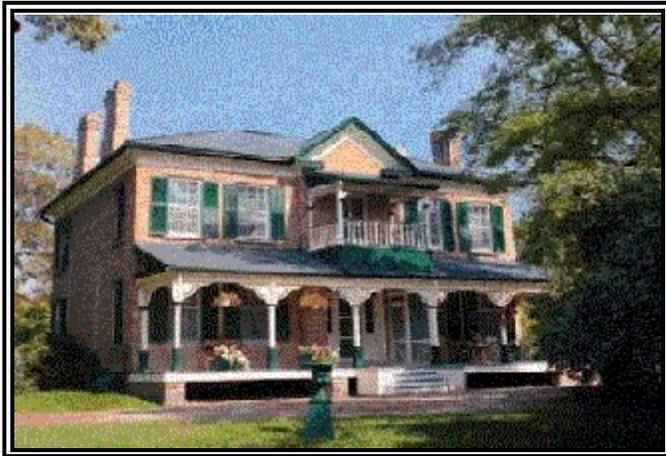


Come home to **BENARES**



*Step back into the era of
the early 1900's*

**With over 160 years of history, this
exquisite estate has been home to four
generations of the Harris Family**

Originally purchased in 1836 by
Captain *James Beveridge
Harris*, the estate consisted of

197 partially cleared acres, a running stream, and most importantly “*an elegant stone house...well adapted for any gentleman’s family*”, (along with numerous other buildings) “*...forming a most desirable investment for any gentleman possessed of capital*” Upper Canada Land, Mercantile & General Advertiser August 1835



Harris came from a family rich in the tradition of military service. By selling his officer’s commission in the British Army, he was able to purchase Benares and move here with his wife *Elizabeth Molony*. Together they raised eight children, but tragically three of their sons died early in life, leaving *Arthur Harris* (1843-1932) to inherit the property. *Captain James B. Harris*

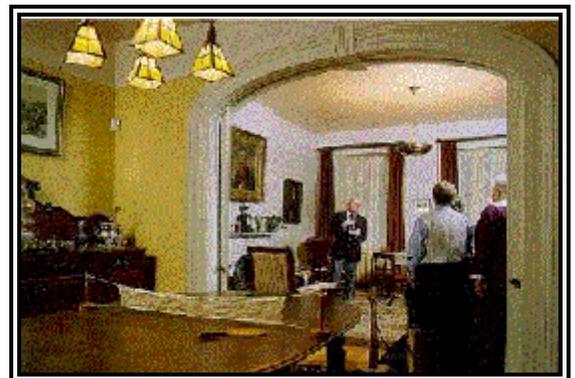
The farm was a vital part of the family life at Benares. In the early years it provided much of the family’s food and income. The estate at one time extended from the current QEW in the north to the C.N.R. tracks in the south, from Clarkson Road east to Lorne Park Road, and consisted of a number of outbuildings, including a large barn and a separate hired man’s house. The potting shed, dairy, bake oven and stable still stand today.

To Arthur and his wife, *Mary Mcgrath*, were born three daughters, *Annie* (1882-1986), *Naomi* (1884-1968) and *Margaret* (1887-1887). While Naomi spent her entire unwed life at Benares, Annie was married to *Beverley Sayers*. Their three children --*Geoffrey Harris Sayers*, *Dora Sayers Caro*

and *Barbara Sayers Larson*--donated the home and many of the original furnishing to the *Ontario Heritage Foundation* upon the death of their aunt.



*Arthur & Mary Harris with their daughters
on the verandah of Benares*



The home was restored, and furnished with original family artifacts, by the *OHF* to reflect the early decades of the 20th century. In 1995 Benares Historic House opened to the public as a

museum. It is now owned and operated by the City of Mississauga as one of the *Museums of Mississauga*.

Visit Benares and feel the warmth and pride of its quiet elegance.