

Johns-Manville Company Limited - 1954

On Monday, May 16, 1954, the sod turning ceremony for the Canadian Johns-Manville Company Limited took place on the 11.5 acre (4.6 ha) site, east of the Canadian Admiral plant.

Officiating were A. G. Sinclair, vice president and general sales manager of the company's Canadian Products Division, G. F. Evans, manager of the construction unit and F. A. Gallop, district sales manager.

The property, Lot 11, Con. 2, SDS, acquired on July 6, 1953, from Frank Whitehead, had been the Caven farm. The one storey warehouse, 160 feet by 320 feet (49 m x 98 m) of structural steel framework was finished with corrugated Transite and brick with continuous bands of sash surrounding the buildings. It was built by Foundation Company of Canada and the steel work was done by the John T. Hepburn and Company. It had a 52,000 square feet (4,831 m²) warehouse for storage space. A two storey office building fronted the warehouse, 150 feet by 60 feet (45 m x 18 m) with 18,000 square feet (1672 m²) of space. The complete cost came to over \$500,000. The company would employ 115 people.

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▲ Sod Turning, 1954 (Port Credit Weekly)

THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE OFFICE BUILDING WAS THE Ontario sales office with 60 salesmen and the contract department and the second floor, the offices of the Canadian Products Division. The company produced roofing materials, acoustic tiles, paper and felt insulations, asbestos textiles, insulation boards, electrical insulations, rubber products and installed Transite (asbestos-cement) pipe for water mains. It was the world's largest producer of asbestos fibre and exported products to all parts of the globe.

The company's head office was at 199 Bay Street, Toronto. Canadian Johns-Manville, a subsidiary of Johns-Manville Corporation in the United States, began operating in Canada in 1918 at Asbestos, Quebec, where the Jeffery Asbestos Mine was located. It also had operations at Port Union, Scarborough Township, and North Bay. In December, 1954, the head office was moved to the new Lakeview plant.



▲ Johns-Manville Building, 1955 (Port Credit Weekly)

The company enjoyed many anniversaries over the years. At the 13th celebration in 1967, Mr. Sinclair commented, "We are very happy to be here. The majority of our employees live in and around Port Credit. We can keep close contacts with the pulse of the Canadian economy by our close proximity to Toronto. We seem to have the best of both worlds here."

In the next ten years, this jubilance would wane for when it was discovered that asbestos was causing health problems, the company was overwhelmed with asbestos claims. In May, 1977, when Jack Cashman was president, the premises was sold to the Canadian Admiral Corporation next door and the business moved to 295 West Mall in Etobicoke. In 1982, it went into receivership and closed down permanently in Canada and returned to Denver, Colorado. The buildings at 565 Lakeshore Road East were torn down and now the area lays fallow next door to a small strip plaza.

NEWS ITEM Court Divides Schuller Pension Pot

The cheques aren't in the mail, but they are closer to the post office for 4,000 former employees of what was once called Johns-Manville Canada Inc.

An Alberta court has approved a formula for sharing \$16 million of surplus pension funds with the former hourly and salaried employees after a five year battle.

"I wasn't going to come back if we didn't get the money," 79 year old Dorothy Jamieson of Mississauga said after flying to Edmonton for a court hearing Friday. She had worked for the maker of building products for 30 years.

The company applied in 1991 to remove \$50 million of surplus funds from employee pension plans. But a group of active and former employees took the company to court and won a surplus-sharing award in 1996.

The company, now called Schuller International Canada Inc., is to get 58 per cent and three groups of pension plan participants are to share the rest.

Last Friday, Associate Chief Justice Allen Wachowich of the Court of Queen's Bench approved a distribution method for the largest group, the 4,000 individuals who qualified from a group of 6,000 former employees.

"I was just so proud that after all these years, we had won," said Jamieson, who represented about 1,500 Ontario retirees.

James Daw, *The Toronto Star*
Tuesday, July 1, 1997

Lakeview Choral Society - 1954

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▲ This photo was taken to conclude the Lakeview Choral Society's 1953-1954 season with a concert in the Lakeview Central Public School and was featured in the Port Credit Weekly on June 10, 1954. The Lakeview Choral Society was organized by Mrs. Leo Heathcote (center row, second from left) and came together with an executive and committee on March 17, 1948. She was the charter president. The group practised at the Lakeview Beach Public School. Mrs. Muir was the first pianist, followed by Mrs. Neil Matheson (front row, third from right), Mrs. Frank Cavan and Mrs. D. Luke (front row, on the right). The 31-voice choir entertained at senior's homes, churches and schools in the Township.

(Elizabeth Matheson)

Hurricane Hazel - 1954

Hurricane Hazel hit Ontario on Friday, October 15, 1954. The day started off with a steady rain, which as the day progressed became more torrential. By that evening, the hydro, water and telephones were out and by Saturday, everything was swimming in mud. If anyone ventured out, they would get soaked to the skin and be blown off their feet. All across the southern section of the province, branches were broken from the trees and trees were toppled by the ferocious wind, shingles were torn from rooftops and the debris would travel for miles (kilometres).

Mrs. Mary Sauer's car stalled on the Dundas bridge over the Etobicoke Creek and the water swept the car up and into the water. It ended up a mile and a half (2.5 km) down the Creek, battered to pieces and her body was not found for three days. It was discovered on the American side of Lake Ontario.



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▲ The mouth of the Etobicoke Creek, 1949,
(Toronto Conservation Authority)

THE PLEASANT VALLEY TOURIST COURT WAS HARD HIT AS were many families' homes located along the banks of the Etobicoke Creek. The camp suffered no casualties, thanks to its owners, Mary and Dante Cuomo, but the Lakeview volunteer firemen suffered a narrow escape when their boat was caught up in the tremendous current of the Creek. Firemen from Cooksville, Port Credit and Clarkson, the Police, Boy Scouts and service clubs were out in full force, assisting in the evacuation of the stricken areas. The Lakeview Park Public

School was used as one refuge. The Red Cross, Girl Guides, Women's clubs, Lions and Kiwanis hurried in with food and supplies for emergency relief. Beds were brought in from the Lakeview Canadian Army Ordnance Depot. Reeve Anthony Adamson personally directed the operation with the help of Ward 1 Councillor Charles Jenkins and M.P. John Palmer.

According to the National Weather Service, Hurricane Hazel is in the records as one of the most destructive hurricanes in history. From Friday at 6 a.m. to Saturday 6 a.m., it was the heaviest rainfall recorded in Ontario's history since September 18, 1948, when 4.25 inches (11 cm) fell. Previous to that was on July 28, 1897, which had 3.88 inches (10 cm). At the Malton Airport (now the Lester B. Pearson International Airport), 7.20 inches (18 cm) was reported for Hazel in that 24 hours. Eight inches (20 cm) was recorded in Brampton over a 48 hour period. Some 40 billion gallons (182,000,000 m³) or 200 million tons (204 million tonnes) of water hit this area, now known as the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

This author has read where there were 358 hurricanes that occurred on the eastern seaboard of North America during the first half of the 20th Century. But only 25 caused any affect on Canada. According to the Dominion Meteorological Office, only one in 14 hits Ontario and one in 45 has ever done any significant damage.

Hurricane Hazel was the first major tropical storm to make it inland and only one since has given the GTA any major problem. On Thursday, October 5, 1954, Hurricane Opal was heralded the wettest October day with 78.6 millimetres.

Hazel, which was 121 millimetres, had started near the Island of Granada off the east coast of South America on October 5, 1954. It headed northward, reaching up to 130 miles (208 km) an hour at times. The final damage to the Metro Toronto area was estimated at \$25 million with 81 people losing their lives. The rampage through South Peel was estimated at \$1,020,000 worth of damage: the Trailer Camp, \$300,000; store merchandise damage, \$25,000; homes on Orchard Grove, \$20,000; automobiles, \$75,000; roads and bridges, \$100,000; miscellaneous property damage, \$200,000; farm land erosion, \$150,000; factories, dams, etc. \$100,000; golf courses, parks

and playgrounds, \$50,000.

In the aftermath of this raging storm that took over 80 lives and left millions of dollars damage, it generated political awareness that our green spaces and watersheds were vibrant necessities to human existence and needed to be protected. Thus Conservation Authorities were formed to take over this protective guardianship. And for the past half century they have bought up thousands of hectares (acres) of land to allow future generations to enjoy nature at its best.

On October 15, 2005, the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel received a lot of press.

Hurricane Information

Practice for naming hurricanes differs around the world. In the North Atlantic basin, which would affect eastern Canada, hurricanes were identified by their coordinates - longitude and latitude. This was confusing to people and for a safety point of view it was decided to name the hurricanes. Systematic naming began in 1953 with female names. Each year the weather bureau starts at the beginning of the alphabet, which in the case of 1954 commenced on June 25th with Hurricane Alice. Hazel was the eighth tropical storm of 1954, thus the "H." Only 21 letters are used - Q U X Y and Z are not. So "W" is the last letter. The highest year of storms was 1995 ending with Hurricane Tanya.

With the feminist movement of the 1970s, a change was brought about and male names were added in 1979. Six separate lists were compiled, alternating male and female names. The list would be repeated in 1985.

If a storm is as destructive as Hurricane Andrew in 1991, that name is retired so as not to frighten people and a substitute name is added.

If by chance there were 21 storms in any given year, the use of Greek's "Alpha, Beta, Gamma" would follow.

Information from Environment Canada's David Phillips.



▲ Damage done to Pleasant Valley Tourist Court by Hurricane Hazel, 1954 (Photos courtesy of Mary Cuomo)

St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church - 1955

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BEFORE ST. DOMINIC'S ROMAN Catholic Church was opened in 1957, the Catholic families of Lakeview had to go to St. Mary's Catholic Church in Port Credit for services. In 1955, the Toronto Catholic Archdiocese, under Cardinal James McGuigan, authorized the purchase of a church site in Lakeview. Three acres (1.2 ha) were acquired at the northwest corner of Cawthra Road and Fifth Street (later called Atwater Avenue). It was decided to build a substantial, fireproof church and rectory and Montreal architect, Yves Belanger, was contracted to design it.

A fund raising campaign got underway in 1956, then a ground breaking ceremony took place on March 25, 1957, carried out by Bishop Francis Marrocco of the Archdiocese of Toronto. During the construction of the



\$150,000 building, services were held at Mary Queen of Heaven Separate School on Hartsdale Road. This school became St. Dominic's School when a new Queen of Heaven School was built in 1960.

◀ Father Tim Haney



▲ St. Dominic's Church, 1958 (St. Dominic's Church)

St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church, named for the founder of the Order of the Friars, rose to majestic height with a seating capacity for 785 parishioners. The first Mass was held on December 25, 1957, with Reverend F. M. Drouin conducting the service. Father Francis M. Charbonneau was Parish Priest, Very Reverend F. M. Drouin, Superior of the House, and Rev. Louis Gay, director of the St. Jude Guild and promotion of the Holy Rosary.

On April 20, 1958 a bell tower and cross were added that were blessed by Cardinal McGuigan, who also presided over the formal consecration on April 26th. Later a special wing was incorporated into the building to house a shrine that was dedicated to St. Jude.

St. Dominic's lost Father Charbonneau, who died of a massive heart attack on Monday of Holy Week in 1963 at age 56. Father Claude Poirier was assigned to St. Dominic's as Pastor to the 770 family congregation.

Renovations to the Church's interior were carried out in 1974 with creating a Blessed Sacrament altar, updating the public address system and redesigning the sanctuary area. By this time the congregation was surveyed at 1,120 families. In August, 1975, Father Kelly Walker became the third Pastor when Father Poirier left to become Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Liturgy. The Parish is a member of the Mississauga East Community Churches in Action.

In 1979, St. Dominic's committed to participating in the

Archdiocesan Refugee Assistance Program that provided support for ten Asian refugees, an involvement that became a permanent dedicated work.

The 25th anniversary was observed for an entire weekend in October, 1980, with a Parish Mass, an open house, a dance and a raffle.

In May, 1985, Father Robert Ouellette arrived to take over the pastoral duties, which were carried out until June, 1996, when he left for Newmarket, Ontario, and was replaced by Father Tim Haney, who still carries on with every aspect of worship in the Church. In 2000, it was found that the bell tower was deteriorating and it was necessary to tear it down.

St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church, 625 Atwater Avenue, will observe its 50th anniversary in 2005, with the congregation remembering the church's successful half century. Eileen Burgess has written the history of the Church for this celebration.



▲ St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church, 2004



▲ Interior of St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church, 2004
(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)



The First Plaza - 1956

On February 5, 1952, Lucy Pallett sold her late husband Leonard's property, 40 acres (16 ha) of Lot 6, Con. 2, SDS, to Charles Hempstead, who was a hotel owner and horseman. On the property was the Pallett's large red brick house and barns. He restored the main barn and constructed a race track that had a fence bordering on the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW).

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The following year, Hempstead sold the property to Principal Investments Limited of Toronto, headed up by the three Bennett brothers, Arny, David and Jacob, who owned five such centres in Toronto and three others across Canada.



▲ Aerial view of Dixie Plaza

A PLAN FOR A \$4,500,000 SHOPPING CENTRE TO BE constructed at the southwest corner of Dixie Road and the QEW was registered on May 20, 1953. However, a controversy arose with the property being zoned residential. Principal Investments' Lou Charles approached the Toronto Township Council on June 3rd and the Council decided to ask the minister of planning and development to amend the zoning By-law to commercial. According to the *Toronto*



▲ View of Dixie Plaza site, 1955

Daily Star on July 16, 1953, "Solicitors for Shipp and Son and Rome-Saracini protested to Council there was not sufficient trade to support the proposed venture and they already sanctioned shopping centres in their own areas nearby." When the planning board vetoed Charles' suggestion, the Council reversed its decision and prohibited any shopping centre to be built for one year. So in April, 1954, the property was rezoned for commercial use and construction began on the \$42 million project that would have 30 stores, two banks, two supermarkets, parking for 2,500 cars, a drive-in theatre, park and recreation field. (The latter three never materialized.) Over 1,000 workmen were involved in the building of the Plaza.

By July 22, 1955, the principal leases for the new Dixie Plaza, Canada's first strip mall, had been signed. They included The Toggery Shop, Fairweathers Company, Agnew Surpass Shoe Stores, United Cigar Stores, Kent Shoes, The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Lighting Unlimited, Paramount Cleaners, the Bank of Montreal, Lady Ellis Shop, Gainsborough Kitchens, Silverts (Dixie) Limited and F. W. Woolworth's. In 1956, Aikenhead Hardware, Zellers, Starlite Stores, the Cavalier Gift Shops, Furniture Fair, Reitman's, West Pen Theatres, Prime Restaurant, Loblaw's Groceteria, Pickering Farms,

Town Shoe Store and D'Allairds Limited signed leases. Others who got on board were Book Fair Limited, the Dixie Plaza Barber Shop, Millicent Hair Stylist, Queen Elizabeth Flower Shop, Laura Secord Candy and the Dixie Plaza Bowling Lanes. A Medical Centre was part of the plaza operation that was equipped by R. Brown of Port Credit, and one of the first doctors to take up offices was dentist, Dr. Ralph Hicken.

The Grand Opening took place on February 23, 1956, with radio station CJBC's Byng Whittaker as master of ceremonies. A parade around the parking lot to the podium with floats and a military band and entertainment for the children in the way of clowns, balloons and ice cream, made the event one to remember. The ceremonies that commenced at 10 a.m. included speakers Reeve Tom Jackson and Colonel T. L. Kennedy. The celebration lasted three days with people being transported in by bus. At the end of each day, a fireworks display ended the festivities.

A Bowling Alley, Bingo Hall and a Flea Market on the lower level became attractions. The Mall, owned by Dixie Plaza Limited, ran successfully for a number of years and as the Township became a Town,



▲ Dixie Outlet Mall, 2003

(Photos courtesy of Dixie Outlet Mall)

then a City, and development grew with other plazas such as Sheridan Mall, 1969, Sherway Gardens, 1971, and Square One Shopping Centre, 1973, and strip malls opened, the customers drifted away, stores closed down and new ones opened, such as Hy and Zel's Drug Warehouse. The Bingo Hall was closed down in 1979 and the Bowling Alley in 1993, but the Flea Market still thrives today. By the late 1970s, the traffic was so bad, with eight accidents being reported at Rometown Drive between 1979 and 1983, that stop lights were installed on Dixie Road.

In 1980, Dixie Plaza was saved by the new owners, First Plazas Inc, who expanded the shopping facility. It was enclosed as an indoor mall and became Canada's first discount centre, with additions being added that included Knob Hill Farms, Sears Clearance Centre and a fast food court. Business boomed once again with a variety of factory outlet stores, budget-priced chain and independent businesses. Dixie Plaza was given a new lease on salesmanship and a name change to Dixie Value Mall. Urban-chic walls and ceilings gave the mall a

warehouse atmosphere that lent to no fancy decor "just good value."

Again Dixie Value Mall was sold in 1988 to Cambridge Leaseholders and in 1996, it was given a \$7.5 million renovation. With the addition of 30 new stores, it became a mall of distinction as the Dixie Outlet Mall. The variety was enormous and in 1999, Dixie Outlet Mall won the prestigious Maple Leaf Award from the International Council of Shopping Centres based in New York.

In 2003, with the closing of Knob Hill Farms, another \$8 million renovation was done and Sears was relocated to the Knob Hill location and new stores were added, Sportcheck, Kodiak, Urban Planet, Carleton Cards and Bombay, bringing the total to over 130 outlets, including Mark's Work Warehouse, Winners and Michaels.

On September 16th, an opening ceremony took place to welcome the new stores to the Dixie Outlet Mall family. As one of the busiest malls in Ontario, it is located at 1250 South Service Road, and is owned by Ivanhoe Cambridge (Cambridge merged in 1996 with Ivanhoe Corp.). The general manager is Kathleen Matchett.



▲ Interior of Dixie Outlet Mall



▲ Kathleen Matchett
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School - 1956

On Friday, November 16, 1956, the first high school in Lakeview, the Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School, was officially opened with the wife of its namesake, Mrs. Gordon Graydon, cutting the ribbon. Reverend Garnet Lynd carried out the dedication and Mr. W. Wright presented the principal, Mr. W. J. Wood, with a Bible. The Honourable John Diefenbaker gave an oration on Gordon Graydon's career, then Mrs. Graydon unveiled a plaque and presented the school with a portrait of her husband, which would be hung in the main hallway.

Gordon Graydon, who had passed away in 1953 at 56 years of age, had been born on his grandfather's Snelgrove farm in Chinguacousy. They say he never lost contact with his rural roots. Politics had interested him from the age of 12 when he attended a lively political meeting in Brampton and became sold on Conservatism.



◀ **Gordon Graydon**
(Region of Peel Archives)



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▲ **Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School, 1967** (South Peel Board of Education)

A GRADUATE OF VICTORIA COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF Toronto, and Osgoode Hall, he was called to the bar in 1924 and after receiving his L.L.B. in 1925 became a lawyer with an office in Brampton in partnership with Harold Lawrence. Graydon, Lawrence and Cook became a well known law firm in the area. When his father, William, died in 1925, he sold the family farm and moved to Brampton with his mother, Margaret (Maggie), on July 23rd. On July 23, 1927, he married Daisy Giffen, a teacher from Stayner, who came from a staunch Liberal family. Daisy became a family court judge on this same day. They had three Judge Daisy Graydon ▶
(Region of Peel Archives)





▲ Wilfred Wood
(GGMSS)



▲ "The Rock"
(GGMSS)

daughters, Carol, 1929, Leona, 1930, and Patricia, 1934. He took on the position of secretary for the Peel County Conservative Association in 1929 and in 1933 became its president. On January 23, 1934, he was elected president of the Young Conservatives and was reelected on February 23, 1935. He was nominated for parliament on March 23, 1935, and many other positions and accolades followed before May 23, 1941, when he was elected as national chairman of the Conservative party of Canada. Needless to say, he chose 23 as his lucky number. He served as a Member of Parliament for 18 years, 1935-1953.

Approval for the 20 classroom school had been given to the South Peel School Board by Toronto Township Council on Monday, May 10, 1954. The Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School on Ogden Avenue, designed by Shore and Moffatt Architects, cost \$650,000 to build. It would accommodate 600 students, grades 7 to 11, under the

watchful eye of Principal Wilfred Wood. In September, 1956, the students filed in for the beginning of the first school year.

In 1958, grades 8 thru 12 were accommodated at Gordon Graydon, then 10 to 13 in 1959, when grades 7 to 9 went to the new Allan A. Martin Junior High School. The school's first yearbook was published in 1958 and named "The Gremlin." It was dedicated to the principal, Mr. Wood. This was followed by the first newspaper, called "*The Gnome*," that was put out in January, 1959. It had four pages, then went to six by May, and was published five times a year. In 1962, a Boy's gymnasium was added to the school. At this time there were 1,500 students.

The school acquired "The Rock" in 1967, a substantial pink boulder transported by a 25 ton flatbed truck and crane from Gravenhurst in Muskoka. It was part of the school's Centennial project. On May 4th, Mrs. Graydon cut the ribbon for its dedication as the school band played and 1,000 flags flapped in the wind. During the 1970/71 school year, the students were allowed



▲ Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School
(Region of Peel Archives)

to wear blue jeans as school attire. That same year, Graydon won the Robert Speck Memorial Trophy at the Mississauga Secondary School Winter Carnival held at Huron Park. The school won for four consecutive years. In 1974, a new cafeteria was put in and the small servery became a store called "The Hawk's Nest," which was opened on November 23rd.

The play "*Our Town*," held on April 23, 24, 25, 1980, and directed by Kathy McGregor and Gerd Laudenbach, was said to be "the finest and most moving play ever presented in the history of Graydon." A year later, the staff and students celebrated Graydon's 25th anniversary on the May 9th weekend. They held an open house and a wine and cheese party. Then while scenes from "*Li'l Abner*" were performed, the band entertained the guests. The last day of the event ended with a dinner and dance at Cawthra Arena.

The "*Flash Gordon*" school newspaper was first published on December 14, 1994, and is still put out today. In 1995, Graydon went "Hi Tech" when the International Business and Technology Program was implemented by Raymond Beyer. It was the first program of its kind to be put in a secondary school across Canada. This was followed by several computer labs being added to the school. The

following school season, the students built a robot, wrote a book, produced a video and got a website on the Internet.

The 40th anniversary was celebrated on May 31, 1996. At this time a special booklet on the school's history was compiled by Dianne Martin. In this publication, students who returned to teach at Graydon were recorded: Carol Borden Culbert, Cathy Cunningham, Susan Cooper Davies, Kerry Frith, Paul Lamont, Dianne Martin, Stacey Konkle Pepper, Fraser Perry, Arne Pfeiff, Robert Phillips,

Lynda Coates Smith, Sue Somerset and Jacqueline Greaves Strelecki. The principals who followed Mr. Wood were Walter Ward (1965-1973), W. E. King (1973-1978), David Craig (1978-1984), George Murray (1984-1990), Ray Beyer (1990-1996), Carolyn Crosby (1996-2001), and Christine Shane (2001-2004).

In 2005, there are 1,340 students at Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary School, 1490 Ogden Avenue, and the present principal is Mr. Terry Hamm.



▲ Bridge over QEW, 2004 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Reeve Mary Fix assured Miss Miller that council was aware of the problem and would be willing to send a supporting delegation with Miss Miller when they went. Deputy Reeve Speck said a letter should be sent to the Minister making him aware of council's support. Councillor Howard Elliott said that Miss Miller should be congratulated on her presentation as "it was the finest we have had before council in the past year."

Port Credit Weekly
Thursday, November 21, 1957

Author's note: The students were successful in their quest and an overpass was installed and opened in the spring of 1959.

NEWS ITEM Students Ask Aid of Highway Minister

Gordon Graydon students are seeking a bridge over the QE-Way. Mary Jane Miller, the spokesman for a four person deputation from the students council of the Gordon Graydon High School, told members of municipal council that the deputation was to meet the Minister of Highways as soon as Col. T.L. Kennedy had arranged a date. They intended to ask the minister for some form of pedestrian crossing of the Queen Elizabeth Highway at Ogden Avenue where more than 200 students cross at present.

St. Luke's Anglican Church - 1957

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In 1956, a number of Anglican families in Lakeview decided to acquire land to start their own church.

Two acres (0.8 ha) on Haig Boulevard were purchased and a school portable was set on it that would suffice for services until funds could be attained to construct a decent sized building. They called it St. Luke's Anglican Church and held their first service on February 17, 1957.

Reverend Douglas Candy, who had been ordained in 1940, became St. Luke's first Rector.



◀ Reverend Douglas Candy
(Mississauga News)



▲ The Portable and New Church
(St. Luke's Anglican Church)

BY 1959, THEY HAD REALIZED THE FUNDS REQUIRED TO expand and five acres (3 ha) of Lot 5, Con. 2, SDS, on Dixie Road, were bought on October 13th from Mary McAuliffe's estate. There was a two storey 14 room house on the property that had been built by the McAuliffe family in 1938 when they purchased from Margaret O'Brien. It was restored and became the Rectory, church offices and Sunday School facility and was referred to as the Parish House. The portable was moved to the property and it was used until 1961 when the new church was ready for services on Sunday, May 17, 1961. The church was dedicated by the Anglican Bishop of Toronto, the Right

Reverend F. Wilkinson. Over 300 parishioners attend the service that was conducted by the Bishop of Ottawa, the Right Reverend E. Reed. The Parish's purpose is, "To know Christ and to make him known in worship, fellowship and in service to His world."

An Anglican Women's group was formed and became quite active in serving the parish. They were dedicated to working with Mental Health and even adopted a Greek child. A Youth Group was also formed and the young people took full advantage of this opportunity. Reverend Candy founded the Mississauga Marriage Preparation Course. It became so successful within the church that it was expanded to include five other churches in the area. St. Luke's coordinated the courses and acted as registrar and resource centre. Dr. Lionel Brayley of Port Credit and Mrs. Mary Sue McCarthy, from King City, Ontario, who was in marriage and family counseling, administered to the hundreds of couples who were preparing for marriage.

In 1981, Reverend Candy retired and a party/barbecue was held in his honour with Mayor Hazel McCallion as one of the special guests. The congregation's gift to Rev. Candy and his wife, Catherine, was a trip to China, which according to Rev. Candy, "was a fantastic, educational experience, especially being up on the China Wall." In 1983, he continued his administrative work when he became Associate



▲ Singers perform for the Blind, 1974 (Mississauga News)

Priest at St. George on the Hill, Islington, with Rev. David Luxton, which he did until 1996. Ironically enough, he had become a minister as Rev. Luxton's father's curate at Grace Church on the Hill in North Toronto.

Reverend Larry O'Connor took over St. Luke's as Pastor. As the congregation required more room for its numerous activities, a new wing was added in 1986 and the McAuliffe house was torn down. The Anglican Church Women and Joy in the Morning groups are an integral part of St. Luke's Outreach Program, which includes the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund of the Anglican Church of Canada and the Faith Works of the Diocese of Canada. Other Outreach ministries include support of Save the Children Fund, the Elizabeth Fry Society and the *Mississauga News* Christmas Bureau Fund.

St. Luke's Church, located at 1513 Dixie Road, owns and operates Westminster Court, a retirement apartment residence at 4150 Westminster Place in the Cooksville area that was opened in 1983.

St. Luke's ministry of worship, pastoral care and Christian education assures its parishioners that the Church is present when they need it most.

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▲ St. Luke's Anglican Church, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Lakeview Sewage Treatment Plant - 1957

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ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1956, AT THE Toronto Township Council meeting, Reeve Tom Jackson announced that approval was received from the Ontario Water Resources Commission (OWRC) for the construction of a sewage treatment plant to be built in 1957.

▲ Aerial View of Treatment Plant

A proposal was drafted between the OWRC and Toronto Township on October 11th. The plant that would cost \$475,000 would process 10 million gallons (45,400,000 L) of water a day to service the Township population of over 50,000, nearly 10,000 in Lakeview. Trunk lines would be constructed up

Dixie Road to connect with industry there, another along the Lakeshore Road to service Lakeview and Lyndwood, a third up Highway 10 to service Cooksville and the Cloverleaf area.

It took a lot of clout from the Lakeview Businessmen's Association to establish this necessary facility. In June, 1955, an all out campaign was implemented and a five man committee, headed up by Robert Speck, was established to direct the campaign. He was supported by George Dyer, Jack Plaus, John Keaveney and Jack Savery. A petition was circulated to get signatures from the Lakeview residents, which would be presented to Toronto Township council. Reeve Mary Fix negotiated with the Department of National Defence for 35 acres (14 ha), Lot 6, Con. 3, of the Rifle Ranges property to build the Township Sewage Disposal plant and it was approved in September. The purchase was made on December 20, 1955. (This negotiation had been going on for sometime. The ratepayers of Lakeview had been asked to vote on sewers as early as the December, 1951, elections. Sewers were ahead of roads, sidewalks and ditches in the resident polls taken. The estimated cost was \$2,066,000, \$1,390,000 for Lakeview alone, and the taxpayers would pay \$3 per foot frontage to cover capital costs of installing sewers. A stalemate occurred and the



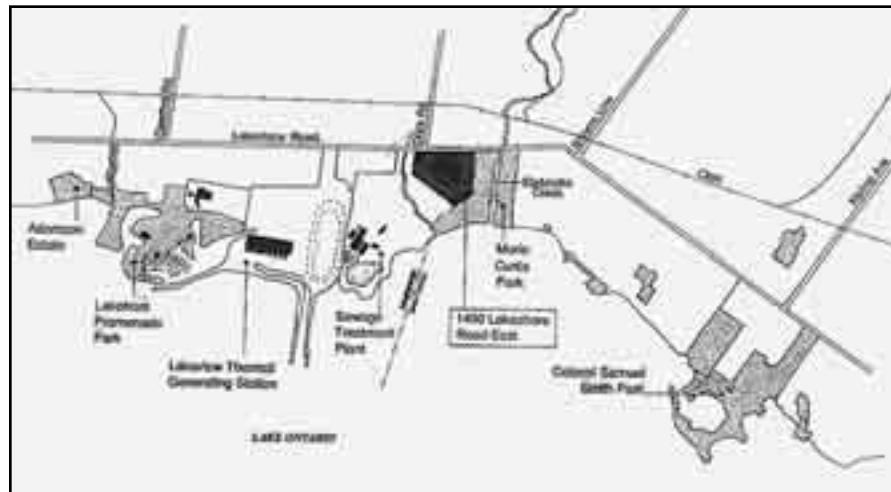
▲ Lakeview Plant 3 Aeration

request was turned down time and again, the last being in March, 1954, which caused council to lose hope of ever having the plant on this site.) It is the persistence and determination of these types of people that have brought about the amenities we enjoy today.

In 1971, the facility was extended, adding the aerobic process of three aeration tanks that tripled its capacity to handle 37 million gallons (167 ML) a day. The cost of the addition was \$6.4 million. South Peel Sewage Control System supervisor, K. R. Stratton, said the new extension would greatly reduce the burdened facility and it would eventually handle all the sewage from Mississauga as well as the northern areas around Brampton. In the next 30 years, other expansions were carried out as required.

Major improvements to the Lakeview Waste Water Treatment Plant, at 1300 Lakeshore Road East, got underway in 2004. The expansion would allow the plant to handle 448 ML per day of waste water compared to 392 ML per day. The work was estimated at \$270 million and will conclude in 2006. Modification to convert the incinerators to Hot Windboxes along with chlorination/dechlorination will continue until 2007.

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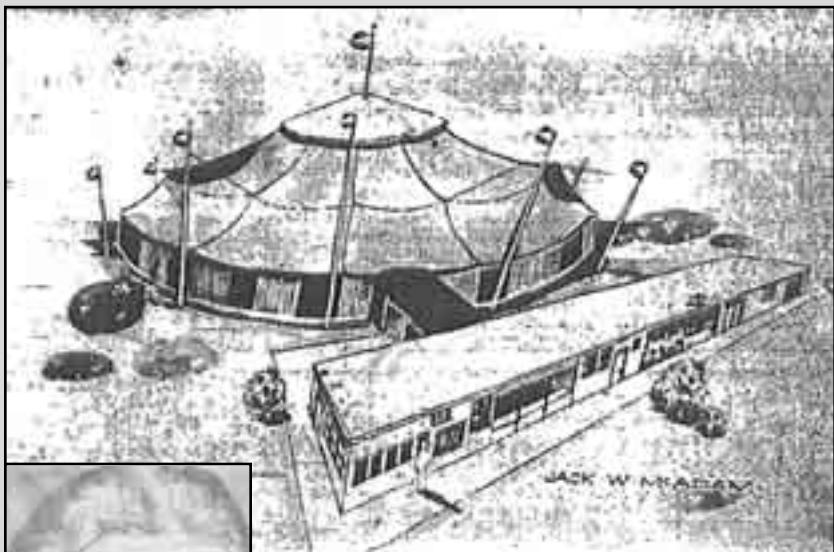


(Photos courtesy of the Region of Peel)

Theatre in-the-Round - 1958

LEWIS FISHER, A PROMINENT PRODUCER OF America's most successful tent theatre operation, Niagara Melody Fair, and president of Music Fair Limited, initiated a theatre-in-the-round in Lakeview. He leased property from Principal Investments, the owners of Dixie Plaza, on November 25, 1957. It would be Canada's first outdoor theatre of this kind.

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▲ Music Fair Tent
(Port Credit Weekly)



◀ Mary Fix
(Region of Peel Archives)

With weather permitting, a large hole was dug on the former Pallett farm west of Dixie Road, against the Lakeview Golf Course fence where a creek went through the 18th hole. A 20,000 square foot (1858 m^2) green canvas circus-type tent, one of the largest and most luxurious tent structures on the continent, was put up over this setting, that had a ceiling 140 foot by 440 foot (43 m x 132 m) in diameter. A round removable stage, 35 foot (10.7 m) in diameter, was set in this pit with 2,000 yacht-type chairs placed around its perimeter. The interior was done in a blue and orange decor. An auxiliary one storey oblong building, 178 feet long and 40 feet wide (54 m x 12

m), would provide dressing rooms, a workshop, general offices, the box office and concessions. There was parking for 1,000 cars.

The production staff for Music Fair included stage director, Richard Casey, choreographer, Zachary Solov, and musical conductor, Mario Bernardi. Local actors, singers and dancers were hired to work in the productions and many people were hired as stagehands. A young man from Kenmuir Avenue, Colin Hamilton, worked in the box office. He now lives and works as an actor in Los Angeles, California.

Reeve Mary Fix who had broken ground for the Music Tent on April 30, 1958, officially opened the theatre on June 23rd, by pressing a button that illuminated the tent. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the master of ceremonies. She said to the packed house, "We in Toronto Township were pleased to learn some months ago that these ladies and gentlemen intended to inject a large dose of gaiety



▲ Colin Hamilton in
'My Fair Lady'
(Colin Hamilton)

into our community, and we are pleased and proud that they chose to bring their wonderful show to us first." Also in attendance was the Honourable T. L. Kennedy and Port Credit Reeve Stephen Bradley.

The first stage production was Irving Berlin's "*Annie Get Your Gun*" with Broadway's Betty Jane Watson and William Shriner as Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. This play ran until July 5th and was followed by "*Silk Stockings*," July 7-19; "*Song of Norway*," July 21-August 2; "*Happy Hunting*," August 4-16; "*Oklahoma*," August 18-30; and "*The Boy Friend*," September 1-13.



▲ Red Buttons



▲ Roddy McDowell



▲ James Garner

In 1959, some of the performances included *Brigadoon*, *Oklahoma* and *Showboat*, which were also spectacular movies of the period. It was summer stock at its best with famous Hollywood stars gracing the stage, Eve Arden in "*Goodbye, Charlie*" Red Buttons in "*Teahouse of the August Moon*" from the movie he was in with Marlon Brando in 1956, and Roddy McDowell in "*Meet Me in St. Louis*."

One big name today, James Garner of TV's "*The Rockford Files*" and the movie "*Murphy's Romance*," was one of the stars. He was in the production of "*John Loves Mary*" in the summer of 1960. Former pro/manager of the Lakeview Golf Course, Larry Edwards, remembers James Garner playing golf at Lakeview. "A temporary Pro Shop was built on the first tee in 1957 and it was used until 1961," he says, "and Jimmy Garner visited me there. He was an excellent golfer - shot in the low 70s."

Harold Kennedy remembers that when he was attending the production of "*My Fair Lady*," there on July 9, 1960, he was notified of his sister Muriel's accident. She had been hit and killed by lightening

at Camp Artaban, the second sister to lose her life this way.

Unfortunately, the theatre sat atop an underground stream (part of the creek that ran through the golf course) and it kept flooding. The water damage was too much to cope with and after three seasons the "Theatre-in-the-Round" closed down in the fall of 1960. Toronto Township had been blessed with three summers of Broadway and many people still remember. Our former Mayor Ron Searle and his wife Mollie saw many of the marvelous productions. "It was a most wonderful experience to see a Broadway show in your own backyard," he said.

NEWS ITEM

Tent operations, in the incredible short span of nine years, have become one of North America's major theatrical venture. In the United States last year, 25 tent theatres grossed a total of \$5 million, and nearly all showed a profit. The most successful of these, Buffalo Melody Fair, returned a neat \$120,000 profit on a \$45,000 gross.

In 1949, a carnival operator turned legit producer, St. John Terrell, decided to open a summer theatre in Lambertsville, New Jersey. Raising \$25,000, he built a huge tent, centered it with a circular stage and surrounded it with tiers of chairs. His first production in this revolutionary theatre was *The Merry Widow*, and although his initial season was unsuccessful, Terrell stuck to it, made a handsome profit in his second year and now successfully operates several tent theatres.

Port Credit Weekly,
June 12, 1958

Allan A. Martin Junior High School - 1958

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Allan A. Martin ▶

In 1958, the Allan A. Martin Junior High School was added to the row of three Ogden Avenue schools, and classes started in September. The official opening was held on February 6, 1959, with Deputy Minister of Education, Dr. C. W. Booth, as the guest speaker. A painting of Allan A. Martin by artist Hilton Hassel was presented to the school by the Elementary Teachers Association of South Peel and hung in the school foyer and still hangs there today.

▲ Allan A. Martin Senior Public School, 1967 (South Peel Board of Education)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS INCLUDED A LECTERN, A BIBLE and a golden key from architect Mr. R. Hanks. The Junior Band and school choir entertained and Mr. Martin unveiled a plaque commemorating the event.

When Allan Alexander Martin (b.1896, d.1985), an educator since 1916, was told that the South Peel Board of Education had decided to name the new school at 1390 Ogden Avenue after him he was overjoyed and proud. He had been born on October 18, 1896, in a farmhouse built in 1874 by his grandfather, James Martin, on Lot 17, Con. 1, Clarke Township, County of Durham, east of Newcastle, Ontario. His father, Robert, was James and Elizabeth Martin's youngest child. He married Alice Baskerville in 1895.

Allan received his education from S.S. #2 Clarke, Newcastle High School and Peterborough Normal School, where he received his Elementary School Teacher's certificate, and the Faculty of Education at the University of Toronto, which gave him the qualifications to teach in Ontario Elementary and Secondary Schools. In 1916, he took on his first teaching job at the one-room rural Starkville School S.S. #10 Clarke at an annual salary of \$600.

After a teaching stint at Newtonville Public School, Allan married Lucie McKay in 1922, and in 1926, they moved to Toronto, where he taught at the Dewson Street Public School and took summer courses at the University of Toronto and received his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Pedagogy degrees. They moved to Brighton in 1929, where he was appointed as public school inspector, and resided there until August, 1951, when they came to live in Port Credit, where he got involved in the South Peel school system. His biggest challenge came when he took on the position of Secretary-Treasurer on the Board of Regents for the founding of Sheridan College in Oakville. He retired from his successful career on August 31, 1966, as he approached his 70th birthday. He died in Oshawa, Ontario, on September 21, 1985, at the home of his daughter, Alice Sheffield. He was buried in Bowmanville Cemetery, alongside his wife, Lucie, who had passed away in 1968.



▲ Martian Library Group, 1978

(Allan A. Martin Senior Public School)

The newly opened Allan A. Martin School, so aptly named and designed by architects Hanks, Irwin and Pearson and built by contractor Mr. L. Asmus, would accommodate 780 students. The first principal was Gordon Stewart. There were Grades 7, 8 and 9, with 509 students and 26 teachers.

Over the years, the students at Allan A. Martin have enjoyed a variety of extra curricular activities called "electives" such as woodshop, rug hooking, boat building, ceramics, chess, music and drama. In 1968, an auditorium, cafeteria and servery were added. The students run the servery and make a substantial profit. All funds go to the benefit of the students. A committee of five teachers and five students make the decisions for the school's activities.

Cathy Standring, came to Allan A. Martin as a student in 1969 along with her brother, David, and sister, Candy Jones. Her fondest memory of having attended the school was a trip to Upper Canada Village in 1970. To come to the school as principal in 2001 had to be the ultimate dream come true. Cathy left for Ruth Thompson Middle School in 2004.

In 2005, Allan A. Martin Senior Public School has 24 classrooms with a staff of 30, who handle 704 students. The principal is Louise Sirisko.

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▲ Allan A. Martin Senior Public School, 2004

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

Golden Age Club - 1959

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THE FIRST TIME A SENIORS club was suggested in Toronto Township was in Lakeview in February, 1957. It was initiated by the Lakeview Recreation Association, headed up by president Jack Davis, with the assistance of the Toronto Township Recreation Commission. It was felt that the elderly should have creative opportunities to stimulate recreational activities. There was a familiar saying, "People do not stop playing because they grow old; they grow old because they stop playing."

Referred to as the Golden Age Club or in other municipalities the Over 60 Club, the Lakeview Senior Citizens Club was finally founded in November, 1959, thanks to the activities arranged by Peggy Elliott and June Wall that brought the interested seniors together. This delay in formation allowed Cooksville to have the first official seniors' club in Toronto Township in 1958.



▲ Celebrating 40 years are Isabel Russell, an original member, Mamie Bentley, Minn McKenzie, Mayor Hazel McCallion, Mary Harper, 101 year old Doris Schooley and Dorelle Boyes, 1999.

The first president was Mrs. T. Casey, secretary, Mrs. Bryant, and treasurer, Mr. T. Casey, with 48 members. Meetings were held in the Ogden Avenue Public School portable on the first and third Friday of each month.

Seniors in the area were encouraged to participate on a volunteer basis to assist in the operation of the club, such as organizing meetings and providing entertainment and refreshments. The biggest

problem, according to Jack Davis was transportation. This was gradually overcome as members of local organizations came forward and offered their assistance.

The first fund raising event was a Tea and Bake Sale. Members from the Cooksville Seniors Club and the Lorne Park Seniors, founded in 1959, came occasionally to the Lakeview meetings or events.

In the coming years, the Recreation Commission pursued the registration of seniors in Toronto Township to organize clubs in other locations. Names and addresses were requested to be forwarded to Mr. R. W. Sones.

In 1963, the Recreation Commission began to promote programmes for seniors and the first Annual Workshop was held on April 9th. It was an opportunity for seniors to share and exchange ideas and build membership. That same year, the Lakeview Seniors took over the occupancy of the Elliott House in Serson Park. The Commission had added a large room for a meeting hall, and supplied the necessary furnishings. The Seniors accommodated other groups in their new location. The executive at this time was: Mrs. T. Casey, president,

Mrs. J. M. Hall, 1st vice president, Mrs. Gilmore, 2nd vice president, Mrs. C. Milton, secretary, and Mrs. M. Green, treasurer. The Elliott House was eventually torn down.

In 1967, Canada's Centennial year, the executive was Mrs. Sarah Gilmore, president, Jack Masters, vice president, Mrs. Jean Bryant, 2nd vice president, Millie Green, secretary, and Mrs. Lou Godfrey, treasurer, with 49 members. The Seniors enjoyed bus trips, banquets, bowling, participating in parades, which they did in a motorized train engine in 1974 during the City Day Parade down Hurontario Street.

When the Cawthra Seniors Centre at 1389 Cawthra Road was opened in 1974, the Lakeview Club began to hold its meetings and activities there. A popular fund raiser was a Spring Fair with a flea market and raffle. It was an annual event until April, 2003.

The Lakeview Seniors Club is still functioning today with Dorelle Boyes as president, Myrtle Ballard, vice president, June Cook, treasurer, Thelma Lowe, secretary, and 14 members. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of the month. On December 2, 2004, the Club celebrated 45 years.



▲ Lakeview Senior Citizens' Club Executive, 1963



▲ Dorelle Boyes,
President

Memories - 1962



▲ Det. Teggart and Det. Snarr with firearms and ammunition seized during Most Wanted Suspects Siegriff, Mueller and Thompson's arrest

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▲ William J. Teggart

(Photos courtesy of
William Teggart)

"On a February evening in 1962, Detective Bill Snarr and I were in an unmarked car cruising east on the Lakeshore Road near Dixie Road. He was driving and I looked at the car beside us and observed three young men all in the front seat. I recognized the driver as Bill Thompson and his two accomplices, Fred Siegriff and Paul Mueller, all escapees from the Joyceville Penitentiary, Kingston, who were on Canada's most wanted list. They had been doing long time terms for armed robbery and had escaped six days before. They were reported as armed and dangerous and were wanted on new charges of kidnaping and robbery. As we attempted to pull them over, their car sped east as far as New Toronto and began cutting down back streets at a high rate of speed.

"Det. Snarr, who was a tank commander and driving instructor before he joined the force, had no trouble keeping up with them. Their car went out of control, went through a fence and struck a tree, then sped off again at 80 m.p.h. heading back into Toronto Township on the wrong side of the street car tracks and went through several red lights.

"I opened fire with my 38 service revolver and struck the car's rear window, trunk and tire. The car slowed down, but they would not pull over and Det. Snarr rammed the car, knocking it across the sidewalk onto the shoulder of the road. My door was jammed and I was forced to jump out the window across the truck of their car to arrest them at gun point. We seized three rifles, one fully loaded and 500 rounds of ammunition. That pursuit and capture received a lot of front page coverage in the major newspapers. They were dangerous young men for sure. They were very lucky and so were we that our pursuit didn't end up in tragedy. They were sentenced to long jail terms.

"While we were making the arrest a little old lady came over to me and said, 'Officer, are these yours?' And she handed me my handcuffs. They had fallen in the snow when I hurled myself across the back of the car. I thanked her and slapped them on one of the guys. About three weeks after this incident, Chief McGill got a great letter complimenting the officers for their astuteness and quickness of mind in the arrest of these criminals. The letter was from the magistrate, who had handled the case."

Recollection of Former Police Chief William J. Teggart (1987-1990)
Detective Toronto Township Police Department (1959-1968)

The Lakeview Generating Station - 1962

The opening of the Lakeview Generating Station took place on June 20, 1962, with Prime Minister John Robarts and Ontario Hydro chairman W. Ross Strike pushing the button to start up the first 300,000 kilowatt unit to produce electricity. The station was the first 3,000,000 kilowatt thermal-electric plant in Canada. Roberts commented that, "The Lakeview Generation Station is a tangible expression of confidence in the contribution electricity would make to the continued growth and well being of the citizens of Ontario." A plaque was unveiled that paid tribute to the spirit of cooperation that prevailed during construction.



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▲ Lakeview Generating Station, 1968

THE CONSTRUCTION FOR THE EIGHT UNIT COAL burning generating plant by Ontario Hydro had gotten underway on June 10, 1958, on 76 acres (30.4 ha) of Lot 7, Con 3, SDS, on the shore of Lake Ontario in Lakeview, purchased on May 15th from Crown Assets Disposal Corporation in Ottawa. Another 82 acres (32.8 ha) of Lot 8 was purchased that same year. The property had been formerly

◀ Lakeview Generation Station Opening, 1962

used for the Rifle Ranges and the first Aerodrome. The road leading into the plant is called Hydro Road. The eight-300,000 watt turbo generators were built by Canadian General Electric in Peterborough and at this time they were the largest generating units in the world.

In 1960, a docking causeway was constructed. Built of steel cells 48 feet (14.8 m) in diameter weighed down with rock and concrete, it extended 2,000 feet (610 m) out into Lake Ontario. Here self-unloading ships would discharge coal onto conveyor belts that would carry it, at a rate of 2,000 tons (2040 tonnes) an hour, to the storage area that could hold 2,500,000 tons (2,550,000 tonnes) of coal.

Upon completion in 1968 at a cost of \$274 million, it became the world's largest fossil generating station capable of producing 2.4 billion watts of power. (Now it is only surpassed by the Nanticoke Thermal Generating Station located near Port Dover, which boosted its kilowatt production by 50 per cent in 1998.) During the late 1960s and early 1970s, Lakeview ran at full capacity supplying 2,400 megawatts of the province's electrical needs. Its four 490 foot (149 m) concrete stacks that became referred to as "the four sisters" can be seen for miles (kilometres) and serve as navigational beacons for boats and ships as well as aeroplanes.

Several changes and improvements have been made at the station over the years. In 1989, thousands of local construction workers were



▲ Construction Underway, 1958



▲ Construction Almost Completed, 1962

hired to refurbish the units so they would be more environmentally efficient. In the following three years only four units out of the eight were completed when the operation ceased due to the decline in consumer use of electricity. In 1994, the plant returned to service with the use of only four units with much improved environmental performance.

In 1999, the Ontario Hydro became The Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG) as part of the restructuring of the electricity sector in the province. The OPG Lakeview Generating Station had 233 employees in 2003 and was used as a peaking station, operating during high load periods on four of the four remaining units having a capacity of 1.2 billion watts of electricity.

In this new changing time when the electricity industry is conditioning itself to customers being able to choose their electricity supplier, the staff at Lakeview have been "committed to producing electricity efficiently and competitively and in the most environmentally diligent manner possible."

Over its 43 year history, besides providing energy, LGS also helped to maintain the identity of the community and was an active supporter of many local events, along with the Lakeview Business Association,

and supported local charities and youth initiatives and in 2002 became a sponsor of this author's book series.

Under provincial regulation, in early 2005 the Lakeview Generation Station ceased its operations. Its contribution to our city will always be a part of our history.



▲ A Turbo Generator



▲ A View From the Lake



(Photos courtesy of
Larry Onisto, LGS)

Ye Old "X" Shoppe Comes To Lakeview - 1965

The Grebeldinger family came to Canada from the United States in 1949 when Nicholas, who was an engineer by trade, was to take up the position of Director of Marketing Operations for the British American Oil Company (BA - now Petro Canada) at the Toronto head office.

His wife, Mildred, was a skilled seamstress, who created clothes, window drapery, slipcovers and even upholstered furniture. She and Nicholas had five children, Nicholas Jr., Gary, Norma Jean, Richard and Bruce. They set up housekeeping on Woodland Avenue in the Peel Gardens' subdivision, where old trees stood sentinel over the quiet neighbourhood.

Mildred noticed that a lot of people were disposing of household items and clothing that she thought could be recycled. So, having survived the depression when she learned, "waste not, want not," she decided to open a secondhand store. The year was 1952 and she found a vacated fruit and vegetable store at 108 Lakeshore Road East in Port Credit and rented it. It became The X-Shop.

Business was so good, that she was outgrowing her small store and in 1953, Nicholas purchased a piece of property at 120 Lakeshore Road East, at the northwest corner of Hurontario Street across from the St. Lawrence Starch Company's Park.

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▲ Grebeldinger Family June 17, 1984
(Richard Grebeldinger)

HE DESIGNED A TWO STOREY CONCRETE BLOCK BUILDING and a contractor was hired. Sons, Nick and Gary assisted in its construction. Once the new store was opened, Mildred could not do all the work herself and Nick and Gary helped after school.

The business grew to include furniture, appliances, books and general household items. Mildred had established a recycling trend that would augment her family's income and assist families with theirs by buying at reasonable prices. It became a six day a week involvement, whereby three full time and several part-time employees were required besides the family's assistance.

In the summer of 1958, Gary came onboard full time and introduced a sporting goods line to the already burgeoning stock. Richard and Bruce worked part-time. Nick Jr. was in University and Norma Jean was attending school in Montana.

In 1960, the family bought what they referred to as "The House on the Hill" at 883 Dundas Street, east of Cawthra Road in Dixie, said to have been built in 1848 by George Silverthorn, Joseph Silverthorn's son. Mildred branched out to add a second store in her home, where she displayed finer furniture and antiques. She worked out of both stores and by 1962, more space was required and she took up a unit in a new plaza at 1125 Dundas Street East, south of Dixie Arena.

The Silverthorn house, which sat on 3-1/2 acres required a lot of maintenance and so it was sold in 1965 and the family took up residence in a new home in Port Credit and a building that had housed a Western Tire store was purchased at 707 Lakeshore Road in Lakeview for what became The Ye Old "X" Shoppe. By this time Mildred was only assisted by employees. Nick Jr. was now a lawyer in the United States, Gary was working with an international corporation, Norma Jean was the wife of a rancher in Montana, and Richard and Bruce were in University. Nicholas Sr. retired from BA in 1968.

Upon graduation, Bruce took over the Port Credit location and operated it until it was closed in 1973, when he became a commercial pilot. Richard worked with his mother at the Lakeview store until she

retired in 1985 and then he became the manager. The store's inventory grew until aisles weaved through the antiques, artifacts and items from record albums to diningroom tables and cabinets, like a labyrinth treasure hunt. It was literally a cornucopia of paintings, over 20,000 books, 6,000 records, small appliances, clothing, sporting goods, and a skate exchange that was appreciated by young skaters and hockey players, who returned year after year. The Grebeldingers referred to it as "Your Yesteryear Department Store," as their principal was, "everything is worth something to someone," as they were totally opposed to the waste mentality.

Mildred passed away in 1988 and Nicholas in 1994. Mildred and her family had enjoyed many long lasting friendships over the years as they gave a satisfying service to Toronto Township, then Mississauga.

Richard continued his emporium enterprise until he closed the doors in November, 2002, after setting a recycling example for over half a century. He is venturing into an entirely different field, he says as, "the lessons gained and the values acquired being tools in my future endeavours."



▲ The Closing of the X-Shoppe, 2002
(Don Barber)

Road Controversy - 1967

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The application for approval of the Sherway Shopping Centre in Etobicoke was sent to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) in 1963. Between that year and the spring of 1967, two hearings were held by the OMB and on each occasion the application was turned down. After the second decision to reject the Sherway application, the Ontario Cabinet, in an unprecedented move, ordered the OMB to take another look. At the subsequent hearing, the OMB reversed its decision and approved the plan. In a written report, the OMB ruled that, "Sherway objectors have not provided convincing proof that the Sherway Centre would generate a dangerous volume of traffic (on the QEW)." Ironically, despite that statement, the Highways Minister George Gomme had just received a recommendation from a Toronto consulting firm retained by his Ministry, that the QEW be widened to 12 lanes between Highway 27 and Oakville. It was clear from that report that the Ministry presupposed the approval of the Sherway plan. While monitoring the OMB hearing with senior members of Toronto Township staff, Ward 7 Councillor Ron Searle gained access to the report and outlined it in detail at a meeting of the Toronto Township Council.

HE ADVISED THE MEMBERS THAT THE PROPOSED WIDENING would remove the South Service Road and at least 100 homes between the Etobicoke Creek and Hurontario Street would be expropriated and demolished. The South Service Road would be replaced by "access" roads which would cut across the northern part of the Toronto Golf Club and the Lakeview Golf Course, recently purchased by the Township of Toronto. As a result, communities such as Orchard Heights and Applewood Acres would be subjected to a high volume of traffic noise from both the north and south. Council stated that it would request a meeting with Municipal Affairs Minister Wilfred Spooner and the Highway Minister to discuss what Councillor Searle called, "The rape of Toronto Township."

On Monday, April 10, 1967, *The Toronto Telegram* covered the previously hidden report on its front page with the headline, "Study Urges 12 Lanes on Stretch of QEW"

Councillor Ron Searle led the battle to rescind the Ministry's proposal. The Orchard Heights and Town and Country Ratepayers Association, headed up by president Garry Smith, was out in full force when a hearing was held. The residents located in the area involved also attended to object to losing their homes.

Also involved in the road expansion was the proposed interchanges at Dixie and Cawthra Roads. The interchanges were of major concern to the five ratepayers groups in this location. Their main complaint was that they were uninformed of major developments in their communities. Ron Searle established an experimental Ward 7 Parliament, a caucus consisting of the executive from the five groups, Orchard Heights, the Dixie-Lakeshore Homeowners, Sherway, and North and South Applewood groups, to keep everyone informed and hear opinions and complaints and assist in solving them to everyone's satisfaction.

The final outcome, thanks to Ron Searle and his supporters, was that the proposal of the relocation of the South Service Road was defeated, as was the construction of Sherway Gardens temporarily postponed. It was finally built and opened in 1971. The Queen Elizabeth Way was widened, but not to 12 lanes, and the Dixie and Cawthra Roads modernized with new rotary interchanges, but the South Service Road remained where it was.