built in 1844 on property donated by William Douglass, who had been granted this land in 1836. The first teacher was Mr. Wright, who received \$250 annually. He boarded with Samuel Price, who became Reeve of Toronto Township in 1867. The school was replaced with a brick school in 1873 that served the community well. Janet Douglass gave the trustees 1,200 sq. ft. (111.5 m<sup>2</sup>) of land for this purpose. The trustees at this time were Mr. T. Allison, Mr. A. Price and Mr. W. Doherty. With the decline in population in the area the school was always being threatened with being closed, but with conscientious trustees, it managed to last until it was finally closed down in 1957 and the children were bused to Malton. Two teachers who are fondly remembered from this tiny one room schoolhouse are Elizabeth Price, Grant Clarkson's mother, and her niece, Helen Allison (1938-1942). Helen was born and raised in the Burnhamthorpe area and resided in



▲ Hanlan's School



▲ Hanlan's School Class, June 2, 1899 with teacher, Miss Hettie Farr

Etobicoke until she passed away on March 10, 2002. On June 11, 1983, a Hanlan Public School Reunion was held under the supervision of the reunion committee, Russell and Bertha McKenzie, Allan and Luetta Cook, Harry and Adelaide Clark and Lloyd and Catherine Viney. At this time the school house was gone and all that remained was two stately trees that had stood sentinel over the school children. The residents of Hanlan's Corners established a band that would play on people's lawns. The ladies would organize quilting bees and do rug hooking, while the men had boxing matches. They were Methodist and they held services in the Derry West Anglican Church until March 7, 1853, when Sarah and John Hunt donated one acre (0.4 ha) of their land, Lot 5, Con. 4, EHS, for a church to trustee, Robert Craig. A small frame building was erected and lasted until 1867 when a new brick church was put up and called the Trinity Wesleyan Methodist Church. At this time, William Johnson, who had purchased the Hunt property, donated a quarter acre (0.1 ha) and in 1872 another three-quarters of an acre (0.3 ha) was given to enlarge the cemetery. In 1925 it was renamed the Trinity United Church. A cemetery under the same name still survives in 2004 at the southeast corner of Britannia and Dixie Road. The pioneers of early Hanlan's Corners rest here, such as the Forgertys.

The post office was established on November 1, 1878, on Lot 5, Con. 2, in George Johnston's general store, and the area was named for Edward Hanlan. Johnston was the first Post Master. In 1890, when the population was 100, it was moved to the Robert Armstrong residence on Lot 6, Con. 2, and remained open until April 17, 1911, with Robert's wife of 25 years, Esther Elliott, as the postmistress. She was paid \$10 a year. She died in 1921 at age 86, and was buried in Britannia Cemetery with Robert, who had died in 1890.

The Armstrongs were one of the most interesting families in Hanlan's Corners. Robert's parents, George and Elizabeth Armstrong, had come from County Tyrone, Ireland in 1835. They bought 200 acres (81 ha), Lot 6, Con. 2, EHS, for £150 (\$375), with the south boundary being Britannia Road. George built a log cabin on a knoll on the north section of the property, dug a well by hand and encased it in stones for sufficient drainage. They had seven children, Margaret, 1818, William, 1823, Robert, 1826, Hannah, 1828, George, 1829, John, 1831, and Ann, 1837. George was involved in the Mackenzie Rebellion of 1837 and he was stationed at Navy Island while in pursuit of Mackenzie, where he caught a cold and died at age 40. He was buried at St. Peter's Anglican Church in Springfield (Erindale). Elizabeth remarried and when William and Robert were old enough they took over their father's farm. They built a stone house in 1870 that was later covered with cement.



▲ Elizabeth Armstrong  
(Region of Peel Archives)

George Jr., married Mina Stewart and they had four children. George took over part of his father's farm in 1852. He was a cattle drover and took large contingents of cattle, going by foot as far as Owen Sound. He bought horses from Peel, Dufferin, Middlesex and Lambton counties for the American Army during the Civil War (1861-1865) and had them shipped to the United States. During the Fenian Raids of 1866, he was a volunteer in the Grahamsville Infantry Company and he received pay on August 21, 1866, for 46 days of service.



▲ Armstrong farm (Region of Peel Archives)



▲ The Bryan's House (Region of Peel Archives)

Robert's daughter, Isobel, married Thomas Bryans of Etobicoke in 1888 and he rented the Armstrong farm in 1899. Her mother lived with them and then on December 17, 1913, Thomas bought 100 acres (40 ha) of the property for \$8,000. They had two sons, Elgin and Jack. Elgin Bryans, was with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery during

World War I (1914-1918) and went to France with the 4th Division Trench Mortar Brigade. Elgin married Mabel Nixon in 1921 and took over his great grandfather's farm. The original log house, barn, cow house, stables, shed and ice house were still there. When a new house was built, beams from the log barn were used to build a driving shed. Thomas Bryans was on the Toronto Township Council 1926-1931, working up from councillor to 1st Deputy Reeve. He and Isabel celebrated their golden anniversary on February 22, 1938, on their farm with many distinguished guests such as Colonel and Mrs. Thomas Kennedy. He died that year and she moved to Brampton.

Gradually the people moved away from Hanlan's Corners and their houses were torn down. The last known resident was George Forgerty, who moved to Dundalk in Grey County.

In June, 1968, the northeast corner of Tomken Road (Second Line) and Britannia became the location of the Hanlan Pumping Station and Reservoir, built by the Ontario Water Resources Commission. The facility was expanded in 1975 and is still operating today and has been owned by the Region of Peel since 1999. On the other corners are Premier Candle Corp, southwest, Arabesque Supplies, southeast, and Pinetree Business Park, northwest. So the only reminder that Hanlan's Corners ever existed is the name attached to the pumping station and the tiny cemetery where its pioneers are buried.



▲ Tomken and Britannia Intersection, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Hanlan's Pumping Station and Reservoir, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

# Palestine - 1823

**T**homas Grafton (b.1795, d.1866), who worked with Timothy Street on the surveying of the Second Purchase or New Survey in 1819, received Lot 11, Con. 2, EHS, for his surveying work. Here, in 1823, at the four corners of Derry Road East and Second Line East (now Tomken Road), Lots 10 and 11, Cons. 2 and 3, he founded Palestine, named for Palestine in Western Europe called “The Holy Land.” The small community was named Palestine because Thomas felt that the community was developing and progressing and the people were “God fearing” and it should be named for the great country of Palestine of those days.



▲ Huldah and Thomas Grafton (Region of Peel Archives)

THOMAS HAD BEEN BORN IN IRELAND TO STUART (1760-1837) and second wife Mary McCool (1770-1855), the oldest of nine children. They immigrated to South Carolina in America in 1796, when he was seven months. They sold their plantation in 1812 and journeyed to Upper Canada, using mules and pack horses to trek their belongings 1,600 miles (2,600 km). They reached the Niagara River on May 1, 1812. The border was guarded and a gift of gold allowed them to row across the river under the cover of darkness, holding securely to their animals, as they swam alongside the skiff. They arrived in York (Toronto) at the end of May. Stuart got an interview with Sir Isaac Brock and joined the York Militia and left his family in York while he fought with the gallant soldier as he went to his death at Queenston Heights, October 13, 1812. Stuart received a grant in York, sold it and bought a better section of land at Eglinton Avenue and Yonge Street, Lot 22, Con. 3, 100 acres (40 ha), £400 (\$1,000), which was registered on March 13, 1813. His son, Thomas, sold it in 1843 for \$3,200.

After Thomas’ surveying experience, he came to Derry West in 1822. He married the 18 year old daughter of Daniel and Patience Hopkins, Huldah, on January 20, 1823, and they moved onto his property. He named his farm “Royal Villa.” They had nine children.



Thomas Grafton was instrumental in the building of the log school-house on Derry Road East, the Independent Order of Good Templar Palestine Temple #23 and establishing the Methodist Church. The school came about when Thomas, Albert Gage and Thomas Crombie were sitting on Thomas’ veranda having a discussion and it was decided Palestine needed a school. John Petch, owner of Lot 10, Con. 2, conveyed a quarter acre (0.1 ha) of the southwest corner of Second Line and Derry Road in March, 1842, to ratepayer trustee, John Aiken, and the log school was built at a cost of £40 (\$100) on the



▲ Schoolhouse 1225 Derry Road, East. A.F. Campbell's Class, July 12th, 1866. Trustees Edward McBride and Edward Grafton are at the end of back row in Orange regalia (Region of Peel Archives)

southwest corner of Derry Road East and Second Line. Fifty children registered under the school master William Scollen, who's salary was £77 (\$194) a year. Church services were held in the school.

The school, S.S. #10, was replaced by a brick schoolhouse in 1863 and two years later Clarence Moore was hired at a salary of \$280. In the school trustee minutes of Nov. 21, 1878, it was "moved by Robert Moore and seconded by Thomas McBride and resolved that this corporation do engage Miss Mattie Smith for the year of 1879 at a salary of \$350 per annum."

This brick school was only used until 1886 when Andrew Gage, who had purchased the west half of Lot 11 from John Aiken in 1846, sold an acre for \$150 to the Palestine School Trustees on the south corner of his property. The former school property was then sold. The treasurer's report states that \$217.68 was paid to George Tolman for 32,250 bricks, \$90 to Thomas McBride for Etobicoke stone, \$88.50 to James Packham for 11,800 bricks. The single storied rectangular school, 25 feet wide and 32 feet long with 14 inch thick walls (7.5m x 9.8m x 57cm), a stone foundation and a pitched gable roof, was built by John Grayson for \$400 with the total cost being \$2,141.61. The school was closed in 1955 and had a fire in November, 1982, and a severe wind did more damage that it was torn down because of safety precautions and the contractor, who did the deed, reused the brick.

Thomas' son, Royal, born in 1838, spent his entire life at Royal Villa. He handled his father's responsibilities when his four older brothers married and moved away. Thomas, having accomplished much in his lifetime, passed away on June 30, 1866, and Huldah on October 20, 1880, at age 76. Both are buried in the Britannia Church Cemetery. Royal married Agnes Mary Patterson on September 29, 1875, and they had five children. He built the third house at Royal Villa Farm, a two storey brick with the best materials and expert workmanship. In 1984, it was demolished to make way for commercial development. He prided himself in having pure-bred breeding stock and was successful in his quest for a productive farming operation. He served in the Militia as Captain of Derry West 3rd Division Reserve Peel during the 1866 Fenian Raid. He designed and patented a wood undertruss suspension bridge for the government to use over Ontario's rivers. By 1910, over 100 bridges were constructed in Ontario and Manitoba.



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▲ *Royal Grafton and family* (Region of Peel Archives)

Royal was a close friend of William J. Gage, who lived nearby and became a publisher and was knighted. They established the first Sunday School in the Palestine Church that had been built in 1870. He was superintendent for over 25 years. In 1911, Royal and Agnes moved into Toronto, leaving their son, Royal Edgar, to manage the farm. Royal died in 1916.

Their son was 31 years old and he married Mabel Russell on November 7, 1911. He continued the trend of pure bred livestock



▲ Grafton Royal Villa farmhouse (Region of Peel Archives)

such as Yorkshire pigs and Percheon horses. He established weekly deliveries of butter, eggs and dressed poultry to Toronto. Edgar promoted progress in the Palestine community. He was with the Peel Company Road Engineers and was instrumental in having farmers haul and spread gravel on Derry Road West and First and Second Lines. He led the way to petition the Ontario Hydro Commission to build the first rural Hydro farm service east of Britannia. Electricity came to Palestine on September 27, 1928. The Peel County Junior Farmers held a Centennial project in 1967 to discover the number of farms that were one family operations for 100 years and the Grafton's Royal Villa Farm was one out of 99 that qualified. Graftons, owned by Edgar's son, Russell, since 1946, was the oldest.

One of the largest farms in the area was the Harold Parkinson Farm on Lot 10, Con. 2, EHS. It had been granted to Robert Bright on May 24, 1825. In 1827, he sold it to John Petch for £100 (\$250). Thomas Brown bought 150 acres (60 ha) in 1856. Thomas had married Mary Wedgewood in 1856 and he also had 150 acres. She was a widow with three sons, David, John and William. Each of her sons were given some acreage. In 1942, Parkinson purchased John Wedgewood's acreage from Russell Grafton for \$8,500. He called it "May Park." Harold did mixed farming and won awards at the Canadian National Exhibition and the Royal Winter Fair for his Yorkshire pigs. He was

made a member of the Canadian Agricultural Hall of Fame in December, 1968. He sold his farm to Atib Construction in 1965 for development.

Another family was Thomas and Caroline Gardner Reed, who came over with the John Beatty caravan in 1819. They took up 200 acres (81 ha) Lot 12, Con. 3, EHS, where they raised ten children. There would be six generations of Reeds who would reside in the house that Thomas built.

The first Tavern licence issued in Palestine was to Joseph Weir in 1829. He had Lot 12, Con. 2, EHS. Others who ran taverns were John Maddigan and Joseph Armstrong. Joseph was married to Artimissa Patience Grafton, daughter of Thomas. They were Anglican and Joseph was known to be prosperous, good natured, loyal, charitable and had lots of friends. There was a well remembered frame tavern located on the northeast corner that had a veranda on one side where customers loved to sit. It had a shed for stabling horses and oxen. John Maddigan was licenced in 1861 to 1871 and he was Catholic and donated two alter lams to the Methodist Church. The Palestine Hotel was on the southwest corner, Lot 10, Con. 2, and was licenced to William Knox in the 1860s.

In 1870, Thomas and Mary Brown for the sum of \$1 exchanged one-eighth acre of land, Lot 10, Con. 2, on which to construct a Methodist Church. A group of gentlemen gathered on the veranda of the Palestine Hotel to discuss the need for a church. A building fund



▲ Palestine School (Region of Peel Archives)



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▲ Palestine Church Ladies Association, 1930. Back Row: L. to R. Mrs. Nelson South, Mrs. Norman South, Mrs. Robert Reid, Mrs. George Graham, Mrs. W. Harkness; Seated, Mrs. H. Reid, Mrs. T. Wedgewood, Mrs. E. Wedgewood, Mrs. W. Patterson, Miss Bertha Wedgewood; Front Row, Mrs. H. Graham, Mrs. Bertha Moore, Mrs. Mabel Bryans (Region of Peel Archives)

was established through the Good Temperance Lodge when it disbanded that year and had a bank balance of \$100, which they donated. Royal Grafton and Thomas Crombie canvassed the neighborhood for funds to build the church and another \$300 was secured. A Mr. McLeod constructed the brick church for \$700 with the help of William Wedgewood and David Owen. The first service was held on December 18, 1870, with Reverend William Herridge in the pulpit. It was one of seven churches on the Brampton circuit. In 1880, a Sunday School was organized with Royal Grafton as superintendent and William Gage as secretary. The Ladies Association (LA) was founded on September, 13, 1923, with Mrs. T. A. Aikens as president and Miss Irene Black as secretary. In 1924, the LA had cathedral glass windows installed in the church. It became the Palestine United Church in 1925. Mr. and Mrs. E. Wedgewood donated a Hymn Board in 1938 in memory of their son, Lorne.

The Palestine Church was soon affected by the growing community of Bramalea, the Satellite City, and the last service was held on Sunday, June, 24, 1962, with Reverend Eleanor Leard officiating. The church was filled to capacity with pioneer settlers descendants

and former worshipers. In attendance were Mrs. R. J. Speers, 86, of Mount Charles, Miss Sarah Moore, 80, of Brampton, Mr. Norman McLeod, 80, Toronto, the son of the carpenter, Mrs. Robert Reed, 78, Malton, Mrs. W. Cheyne, 77, Islington, Thomas Wedgewood, 74, Palestine, Mrs. Annie Jackson, 74, Toronto, Mrs. Minnie Cook, 74, Brampton, Mrs. James Dunn, 74, Brampton, George Wedgewood, 71, Toronto. Reverend Garnet W. Lynd, who had been pastor 1922-1930, was there and shared his memories. Robert Speers was the oldest person and Shirley Jan Grafton, the two months old daughter of Russell Grafton and great granddaughter of Royal, was the youngest. The building was moved and the property sold. The church was demolished in November, 1965, by J. D. Cook of Brampton.

Palestine, although a small four corners community, had its importance in the early days. The courage and enterprise of its occupants was the factor that helped it thrive and eventually left its mark as it is still remembered today or it would not be included in this book. All the pioneers from each of the towns, hamlets and villages laid a community foundation to help their area prosper for the years they resided there. Their contribution adds much to our heritage.



◀ Tomken and Derry Road East, 2003  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Whaley's Corners - 1819

**W**illiam Coulson Whaley (b.1776, d.1869), was one of John Beatty's Irish settlers. The Whaley family originated in England, but fled to Armagh, Ulster, Ireland, during the Cromwell Regime. They then journeyed to America where they took up residence in the State of Delaware.

William and his first wife came to the area that would be named Whaley's Corners to take up his 100 acre (40 ha) property, the west half of Lot 15, Con, 5, WHS, east of the Halton Town Line and Chinguacousy/Toronto Township border. Chinguacousy was named for an Indian Chief.

William had paid his patent fees on April 22, 1819, but did not receive his grant papers until June 29, 1836, which were signed by the Lieutenant Governor Sir Francis Bondhead (1835-1838).



▲ The Whaleys' Homestead

WILLIAM ALSO RECEIVED LOT 1, CON. 11, WHS, ESQUESING County, named for the Indian Chief's squaw, to the north and his brother, Thomas, settled on Lot 2, Con. 11. They worked hard to complete their settlement duties and planted crops to sustain their families. William had George, David (1818-1890), John (1815-1906), Sarah and Agnes. By April, 1822, they had cleared five acres (2 ha), fenced their properties and built 18 foot by 20 foot (5 m x 6 m) houses.

In 1827, property was purchased from the Crown for a burial ground. The first person to be interred was Nicholas Kennedy. In 1830, Hugh Howard sold 20 acres (8 ha) of Lot 1, Con. 6, above the Township line (Steeles Avenue) to John Alexander for £50 (\$125) and a frame church was erected and called Mount Zion Church. Reverend Heyland, who had been instrumental in securing the church property, was the first minister. The Church was part of the Streetsville circuit. The second church was dedicated on November 17, 1867. The congregation was committed to the successful functioning of the church and held various events to raise money for that purpose. The 1901-1902 Streetsville Circuit sheet showed that Mount Zion's total collection was \$65, compared to \$280 for Meadowvale and \$250 for Streetville. By August, 1905, the congregation had dwindled and the church was closed. In 1918, a cemetery board was formed and in November, the board held an auction to dispose of the church and its contents. The church building was sold to Robert Whaley (1855-1933) for \$300. He sold it to Jack Frazer Farms at Huttonville for a driving shed. (The Whaley family still have the cornerstone dated 1867.) The church's driving shed was bought for \$188 by Arthur May, Lot 4, Con. 10, Esquesing Township, Halton County. The organ was sold to Mr. D. Cardinay for \$2 and the pulpit for \$2.25. A sum of \$571.30 was realized.



▲ S.S. #21 School, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

A log schoolhouse was constructed in 1832. In 1842, the school boundaries were formed and it was classed with Chinguacousy as a school section. J. Black was the school teacher in 1851 and there were 32 students. In 1888, Toronto Township and Halton County created a Victoria Union School Section and built a two room brick schoolhouse, S.S. # 21, that was used up until 1959 when it was closed. It is still in existence at 2923 Steeles Avenue and is used as a residence.

The area grew gradually to include a Blacksmith Shop, an Ashery, where soap was made, a Methodist Church, a post office, a school, S.S. #21, with 80 scholars and a tavern known as Whaley's Inn, operated by William Whaley and later Aaron Laidlow as the Royal Albert Inn. At the four corners was a toll gate. A Loyal Orange Lodge certificate was granted in 1835 to Andrew Gundy, who was born in

**Houses of Entertainment.**

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**The Royal Albert Inn !**  
**WHALEY'S CORNERS.**

**THE** subscriber in intimating to the travelling community and the public generally, that having leased the above house, begs leave to state that, having engaged an experienced Hostler, as well as other attendants necessary to the comfort and accommodation of the boarder and sojourner, any person favouring him with a call shall have no just reason to go away dissatisfied.

**AARON LAIDLLOW.**

**N. B.**—He would also beg leave to add that he has considerably enlarged his Stabling and Driving House accommodations.

April 29th, 1853. 19-tf

▲ Royal Albert Inn Ad (Streetsville Review)

1812 in Queen's County, Ireland. The Orange Lodge #62 had its own building on the Toronto Township side of Base Line (Steeles Avenue). William was the first committeeman of the Lodge and also held the position of Deputy Master in 1837. Gundy died in 1891 and the Lodge ceased operation in 1901.

On October 15, 1848, William placed an advertisement in the *Streetsville Review*:

*A Farm and Tavern to Let  
The Subscriber offers for  
Rental his farm... also  
his Tavern Stand  
Known as "Whaley's Inn"  
It has excellent stables and out-houses.  
For further particulars apply to  
William Whaley  
Town Line, 15th Oct. 1848*

On January 21, 1860, William sold his 100 acres (40 ha) of Lot 15 to his son, David, for \$1,000. Son, John, purchased Lot 1, Con. 11, also for \$1,000 and continued with the family farm. He and his wife,



▲ The Whaley farm



▲ Robert Gordon Whaley, 1930

(Photos courtesy of Raymond Whaley)

Ann Wiggins (1819-1883), had five children, William, Jack, Hannah, Robert and Annie. There are no records on William's first wife, but in 1860, he remarried a widow, Mary Ann McCracken (1810-1890). When he died on May 12, 1869, and was interred at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Hornby, Mary Ann received the house and the tavern on half an acre (0.2 ha) of land. David resided in the Whaley home until they sold it to William John Arnott on April 11, 1889, for \$4,600.

Whaley's Corners was a column feature in the *Streetsville Review* for a number of years, which gave the gossip of the area. In the 1900s, the dwelling of descendent, Robert G. Whaley (1855-1933) and his wife, Florence Johnston (1869-1937), was the only sign of past activity at what had been Whaley's Corners, followed by son, Gordon (1901-1953), who bought the farm in April, 1933, for \$5,000. When Robert was driving home from visiting Gordon on August 26,

1933, his buggy was hit by a west bound CPR train at the Hornby railway crossing and he was killed.

In 1953, Gordon died tragically in a truck accident near McLaughlin's farm. His wife, Lena McMillan (1900-1992), began to work at AVRO, which she did until it closed in 1959. She rented out the farm and then in 1969, sold it, keeping lots for three of their seven children, Kenneth, Raymond and Lorne. She eventually moved to Brampton.

In 1980/81, the City of Brampton undertook a restoration program to restore the Zion Cemetery. In 1983, a cairn was erected and dedicated to the memory of the local pioneers.

There are still Whaleys living in the area. William's great, great grandson Raymond and his wife Bernice and brother Ken and his wife Ann. Ray has a copy of the Crown deed presented to William in 1836 that had been applied for in 1819 the year he arrived. He also has the original deed for Lot 1, Con. 11. They reside on Winston



▲ Whaley Family, 1989. Back row: Lorne, Keith, Raymond, and Kenneth Whaley. Front row: Carol Whaley Kerr, Eileen Whaley Hamilton, Lena Whaley (Mother of all), Jean Whaley Lane (Raymond Whaley)



▲ Whaley's Corners, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Churchill Boulevard north of Steeles Avenue across from the Cemetery.

In 2003, there is a gas station on the northeast corner and the rest of the corners are vacant except for the S.S.#21 school house on the south side of Steeles Avenue to the east. But on Steeles Avenue and Winston Churchill Boulevard, leading up to the four corners are signs stating, Whaley's Corners. So the little hamlet is still remembered.



▲ Corner of Winston Churchill Blvd. and Steeles Avenue, 2003

Sign on Steeles Avenue, 2003 ▶

(Photos courtesy of Kathleen A. Hicks)

**WHALEY'S CORNERS**

Mr. Editor - I often wonder why there was no correspondent from this corner. So, I, the undersigned, thought I would write a few items hoping to continue the same.

On Thursday, June 5, there was a successful raising on the farm of Mr. Alexander Kent, Town line. His friends from far and near were in attendance. The barn is a bank one 60 x 30.

The boys of this place have organized a football team and are practising vigorously. The name chosen is Victoria.

Miss Violet Gage of Palestine is visiting her uncle, Alexander Kent.

The Freethinker

*Streetsville Review*, June 21, 1894

**WHALEY'S CORNERS**

Mr. R. J. Whaley moved to Brampton last week. He leaves with the best wishes of his many friends.

Miss Annie Whaley is visiting with her father of this place.

Miss Allie Switzer spent Sunday at home.

Mr. James McClure was employed last week in moving the household effects of Mr. Whaley to Brampton.

The Freethinker

*The Streetsville Review*, November 22, 1894



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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 four 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, the Toronto Star, The 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, the Governor General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, and the 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, the Friends of the Library, the 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. Troy made her a great grandmother to Anthony, 2000, and Tyrese, 2002.