

## Centennial Celebration - 1967

MANY CELEBRATIONS TOOK PLACE throughout Canada to celebrate the 100 years of Confederation that was always celebrated on July 1st. In Montreal the 1967 Expo was a great success. Here on the homefront, a memorable feat was the formation of the Town of Mississauga at a council meeting in March. Lakeview, as a village in Toronto Township, would be part of the new town.

Former Reeve, Anthony Adamson, and his wife, Augusta, opened their house and grounds on the shores of Lake Ontario in September for a Centennial soiree, sponsored by the South Peel Conservative Women's Association, of which Augusta was a member. The guests had been encouraged to wear 1867 garb.



▲ Adamson Barn (Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Adamson's Plaque



◀ Provincial Crests

The Adamson barn was transformed into an old fashioned country market with antiques on display, a white elephant table, flower stalls and tables laden with home baked goods. One of the highlights was the tea cup readings, which was much enjoyed by all with a good sense of humour. Turkish coffee was available throughout the event and a fashion show of current fashions was a highlight of the day.

## Ontario Housing for Seniors - 1967

282



**I**n January, 1967, the Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) financed the plan of a Senior Citizen housing project at the southwest corner of East Avenue and Lakeshore Road called East Avenue Senior Citizens Complex. The 30 unit dwelling, built by LaSala Construction on two acres (0.8 ha) of land for approximately \$220,000, was to have one and two bedroom apartments.

▲ *The Seniors Facility, 1967* (Port Credit Weekly)

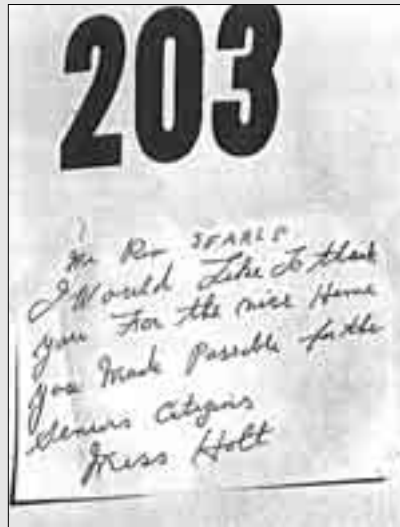
THIS SENIOR CITIZEN'S HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, THE FIRST of its kind in Peel County, was opened on October 10, 1967, by the man instrumental in initiating and finalizing the venture, Councillor Ron Searle. He graciously presented two new tenants, Mr. and Mrs. William Hayball, with the keys to their new home. Reverend John Burbridge, Pastor of the Lakeview United Church, dedicated the building. Reeve Robert Speck made a speech announcing that this was a project he had looked forward to seeing completed for a number

of years and brought to everyone's attention the many people who were responsible for seeing it come to fruition. He and the Federal Member of Parliament Bruce Beer cut the ribbon. The Hon. Stanley J. Randall, Minister of Economics and Development, was also in attendance, accompanied by P. E. H. Brady, Deputy Manager

Director of OHC.

The 65 residents would enjoy spacious, electrically heated suites at a rental fee of \$37 a month.

This complex is still in use today at 960 East Avenue.



▲ Letter to Ron



## Memories

"The opening of the Senior Citizens housing development was a proud day for me. All the doors along the main corridors of the 30 unit project were adorned with handwritten notes. One from Walter and Amelia Green said, 'To all who made it possible for we seniors to enjoy our reclining years a little brighter with such lovely living quarters, especially Mr. Searle, many thanks.' Or on the door of Apartment 203, 'Mr. Searle, I would like to thank you for the nice home you made possible for the Senior Citizens. Signed Miss Holt.' In the February, 1968, issue of the magazine 'Ontario Housing' published by the Ontario Housing Corporation, pictures of the hand written notes were printed on the inside back cover with the headline, 'More eloquent than speeches...'"

Ron Searle  
Former Councillor Ward 7  
and Mayor of Mississauga 1977-78

◀ Ron Searle (Ron Searle)

## Cadet Organization Police School (COPS) - 1968

IN OCTOBER, 1967, STAFF SERGEANT JOHN Kelly of the Toronto Township Police Department was detached from his regular police duties to organize a Youth Bureau. He visited Youth Bureaus in Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and Flint, Michigan, to research their operations and incorporate his findings into a new group of young men in Lakeview.

Kelly started meetings in an office at the Lakeview United Church. He made his presence known in the area and he would be there so that the boys could drop in after school. Once he established a regular attendance, it was imperative that the boys needed something to do, so he decided to start a cadet corps as he had been a cadet in high school and had enjoyed the involvement. A couple of boys gathered 19 names of boys aged 12 to 17 who would be interested in the cadets. Kelly got in touch with Bill Ortwein of the Toronto Port Police, who had been a corporal drill instructor, and they organized a parade for January 9, 1968. Kelly then contacted Major Paton at Ortona Army Barracks in Oakville and he offered to give him the same assistance as they gave an army corps. The Cadet Organization Police School called COPS became a reality. When the Army became involved, John was promoted to the rank of Major in the Canadian Armed Forces.



▲ Mississauga Police Deputy Chief William Teggart inspects the COPS with Major John Kelly, 1968

The purpose of the COPS organization was to reduce delinquency by mixing recreational programs with discipline. A variety of programs were organized for boys and girls ages 12 to 17. An evenings program would consist of a foot drill, then the fundamentals would be taught in judo, boxing and shooting at the Corps' rifle range. Lectures in law and police work were also on the agenda.

By June, 1968, a Board of Directors was put in place. The Board members were MPP Hyl Chappell, Reeve Robert Speck, MPP Doug Kennedy and the Town of Mississauga's lawyer, Len Stewart. Police Deputy Chief William Teggart handled the administration and budget work. Community volunteers assisted the group. Kelly's sister, Pat, and her husband, Len Brookes, a World War II veteran, became very



▲ Deputy Chief Teggart addressing the COPS

instrumental in the function of the school. The COPS became official when the organization was incorporated and received its charter on August 19, 1969.

After a few years, interest in COPS was shown in other areas of Ontario and a Corps was started in Kitchener-Waterloo and Orillia. The COPS began to hold their meetings in the Canadian Arsenal Building at 1352 Lakeshore Road. In 1975, the Federal Government leased the building to the Ontario Hydro. Len Stewart wrote a letter to Mississauga Council on the COPS behalf and Resolution No. 93 was passed that Council negotiate with the Federal Government to purchase the Canadian Arsenal property to accommodate the COPS programme. The request was unsuccessful, but the COPS continued to hold meetings there and still do.

By 1972, 500 boys were involved. Joe Monks, who had operated a bus line until 1968, donated two buses to the group. John Kelly, with a little help from his friends, dismantled one of the buses and repaired the other one with the parts and made a safe reliable vehicle to transport the Corps to various events.

Over 1,700 boys and 400 girls had participated by 1975. At this time, their activities included basic cadet training, three bands, judo and related martial arts, boxing, hunter safety, basketball, baseball, survival courses, marine safety and swimming, hiking, canoeing and drill athletics. Many of these activities were carried out at the COPS Camp at Sauble Beach, Ontario. John Kelly had purchased the property and with the help of volunteers had a facility built at his own expense.

The COPS became the largest Corps in Ontario and became well known, especially for the many awards won over the years, such as the Lord Strathcona Award for the best Military Band.

John Kelly resigned from the COPS in 1977 and handed command to ten year police veteran Sgt. Rick Burton. At a special ceremony held for the occasion, Kelly commented, "I'll miss the young people of this school. I am proud of what we have accomplished with the help of the Canadian Army and the Peel Regional Police."

In 2001, the COPS held an annual inspection and John Kelly attended. He was pleased and thrilled that the group he started is still going strong. "It is very satisfying," he said.

The Director of the COPS organization in 2005 is Major David Kennedy, a Constable on the Peel Regional Police Force. There are over 170 young people involved.



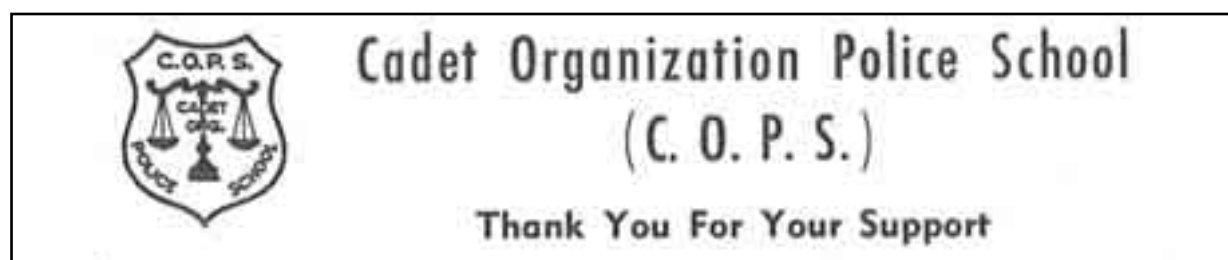
▲ Major John Kelly turns Command over to Sgt. Rick Burton, 1977



(Photos courtesy of John Kelly)

▲ Craig Hopkins

▲ COPS Crest



## Mississauga Sailing Club - 1972

In 1972, with the initiative of the Town of Mississauga's advertising for someone interested in forming a sailing club to attend a meeting at Huron Park Community Centre, a group of Mississauga citizens took up the challenge. From this meeting, a steering committee was established and Des Cowan became chairman/commodore. The committee developed a sailing club to accommodate small craft sailors at the Port Credit Harbour with the idea of opening up the opportunity for young people to take part in sailing and water safety programs. The organization became the Mississauga Sailing Club (MSC). The MSC's Constitution reads, "The object of the club is to promote and encourage interest in all classes of dinghy sailing within Mississauga. A club designed for the boat-owner and non boat-owner, the novice and expert sailor alike."



▲ Mississauga Sailing Club Entrance

THE FIRST OUTING TOOK PLACE ON SUNDAY AUGUST 20th, when several boats were launched from ramps on the west side of the Credit River. A program was put in place and races were held every Thursday evening and dinghy class regattas were held regularly.

As early as 1973, the interest in boating increased, and the MSC Board began to look for a more suitable site to accommodate its members. They wanted to have a small sequestered area with the construction of a retaining wall whereby boats could be launched without the wave force of Lake Ontario. With the assistance of Town



Council through Councillor Ron Searle and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, negotiations resulted in establishing the MSC at a new location, the Park area west of the Lakeview Generating Station.

The first clubhouse turned out to be three trailers supplied by Mississauga's Recreation and Parks Department. On May 9, 1975, a permit to construct a temporary ramp for launching sailboats was received. In 1980, the trailers were exchanged for a two car garage that was moved onto the property. A year later, a Pan-a-bode cottage was transported from Jack Darling Park to be utilized as a clubhouse and a fenced compound was put up to store 60 boats for the members. The Sea Cadets became involved in the MSC's program in 1984. Floating docks were built by the members in 1987.

A two storey rectangular all-season building was approved in 1994,

the year Lakefront Promenade Park opened. It was constructed on the beach area of Albert E. Crookes Headland and officially opened in June, 1997, the year of the MSC's 25th anniversary. The new clubhouse has a kitchen/meeting room, washrooms with shower facilities and a roof deck.

A racing program, operated by the volunteer race committee, runs from May to October, with major regattas for fleets such as Hobie, Laser, Mirror, Mystere, ORCA and Wayfarer. The Club's association with the Sea Scouts, who are in residence, offers a great sailing training experience for young people. The Club co-sponsors the 2nd Cooksville Sea Scouts and Sea Venturers.

In 2005, there are 100 members, their families, scouts and cadets. Commodore Gary McIlroy is in charge of the Mississauga Sailing Club at 120 Lakefront Promenade.



(The Mississauga Sailing Club)



▲ The Mississauga Sailing Club, 2003



(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)



## The Cawthra Arena - 1972

THE STUDY OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, Priorities and Environment (SCOPE) committee chairman Ron Searle recommended an arena be constructed on the same Cawthra Road property as the Cawthra Seniors Centre was going to be located. The SCOPE committee's plan was to construct an ice arena for every 25,000 people, an indoor pool for every 50,000 and an outdoor pool for every 40,000 and a library for every 25,000.

The sod turning was conducted in 1971 and construction of the Cawthra Arena double rinks was started immediately. The official opening took place on June 24, 1972, with Reeve Lou Parsons cutting the ribbon, assisted by Councillor Ron Searle. After the arena was opened there was not much servicing required. Hockey was played in the winter, then the ice was cleared and the floor used for lacrosse or floor hockey during the summer months.

On November 20, 1973, a special celebration was held to commemorate the tremendous dedication of Warren Marshall, who was one of the guiding lights in the formation of minor hockey in Toronto Township/Mississauga. Warren, who passed away at age 47 on April 22, 1973, had a rink at the Cawthra Arena named for him. He had served on the executive of the Mississauga Hockey League from 1966 to 1973 and was president in 1973.



▲ Cawthra Arena Opening, 1972 (The Mississauga News)

Councillor of Ward 7, Ron Searle, was the master of ceremonies at the dedication, which was attended by Mayor Chic Murray, recreation commissioner Ed Halliday, Mississauga Hockey League president Bill Corner, Marshall's widow, Barbara and their four children, Philip, Cathy, Wendy and Craig. Over 900 people congregated for the festivities that included the unveiling of a plaque affixed to the wall outside the Arena by Barbara Marshall. (This author was delighted to have been asked to write the inscription on the plaque.)



▲ Ron Searle and Craig Marshall, 1973  
(Mississauga News)

Searle said of Marshall, “Warren was the type of guy who never wanted publicity or fame. He just wanted to build minor hockey and make it mean something for the people of Mississauga.”

In 1998/99, a Community Centre was added to the Arena at a cost of \$5.2 million. The new structure was attached on the southwest corner and wrapped around the arena to give the impression of a new building. The Centre’s 30,000 square feet (2,787 m<sup>2</sup>) includes a 6,500 square foot (600 m<sup>2</sup>) gymnasium with a mezzanine level track, a living studio to accommodate a variety of classes, office space, and party and meeting rooms.

On Saturday, September 25, 1999, the Arena was opened and operational and a special dedication ceremony was held to commemorate longtime residents: the gymnasium was named for former Ward 1 Councillor Harold Kennedy (1967-1994); the community office was named for teacher/historian Mildred Belford Bellegham; the largest meeting room for youth leader Ephriam Petrescue; and the east rink was named for Councillor Ron Searle (Ward 7, 1963-1976, Mayor 1977-1978) who accomplished a tremendous amount for Lakeview during his tenure. Ron knew nothing about the presentation and his wife, Mollie, coaxed him into coming to the opening. When he only put on slacks and a sweater, she talked him into changing into a suit and tie, knowing what was in the offing. When the festivities turned to the naming of the other rink and he became aware that it was going to be named for him, he was shocked and pleased that he was so honoured.

The Centre opened on October 16, 1999, for the fall session of programs and the official opening took place on January 23, 2000, which was the first millennium event held in the City.

The Cawthra Community Centre and Arena is located at 1399 Cawthra Road and the manager is Theresa Cramer.



▲ Mildred Bellegham Room and Plaque



▲ Cawthra Community Centre, 2003

(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

291



▲ Harold Kennedy  
(Harold Kennedy)



▲ Harold Kennedy  
Gymnasium and Plaque



▲ The Twin Arenas



▲ Ron Searle

## NEWS ITEM

### **SCOPE committee probes Mississauga lifestyle**

A seven member committee has begun its study on the quality of life in Mississauga by asking to hear the voice of the people to aid its deliberations.

SCOPE - Study of Community Organizations, Priorities and Environment has been formed to find out what life is all about in Mississauga and what may be done to improve on it. It was formed as a special committee of town council at the request of Acting-Mayor Chic Murray.

One of its prime functions is to come up with a five-year plan for the development of social amenities in the town. On the list are proposals for the development of parks and recreation facilities including swimming pools, arenas, libraries and fire halls.

Councillor Ron Searle was elected chairman of the new committee at its first meeting, Thursday, and members are: Councillor Bud Gregory; Jack Murray, chairman of the town's Recreation and Community Centres Board; W. O. Johnson, chairman of the Library Board; and citizens, George Powell, Lloyd Boyd and Charles Morrison.

Searle said the committee would make its study and come up with a report including recommendations for the future as soon as possible. The report will be submitted to town council for its perusal and implementation.

*The Mississauga News, 1971*

## Cawthra Park Secondary School - 1972

**T**he Town of Mississauga sold six acres (2.4 ha) of its Cawthra property purchase to the Mississauga Board of Education in 1970 for the construction of the Cawthra Park Secondary School. Cawthra Park would accommodate the overflow from Gordon Graydon, Port Credit and T. L. Kennedy. St. Paul's Roman Catholic School next door only went to Grade 10, so students were encouraged to attend Cawthra to get grades 11 to 13.

The school opened for the 1972/73 academic year in September. The official opening ceremony, held on October 20, 1972, was handled by the first principal, Allan Pleasance. Councillor Ron Searle and one of the Cawthra family's last descendants, Anthony Adamson, were speakers. Director of Education, J. A. (Archie) Turner, was also in attendance.



▲ Cawthra Park Secondary School, 2003

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

THE SCHOOL CREST WAS DESIGNED BY AURELIO MEOGROSSI. The first year book was put out in 1973 to cover the first two years of the school's activities. The editor was Monique Robichaud, who was supported by a competent staff. Called "The Keystone," the first issue was dedicated, "to all those who gave life to Cawthra Park." The first stage play put on by the drama club was "*I Remember Mama*." The first Student Administrative Council executive was Steve Piette, president; Brett Russell, vice president; Rino Matarazzo, treasurer; and Trudy Volleberg, secretary.

Some of the other activities available for students were volleyball, soccer, wrestling, basketball, floor hockey, cheerleading, the camera club, junior and senior bands, dance communclub, the library club, choir, math club, ice hockey, gymnastics, counseling club, assembly committee and public speaking.

In 1973, the first awards were given in general proficiency, communication, social and philosophical sciences, mathematics, the arts and commerce. This opportunity for the students became an annual event. A Monte Carlo Night and a Christmas party were held in 1972, which turned out quite successful and in 1974, a winter carnival was staged on the school grounds. These events became favorites with the students over the years.

The school was supposed to have had a pool and some financial problem arose that the pool was eliminated from the plans. But the principal, staff and students never lost sight of having this facility. A fund raising campaign was instigated in the school and in the community in support of the pool. The ground breaking took place in the fall of 1975 and the pool was officially opened the following year. The pool is attached to the school, but it is operated by the City of Mississauga.

In 1981, when Premier William Davis provided funding in the Roman Catholic school system to extend the curriculum to Grade 13, Cawthra Park lost a lot of its students to St. Paul's. Principal Pleasance designed a performing arts program to attract more students. Director of Education, John Fraser, approved the plan and a Grade 12 program was instigated. Students from all over Peel could apply. They were chosen by an audition, which was coordinated by a committee. Pip Sadowski became the artistic director. The students who qualified were bused in thanks to the Board of Education. The program was extended to all grades and visual arts, music and dance were added. In 1982 and 1987, structural changes were made to create two dance studios, one in a former wood shop on the ground floor and the other in a former typing room on the top floor. The program was so successful in Peel that in 1986, David Craig, principal of Mayfield Secondary School in Brampton, decided to have the same arts program beginning in September, 1987. Then the students in the north went to Mayfield and in the south to Cawthra Park.

When Allan Pleasance retired in 1987, David Pedwell took over the position of principal. He was followed by Edward E. Bolton in 1991. Drew Leverette took on the responsibility in 1996 and he left in 2004. Cawthra Park Secondary School at 1305 Cawthra Road has in excess of 1,300 students with Jean Michalak as principal.

### Cawthra Property Purchase - 1969

At the opening of the Ontario Housing project, the East Avenue Seniors Complex, in October, 1967, Councillor Ron Searle mentioned to the Minister of Economics and Development, the Honorable Stanley J. Randall, about his idea for a similar development on Queen Frederica. They got together later and Randall showed Searle a plan the Ministry had for Mississauga. The location turned out to be part of the former Cawthra Estate that the Canadian Defence Department had acquired for the possible location of high density, low cost housing for its workers at the Army Ordnance Depot. Searle explained the historical significance of the property. Randall asked what was the alternative. Searle said, "Suppose we require developers doing new projects to offer ten per cent of units to the province as low cost housing as an option." Randall asked if it could be approved. It was and Mayor Robert Speck and Reeve Chic Murray designated Searle as a committee of one to negotiate the purchase of the property from the province.

The Town of Mississauga Council was authorized by a resolution made November 13, 1967, to negotiate the purchase of the property. Council put in a bid to purchase the 69 acres (27.6 ha) of prime real estate that had been declared as surplus land by Federal Department of Defence that the Ontario Housing Corporation (OHC) had a bid in on to build low income public housing. When the Town put in its bid the OHC yielded and the property was secured on September 22, 1969. This would become the location of the Cawthra Park Arena, Cawthra Park Secondary School, and the Cawthra Seniors Centre.



### Memories

"One of my fondest memories of being principal of the Cawthra Park Secondary School was a special assembly in the fall of 1972 to celebrate Canada's victory over the Russian hockey team thanks to a last minute goal by Paul Henderson. There was so much pride in the students that day and to show it they sang O Canada with great gusto.

▲ Allan  
Pleasance

"I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to open a new school, to hire staff and to work with students to help them identify with a new school. Today, I read in the Mississauga News, almost on a weekly basis, articles about Cawthra Park graduates and present students who not only excel in the arts, but who also excel in sports and, most important of all, who demonstrate academic excellence. I feel a great sense of pride to have been a part of that."

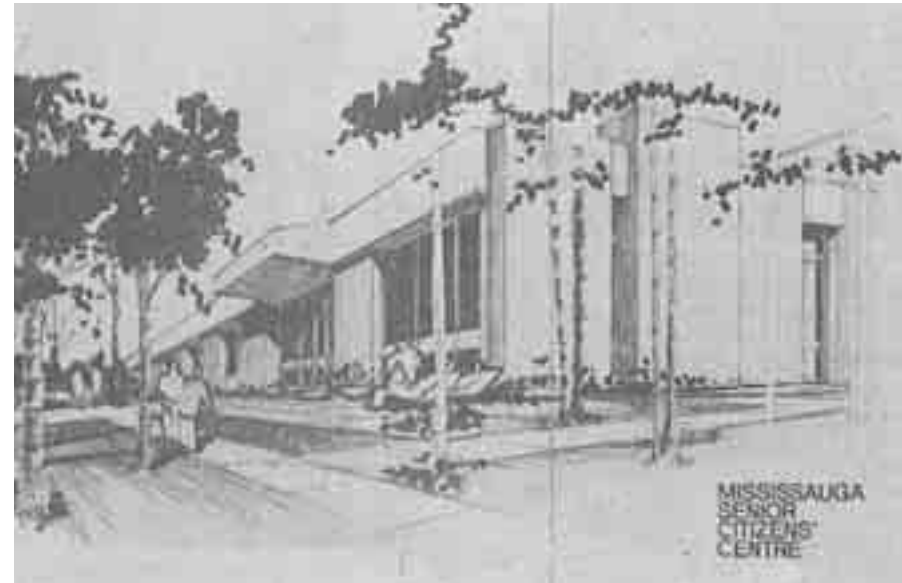
Allan Pleasance  
Former Cawthra Park Principal (1972-1987)

## Cawthra Seniors Centre - 1974

**O**n November 13, 1973, a ground breaking ceremony was held for the Cawthra Seniors Centre on Cawthra Road. Reeve Chic Murray, Councillor Ron Searle and Mrs. Lou Godfrey, president of the Queen Frederica Seniors, representing the Seniors Clubs, did the honours. Special guests were MPP Doug Kennedy, Councillor Bud Gregory and Recreation Commissioner Ed Halliday.

The 10,854 sq. ft. (1,010 m<sup>2</sup>) Centre was designed by architect Donald E. Skinner of Port Credit. It was officially opened on October 24, 1974, by Mayor Martin Dobkin, at which time the auditorium was named for Lucy Turnbull, president of the Seniors Club's Zone 143. There were 887 Zone members with an annual membership of \$5.

Lucy, who had vision and determination, was the driving force behind the Seniors Centre coming to fruition, along with Olga Tyne coordinator of the Mississauga Recreation & Parks Department. In June, 1987, a room was named for Olga, as each of these industrious ladies were well deserving for their involvement with seniors in Mississauga. Lucy passed away on March 5, 1996, and Olga is still involved as a volunteer with the special events committee.



▲ Architect's Sketch, 1972 (Donald Skinner)

THIS BUILDING, OWNED BY THE CITY OF MISSISSAUGA, CAME about through the SCOPE committee that was created by Town Council to come up with a five-year-plan for the development of social amenities. SCOPE stands for Study of Community Organizations, Priorities and Environment. Ron Searle was elected as its first chairman and the Seniors Centre was its first recommendation. It was taken to Council for approval at which time Lucy Turnbull made a presentation on behalf of the seniors. In 1973, the senior population in Mississauga was 10,000. There were eight Senior Citizens clubs available, with 600 members in Zone 143. The request was passed unanimously. In June, 1979, the Cawthra Seniors Centre was officially changed to the Mississauga Senior Citizens Centre.

As interest grew in the Center, funding for an addition was approved by the City of Mississauga Council in 1985. Donald Skinner was called in again to design the new \$1.1 million section and it was



constructed from October, 1986, to June, 1987. The hallway to this addition is lined with the historical paintings of the Confederation Life Collection by artist John David Kelly.

The 20th anniversary was held on Friday, October 21st, and Saturday, October 22, 1994. The committee, with Lucy Turnbull as honorary chairperson, was able to carry out a wonderful celebration of accomplishment thanks to many generous sponsors such as the City of Mississauga, Knob Hill Farms, Tim Horton Donuts and Shoppers Drug Mart. The volunteers outdid themselves, by handling the various activities like the Over 80s Luncheon for 210 seniors that was started in 1970, Cards Night, badminton for family participation and the entertainment, which included a Free Dance under the co-ordination of Wilf Buckle. This was the International Year of the Family, so this event was open to members and their families. Purple "Barney" was also on hand to amuse the grandchildren. On Saturday, all the councillors, Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament

were in attendance for the opening ceremonies of this auspicious occasion, followed by a tree planting ceremony with Mayor Hazel McCallion and Lucy Turnbull officiating. At this time, 2,116 seniors were members with an average weekly attendance of 1,500. The annual membership was \$9.50.

The Seniors Centre celebrated its 25th anniversary on Saturday, October 23, 1999, with official ceremonies at 11 a.m. Mayor Hazel McCallion, members of council, city staff and many special guests were treated to a day of activities, displays and an evening dance in the Olga Tyne Auditorium.

In 2005, there are 79,533 seniors over 60 in the City of Mississauga. They have 48 clubs and organizations available to them and 5,922 take advantage of this involvement. The Applewood, Cooksville and Lakeview Seniors Clubs meet at the Cawthra facility at 1389 Cawthra Road that has been called the Mississauga Seniors Centre since 1994.



▲ Cawthra Seniors Centre Official Opening, Oct. 24, 1974



◀ Cawthra Seniors  
Centre Sod  
Turning, 1973  
(Mississauga Seniors Centre)



▲ 20th Anniversary, Oct. 21, 1994 (Photos by Joyce Rayner)



▲ Lucy Turnbull and  
Mayor Hazel McCallion



## Saving The Cawthra Estate - 1975

In October, 1975, The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) approved the City of Mississauga's acquisition of 27.6 acres (11.2 ha) of the Grace Cawthra-Elliott estate for \$2,623,900. This came about when Ward 7 Councillor Ron Searle recommended that the property be purchased. On August 28, 1968, he had met with the Honorable Stanley Randall, Ontario Housing Minister, to negotiate the purchase of 69 acres (27.7 ha) where the Cawthra Seniors Centre, Cawthra Arena and Cawthra Park Secondary School would be located and this had been successfully acquired. Searle's intention was "to perpetrate the name of the Cawthra family." Grace Cawthra Elliott had passed away on October 22, 1974. She had often confided in Councillor Searle that she would like her home and property to remain intact. Grace and Major General Harry McIntire Elliott's 7,000 square foot (641 m<sup>2</sup>), two-storey Georgian style English Manor house, was built in 1928. Searle envisioned the house "as a museum-type community centre not unlike the Bradley house." Grace's solicitors, Cassels and Brock (now Cassels, Brock & Blackwell) negotiated the sale.



▲ Cawthra-Elliott House, 1981 (The Mississauga News)

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, THE ESTATE HAD AN UNQUESTIONABLE future. The first custodians of the property were the Smouters family, who had worked for Grace since 1966. On January 28, 1978, Terry and Patricia Porter lived in the gatehouse and then took over the big house and resided until 1981. Then the Arbuckles took up occupancy.

In March, 1976, Ed Halliday, Commissioner of Recreation and Parks, stated to the press that “The city and various historical societies will be cooperating to develop a long term restoration program for the estate.” A feasibility study was done on the property in March, 1978, with the support of a Wintario grant. In July, 1978, Mississauga’s Recreation & Parks Department made a \$859,450 plan to turn the house into an Arts and Cultural Centre. Permission was given to Visual Arts Mississauga (VAM) to occupy the building as a cultural centre and the group put in for federal and provincial grants to reconstruct the building for tenancy. It would cost the group \$1 million for restoration and \$14,000 a year to maintain. This was too much for VAM to take on and the idea was dropped. While the City attempted to get a restaurant or professional offices established in the house, it was featured in *Canadian Home and Gardens* in the June, 1980, issue.



▲ Cawthra-Elliott House Interior, 1930  
(Toronto Public Library (TRL))

In November, 1984, it almost became a dinner theatre when Mentor Hosts Limited (Second City) along with Thom Partnership Architects and Planners put together plans for the development of a 600 seat multi-tiered with a secondary structure added. This would require an altering of the present landscape and change the facade of the heritage house. A lease was prepared on April 23, 1985, but the opening of Stage West Dinner Theatre on Dixie Road in 1986 put a damper on their plans and the investors changed their minds and went elsewhere.

The City now rents out the historic house to organizations for events and utilizes it for City business meetings and functions. The Cawthra-Elliott Estate at 1507 Cawthra Road is one of the few extensively treed areas in the City. It was designated a heritage site on November 25, 1992.



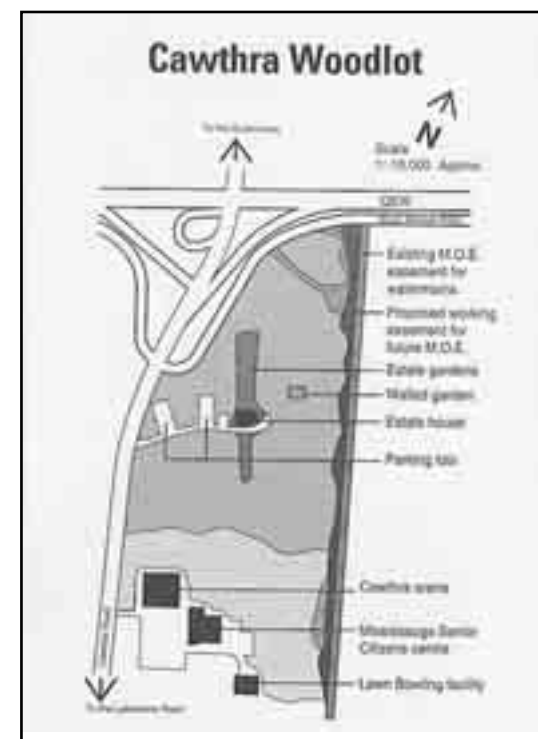
▲ Grace and Henry Cawthra-Elliott  
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Cawthra Bush, Cawthra Road, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

### Cawthra Bush

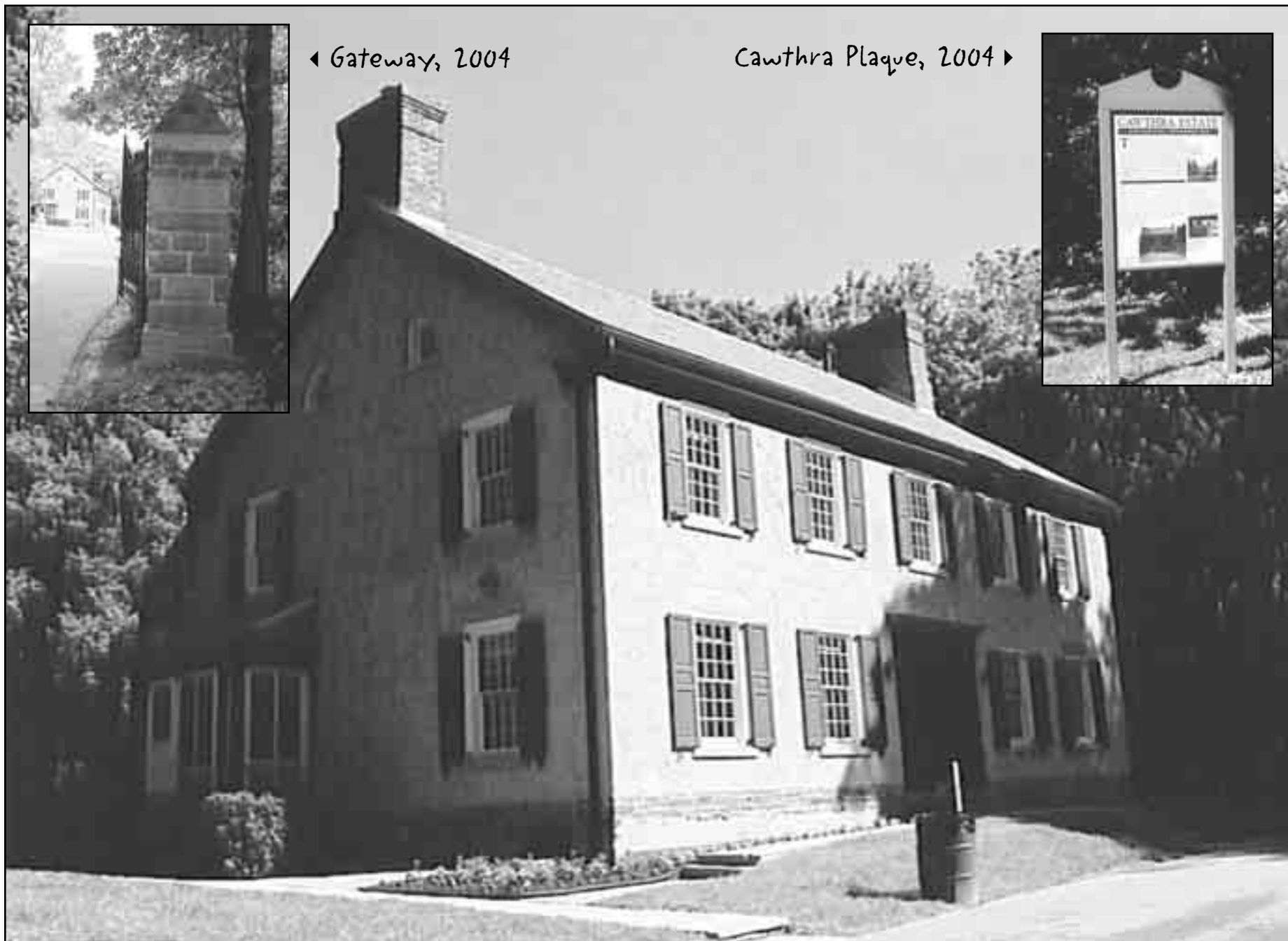
The northerly section of the Cawthra grant of 1806, Lot 10, Con. 2, SDS, located at the south-east corner of Cawthra Road and the Queen Elizabeth Way, is one of Mississauga's treasured wooded areas. This 27 acre (11 ha) property, including a Georgian style house, was inherited by Grace Cawthra Elliott's nephew from New York when she died in 1974. His intention was to develop the estate for residential purposes. With Councillor Ron Searle's intervention to save the property and Council's approval to purchase the acreage, the Mississauga Concerned Citizens Association lodged an appeal with the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB). The president of the Association, John Leighton, argued that, "The residents of the Cawthra Road area south of the highway are endowed with a beneficence of green areas and an abundance of parkland." He also stated that, "The location of the land is such that it could not provide



▲ Map of Cawthra Property  
(City of Mississauga)

a practical park area for residents north of the Queen Elizabeth Way. The purchase of the property would also cause a financial strain." In his closing argument, he submitted that, "Mississauga's submission smacks of high handed arrogance to note that the application is unaccompanied by a proper and specific plan. It is unaccompanied by any form of environmental impact statement or any form of socio-economical justification."

In the second week of October, 1975, the OMB ruled that the decision of the City to purchase the lands had merit and rejected the objections of the Mississauga Concerned Citizens. The OMB stated that, "The municipality is capable of debenturing the cost and there is need for a major park in the area." Even though the Cawthra Bush was saved, there would be a controversy hanging over its protection and use of it for years.



◀ Gateway, 2004

Cawthra Plaque, 2004 ▶

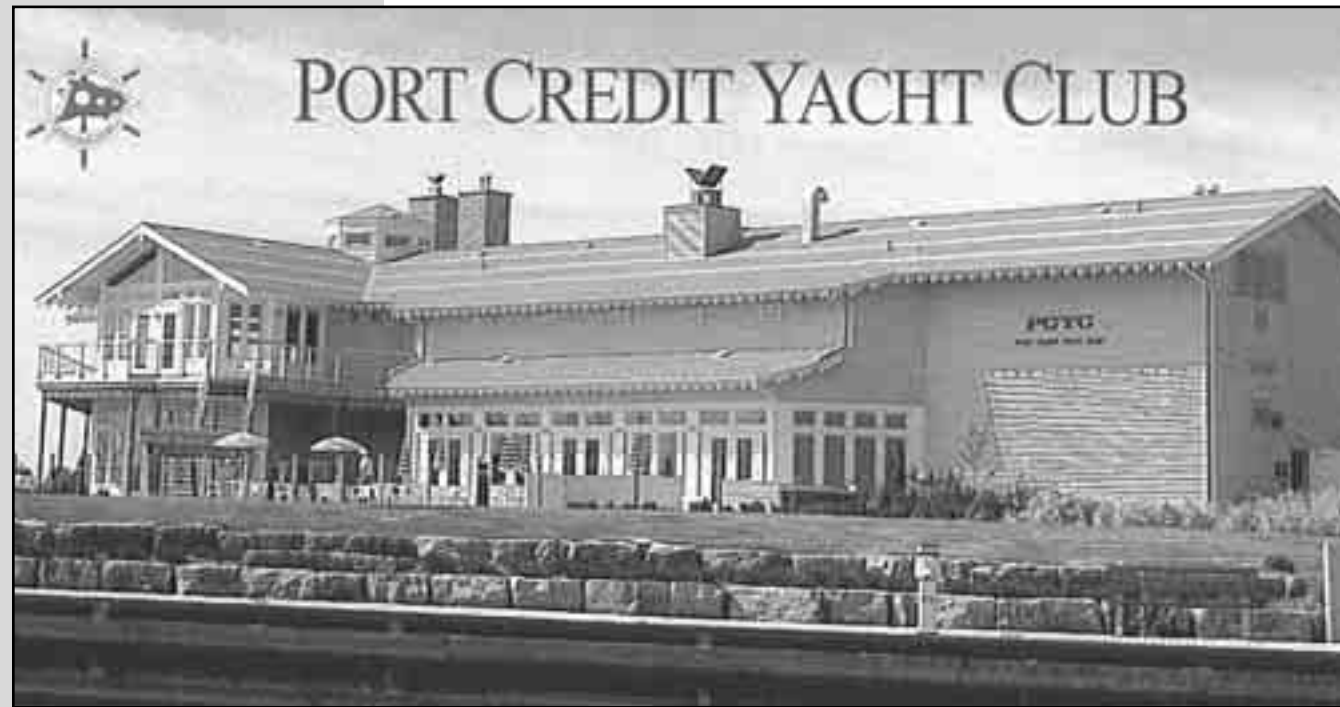
▲ Cawthra-Elliott House, 2004

(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Port Credit Yacht Club - 1990

THE PORT CREDIT YACHT Club (PCYC) got its start in Port Credit in May, 1936, when several local men, who had begun acquiring sailboats in 1934, decided to start up a yacht club. Encouraged by enthusiasts, Ted Schofield and Jack Morch, they built the first clubhouse on the east bank at the mouth of the Credit River on property leased from the Federal Government. The first general meeting took place on July 28, 1936.

With the clubhouse completed, the official opening was held on Saturday, August 22nd. The first Commodore was Jack Morch. He and the executive raised the first PCYC burgee (its flag with three golden balls of credit and the beaver tail, indicating the trading done at the mouth of the Credit River by the Mississauga Indians), designed by Eldon McEachern, and a day of fun and games began.



▲ The Port Credit Yacht Club Clubhouse

(Photos courtesy of the Port Credit Yacht Club)

In 1937, a storage shed for boats was added to the north end of the clubhouse. Shortly after, PCYC was painted on the roof. The 1st Port Credit Sea Scouts was formed in 1939 and they met at the PCYC's clubhouse. Being on the River, the clubhouse was often flooded during the spring thaw. This resulted in the clubhouse being torn down in 1943 and a new more durable structure taking its place in 1944, which became nicknamed "the old white shack." It had a lounge that had a sun deck above it that offered members a panoramic view of the harbour and Lake Ontario.

Ladies were approved for membership on March 18, 1946, but a Ladies Auxiliary was not formed until 1957, following many attempts





### ▲ The Docks

by the wives to establish themselves within the PCYC. This same year, a full time steward was hired, a marine railway was built by members at the Port Credit Boat Works on the west bank and the Club hosted the North American Dragon Class Regatta for the Duke of Edinburgh Trophy.

A ground breaking ceremony was held in 1965 for a new facility and a much more substantial brick clubhouse was constructed and opened in September, 1966. It had a spacious lounge complimented by a cosy fireplace, an elegant dining room, an open bar, more modern washrooms, office space, shower facilities and a patio where members could enjoy the nautical surroundings. By this time, the membership hovered around 500. In 1973, the Ladies Auxiliary changed its name to "First Mates."

Over the years, the PCYC expanded so much, as the enthusiasm for sailing became more popular, that it ended up with restricted space

for all its interested boaters, only being able to provide mooring for 159 boats. At a Board Meeting on November 3, 1982, the Club Directors decided to establish a new location where expansion would not be a problem. The City of Mississauga Council adopted a resolution in support of the move on May 9, 1983. By October 6th, letters went out to the members "that the Board of Directors be authorized to enter into an agreement and lease in order to provide the development of Lakefront Promenade Park as the new location of the Port Credit Yacht Club within the constraints in 'A Plan for the Future,' dated September, 1983."

In April, 1990, the Port Credit Yacht Club fleet launched in the Credit River and sailed proudly to its new moorings at its Lakeview location Albert E. Crookes Park, west of the Lakeview Generation Station. A more expansive and deeper harbour had been put in with a multi-million dollar docking area that could accommodate 320 boats.

The Cape Cod type substantial “state of the art” clubhouse and facilities, such as a 30 foot by 60 foot ( 9 m x 18 m) swimming pool, change house and other amenities allowed for a membership of over 700 sailing enthusiasts. The official opening of the new clubhouse took place in June, 1991. In July, the PCYC hosted the International 8 Metre World Cup Regatta and in August the National Canadian Women’s Sailing Championships.

The former clubhouse in the Port Credit harbour was sitting on Federal Government owned land, which was purchased by the City of Mississauga. The clubhouse was torn down with only its pillars remaining because of its precarious location on a peninsula. A new privately owned building was constructed on leased property from the City and it became the Snug Harbour Seafood Bar and Grill at 14 Stavebank Road South. The Port Credit Harbour Marina is still in operation at the mouth of the Credit River.

The Port Credit Yacht Club’s 65th anniversary was celebrated on May 26, 2001. The festivities were kicked off with the Club’s annual regatta, followed by Commodore Judy Fontaine welcoming returning

members and 38 former commodores. A barbecue was held alongside the clubhouse and members recorded their memories on video along with special guest Mayor Hazel McCallion.

As the PCYC prepares to celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2006, the programs available at the club go from learning to sail for teenagers and adults to an optimist course for children. The PCYC develops year round programs to suit every interested prospective sailor. They have an active racing fleet and races, regattas and other racing events that are an exciting venture for members. The clubhouse is used for a very active social program such as the Commodores’ Ball and Sailpast. During the winter months seminars with guest speakers, a New Year’s Eve Gala, Valentine Dance and Easter dinner, dart tournaments and movie nights keep the clubhouse staff busy. Robert Simms is the present Commodore.

The ideally located Port Credit Yacht Club facility at 115 Lakefront Promenade is also rented out to various groups for a venue with a view.



▲ Aerial View



▲ Yacht in the Harbour

## Murray Saint's W.W.II Museum - 1994

**I**n the fall of 1994, Murray Saint visited the David Hornell Public School in Mimico. Murray had known David, who was a W.W.II veteran and a recipient of the Victoria Cross. He wanted to see if the school had anything pertaining to its namesake. He met the principal and this casual visit changed his life and direction.

Murray had done paintings of ships and aeroplanes related to his W.W.II experience, and he was asked to put on a display at the school for Remembrance Day on November 11th. It was a most memorable involvement, which would lead to more school visitations. A writeup was in the paper about his visit and his telephone started to ring.

This resulted in Murray painting a portrait of David Hornell and presenting it to the school. This contact escalated into his collecting W.W.II memorabilia. As the articles came in, he thought he would do a series of portraits on the W.W.II vets that he knew, which went on from there until today he has five rooms dedicated to his museum with nearly 80 portraits.



▲ Murray Saint, Don Mills and Ron Searle, 2003

THE UNIFORMS THAT HAVE BEEN DONATED ARE DISPLAYED on mannequins. He has display cases with arms, bayonets, caps, flags, guns, money and other interesting things. He has shadow boxes that he has constructed to hold, photos, important letters and documentation, awards, medals, badges, clippings and notification of discharge or death.

Murray was born in Newmarket on April 8, 1926, and grew up in Humber Bay. At age 17, he joined the Air Force. After 13 months, he transferred to the Army. Wanting to get overseas, 18 months later, he

went into the Navy. He never did leave Canada. He moved to the Lakeview area of Toronto Township with his family in 1962.

He married his second wife, Marie in 1991. In 2003, Marie's family celebrated with a reunion in Colorado with 150 members in attendance.

Murray is presently looking for a new venue for his museum as it is overwhelming his one and a half storey house. He is writing a book about the museum and his 80 people who are represented in it, even our former mayor, Ron Searle.



▲ Murray Saint during W.W.II

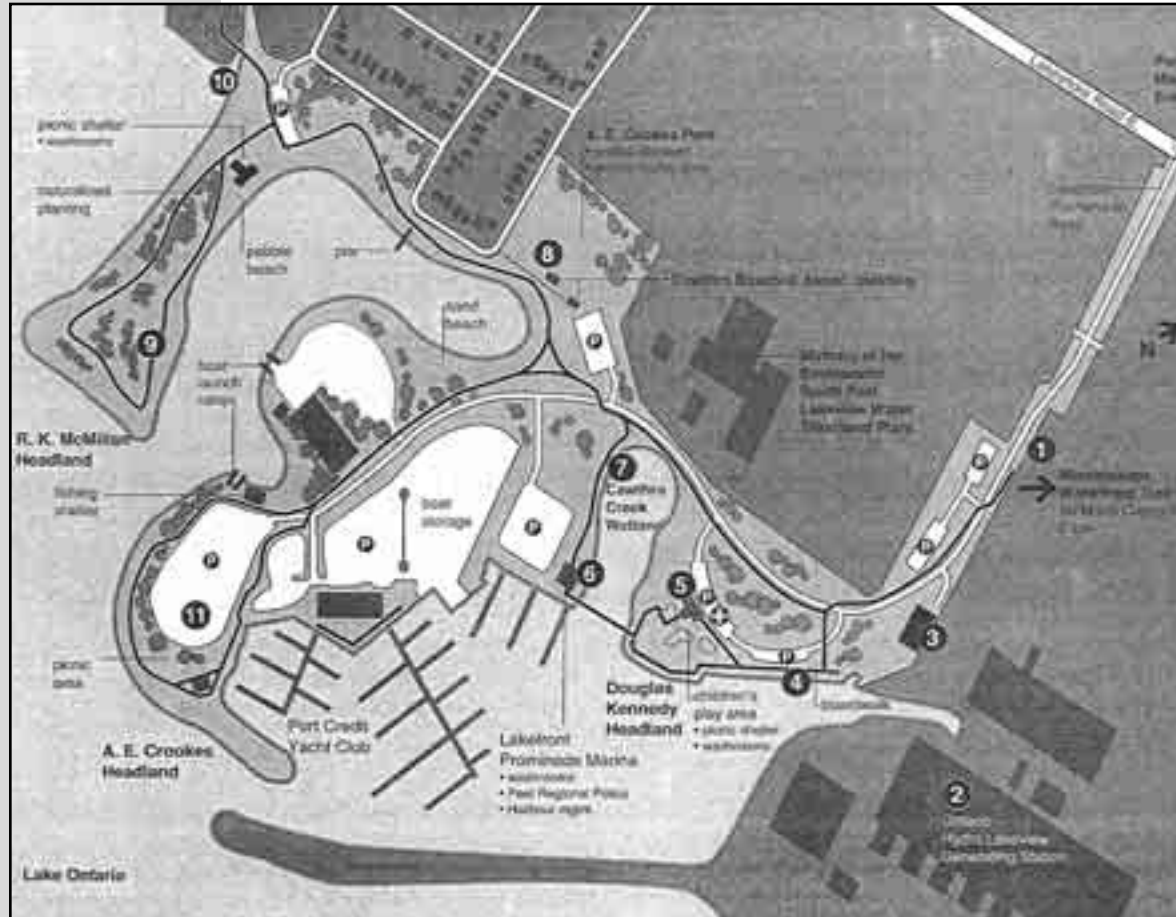


Murray's Museum, 2003

(Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Lakefront Promenade Park - 1994

ward 7 Councillor Ron Searle presented a motion at the Town Council meeting on February 12, 1973, to start a waterfront plan for a headland in the Lakeview area. “We would have a 35 acre (14 ha) park complete with walkways, bicycle paths, picnic areas and another 16 acres (6 ha) would be added to the existing park down by the waterfront,” he stated. “Also a small waterfront area could be set aside for a new, public sailing club.” This was the first stage of a multi-million dollar waterfront plan, which had been proposed by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) and approved by the Mississauga Town Council on May 31, 1972. “We’ve got to fire the starting gun now to get this whole thing underway,” he concluded. This was confirmed by Deputy Reeve Grant Clarkson, who was also chairman of the CVCA. This spurred the Provincial Government to approve the plan set before it the previous spring.



(City of Mississauga)

THE CVCA WAS GIVEN PERMISSION IN MARCH, 1976, TO proceed with a landfill operation that would expand with the construction of a rock groin with landfill placed behind it at Albert E. Crookes Park located west of the Lakeview Generating Station. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Barney Singh monitored the operation. Over the next year, landfill was gathered from various areas of Mississauga and transported by dump trucks to extend a peninsula out into Lake Ontario.



▲ Roy McMillan Park Sign, 2003

This was the start of Lakefront Promenade Park. This 40 hectare (100 acre) park was created from landfill to produce three peninsulas with 11 kilometres (6.8 miles) of trails. It was officially opened in 1994 and includes east to west, the Doug Kennedy Headland, the Albert E. Crookes Headland and the Roy McMillan Headland.

The Doug Kennedy Headland was named for the former politician and Member of Provincial Parliament when he retired in 1985. In this area there are picnic grounds and play areas for children, even a 20 metre (65 foot) Cypress wood structure designed like a ship, called the HMCS (Her Majesty's Canadian Ship) Lakefront. It is a lovely location for walking, biking, picnicking and enjoying recreational activities, such as cycling and skate boarding.

At the Albert E. Crookes Headland, originally Aviation Park, named in honour of a local political enthusiast in 1958, there is access to the Lake for launching boats with a wide boardwalk to do off shore fishing. The Port Credit Yacht Club and the Mississauga

Sailing Club are located here. It also has a fish cleaning station where the fisherman can clean their catch of the day before heading home. The Cawthra Park Baseball Association building and softball field are located at the 2 hectare (5.9 acre) A. E. Crookes Park.

The Roy K. McMillan Park, named for the former councillor and chairman of the CVCA, consists mainly of wetlands and natural areas. It has a pavilion that can accommodate 90 people and wild gardens that overlook the four concrete stacks of the Lakeview Generating Station that at one point along the pathway can blend into one.

The view of Lake Ontario from the shore of any location throughout Lakefront Promenade Park is magnificent. People using the Waterfront Trail through this area have the opportunity to commune with nature at its best.



▲ McMillan Pavilion, 2003





Lakefront Promenade Park

309



▲ Douglas Kennedy Headland (Photos by Kathleen A. Hicks)