

Lakeview:

Journey From Yesterday

Kathleen A. Hicks



Lakeview: Journey from Yesterday



(Region of Peel Archives)

LAKEVIEW: JOURNEY FROM YESTERDAY

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Other Books By Kathleen A. Hicks

(Stephen Wahl)

III

The Silverthorns: Ten Generations in America

Kathleen Hicks' V.I.P.s of Mississauga

The Life & Times of the Silverthorns of Cherry Hill

Clarkson and its Many Corners

Meadowvale: Mills to Millennium

VIDEO

Riverwood: The Estate Dreams are Made of

Dedication



I dedicate this book to my family, the Groveses of Lakeview, where I was born. My grandfather, Thomas Jordan, and my father, Thomas Henry, were instrumental in building many houses and office buildings across southern Ontario. Although, they never made our name a household word, they inspired me to shoot for my dreams and this book and the many others I have written are the result of perseverance.

◀ *Groves' Five Generations*
(Kathleen Groves Hicks)



(Region of Peel Archives)

This is the third book in the ten book series on the history of Mississauga. Lakeview is the place of my birth, so it has a soft spot in my heart. I grew up here, went to school and church here. It holds a lot of memories for me.

Lakeview I discovered, during the research process, gave us four top politicians, Thomas Goldthorpe, Robert Speck, Ron Searle and Harold Kennedy, one a Reeve, two Mayors and a long standing councillor. It had the first Red Cross Branch, which became the Red Cross Headquarters of Toronto Township, the first Salvation Army Corps, the first Boy Scout troop as well as Girl Guides, the first major factory (Small Arms). An impressive accomplishment for an area once classed as the poorest section of the Township.

An author can work diligently and fulfill the task necessary to complete a book of this magnitude in the quiet solitude of an office. But every writer of history has to get out in the field and work with the people who have the information one requires to make it all come together, be interesting and worthwhile.

Without the input and cooperation of these people who have lived and witnessed the growth of a community, there would be little to be said. So I wish at this time to extend my humblest gratitude for their assistance along the way. My thanks to the Mississauga Library System's Administrator and Chief Librarian Don Mills for his constant support and efforts throughout this project; Michael Jones and the Friends of the Mississauga Library System for believing in this project and giving it a shot in the arm at a time when it needed it the most; Ted Sharpe and his staff in the History Department and Canadiana Room, Mississauga Central Library; thanks to author/historian, Verna Mae Weeks, for leading the way with her two books on Lakeview and her husband, Roy, for his tremendous collection of material, some of which was utilized in my research process; Diane Custer and staff at the Region of Peel Archives; Joe and Joyce Melito for their graphic expertise in the layout of this book; Stephen Wahl for his belief in me and my work and sharing his photography expertise with me; Ron Searle, who was Ward 7 Councillor, then Mayor of Mississauga, and Harold Kennedy, councillor of Ward 1, for their assistance with their knowledge of Lakeview; Ron and Jean Dyer, the Drennans, Norman and Catherine Glista, Grace Sherratt and daughter, Lee Pettit, John and Tom Kelly and sisters, Pat and Hilda, Fred, Yvonne and Leslie Hanna, Thelma Lowe, Joan Lowe Lepard, David Monks and the Baylisses for their family histories; Mary Cuomo for her memoirs of her time in Lakeview; Wayne Crockett, archivist at the Ontario Archives Reference Department, and Linda Cobon, manager of records and archives, Exhibition Place, for their continuous assistance; Dave Hunter, author/historian, for supplying the history of

the Port Credit Yacht Club; Larry Onisto, Ontario Power Generation Lakeview Generating Station, for his never-ending support; Baddeck Public Library and Valerie Mason from the Alexander Graham Bell National Park, Baddeck, Nova Scotia, for info on John McCurdy; Colonel John Carew of the Salvation Army Corps, who was stationed in Lakeview in 1958 for his insight on the Corps involvement in Toronto Township; Mark Skinner and Doug Lawrie, Lakeview Golf & Country Club; Glenn Smale, Toronto Golf Club; archivist Dommi Freestone, Hydro One Archives; Rev. Doug Candy and Rev. Larry O'Connor, St. Luke's Anglican Church; Bruce Holness and Gerry Lancaster on Albert Crookes; Jane Watt for her help with clarifying Lakeview residents on the cemetery lists; Ron Lenyk, publisher of *The Mississauga News* for allowing me to utilize News photos; Diane Simpson, City of Mississauga Recreation and Parks, for data on the Seniors Clubs; Janet McDougall, public school trustee for Wards 1 and 7; Kathleen Matchett, manager Dixie Outlet Mall; Larry Edwards for Lakeview Golf Course info; Lavinia Nablo for the Girl Guide information and Phil Frost for enlightening me on the history of the Boy Scouts; Rod McIver for info on the Mississauga Sailing Club; Jean Coates for her list of contacts that led to information from Margaret Evans Penn and her brother, Percy Evans; Dorelle Boyes for Lakeview and Seniors info; Sandra LeFaucheur and Karen Hogan, Region of Peel, for Waterworks System info; Rick Tredwell, vice principal of T. L. Kennedy Secondary School for assisting with most of the metric conversion; to all the people who contributed their reminiscences, thanks for the "Memories;" and to everyone who assisted me along the way, I am truly grateful.



▲ Pat Ragsdale, LGS Production Manager, and
Craig Smallman, Manager of Business Services,
with author, Kathleen A. Hicks

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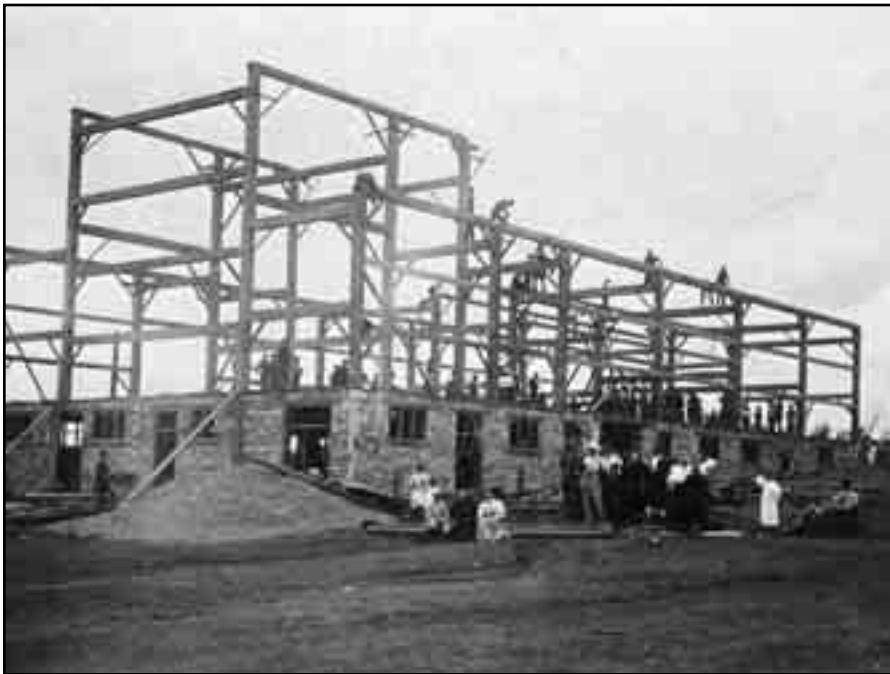
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In memory of the Bayliss family; those deceased and
present and future generations.

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(Region of Peel Archives)

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Lakeview has a strong hold on my heart, because I was not only the councillor here for many years, but I have lived here for over 50 years. So more than half of my life has been associated with Lakeview.

I have many fond memories of my involvement here not only with my family but with my constituents. When I was running for councillor of Ward 7 in 1962 for the Toronto Township council, Eph Petruscue telephoned me and he asked me, "Are you the Ron Searle who is running for councillor?" I said, "Yes." And he asked, "What do you know about Lakeview?" I said, "Not very much, but if I am elected, I can assure you I'll learn very quickly." And after I was elected, I walked around my Ward, previously prewar cottage country, and noticed a lot of deterioration and I knew there was a lot of work to be done and I did learn about Lakeview. With the support of my constituents and my Council colleagues, I accomplished a lot of things that I am proud of.

foreword

My most satisfying accomplishment would have to be the affordable housing that I implemented throughout Mississauga while I was chairman of the Peel Regional Housing Association. It all started with the Ontario Housing for Seniors in Lakeview in 1967 and went on from there. My involvement with the Canadian Red Cross Society Mississauga Chapter, of which I was president 1973 and 1974, the starting of the Distress Centre in 1973, and other organizations has been very fulfilling. Working on the Burnhamthorpe Bridge and Highway 403 and other plans that strengthened Mississauga's future have been most rewarding. I could go on for hours about the marvelous things that occurred during my time on Council, such as hosting the visit of Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

Like Ronald Reagan not being able to be successful in his political career without Nancy, I, too, could not have succeeded without my Mollie. Mollie's charisma flowed from her in the caring and warmth she passed on to people. She was equally at home with a bag lady or a queen.



▲ Ron Searle

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I must also say that I think what author Kathleen Hicks is doing is commendable. Mississauga has a vibrant history - 200 years in fact, and she is uncovering much of what has been hidden away and bringing it forth in these marvelous books. I look forward to enjoying the entire series.

Ron Searle

Former Toronto Township/Mississauga Councillor, 1963-1976

Former Mayor of Mississauga, 1977-1978

The Beginning

A new province was created and called Upper Canada eight years after the English were defeated in the American Revolution (1775-1783). Following this war, over 10,000 British sympathizers poured into the province of Quebec, with 6,000 settling on the Niagara Peninsula, where in 1784 over three million acres (1,200,000 hectares) were purchased from the Mississauga Indians for the purpose of extending land grants to those loyal to King George III (born 1738, died 1820). These United Empire Loyalists, so named by Governor General Sir Guy Carleton (b.1724, d.1808), who had given up farms, homes, livelihoods, family and friends, settled in to establish a new beginning in a new fertile land.

The province of Quebec was ruled under the Quebec Act of 1774 or French Civil Law, and the English resented this. So the Loyalists set about to establish their own laws and thus in 1791, the Constitutional



King George III

(Shell Canada Ltd.)



Sir Guy Carleton

(Toronto Public Library)



John Graves Simcoe

(Toronto Public Library)

Introduction



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

With the new province of Upper Canada established, a new government had to be put in place. To head up this undertaking, Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe (1752-1806) was appointed Lieutenant Governor. He, his wife, Elizabeth, and two of their youngest children of six, Sophia and Francis, arrived from Dunkeswell, Devonshire, England, on November 11, 1791.

Following Simcoe's swearing in by Chief Justice William Osgoode at St. George Church in Kingston on July 8, 1792, he and his family left for the new capital, Niagara, which was immediately changed to Newark. (An Act of Legislation in 1798 would reinstate the name Niagara.) They soon settled themselves in marquees on the west bank of the Niagara River, next to Navy Hall, that would be renovated for their occupancy.

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

(Confederation Life Collection, Rogers Communications Inc.)

The opening of Legislature took place on September 17th and an election for the first parliament was held. During this first session of the House of Assembly, September 17 thru October 15th, the laws of Britain were adopted, trial by jury established and marriages validated. At the second session in the spring of 1793, it was passed that roadways be constructed and slavery be abolished. Then on July 30th, the Simcoes took leave of Niagara to settle in the new capital of the province, Toronto, which was changed to York. (The name Toronto would be reestablished in 1834 when it became a city.) Here they set up residence in tents that had belonged to the navigator/explorer Captain James Cook. The Queen's Rangers built Fort York. Gradually the town blossomed with new, energetic arrivals, who began to put their imprint and expertise on the small colony.

In September, 1793, Simcoe initiated construction on the first roadway, Dundas Street, often referred to as the Governor's Road. It was started at Burlington Bay and ran westward to the River Thames. (The York to Burlington Bay section was not completed until after Simcoe's departure.) Then a northerly roadway, Yonge Street, was set in motion in February, 1794, but complications prevailed and it was not opened until February, 1796.

Simcoe left for England in July, 1796, and was replaced by the Honorable Peter Russell, who would administer the duties of the Governor in his absence. It was during Russell's regime that the Dundas was completed in 1798. In 1799, Peter Hunter was made the Lieutenant Governor. Many prominent men such as John Beverly Robinson, William Allen, Judge Grant Powell, Reverend John Strachan, Joseph Cawthra and Reverend Egerton Ryerson brought their skills to York and prosperity prevailed.

On August 2, 1805, the Mississauga Indians sold the British Government the Mississauga Tract from the Etobicoke Creek to Burlington Bay, 26 miles of shoreline and five miles inland (43 kilometers/8 km), consisting of 70,784 acres (28,713 ha). The negotiations took place at the Government Inn on the east bank of the Credit River under the supervision of superintendent of Indian Affairs, the Honourable William Claus. The host was the operator of the Inn, Thomas Ingersoll. Toronto Township came into being, comprising 29,569 acres (11,827 ha) of this transaction with a mile (1.6 km) on either side of the Credit River designated as the Mississauga Indian Reserve. The Township of Toronto was located in the County of York, Home District, Province of Upper Canada.

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

Honourable William Claus ▶
(Toronto Public Library)



▲ The Government Inn (Region of Peel Archives)

This purchase brought about the establishment of small communities in Toronto Township. First came Sydenham (later Dixie) and Harrisville (Cooksville) along the Dundas, with Lakeview (not officially named until 1922) to the east and Clarkson to the west along the shores of Lake Ontario. Gradually other towns and villages were founded throughout the Township.

The first resident was Thomas Ingersoll (1805), then Philip Cody (1806), the grandfather of the legendary Buffalo Bill Cody, and Daniel Harris (1807). The first children to be born were Sarah Ingersoll,

January 10, 1807, and Elijah Cody, November 7, 1807. The first census was taken in 1807-1808 by Deputy Provincial Surveyor Samuel Street Wilmot, who had surveyed and drawn up the first map in 1805-1806, outlining the 200 acre (81 ha) lots that were designated grants to the incoming settlers. It listed the first families as Philip Cody, Daniel Harris, Joseph Silverthorn, Absalom Willcox, Allen Robinet and William Barber. Joseph's father, John Silverthorn, was also listed, but he did not reside here. He was a property owner though, having purchased Lot 6, Con. 1, South Dundas Street (SDS) in January, 1808.

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



▲ Samuel Street Wilmot
(Association of Ontario Land Surveyors)

Lake Ontario



▲ Lakeview Beach, 1920s (Richard Grebeldinger)

The village of Lakeview edges on Lake Ontario at its northern most perimeter. Lake Ontario is an area of 7,540 square miles, 193 miles long and 53 miles (19,300 kilometres² 310 km, 85 km) in breadth with New York State on its south shore. It is the smallest in area of the five Great Lakes, with largest to smallest being, Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario. East to west, the lakes span 750 miles (1,200 km) with an average depth of 283 feet (86 metres).

The Great Lakes, covering an area of 94,000 square miles (240,640 km²), are the largest basin of fresh surface water on earth. Their 5,500 cubic miles (22,528 km³) of area contain around 18 per cent of the

world's water supply. Only the polar ice caps have more fresh water.

There are four creeks in the Lakeview area that drain into Lake Ontario: The Etobicoke Creek, the 32 Creek, so named for its location at Stop 32, also called the Lakeview Creek, west of Dixie Road, the Cawthra Creek and Saul's Creek (also called Cooksville Creek).

The Lake has been an asset to all who have resided near it, for fishing, boating and swimming. But most of all for providing the convenience of water to the many homes of Toronto Township as early as 1931 to present day in the City of Mississauga.

In 2005, we have the Waterfront Trail, started in 1995, that winds through the many parks that hug the shores of this magnificent waterway.

NEWS ITEM

Resume of the Disasters of a Season

In navigating the Great Lakes in the season just closed 123 lives were lost and 53 boats with an aggregate tonnage of 24,258 (25,000 tonnes), and valued at \$1,040,40 passed out of existence. Partial losses by stranding, collisions and fire bring the grand total of losses on boats to \$2,112,588.

By lakes, the loss of life was Lake Erie, 59; Lake Huron, 33; Lake Superior, 10, Lake Michigan, 12; Lake Ontario, 41; Detroit River, 5; total 123. The loss of life this season is the largest since 1887, when the total number was 204.

Streetsville Review

Thursday, Jan. 4, 1894

Author's Note: According to my calculation, the tally of loss of life should add up to 160.

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Memories



▲ James McCarthy (Mississauga News)

"My Dad would take the spring wagon - that's a wagon used to take produce to market - with a load of kids to the beach at Lake Ontario that is now Lake Promenade Park. We drove down Cawthra Road and made a turn west a block on Aviation Road and headed south towards the Lake. I remember there being a big willow tree overhanging the water. We really looked forward to those swims, especially during a hot summer day. I remember the first time - I was only six - I could have spent the whole day there if Dad would have let me. We used to love swimming and we would throw a ball around. It was a lot of fun. We did that for several years."

By Dixie born James McCarthy
Interview with author, 1995

The Etobicoke Creek

The Etobicoke Creek flows southward through Chinguacousy Township and forms the boundary between Toronto Township and Etobicoke (now Mississauga and Toronto) from Eglinton Avenue to Lake Ontario. The Creek takes its name from the Etobicoke Township, which the Mississauga Indians called *Wah-do-be-kaung*, meaning “the place where the alders grow.” With Simcoe’s association with Colonel Samuel Smith, who received hundreds of acres (hectares) in grants on both sides of this Creek, he sometimes referred to it as “Smith’s Creek.” Another version, *Riviere aux Atokas*, was used in 1790 by map maker Samuel Holland.

The Creek meanders leisurely for 62 miles (100.3 k), through what used to be flourishing white pine forests teeming with wildlife, to empty into Lake Ontario. It is fed by a fresh water spring in the head-

waters area of Orangeville and travels southward through towns such as Brampton, where it used to flood out the town drastically every spring until a cement flood control channel was installed in 1946. It was once the avenue where the Indians would canoe northward to meet with other tribes or hunt and fish.

The property on both sides was plentiful with tall pines and sturdy oaks, maple and elm trees. It was a place, where in the early days of pioneer life in Toronto Township, children would swim in the nude and adults would occasionally wander down for a dip to relieve themselves of the heat after a heavy day of working in the fields. A place for fishing and boating that would only be disrupted by the spring floods. A place in winter for ice fishing and where skating and hockey could be enjoyed.



Etobicoke Creek, 1949

(The Toronto Conservation Authority)

Other Creeks

Lakeview has three creeks running through it. There is the Stop 32 Creek, as people in Lakeview gave each of the three creeks west of Etobicoke names for the radial line stops on the Lake Shore Road. It is a small creek west of Dixie Road, also called Lakeview Creek, because it runs through the Lakeview Golf Course, and the City of Mississauga has it as Applewood Creek on some of its maps for the Applewood subdivisions to the north.

The Cawthra Creek, so called for the Cawthra family of Lot 10, Con. 2, SDS, where the creek ambles southward to the Lake, was also referred to as the 36 Creek. The mouth of this creek was known for the best swimming hole as it was secluded and warm. Saul's Creek was named for Hugh Saul, whose property of 66 acres (26.9 ha), Lot 12, Con. 2, purchased in 1861, it meandered through. Further north, it is known as the Cooksville Creek and today it is called that in Lakeview as well. Salmon were plentiful in this creek and fishing was a pleasure. The local farmers would sometimes witness Indians spear- ing a cache of the succulent faire. This waterway was sometimes referred to as Richie's Creek or 37 Creek. Down through the years, major rainstorms have caused considerable deterioration to its banks, so in latter years culverts from the Queen Elizabeth Way to the Lakeshore Road have had to be reinforced.

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◀ Frank Cavan netting suckers in Saul's Creek
(Lorne Joyce Collection)



▲ Cooksville Creek, 2004 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

NEWS ITEM

Massive sewer program set for Cawthra Creek

A move by City Council should herald the end of flooded basements in the Cawthra Creek area. At a meeting last week, council passed a recommendation of the public works department to improve the Cawthra Creek drainage system.

The project will cost \$3.1 million, but should be offset by the savings the City will experience from no longer having to pay for flooded basement repairs each year, says a study done by the City's Public Works Department and the design firm of Marshall, Macklin and Monaghan.

The study was prompted when in September and October of 1986, 15 basement floodings were reported in homes located in the Cawthra Creek watershed. The average damage figure has been about \$3,000 per residence, on an average of \$60,000 per year on repairs, while the per year cost of the sewer repairs is \$62,000.

Currently \$800,000 has been approved in the 1988 capital budget for this program. Based on the program phasing plan, only \$388,000 is required to undertake Phase I in 1988, \$412,000 going towards Phase II in 1989 with an additional \$800,000 budgeted; 1990 will require a further \$800,000 in funding. The final phase, proposed for 1991, will require another \$720,000.

Mississauga News
May 11, 1988

Lake Shore Road - 1804

The Lake Shore Road was opened in 1804, having been the long used Mississauga Indian trail that snaked along the shores of Lake Ontario from York to Niagara. This was initiated through the Home District Council on March 8, 1798. A letter from Peter Russell to Major Shank stated, "The Council having yesterday come to the Resolution to open a Road and make bridges between the Humber and the River Credit in front next to the Lake and to strike a road from the Credit to the road which now leads to the Head of the Lake." It was first tendered for road work in 1804 and improved upon in 1808. It is thought that at this time the section from the Credit River to Burlington Bay was not yet through, which could be the case as bridges were not put in until 1820.

When Samuel Street Wilmot and his surveyors laid out the roadways after the 1805 purchase, roads ran east and west and lines ran north and south, except for the northern boundary, which was called Base Line (Eglinton Avenue). Road allowances of 1 chain (66 feet/20 metres) were set out every few lots, so in 1833, First Line (Manor



▲ Corduroy Road (Ministry of Transportation)



▲ Toronto-Hamilton Highway Under Construction, 1915

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Road, then Cawthra Road), Second Line (Tomken Road/Dixie area) and Third Line (Dixie Road) were declared opened by the Home District Justices in session.

In 1820, when new bridges were put across the rivers and creeks, the Lake Shore Road was corduroyed - logs laid snugly across the roadway for smoother wagon travel. It was improved upon in 1827 from York to Burlington Bay. Colonel William Thompson of Clarkson, who obtained funds for road building, supervised the work. The Lake Shore Road and Dundas Street were purchased by the Toronto Road Company in 1850. This company was then responsible for their upkeep. By 1890, it was under government control again.

The roads throughout the Township were always in poor condition and with the heavy wagon traffic, fell into disrepair. With the advent of the automobile in the early 1900s, there was a demand for better roadways. In 1913, the Ontario Highways Department was founded and an Act was passed to establish better roads and highways throughout the province. In 1914, the Lake Shore Road became the

first road in Canada to be designated a cement highway and this was carried out by the Toronto-Hamilton Highway Commission, which had been created by an Ontario Government order in Council on September 17th. George H. Gooderham of Toronto's Gooderham & Worts, was chairman. When the roadway was completed through Toronto Township, it was opened on November 29, 1917, with great fanfare. In 1918, the census revealed that 1,745 vehicles travelled Lake Shore Road daily. When the highway was completed to Hamilton in 1922, the Commission was disbanded and it became known as Highway 2. In 1936 and 1968, the road was widened and repaved in 1973. It was in 1944 that it became Lakeshore Road, referred to as east and west from Hurontario Street in Port Credit.

Lake Shore Road, 1917 ►

(Photos courtesy of the Lush Collection, Region of Peel Archives)



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Memories



"I can remember as a kid when they filled all the way along the Lake Shore Road with sand brought from the Trenwith Pits in Clarkson. They had ditches then. The road was a two lane highway. That was quite a thing because they didn't have the equipment that they have today. They would take a tow truck and try to pull out a telephone pole. You would see the truck go up in the air before the pole would move. There was also a big granite rock that they couldn't move. They had nothing to pick it up with, so they dug a big hole and buried it."

John Kelly,
Former Staff Sergeant
Mississauga Police Department.
(Mississauga News)

Samuel Wilmot's Map - 1805

Deputy Provincial Surveyor, Samuel Street Wilmot (b.1774, d.1856), cousin of Timothy Street for whom Streetsville was named, was the man who carried out the original surveying of the first purchase in 1805-1806.

Samuel's family originated in England and came to Connecticut in the United States. He was born in the state of New York in 1774. During the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), his father served under Christopher Robinson, whose son, John Beverly Robinson, became Upper Canada's Attorney General in 1818. After the war, the Wilmots and Robinsons came to York. Samuel married surveyor John Stegman's daughter, Mary. Samuel became a surveyor under his

father-in-law's tutelage. When John was accidentally killed in 1804, Samuel took over his commission.

He laid out all the concessions and 200 acre (81 ha) lots that were granted to incoming Loyalists and pioneers. Dundas Street was used as the center line with two concessions to the north and three concessions to the south, four in Clarkson because of the deep shoreline of Lake Ontario. While undertaking this enormous task, he and his crew stayed at the Government Inn, which was operated by Toronto Township's first resident family, the Ingersolls. In 1807-1808, Samuel conducted the first census and listed the seven families mentioned in the introduction. He and Mary lived north of York (now Richmond Hill). He died in 1856.



▲ Samuel Wilmot's 1806 Map (Thompson Adamson)

A Tribute To The Cawthra family

Joseph Cawthra was born in the Parish of Guiseley, Yorkshire, England, on October 14, 1759, to Henry and Mary Cawthray (he dropped the “y”). He married Mary Turnpenny (b.1760, d.1847) on January 29, 1781, and they had three daughters and six sons, Grace (1782-1856), Henry (1787-1854), John (1789-1851) Jonathan (1791-?) Samuel (1795-1795), William (1801-1880) and two daughters named Mary, and another son, who died in infancy.

The Cawthra family arrived in York (Toronto) in 1806 from New York State, where they had resided since 1802. Joseph was an enterprising man. In England, his vocation had been a woollen manufacturer. In this capacity he had built the first steam-powered carding, spinning and fulling mills in the country in 1793.

He rented a frame house for his family from Mr. A. Cameron. It was located at the northwest corner of King and Sherbourne Streets across from Doctor Thomas Stoyell’s tavern and he established an apothecary shop here. During the War of 1812, he supplied the militia with necessary provisions and his profits made him one of York’s wealthiest merchants. This allowed him to expand to a general store, utiliz-



▲ Grove farm (Anthony Adamson Collection)

ing the entire building. He sold cutlery, hardware, watches, clothing, boots, shoes and millinery goods and he became a major importer of tea and other luxury items. He moved his family to a larger house on Palace Street (now Front Street).

Upon his arrival, he had applied for Loyalist status to receive land grants, having served in the British Army during the American Revolution (1775-1783) and his Letters of Patent were signed by Lieutenant Governor Francis Gore (1806-1817). Joseph was the second person to receive a land grant in Lakeview (Captain Samuel Smith was the first). In 1808, he received his grant signed by General Issac Brock, Lot 10, Con. 2, SDS, 200 acres (81 ha), and a broken waterlot, Lot 10, Con. 3, on Lake Ontario. On July 8, 1812, he received waterlots, Lot 12 and 13, Con 3, and 200 acres of Lot 25, Con. 2, making a total of 500 acres (202 ha).



▲ Joseph Cawthra
(Anthony Adamson)

In the beginning, the Cawthra family only used their property as a summer resort, having put up a log shanty on Lot 10 and clearing five acres (2 ha) of land to carry out the government’s grant requirements. When they made a trip to their country haven, they came by boat from their wharf in York to the base of their property in Toronto Township. Then Joseph had a timbered cottage built and had the grounds cleared to start a farm for his son, Henry.

Joseph was politically inclined and known to be “a stalwart of anti-government politics in York.” His first political move took place in August, 1807, when he signed a hostile declaration to Robert Thorpe’s party. Many such acts occurred to antagonize Lieutenant Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland (1819-1828). He was an alderman for St. Lawrence Ward on Toronto’s first City Council in 1834. In 1835, he was defeated and the next year his son, William, picked up the Ward. He had a tremendous antipathy to the “Family Compact,” a term scribed by William Lyon Mackenzie to malign a small group of politicians who had control over Upper Canada’s government. From the personal advise of John Wesley, the father of Methodism, Joseph ascribed his adherence to the Church of England.



▲ William Cawthra (Region of Peel Archives)

Son, William, received his education from Reverend George Okill Stuart at the Home District School. He worked alongside his father in the general store. Joseph died on February 17, 1842, and was buried in St. James Cathedral Cemetery. William inherited the shop and closed it down. He also received Lot 25, Con. 2, SDS, that was in the area that would become Lorne Park, and he sold it to George McGill on April 31, 1851. Son, Henry, inherited his father's Toronto Township (Lakeview) holdings. He passed away in 1854 and the estate went to William. In 1847, William was on the Board of Trustees for common schools, was involved with the House of

Industry and a contributor to building Toronto General Hospital and said to be one of the richest men in Toronto. He amassed such a fortune that the Cawthras were referred to as "the Astors of Canada." He married Sarah Jane Crowther in 1849 and in 1853 they moved into a Greek Revival stone mansion designed by Joseph Sheard at Bay and King Streets. This house was a landmark in Toronto, known for its solid gold doorknob. It was torn down in 1946 to make room for a 25 storey Bank of Nova Scotia. They had no children and when he died on October 26, 1880, his estate of \$3 million went to his wife and his late brother John's children, Joseph (1821-1892), Mary (1823-1882), John (1824-1875) and Henry (1830-1904). (William born in 1827 died at age seven.)

In the 1860s, Joseph's grandson, John (born 1824 to John and Ann Wilson Cawthra), established "Grove Farm" on the middle section of Joseph's Lot 10 grant. His farmhouse and barn sat approximately where Cawthra Park Secondary School sits now. In September, 1864, he went to Europe, where he met 20 year old Elizabeth Jane Elwell (Bessie) in a small Switzerland hotel. They were married on December 13th in England and had a four month's honeymoon. In 1870, he built her a summer house on Lot 12, reminiscent of the Swiss hotel where they had met and a New York Bank barn. In 1874, he built



▲ Mrs. John Cawthra
(Region of Peel Archives)

Devon House at 152 Beverly Street, Toronto (this house still exists), for his wife and their three children, John Elwell, 1865, William Herbert, fondly called Bertie (1867-1939), and Ann Mabel, 1869. He died in 1875 at age 51 years.

John's daughter, Ann Mabel, who had been born in Switzerland, married Lieutenant Colonel Agar Adamson on November 15, 1899. They were given John and Elizabeth's cottage as a wedding gift. She and Agar served in World War I (1914-1918). Ann Mabel organized fund relief and aid in Belgium. The Belgium government decorated her for her valiant service. Agar was the first commanding officer of the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry. For his involvement in

the war, he received the Distinguished Service Order for bravery under a gas attack. When they returned from the War, they constructed a large two storey stone house of grey stucco, topped with a red tile roof that overlooked Lake Ontario. It was designed by Spratt & Ralf of Toronto with touches of Flemish architecture, influenced by Ann Mabel's Belgium connection during the War.

In 1929, Agar passed away while they were visiting London, England. When Ann Mabel died on December 4, 1943, their son, Anthony, inherited their elegant homestead. He and his wife, Augusta, lived in this house until 1975 when it was sold to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

Grace Cawthra (b.1878), Joseph's great granddaughter, was the daughter of grandson Henry (b.1832) and his wife Anne Mills Cawthra, who had four children. Henry was a lawyer with Blake, Cawthra & Blake and served as a director of the Bank of Canada in Toronto for over 30 years. The family spent much of its time travelling in Europe. Henry died in 1904 and Anne in 1921. Grace married Major-General Harry McIntire Elliott (1867-1949) on June 29, 1921, at St. Alban's Cathedral in Toronto, and because of her well known family name and the fact that the property had to remain in the family, Harry agreed to add it to his own becoming Cawthra-Elliott.

On June 4, 1926, Grace received several acres (hectares) of her father's inherited Lot 10, part of Joseph's original grant at the northern section of the property, which was bordered on the north by Middle Road (became Queen Elizabeth Way in 1939) and on the west by First Line (Cawthra Road). She named her new estate "Cawthra Lotten," for Cawthra Lot 10. In 1929, she and her husband had an elegant two storey Georgian style house built, which was

designed by the world famous architect, William Lyon Somerville, who also designed McMaster University in Hamilton. Some of the bricks came from her Yeadon Hall home in Toronto that was in the process of being torn down to make room for Cawthra Mansions, an apartment complex. The original cottage that Joseph Cawthra had built for Henry was moved onto the Cawthra-Elliott property and it became the gatehouse. They had stone gate posts constructed at the opening of the long winding driveway with an ornate iron gate. On the left stone pillar is carved "CAWTHRA" on the right, "LOTTEN - CROWN GRANT TO JOSEPH CAWTHRA AND HIS HEIRS FOREVER A.D. 1808 LETTERS PATENT A.D. 1804."

The Letters patent were actually 1806.

The Major passed away on June 27, 1949, and Grace died on October 22, 1974, at age 96 and her estate was purchased for \$2.6 million by the City of Mississauga, which took effect on October 31, 1975. The house, which now sits on 26 acres (10.4 ha) of natural bushland, was designated an heritage site in 1992 and it is called "The Cawthra-Elliott Estate."

In 2000, the Peel Heritage Complex received a donation of Cawthra-Elliott memorabilia from Grace's great nephew. The Cawthra Collection consists of 12 paintings, 152 photographs, artifacts, 14 uniforms and documents that record the Cawthras' life in Lakeview from 1840 to 1940. The Cawthra family name died out with the death of William Herbert Cawthra in 1939. He donated land at Bathhurst and Danforth in Toronto that became the Cawthra Playground in 1956. But in Mississauga, the name continues with Cawthra Road and the Cawthra-Elliott Estate at 1507 Cawthra Road.



▲ Cawthra Coat of Arms

▲ Henry and Anne Cawthra,
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Grace and Major General Harry Cawthra-Elliott
(Region of Peel Archives)



▲ Cawthra-Elliott Gatehouse (The Mississauga News)



▲ Cawthra Estate Gatepost
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Cawthra-Elliott House, 2004 (Kathleen A. Hicks)

Cawthra Family Tree

Henry
(b.1630, m. Briggs)
Henry
(b.1660, m. Denby)
Henry
(m. Mary Brown,1754)
Joseph
(b. 1759, m. Mary Turnpenny)
John
(b. 1789, m. Ann Wilson)
John
(b.1824, m. Elizabeth Elwell)
Ann Mabel
(b.1869, m. Agar Adamson)
Anthony
(b. 1906, m. Augusta Bonnycastle)
Adrian - Jeremy - Inigo



▲ Adamson House (Anthony Adamson)

Memories



One of the entries is from a town meeting (at Yeadon) on "April ye 23 1791" to consider ye most proper means to recover the water - Jos. Cawthray has deprived the said inhabitants thereof to their greatest disadvantage and irreparable loss ... to commence an action at law to

▲ Anthony Adamson cause the said Jos. Cawthray to bring the water to its antiquated course." Joseph may have tried unsuccessfully to divert water to run his mill, which may have caused him, in Slater's words (from *The History of Guisely* by Philemon Slater, 1880), to erect in 1793 the "Old Mill" - so called in 1880 - "the first that was worked by a steam engine"... considered in Slater's words "the wonder of the age." This mill is described in *Past and Present* (by Maude Cawthra Block) as "a very primitive kind of engine. There was a heavy box full of old iron to pull down the beam and a boy turned the cock to let the steam lift it up." It apparently did not work too well, the water probably went back to its antiquated course and his debts rose. Joseph's brother, Esias, tried to settle his brother's liabilities without complete success. So in the end Joseph and Mary left for the new world.

From Anthony Adamson's *Wasps in the Attic*, page 71