

William Buss - 1939

William Buss, who had been born in 1907 in Cochrane, Ontario, came to Lakeview to reside in 1939. As a young lad, his family had moved to New Toronto. His first job was working at Price's Brickyard. At age 14, he worked at the St. Lawrence Starch Company in Port Credit. It was during this time that he slipped on some ice and dislocated his hip and was disabled for eighteen months. Recuperated, he got a job on a farm, working for an elderly lady and this led to several years of farm work, even a stint in Guelph.

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▲ Bill and Margaret Buss (William Buss)



▲ William Buss Receiving Award in 1962

(Port Credit Weekly)

HE MARRIED A YOUNG LADY NAMED MARGARET AND THEY had three children, Glen, David and Lillian. They lived in Cooksville for two years and then moved to East Avenue in Lakeview in 1939, where he became very active in community volunteer work. Being devout Baptists, in 1943, he started working with a boys club in the Baptist Church group. In 1944, he supervised the construction of the Lakeview Baptist Church on Alexandra Avenue. Then, always having loved the game of hockey, he started up a hockey team of Pee Wees and they played games on outdoor rinks at the local schools. Before he knew it, he had several teams with boys of all ages enjoying the sport. In summer, they played baseball. He also organized and coached girls' baseball and started up a girls' hockey team that flourished for several years. This involvement would eventually bring him much fame and admiration from all who knew him.



▲ Mineo Franchetto and Bill Buss present trophies to 25¢ Car Wash Team player (William Buss)

In 1946, the Toronto Township Hockey League (TTHL) was founded. In 1948, Bill founded the Lakeview Hockey Association. When the Dixie Arena was built in 1949, Bill's hockey teams, now up to 13, began to play indoors. He spent many long hours working there, coaching up to ten teams a day and scheduling games. He got on the executive of the TTHL and was involved in the early days of the League's growth. With the opening of the Port Credit Arena on October 4, 1959, you could often find Bill there at his skate sharpening concession or covering other duties required to help the facility function smoothly.

On April 2, 1960, Bill Buss was presented with a trophy by Reeve Robert Speck on behalf of the Lakeview Hockey Association for his many years of dedication to the sport. This took place at the Association's dance held at the Credit Valley Lions Club Memorial Hall in Port Credit. Many kind words were expressed in the speeches that followed. Reeve Speck said, "I am proud to play a part in this tribute to a man whom the Township owes a great debt of gratitude." Police Chief Garnet McGill commented, "He has done much to help the youngsters of the Township through the years. Parents of the children of Lakeview should vote him Citizen of the Year." William Hare, director of Recreation and Parks, added, "He has freely given of his time and talents in a way that just could not be matched by anyone." The Bill Buss trophy would then be used for annual hockey competition.

Other awards of merit followed, such as the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association Minor Hockey Award of Merit in 1962, and induction into the Toronto Township Hockey Hall of Fame, 1967. His real recognition came in February, 1988, when he was the recipient of a Certificate of Merit from the Canadian government.

Small Arms Limited - 1941

In 1940, with World War II raging in Europe, a sod turning ceremony took place on August 20th, for a plant that was to be built on part of the Rifle Ranges' 360 acre (145.7 ha) property and called Small Arms Limited. It was a business started by the government to manufacture firearms for Canada and Britain. It was created as a Crown Corporation on August 7, 1940, which was brought about by authorization on June 6, 1940, for the Canadian Department of Defence to build an arms facility.



▲ Small Arms Factory (Mississauga Library System)



◀ Colonel Malcolm Jolley
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE HAD PURCHASED the Lakefront property, Lots 4 thru 9, Con. 3, in 1935 from the Ontario Militia Department.

Construction on an \$8 million, 212,000 square foot (19,601 m²) plant began along with a two storey red brick, 81,000 square foot (7432 m²) rifle inspection facility that would include office space. Production machines and a tool room were put in operation and by June, 1941, the first five Lee Enfield Mark IV rifles were ready for inspection. Once they were approved, manufacturing began under



▲ *Small Arms Assembly Lines, 1943* (Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

general manager, Colonel Malcolm Jolley, who was an engineer in the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps. With 1,200 employees, by year's end 7,589 rifles had been sent to the Canadian Armed Forces serving overseas. In 1942, the full production consisted of pistols, Mark II Sten submachine guns, Lee Enfield and Sniper rifles and ammunition. With 5,500 employees working three shifts in 1943, over 30,000 units were turned out each month.

Small Arms opened up the work force for women and they came from all parts of Canada to be employed and raise the financial status of their families. In 1942, two hundred prefabricated homes and a girl's dormitory were built on the north side of Lake Shore Road to accommodate the workers for \$7.50 a week. When the plant, which consisted of factory space, three warehouses, range and proof buildings and 40 acres (16 ha) of parking, was in full operation, out of the 5,500 employees, 65 percent were single women and housewives who made 50¢ an hour. In 1945, the cash flow on goods was nearly \$44 million.

When the War ended with the signing of official documents on September 2, 1945, plans changed and no further orders were required. Wartime production ceased on December 31, 1945. During the five years of Small Arms' existence, the 14,000 workers that had been employed there turned out 905,731 Lee Enfield rifles, 126,703 Sten machine guns, many other weapons and ammunition for the war effort.

The buildings became the location of Canadian Arsenals: Small Arms Division, which supplied arms to the Canadian Army and turned out components for high RPM snowmobile engines and crank shafts and connecting rods for the Koeler engine. The factory, secure behind a high fence equipped with a security guard at the gate, was under division manager Colonel J.W. Leavens.

With the decline in operation at Canadian Arsenals, the factory closed in the summer of 1974. All of the buildings, owned by the Federal government, have gradually been torn down. Only the No. 12 building where the rifles were inspected remains at 1352 Lakeshore

Road. It has been used by the Ontario Power Generation and the COPS organization since 1975. The Sheridan Ford car dealership at 1345 Lakeshore Road East occupies the former site of the dormitories. The Arsenal land to the east, bordering the Etobicoke Creek, Lot 4, Con. 3, was sold in 1953 to The Corporation of Long Branch for Marie Curtis Park. Lot 5, 1352 and 1400 Lakeshore Road, were transferred to Canada Post in 1981 when Canada Post became a Crown Corporation. In 1992, this land was sold to the Metro Toronto Regional Conservation (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, TRCA). The 100 acres (40 ha) is soon to be development into a park. A public presentation, held by the TRCA at the Lakeview Golf Course on January 18, 2005, unveiled the concept and layout of the future park.

A special remembrance celebration for Small Arms took place on September 19, 1991, at the Mississauga Seniors Centre. The event, that brought out over 300 people, mostly former employees, was sponsored by the Mississauga South Historical Society.

Canadian Small Arms Training School

On January 29, 1940, the Long Branch Rifle Ranges was opened up for military training and over 800 men arrived to receive instruction for their upcoming involvement in World War II. Colonel W. B. Megloughlin, from Ottawa, was camp commandant. When the Canadian Small Arms School was sanctioned on May 15th, these soldiers were receiving instruction in small arms from Captain J. Brown. They were also given training in chemical warfare, unarmed combat and competitive sports.

On the evening of August 1, 1945, the frame Drill Hall building caught fire. The local fire departments tried to save the structure but to no avail. The damage was nearly \$50,000.

Following the end of the war on September 2, 1945, the training camp was emptied out, except for the staff, and they were moved to Camp Borden in Penetanguishene. The School was renamed the Canadian School of Infantry.



▲ Army transport trucks and personnel (Joan Larkin)



▲ former Canadian Arsenal Building, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Militia Training Camp

In October, 1940, the Militia Training Camp #3 was first occupied by 300 officers and staff. The next week, over 1,000 recruits arrived to start their military training. The camp commandant was Lieutenant Colonel J. G. Weir. The dormitory huts housed 120 men and the trainees had access to a canteen and recreation hall that was operated by the Canadian Legion War Services. After their first 30 day training session, the young men were sent home for a short period and then returned for another session of instruction.



▲ Wilmer Greeniaus' Platoon. He is second row, 7th from right. (Wilmer Greeniaus)

WW II Ration Time Table

Wartime Ration Time Table

July 21, 1943

(Clip this out and keep available)

COFFEE or TEA (Green) -

Coupons 11 and 12 valid July 22.

Valid until declared void.

Each good for 8 oz. Coffee or 2 oz. tea

SUGAR (Pink) -

Coupons 11 and 12 valid July 22.

Valid until declared void.

Each good for 1 lb. sugar.

Canning sugar coupons marked June and July now valid.

BUTTER (Purple) -

Coupons 16, 17, 18 and 19 now valid.

Expire July 31.

Coupons 20 and 21 valid July 22. Expire August 31.

Each good for 2 lb. butter.

MEAT (Buff) B

Coupons pairs 4,5,6 and 7 now valid. Expire July 31.

Coupon pair 8 valid July 15. Expire August 31.

Coupon pair 9 valid July 22. Expire August 31.

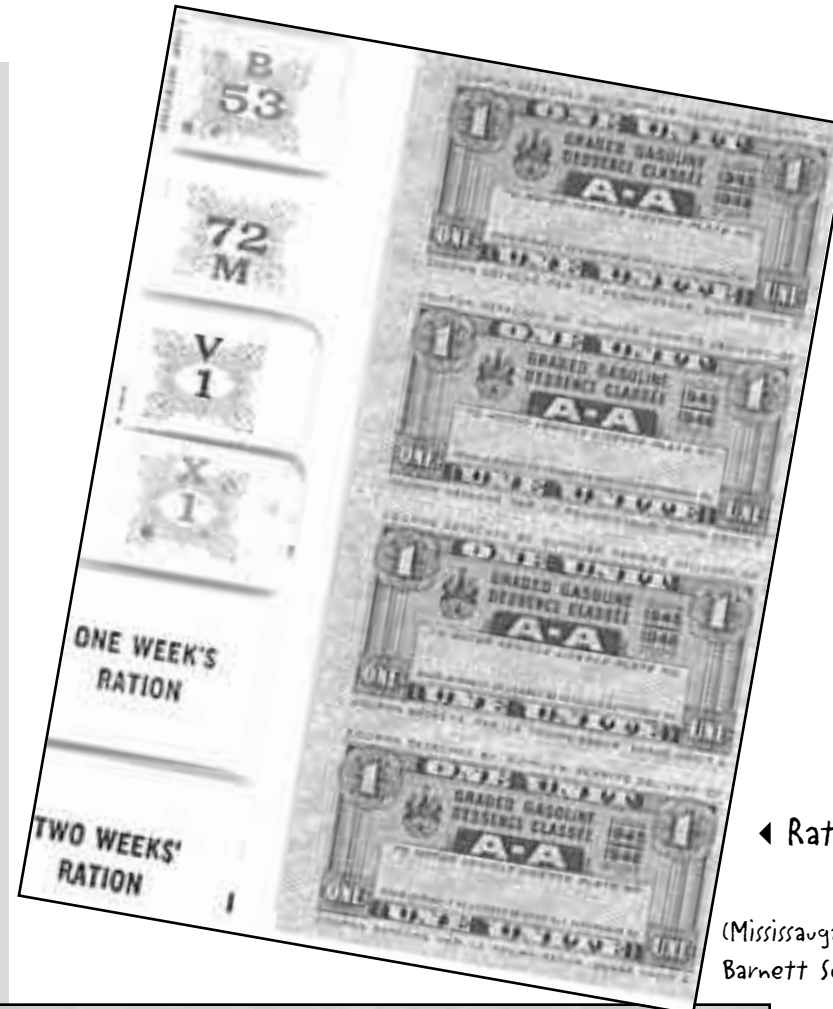
Coupon pair 10 valid July 29. Expire August 31.

Each pair good for 1 to 22 lbs. meat.

These ration books were distributed by the Ration Administration of Wartime Prices and Trade Board
Rationing was implemented in late 1942.

Port Credit Weekly

July 22, 1943



◀ Ration Coupons

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



◀ Ration
Coupon Book

Snowstorm - 1944

On Monday, December 11, 1944, Ontario had a treacherous snowstorm that immobilized the entire province and ended up with nine people dead in Toronto after 21 inches (53 cm) of snow fell by noon on Tuesday. Everything came to a halt as mountainous drifts immobilized the cities and towns across the province. The Toronto Transit System remained open, but the vehicles were stranded or slow, bread and milk deliveries were ceased and all businesses and schools were closed and emergency calls were unable to be met. Toronto's Mayor Fred J. Conboy, who was unable to get to City Hall, made a radio broadcast for people to stay home until the emergency was abated. Toronto had 24 sweepers, five scrapers, six snow plows and 15 storm cars in operation. It was later announced that the storm cost Toronto \$40,000 a day in the cleanup. According to the weather bureau, the storm had swept in from the Gulf of Mexico.



(Ben Madill)

IT WAS SAID TO BE THE WORST SINGLE SNOWSTORM SINCE March 28, 1876, when 20 inches (51 cm) was recorded. The Niagara peninsula was hard hit with Niagara Falls having three feet (0.9 m) of snow fall in 12 hours that stranded hundreds of motorists in drifts five feet (1.5 m) high. Kingston experienced a wind of gale proportions that piled snow everywhere shutting the city down and causing much

damage. Galt reported the storm completely curtailed traffic with conditions growing worse with each passing hour. The Ontario Department of Highways announced that all highways in southern Ontario were impassable and urged people not to venture out. It was estimated that over 100 transport trucks were stalled in the vicinity of Woodstock.

In Toronto Township, the last plane to fly out of Malton Airport departed at 1:12 a.m. on Monday. The traffic control officer said, "The storm covers several hundred square miles (kilometres²) and I doubt if there will be air transportation to or from Toronto for some time, although we are well equipped here. We should be able to clear

one runway in about an hour after the storm abates." No planes were operating out of Montreal, North Bay or London.

In Lakeview, Small Arms had 150 employees out of 2,000 show up for work.

When the *Port Credit Weekly* came out on Thursday, a small item on the front page asked, "How do you like the snow? Is the Red Bus running? How about the schools? Is the baker or milkman going to be around? How about garbage collection?" These were questions from people who were phoning the *Weekly* to get answers.

It took nearly a week before things got back to normal in Lakeview and the rest of the province.

NEWS ITEM

Toronto Township to have Garbage Collection

Residents of the southern part of Toronto Township are to have a garbage collection shortly after the first of the year. This By-law was given its first reading at the regular meeting of the Township council held on Monday and there is no doubt but that the 1945 council will give it its final reading and put this collection into force. The area which will be covered by this collection takes in Cooksville, Mississauga Road, Stavebank Road, Clover Leaf and Lakeview. The Cooksville Businessmen, along with the council, have been working on this scheme for sometime and now their efforts are bearing fruit.

Early in 1944, the Township Council set aside a large number of lots to be sold to returning soldiers who have seen service in this war. These lots were to be sold at a price of \$10 each. Already two men, who are now on active service, have purchased their lots when Donald Woodall of Cooksville and Albert Baker of Lakeview gave their \$10 at the last council meeting.

The last meeting of council for 1944 will be December 15, nominations on December 22 and elections will be held on Monday, January 1.

Port Credit Weekly
December 7, 1944



(Ben Madill)

Memories

This author, remembers that storm vividly. My mother worked at Small Arms and was one of the employees who didn't show up for work. But it was not for lack of trying. We lived in the basement of our future house on Trotwood Avenue and when Mom went to go to work, she opened the basement door and it was completely filled with snow. What a shock! I'll never forget the look on her face as well as the rest of us as we were getting ready for school. Even under our protest, she pushed the snow aside and crawled out and made her way to the house of the gent on Kenmuir, who gave her a ride. He couldn't get his car out of the garage, said it was useless, so she returned home so tired she was welcoming the day off, but knew the family would miss her day's pay. We kids on the other hand were delighted that we didn't have to go to school, which was quite a hike along the QEW to the Queen Elizabeth Public School east of the Centre Road. If I recall correctly, it took several days before things got back to normal.

Kathleen A. Hicks, 2004

Ogden Avenue Public School - 1946

LAKEVIEW WAS GROWING IN LEAPS AND bounds and there never seemed to be enough space in the two Lakeview schools to accommodate the children of the area. In 1941, several students living west of Canterbury Avenue were switched to Forest Avenue Public School in Port Credit (this author being one).

It was time for Lakeview to expand its school facilities and so a two room \$10,000 school portable was built and opened on April 1, 1946, as Ogden Avenue Public School, named for the street it was located on. The area was originally the grant of Joseph Ogden, Lot 8, Con. 2, SDS, and the street had been named in his honour. The Toronto Township Board of Education owned 42 acres (1.8 ha) at this location that accommodated the 90 young students, who resided north of the CNR tracks and attended Grades 1 thru 4. Mrs. M. Mills taught Grades 1 and 2 and Miss. A. Wallace, Grades 3 and 4. Neil Matheson, who was principal of Lakeview Beach Public School, served as the first principal.



◀ Neil Matheson

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▲ School Parade, 1947

The Lakeview Home and School Association, with president Mrs. J. Wampole, was formed at this time and one of its first projects was a Lakeview School Fair in September, 1947, that commenced with a parade from Lakeview Park School to Lakeview Beach with all three school participating.

In 1949, Ted Burrows took over the task of principal and a second portable was added. That year there were 828 students enrolled in the three Lakeview schools in School Section #7.

A new eight room school, designed by architects Shore and Moffatt, was built in 1954 by Canada Construction Company at a cost of \$91,690. By this time the South Peel Board of Education owned 19 acres (7.7 ha), where the Gordon Graydon Memorial Secondary

School would also be built. Ogden Avenue Public School was opened August 12, 1954, with classes commencing on September 7th. An official opening was held on November 24th, with former S.S.#7 School Board representative (1947-1952) and Councillor of Ward 1, Charles Jenkins, as the guest speaker. The dedication was carried out by Reverend John Urquhart of the St. Nicholas Anglican Church. Also in attendance was school trustee Peter Gorrie and Public School Inspector Allan A. Martin. The principal was W. F. Shackleton. In 1956, the original portables were torn down.

The first Home and School Committee meeting was held on March 8, 1955. A newsletter was put out as well as an annual report.

The school received a name change to the Neil Matheson Junior Public School in a special ceremony on June 25, 1972. It was named for a very dedicated man who had spent 33 years serving Lakeview Schools.

In 2005, the Neil Matheson Junior Public School, at 1500 Ogden Avenue, has 320 students under principal Bob Wojcichowsky.



▲ Ogden Avenue Public School, 1967 (Peel Board of Education)



Neil Matheson Junior Public School, ▶
2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

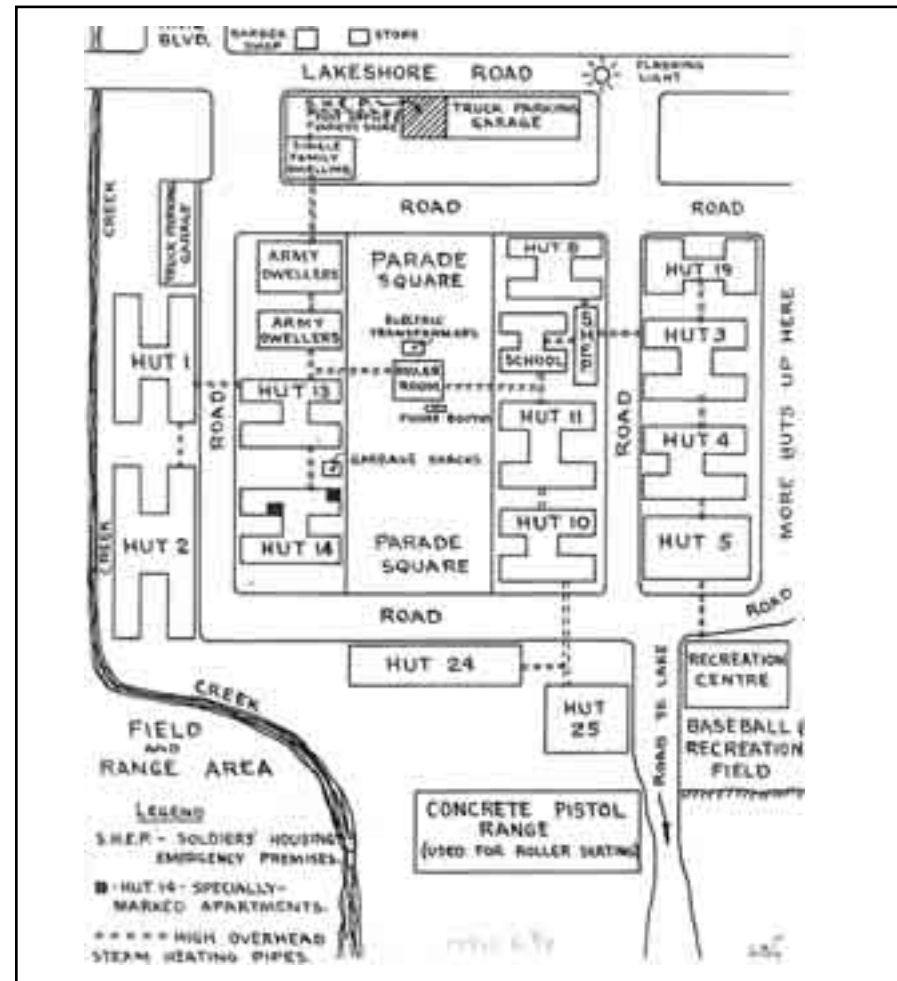
Lakeview Army Barrack's Emergency Housing and SHEP - 1946

The Lakeview Army Barracks Emergency Housing came about in May, 1946, when nearly 12,000 soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Training Battalion, returning home from the war and waiting discharge, were sent out from the Canadian National Exhibition's District Depot to the former location of the Small Arms facility. It was called the Soldier's Housing Emergency Premises (SHEP).



▲ Teachers, Helen Radcliffe and Frances Morden, stand before Shep School, 1949 (Frances Morden)

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▲ Map of SHEP by Jack and Wanda Pickford

WHEN THE SOLDIERS RECEIVED THEIR DISCHARGES approximately a month later and returned home, the City of Toronto leased the 28 deserted barracks occupying 100 acres (40 ha) from the Dominion Government to use it for families from Toronto housing and emergency housing in GECO, Scarborough and Stanley Barracks who had been evicted and had nowhere to live. This emergency situation



▲ Frances Morden's Class, 1949 (Frances Morden)



▲ Jack Pickford (Jack Pickford)

had brought about drastic measures and the location of Lakeview was chosen for an temporary stopover. Each of the huts was renovated to accommodate 15 families in apartments, which had a rent of \$42 a month.

The families had access to a Quonset hut shaped recreation hall where camp councillors ran recreation programmes and activities for the children.

There were two schools started in September, 1947, to accommodate the children. One was called Long Branch Kent, as it was part of the Kent Public School in Toronto, and was located in the former Small Arms Staff House, built in 1941, on the north side of the Lake Shore and the other was called SHEP, located on the south side.

Teachers and equipment were supplied by the Toronto Board of Education. At Long Branch, three classes were set up, Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6 and Grades 7 and 8. At SHEP, three classes were also set up, Grades 1 and 2, Grades 2 and 3 and Grades 4 to 6. The curriculum was laid out in a course of studies for each grade and the teachers had to stick to this religiously and were expected to keep their classes and discipline under control. When the inspector from the School Board was coming for a visit, the teachers would make sure that they were ready and "at their best." In September, 1948, a kindergarten was started at SHEP with teacher Dorothy Bull handling 75 students, which were separated into two classes, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. By 1949, SHEP had 13 classrooms with

15 teachers handling 600 students from kindergarten to Grade 8.

The Men's Ambassador Sunday School Class of High Park Baptist Church in Toronto organized Sunday church services at 7:30 p.m., which were held in the SHEP school. A Sunday School was started from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings for the children and a turnout of over 100 eager youngsters attended and were supervised by several teachers.

In 1954, the Dominion of Canada requested the cancellation of the

lease of the Lakeview Housing Unit as it was in a deplorable condition. Reeve and Welfare Committee Chairman, Anthony Adamson, tabled a report to Peel County Council in Brampton on August 9th that brought about an investigation by County welfare, justice and health agencies into the conditions of the emergency shelter that housed 1,100 people. The people were gradually evacuated and the huts were dismantled by Nick Waslyk of Lakeview Salvage Company in February, 1957.

Memories



▲ Eva Manley
(Eva Manley)

"I started teaching at the SHEP public school in September, 1948, at a salary of \$1,200 for the year. I remember it went up to \$1,800 by Christmas. We had teachers' parties after classes, skating in the winter and singing around a piano occasionally. Some staff meetings began with a formal receiving line consisting of a couple of teachers being wrapped up in a volleyball net. The highlight of my first year was the Christmas concert which was held in the recreation hall. There were two brothers, decked out in long sleeved white shirts, black pants and shiny new shoes, who were part of a square dance performance and I had the privilege of making ties for them out of red crepe paper. If the temperature in the classroom ever went below 60 degrees, we would let the students go home.

"There wasn't as much creativity in what we taught then as there is today, but there was creativity in how we kept the interest of children who came to school in the middle of winter with bare feet in rubber boots, inadequate clothing and often without breakfast.

"I formed some lifelong friendships from that time in my life and still keep in touch."

Eva Jones Manley, 2002

Lakeview Fire Brigade - 1948



WITH 24 FIRES REPORTED AND MANY HOMES burned down in 1947, several concerned Lakeview residents organized a meeting on December 18th, at the Lakeview Beach Public School to discuss the formation of a volunteer fire department. Another meeting was held the first week of January, 1948, at the home of William Finch with Joseph Monks heading up the committee.

▲ Lakeview Fire Brigade, 1952. L. to R. Back Row: Herb Levi, Tom Bayliss, Art Acornley, Jack Rogers, Ken Nixon, Cecil Meeker, Kirk Taylor, Sam Dobson and Tommy Graham. Front Row: Nelson Pierce, Chief Clare Sherratt, Len Hadley. Missing: Frank Atkinson, Al Baker, Russ Biggart, Bill Garrod, Ray Kane, Joseph Monks, Ed Post, Tommy Robinson, Les Sherratt, Fred Simkins, Bill Vail and Jim Webber (Port Credit Weekly)

Then an advertisement was run in the *Port Credit Weekly* and 25 men volunteered their services at the January 13th general meeting. Joseph Monks was selected chairman, Herbert Levi, secretary and William Harrod, treasurer. Toronto Township Fire Chief Jack Braithwaite's Cookville brigade would provide instruction to the newly formed group of volunteers.



▲ Lakeview Fire Hall (Les Sherratt)

In February, chairman Joe Monks went to a Toronto Township council meeting to request that a fire truck be purchased for the fire brigade's use. His request was granted and a 1923 Reo vehicle, equipped with two 45 gallon tanks for water, procured for \$25 from the Niagara Falls Fire Department, arrived within a couple of months. It was stored at Bill Bayliss' on Shaw Drive.

Clarence Sherratt became the Brigade Captain and his crew commenced their firefighting duties on March 31, 1948. The first calls were put through the Cooksville Fire Station operating out of Braithwaite's garage. When the Lakeview Fire Brigade got its own telephone, installed at the home of Mrs. Graham on Orchard Road, the number was 2440. Mrs. Graham organized volunteers so that the telephone was manned seven days a week, 24 hours a day, for which she refused remuneration.

The Brigade began fund raising to purchase uniforms. The Lakeview Fire Brigade was the first in Toronto Township to sport uniforms, which were purchased by volunteer, Herb Levi. On their caps they had the eight sided Maltese Cross. Then they wanted to build a

fire hall. Joe Monks and Joe Atkinson headed up this building fund endeavour. They ran dances and bingos and canvassed the neighbourhoods. Then when sufficient money was raised for the hall, property was purchased from Robert Salmond at the northeast corner of Lakeshore Road and Meredith Avenue. Construction got underway on the 30 foot by 35 foot (9 m x 10.7 m) two-bay cement block building on August 1st. It was completely built by the volunteer firemen with the help of a lot of donated materials and the expertise of Thomas Bayliss, who was a concrete and block contractor. Fire Station No. 2, at 1015 Meredith Avenue, was opened in December, but the official opening took place on Friday, April, 8, 1949. Deputy Reeve Sid Smith was on hand to pay tribute to the dedication in getting this project completed.

A Lakeview Firefighters Ladies Auxiliary was organized and the wives raised funds to equip the hall by holding bazaars, teas and bingo games.

A 1942 Ford truck was purchased in 1951 from the Cooksville Fire Department. In 1953, an addition of a recreation room and meeting



▲ Lakeview firemen sport new uniforms (Joan Larkin)



▲ 1923 Reo Fire Truck in Parade (Roy Smith)

hall was added to the back of the Fire Station. Clare Sherratt was promoted to District Chief and was put on salary. This was followed on May 26, 1954, with three full time firemen paid positions going to Leslie Sherratt, Thomas Graham and Kenneth Nixon. Their salary was \$3,600 a year for 56 hour weeks. In September, 1954, the Brigade purchased a new V8 Dodge fire truck and the 1923 Reo was sent to the Clarkson Brigade.

In 1953, the volunteer fire brigades were amalgamated to form the Toronto Township Fire Department.

Clare Sherratt retired in 1954 and brother, Leslie, took over the position and it became official in 1956 at an annual salary of \$4,800. In 1968 when Toronto Township's small communities were amalgamated to form the Town of Mississauga, the Lakeview Fire Brigade

became part of the Mississauga Fire Department and the District Chiefs were moved to the department's headquarters on Dundas Street East, and the station was closed. When the City of Mississauga was established in 1974, the Lakeview Fire Hall was sold to the City for \$1 with the stipulation that it remain a fire hall. Requests came in from several companies and organizations wanting to rent the building such as the Metro Toronto Multiple Alarm Association that wanted to restore and display vintage equipment, St. Vincent de Paul Society to use it as a furniture depot and Cyclos Theatre Group for a theatre, but none of these were accepted. It was rented out to different organizations for events and a movie company used it for a filming location until the building was torn down in April, 1993.

NEWS ITEM

The Cooksville and Port Credit Fire Brigades came to the rescue of a building owned by Edward Post at Stop 8 last Saturday. A fire had started in the apartment over the Lakeview Hardware store occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Foster. Leonard Stockwell, the clerk in the Hardware store, reported the fire. Neighbours and passersby took all the furniture from the apartment, except a piano, and didn't break a thing.

The fire departments, under the supervision of Cooksville's Chief Jack Braithwaite and Port Credit Chief William Newman, saved the building. Traffic on the Lake Shore Road was paralyzed as motorists stopped to watch the commotion. It took three traffic officers to keep the cars moving. It was reported that the fire was caused by an overheated stovepipe. Damages were estimated at \$400.

Port Credit Weekly
February 16, 1939



▲ Fire Truck at Lakeview Fire Hall with Larry Larkin
(Joan Larkin)

NEWS ITEMS

Lakeview Garage Consumed by fire

Believed to have started from an electrical wiring short circuit, fire last Friday night completely consumed the frame garage and 1935 model car of Wilfred Stokes, Westmount Avenue, Lakeview.

Loss, all of which was covered by insurance, was estimated at \$1,000. Discovery of the fire was made by the Stokes family, who noticed dimming of house lights while eating supper. Neighbours rallied to throw snow and water on adjoining houses until the arrival of the Toronto Township fire brigade, who played hose-lines on the Stokes residence for some two hours as a safety measure. Although the garage and auto were past saving upon their arrival, firemen were able to salvage two tons of coal in the flaming structure by soaking the pile.

Port Credit Weekly
Thursday, Dec. 11, 1947

Claim Cabin Blaze Shows Lakeview Brigade Needed

A spur to the plans of a group of men who plan formation of a Lakeview volunteer fire brigade was the blaze which last week-end destroyed a tourist camp cabin and left the occupants of 20 other cabins without Hydro facilities.

"It shows the very real need for fire equipment right here in the area," declared George Gallow, camp proprietor, who praised the efforts of a quickly formed bucket brigade. He commended the Cooksville brigade, under Chief Jack Braithwaite, who collected volunteers and made the run in 15 minutes. "It was good going, but we could have saved more had the brigade been in the vicinity," Mr. Gallows stated.

Dennis Dunbar, occupant of the destroyed cabin, was eating in the adjacent restaurant when he was informed his dwelling was ablaze. He was left with only the clothes he was wearing.

Port Credit Weekly
Thursday, Jan. 1, 1948

Some 1940s Businesses in Lakeview



Along with the Percy Evans Hardware, started in 1947, Alex Jacobs built “The Fireplace” in June, 1947, at the Lakeshore Road-Beechwood Avenue intersection, He had been a milkman in the area for Credit View Dairy. It was a two storey building that allowed him and his wife, to have an upstairs apartment. “The Fireplace” was a tea room and soda bar that catered to the younger crowd. This building is still there at 504 Lakeshore Road and is used by A-1 Antiques.

▲ The former Fireplace Tea Room, 2004

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

NORMAN DAVIDSON, A MECHANIC BY TRADE, BUILT A GARAGE and service station to the east of “The Fireplace” and opened in June, 1947. He called it Davidson Motors. He had competition with John Ellan’s Garage at Hampton Crescent, a new Sun Oil Service Station at Aviation Road and Hoad’s - B. A. Gas Station at 909 Lake Shore Road at Alexandra Avenue. It is still a service station operated as AGM Motors.

Lakeview Shoe Repair was opened in October, 1947, at Stop 8 by Elmer Meeker in competition with Joe Kelly’s Vimy Shoe Repair.

In March, 1949, a new Lakeview Businessmen’s Association was founded.



▲ Alex Jacobs was a popular milkman
for many years (Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

NEWS ITEM

Discourage Lakeview Development

In giving its decision on five separate objections, the Municipal Board discouraged further commercial development along Lakeshore Road in Lakeview. It ruled against extending the commercial zone in the vicinity of the Pleasant Valley Trailer Court, stating that, “the commercial frontage already provided along the north side of the Lakeshore Road in this locality appears to be ample, if not excessive, in view of the proposed industrial zoning to the south. The council must also do everything possible to discourage further ‘ribbon’ development of commercial uses along the major highways.”

The Board believes that the establishment of more service stations on this important traffic artery should be discouraged, it was stated in ruling on another objection.

A petition signed by a number of members of the Lakeview Businessmen’s Association, objecting to the proposed industrial zoning along the south side of Lakeshore Road (Rifle Ranges) opposite their existing commercial area was also given consideration. The objection was not sustained, however, the Board pointing out that there was little likelihood of any substantial residential development along the south side of the highway which would justify additional shopping facilities.

Port Credit Weekly,
April 29, 1954

The Drennan Family - 1948

Carl and Margaret Drennan came to Lakeview from New Toronto in 1948 with their one year old son, Russ. They had purchased a house at 1043 Meredith Avenue. They had Francis in 1949, Rick, 1951, and Ron, 1953. Carl had served in the Army during the war and was gone overseas from 1942 until 1945. Upon his discharge he got employment at Anaconda Brass in New Toronto.

The Drennan children attended the Lakeview Beach Public School and all graduated from Gordon Graydon Secondary School. During their school years, the boys participated in baseball and hockey. This was the family's entertainment. Russ played hockey with the Marlboros and won a few trophies. As her children gradually left home, Margaret became a volunteer at the Mississauga Hospital and enjoyed the involvement immensely.



▲ Drennan Family (Margaret Drennan)

RUSS BOUGHT A & A RADIATORS IN 1977 AND RICK BECAME a journalist and started at the *Mississauga News* in 1980. He spent seven years as a sports writer, editor and news columnist. In 1985, he ventured into politics briefly when he ran for Mayor in the municipal election against Mayor Hazel McCallion. Rick felt that no one should run for a post unchallenged. Mayor Hazel got in again and is still going strong in 2005. He took a short sojourn working at other media jobs and returned to the *News* to take on the *Business Times* in 1998,

that had just joined the *Mississauga News* family of papers. He is still there today. Francis died in 1993 at age 44 from lung cancer, although she had never smoked. Carl passed away in 1995 and Margaret still resides in the family home.

A & A RADIATOR CAWTHRA PARK COMPLETE CAR CARE

On April 1, 1977, A & A Radiator, established in 1947 by Peter Corbin, was purchased by two longtime motorcycle riding buddies, Russ Drennan and Norm Hayes. In 1979, Russ and Norm relocated the business to 857 Lakeshore Road West, where Master Welding owned by Fred Clark and Joe Falter's Lakeview Marine had originally been located.

For over 50 years, A & A Radiator has serviced most garages, body shops and car dealerships in the southern section of Mississauga. In 1997, the business was renamed Cawthra Park Complete Car Care so that all aspects of the automotive industry could be serviced. Having licenced auto technicians to service air conditioning on cars led to a full mechanical service outlet. In 2000, a used car sales business was added on the adjacent lot.

Over the past 28 years that Russ and Norm have been operating out of this location, there have been many changes in the area. Service stations owned by Alvin Hoad, Abe Blower, Art Greensides, Norm Burton, Henry Gallant, Joe Rose, Bob Kennedy and Tony Kascan are now a thing of the past. Their businesses have been replaced by specialty shops like Midas Muffler, Krown Rust Proofing etc. Russ has noticed one thing that rings true with the Lakeview clientele, "They are very loyal customers who don't mind spending their money to help the local economy."



▲ Garage, 1980 (Russ Drennan)



▲ A & A Radiator (Russ Drennan)

Cormack's Animal Hospital - 1949

Doctor George Raymond Cormack opened an animal clinic in 1949 in the basement of his parents' home on Hampton Crescent. Dr. Cormack's family immigrated from Ireland in 1812. His parents, Arthur and Bernadette Beatham Cormack, moved from Mimico to Lakeview in the early 1930s. He had received his schooling at Lakeview Beach Public School, Port Credit Secondary School and the University of Guelph. The 25 year old veterinarian's business flourished and within a year, he realized he would require larger premises. He began to look for a suitable location and on April 20, 1950, he bought a 352 foot by 140 foot (105.7 m x 42 m) piece of property, Lot 5, Con. 2, SDS, at 1617 Dixie Road (it became 1617 Cormack Cres.) from Helen and George Osborne for \$1,700. He built a two storey red brick house on the property and worked from there until he built a 19 room hospital behind his home, which was opened in May, 1956. He was the veterinarian for the Toronto Stockyards, the Canadian National Railway, the Canadian Pacific Railway and Hartford Insurance Company.



◀ Cormack Advertisement, 1951 (Port Credit Weekly)



▲ Ray Cormack

DR. CORMACK MARRIED RITA BRAIT AND THEY HAD ONE daughter, Kimberly, born in 1953. His business escalated until he had seven clinics in operation in Lakeview, Agincourt, Rexdale, Scarborough, Oakville, Newmarket and Caledon. Warren Stevenson, a local Lakeview lad, who graduated from Gordon Graydon Secondary School and the University of Guelph, became an animal doctor and



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▲ Cormack House and Veterinary Clinic, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)



started working for Dr. Cormack. He took over the management of the Airport Animal Hospital on Dixon Road, which he handled for 27 years. It was closed down in 2001 and at this time Dr. Cormack took leave of his practice and let Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Enna Hughes handle the Cormack Animal Hospital at 1617 Cormack Crescent.

Dr. Cormack moved to Caledon where he resides on his estate called Tralee. Several events are held there every year, one being The Canadian Carriage Driving Classic, held annually since 1984, which took place on July 1 to 4, 2004.

One of Dr. Cormack's enterprises is the Burdette Gallery that harbors the treasured artwork of many Canadian, American and European artists. The Gallery, purchased in 1999, is located on 70 acres (28 ha) of a natural sanctuary that harbors woods, ponds, trails, picnic areas and wildlife. It is situated at Orton, Ontario, a few kilometers west of Hillsburgh.



▲ Dr. Raymond Cormack

Harold Kennedy - 1950

Harold Kennedy married Adelaide Armstrong of Kenmuir Avenue on June 3, 1950, and they moved into the white stuccoed two storey house he had built on Canterbury Road in Lakeview. They raised their four children here, Helen, 1953, Jane, 1955, Paul, 1959, and Mary, 1962. Harold worked as a laboratory technologist for the British American Oil Company's refinery in Clarkson (now Petro Canada) that opened in 1943.

Harold was born May 1, 1926, to Evelyn (b.1890, d.1985) and John (1883-1931) Kennedy, who lived on a farm, Lot 9, Con 2, NDS, on Second Line East (Tomken Road) in Dixie. The Kennedy farm was 140 acres (56 ha) and their main crops were wheat and tomatoes, which they grew for the Campbell Soup Company in New Toronto. They had a vegetable garden and fruit trees and everything the family ate was grown or raised on the farm.



◀ Harold Kennedy
(Harold Kennedy)



▲ Harold Kennedy and family (Harold Kennedy)

HE WAS THE SECOND YOUNGEST OF TEN CHILDREN. BY THE time he was two, the family had lost a baby girl and Dorothy, who had been struck by lightning and killed in 1928 at age 15. Then in 1931, his father passed away.

Evelyn was left to raise the children alone and she did a great job of it. Her brother-in-law, Thomas Laird Kennedy (Minister of Agriculture, a member of provincial parliament and Premier of Ontario), who had become a Colonel during the First World War (1914-1918) and lived on a neighbouring farm, was like a surrogate father to his brother's children. The depression was a difficult time for the Kennedys with so many children to feed and clothe. They sold eggs as a means of support and Uncle Tom took care of the crops. Harold's job was to look after the chickens.

One of Evelyn's ways of making money and amusing her children was to finagle an opportunity for them to be on radio. She managed to get them on several radio stations, CBC, CFRB and CKEY. They did a show she wrote called "The Kennedy Kids." Her plays dealt with all the amusing happenings at home and it went over big time.

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Harold grew up to follow in his famous uncle's footsteps along with his brother, Douglas (1916-2003), who also went into politics. Harold at age 41 decided to make a career move and ran for councillor of Ward 1 (Lakeview) in 1967. He won the election and held his seat on the new Town of Mississauga Council (1968) and the City of Mississauga Council (1974), until he retired in 1994 after 10 elections.

Throughout these years, he served his constituents well. He sat on numerous committees, such as the Board of Health, St. John Ambulance, the Boy Scouts and the Credit Valley Conservation Authority and contributed much to their progress. Since his retirement, he has kept busy with the Traffic Safety Council, which oversees that children get to school and home safely and that crossing guards are stationed in strategic places. He also has an active relationship with the family's church, Trinity Anglican Church on Stavebank Road in the Port Credit area. He is presently chairman of the Cemetery Committee.

Daughter Helen lives in Banff, Alberta, and is administrative assistant to the Western Regional Manager of Parks Canada. Jane resides in Vancouver, B.C., and recently retired from Safeway Canada. Paul lives in the Meadowvale area and works in maintenance at Credit Valley Conservation. Mary, who lived in Alberta and British Columbia for 22 years is now back home with her two children and working for the Peel District School Board as a teacher. Paul and Mary have blessed Harold and Adelaide with four grandchildren: Paul has Jessica, 14, and Zachary, 12, and Mary has Michael, 10, and Adam, 9.



▲ Harold Kennedy House. Built in 1950, Canterbury Avenue, Lakeview, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Lakeview Central Public School - 1950

DUE TO THE GROWING population of Lakeview, the three schools, Lakeview Beach, Lakeview Park and Ogden were filled to capacity and the Toronto Township School Board was renting two rooms at Forest Avenue Public School and one at the Queen Elizabeth Public School to accommodate the students. When the Port Credit School Board cancelled the use of Forest Avenue in March, 1950, the S.S.#7 trustees had to make new arrangements.

So it was decided that a new school should be constructed to handle the overflow. A ten room facility of 11,500 square feet (1,069 m²) was built on the northwest corner of Ogden Avenue and Fifth Street (Atwater Avenue) and called the Lakeview Central Public School. Neil Matheson, who had served as principal of the Lakeview Park, Lakeview Beach and Ogden Avenue Public Schools, became the first principal with a staff of 13 teachers. In September, 1950, the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Thomas L. Kennedy, officiated at the opening.



▲ Lakeview Central Public School, 1967

(South Peel Board of Education)

Principal Neil Matheson ▶

(Elizabeth Matheson)



Mr. Matheson, who had been born in Goderich, Ontario, had attended a one-room schoolhouse at S. S. Tuckersmith and Clinton Institute and received his teacher training at the Toronto Normal School. He came to Lakeview in 1939. In 1967, he received a centennial medal for his contribution to education. He retired in 1972 after 33 years of serving Lakeview schools. His wife, Elizabeth, was also a teacher at the Ogden Avenue Public School. They had two children, Alan, an aircraft mechanic, and Joanne (Mrs. Bruce Miller) a graduate pharmacist. In his honour, the Lakeview



▲ Coach Ephraim Petrescue with team, Lakeview Triple P's, 1959 (Richard Drennan)

Central Public School was renamed the Neil C. Matheson Junior Public School at a ceremony on June 25, 1972. He was given this honour because he had contributed a tremendous amount of dedicated work to the Lakeview schools. He was a teacher and Vice Principal of Lakeview Beach (1939-1941), Principal of Lakeview Park (1941-1943), Principal of Lakeview Beach, (1943-1950), Principal of Ogden (1946-1949) and Principal of Lakeview Central (1950-1972).

In 1973, the Neil Matheson Junior Public School was closed and sold to the Town of Mississauga by the Peel Board of Education for \$550,000. The students were transferred to the Ogden Avenue Public School, which was renamed the Neil C. Matheson Junior Public School, because the parents admired Matheson so much they requested it.

The Town turned the old school into a Community Centre, and named it for Ephraim Petrescue, at an official opening ceremony on Saturday, December 15, 1973. Eph, who came from Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, spent time in World War II and Toronto before moving to Lakeview in 1952. Because he was behind the start of baseball in Lakeview in 1958, when the Lakeview-Lyndwood Baseball Association was founded, he was called "Mr. Baseball." Within a year of its formation, the baseball league went from 160 boys involved to 300. In 1971, the Association recognized his contribution to the community. Eph died of pneumonia on February 23, 1986, at age 76.

The Petrescue Community Centre had several meeting rooms and a gymnasium. Jimmy Craig was the caretaker. The Toronto French School required expanded classroom and recreation facilities, so they rented part of the Centre, shortly after it was opened.



▲ Petrescue Sign (Verna Mae Weeks)



▲ Toronto French school, 2003 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

A committee was formed in 1974 and called the Petruscue Community Centre Association. Its function was fund raising to keep the facility operating. They held dances in the gymnasium, where a bar was built for these occasions. The first one was held in December, 1974, to celebrate the Community Centre's first anniversary. This event was used to also celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Councillor Ron Searle and his wife, Mollie, and they, along with Councillor Harold Kennedy, were made honorary members. The committee rented out the rooms to various organizations, one being the Toronto French School, which also utilized the gym for its sports

activities. Another was the Mississauga Train Club, model train collectors. The Association also sponsored Cawthra hockey and baseball and a baseball diamond was on the property. Another one of its fund raising activities was euchre, which was played every Wednesday evening. In 1977, they wanted to hold a Bed Racing event and they called Ron Searle, who was now the Mayor of Mississauga, to get permission to close down a few of the streets. It was a great success.

The Petruscue Community Centre was closed in 1995 and sold to the Toronto French School, which it remains today at 1293 Meredith Avenue.

1850 - Toronto Township Centennial - 1950

The Township of Toronto Council put a committee together to work on its Centennial celebration for 1950. The brochure put out for the occasion highlighted the events for the weekend of October 13-15th.

On Friday, October 13th there was an historical display for school children, one display at the Ogden Avenue Public School in Lakeview in the morning and one in the afternoon at the Cooksville Fair Grounds. Everyday activities of the pioneers were depicted such as farming, housekeeping, shopping and transportation. That evening there was a musical pageant held at the Dixie Arena.



A CENTENNIAL PARADE WAS HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14th. It left Haig Boulevard in Lakeview at 1:30 p.m. and wended its way to Stavebank Road in Port Credit, north to Park Street and over to Centre Road (Hurontario Street) and up to the Cooksville Fair Grounds. There was a Police escort, bands, military and veteran units and commercial floats.

When the parade arrived in Cooksville, the events planned were of an historical nature: a re-enactment by Town Council of the first Council meeting on January 21, 1850; a ploughing match; soldiers in early militia uniforms; a display of historical floats; a fire-fighting display; old time dancing; horse shoe pitching; and the Township Tug-of-War.

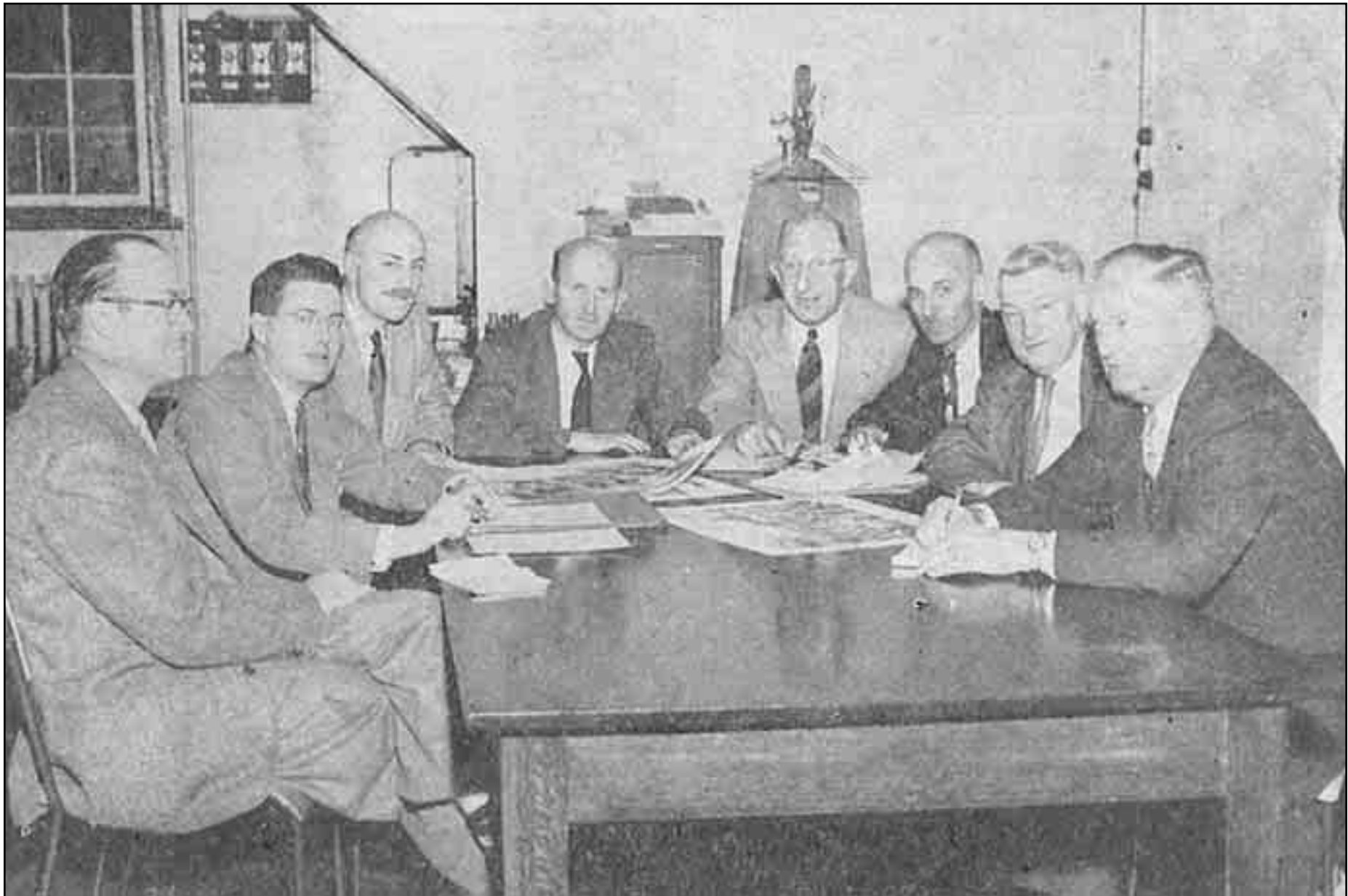
There was a William Lyon Mackenzie Cross-Country race open to all residents. It started at 2 p.m. at the old Absalom Willcox house, at this time owned by Mrs. L. MacLean, on Dundas Street in Dixie,

where Mackenzie had holed up while being pursued by the York Militia during the Mackenzie Rebellion in December, 1837. The route then followed through farmers' fields to the Cooksville Fairgrounds where the winners received prizes from local stores.

The Saturday celebration ended with a Centennial Ball with the music of Mart Kenny and his Western Gentlemen from 9 to 12 p.m. Everyone was encouraged to attend their local churches to give thanks on Sunday, October 15th.



▲ With the 100th celebration of Toronto Township's Incorporation being held October 13-15 at the Town Hall, Confederation Square, in Cooksville, the Council went all out by dressing in 1850 attire. From left to right, Clerk, Herb Pinchin, Gordon Jackson, Councillor Anthony Adamson, Reeve Doug Dunton, Deputy Reeve Sid Smith, Councillor Alan Van Every, Treasurer, William Courtney, Doug Rowbottom and Councillor Lloyd Herridge. The Township population was 17,000.



▲ The Co-ordinating Centennial committee consisted of: from left to right, Jack McPherson, Bob Ball, Anthony Adamson, Ken Cross, Jack Cunningham, Jim Mumford, Herb Pinchin and B. C. Smith.
(Viola Herridge)