



*Part Four 1951-2002*

◀ Previous page: Reeve Robert Speck at the opening  
of the Clarkson Lorne Park Branch Library, with  
Michael and Julie Giguere, 15 October 1967  
(Mississauga Library System)

## The First Dentist — 1953



▲ Dr. John Williams  
(Phyllis Williams)

**C**larkson's first dentist was John Williams, who took his dentistry degree at the University of Toronto and graduated in 1951. After practising in Beamsville for a year, he moved to Clarkson, where he married Phyllis Trenwith in May, 1952.

HE STARTED HIS PRACTICE IN A TWO STOREY, BRICK building at 1651 Lakeshore Road West that Phyllis' father, William H. Trenwith, and brother, Bill, constructed on property grandfather William



▲ Site of the Trenwill Building, 1950  
(Phyllis Williams)



D. and John purchased from Louisa Fitzgerald on July 7, 1953. It became the Trenwill Building, and it is still there today housing the Canadian Sportrent and Pandora's Box, a florist and gift shop, with apartments on the second floor. John had three generations of Clarksonites as patients. When the Rotary Club of Clarkson was founded in 1965, he was the first president.

Although the Trenwill Building was sold in May, 1968, to Douglas Stanton and has changed owners several times over the years, John practised there for 36 years. In 1989, he sold his practice to Dr. Gabriel Bako and worked with him at the Turtle Creek Dental Offices in Clarkson Village, until his retirement in 1995.

Phyllis, her father, and her children, Michael, Pamela and Dale, were born and raised on Trenwith property. She, John, their daughter, Dale, and four grandchildren still live in Trenholme Estates.



▲ The Trenwill Building, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Party Line News Item — 1953



▲ Leo Johnson  
(Marion Johnson Josiak)

### GARAGE OWNER ROUTS MARAUDER

**G**arage and Appliance Shop owner, Leo Johnson, had a busy day on Sunday. Captain of the Clarkson-Lorne Park Fire Brigade, Leo started off early - at 8 a.m. - to rescue what remained of the greenhouse on the Anundson property, Clarkson Road North, following an explosion in the boiler room. About 10 p.m., after checking his business property, Leo retired - but not for long! The burglar alarm system between the garage and his home announced an alien presence, and Leo took off in the suspected direction, equipped with a .303 rifle. Finding the back door to the garage open, he fired a shot across to surprise the intruder. The intruder took off in another direction and removed himself by means of an old model car. Not to be outdone, owner of Johnson's Motors fired two shots at the departing car aiming at the front tires, one went through the door near the handle and lodged in the back of the front seat, less than two inches from the driver's back. The other went between the driver's feet and lodged in the floor. Johnson jumped in his car and sped after the fleeing vehicle. Neighbour, Charles Rogers, hearing the shots and witnessing the departure, joined in the target practise with his .22, while Mrs. Johnson phoned the police.

In Port Credit, Leo Johnson enlisted the aid of Constable William Brooks, who jumped into his cruiser and gave chase at 85 miles (141 k) an hour. The marauder was finally apprehended in Lakeview. Charles Morgan, 61, of the Lakeview Emergency Housing Camp, was turned over to Toronto Township police, charged with breaking and entering. Small equipment and tools worth about \$500 were found to be neatly laid out in the garage ready for removal. Morgan had broken a rear window for entry, as well as forcing the lock of the intervening door of the appliance department. "I guess I scared him with my first shot," said Leo.

*Item from The Party Line Weekly News Digest Friday, February 13, 1953. Combination of two writeups, pages 1 and 5.*



# St. Lawrence Cement Company — 1956

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*Clarkson and its Many Corners*



▲ *St. Lawrence Cement Company, 1957*  
(*St. Lawrence Cement Company*)

**THERE WAS AN INDUSTRIAL BOOM AFTER WORLD WAR II,** and it did not take long before companies were entering Toronto Township, thanks to Reeve Mary Fix (1955, 1957-59), Deputy Reeve, Robert Speck, and Industrial Commissioner, William Courtney.

One of the first was the St. Lawrence Cement Company, which was opened on November 6, 1956, on 175 acres (71 ha) of Lot 31, Cons. 3 and 4. An impressive \$30 million facility, with a 556 foot (169 m) smokestack, the highest of any cement company in the world, was constructed that would produce 12 million bags of cement a year.

Its parent company had started in Beauport, Quebec, in 1954. Today, there are three Canadian operational divisions, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes, and the United States. The company is recognized as the second largest cement manufacturer in Canada, supplying 23% of Canada's cement production capacity, and a leading cement producer in eastern Canada and the northeast United States. St. Lawrence Cement's North American operation can boast four cement plants, that have a total capacity of 3.7 million tonnes of cement, 25 cement distribution terminals, 43 ready-mixed concrete plants, 21 quarries and sand pits and two construction companies that serve 15,000 customers for annual sales of \$938 million.

However, it is the Clarkson-Mississauga plant, the first company to take advantage of Clarkson's early industrial development, that has established worldwide recognition for its technological leadership in the use of alternative fuels and materials which are found in the community. The use of such fuels and materials has multiple advantages: it saves non-renewable fossil fuels; results in major reductions in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions; and allows the safe recovery of materials that must be eliminated. The Mississauga plant, by its management, influences the recycling of products on a global scale.

When the groundbreaking ceremony for the 175 acre (71 ha) facility at 2391 Lakeshore Road West, was carried out on September 22, 1955, little did Chief Engineer, John Hiltman, Plant Manager, Herbert Egger and Sales Manager, James Tweedy, realize the impact this company would have on the country and the world.

St. Lawrence Cement, now occupying 82.4 hectares (226 acres), is also community minded and committed to ongoing financial support on a grand scale to many organizations and assists cultural and educational programs. With its forward thinking corporate philosophy, the company stands behind environmental and community issues.

# St. Christopher's Roman Catholic Church — 1956



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▲ *St. Christopher's Roman Catholic Church*  
*(Mississauga Library System)*

## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

took over the Clarkson United Church building on the Lakeshore Road West in 1956 under the direction of Reverend Louis J. Hickey, who had been appointed the founding pastor.

The first Sunday masses were held on October 14, 1956, with 180 parishioners in attendance.

On December 9, the Church was blessed and opened by His Excellency Bishop Allen. St. Christopher School opened on October 20, 1957, and St. Louis School on September 5, 1961, with students who were parishioners of St. Christopher.

As the congregation grew, it was inevitable that a larger church would be required. A building fund was started and on May 30, 1962, St. Christopher's contracted to have a church, hall and rectory built on Clarkson Road North. The sod turning took place on June 3. On February 24, 1963, His Excellency Bishop Allen returned to consecrate the new building with his Excellency Cardinal McGuigan investing Father Hickey as a domestic Prelate.

St. Helen School was opened in September of 1969. In November, 1980, Reverend James K. Stevenson replaced Monsignor Hickey. Two years later, St. Luke School opened.

In July of 1992, Reverend Paul J. McCarthy became the Pastor. In 1993, Iona Catholic Secondary School opened. The Church building went through extensive renovations in 1998/99.

In 2003, there are over 3,000 families registered at the St. Christopher Parish at 1171 Clarkson Road North. The Parish has many activities for its parishioners such as Bible Study, prayer groups, a youth group, New Beginnings for the separated/widowed/divorced and the Knights of Columbus.



# Clarkson Lions Club — 1956



◀ John Cowieson presents a cheque to Armin Bruer, 1970  
(The Mississauga News)

THE CLARKSON LIONS CLUB WAS STARTED IN 1956 with Webe Oliphant as the charter president. Service Clubs have been known to do fantastic fund raising events and they use the money to help the less fortunate in their communities.

The Clarkson Lions have held carnivals and parades over the years. They have had draws on trips and sold tickets on the opportunity of winning a new car. One of their big fund raisers has been bingo, which is now held at Bingo City in the Cooksville area. They had their own band for a number of years, the Clarkson Lions Drum & Bugle Corps, and majorettes that were in all the local parades.



◀ The Lions Banner  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

In the early days their charities were the Canadian Red Cross and the Milton Farm for Deaf Children. Their biggest and proudest achievement was being instrumental in getting the Community Centre and Arena on Truscott Drive constructed and opened in 1971. They provided wheelchairs for The Credit Valley Hospital when it opened in 1985. The Clarkson Lions have included Doug and Bill Auld, Armin Bruer,

Jim Dickson and Donald Cavan on their roster, since its inception.

As the years passed, membership has declined in the clubs and in 1993, the Clarkson Lions amalgamated with the Credit Valley Lions. They meet in the Lions Hall on Rosewood Avenue in the Port Credit area. They are still going strong, assisting their community. They support the Eye Bank of Canada, as sight conservation is one of the big projects of Lions International, minor sports, the Trillium Health Centre and local needy families.

In 2003, Jim Dickson is president with 30 members.

## Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church — 1957

FROM THE FIRST WORSHIP SERVICE on September 15, 1957, in Hillcrest Public School to the publishing of a history of the Church in 2000, called, *“Fulfilling the Dream,”* the Clarkson Presbyterian Church, at 1338 Clarkson Road North, has thrived and conquered. The book, written by Gordon A. Coyne, states, “The building stands in beauty and in strength as a testimony to the spirit in which the work was done and contributions made.”

Prior to services at Hillcrest, the congregation attended services in Oakville Anglican Church and the Trinity Anglican Church in Port Credit.

In the spring of 1959, two acres (0.8 ha) were purchased for \$17,000. The firm of architects, Hanks, Irwin and Pearson of Islington, was put on consignment to draw up the plans for the Church. These were approved in May of 1960. Tenders were put out and the construction contract was awarded to W. J. Lee Construction Limited of Lorne Park. The building cost \$100,000.



▲ Clarkson Road Presbyterian Church, 2001

(Kathleen A. Hicks)

The sod turning ceremony took place on September 18, 1960, with the honours being carried out by Mrs. John F. Ehrhardt. The cornerstone was laid on November 6, 1960, by Burton Terry and the dedication and first service by Reverend Malcolm Summers was held on February 26, 1961.

On Sunday, March 12, an open house officially launched the Church. Reverend Summers said of this eventful day, “The attendance was beyond expectation; the community was ready for a new beginning and it never looked back.”

In 2003, the minister is Reverend Mary B. Campbell.

# Interesting Tidbits — 1957



The Port Credit Weekly had a column called "Clarkson Comment" by Gertrude Parkins.

The local telephone exchange was Taylor 2. Reeve Mary Fix was in her second term.



MacIntosh apples sold for 79¢ a six quart basket and eggs for 35¢ a dozen.

The South Peel Board of Education was chaired by Janet Van Every.

A three year old, seven room custom built bungalow in Clarkson sold for \$21,500.

Toronto Township had a booming year for building permits that reached \$16 million.

The Ford Motor Company unveiled the Edsel,



calling it North America's newest automobile sensation.

Ontario Premier Leslie Frost wanted to save the Credit River Valley from being infringed upon by subdivisions.

By-law was put in force that no apartment buildings or multiple family dwelling were permitted to be constructed in Toronto Township.

# Park Royal Subdivision — 1958

THE SECOND SUBDIVISION IN CLARKSON was Park Royal, which was developed by the United Lands Corporation on 900 acres (364 ha) of land, west of Fifth Line (Southdown Road) to Winston Churchill Boulevard and south of the QEW (Lots 31 thru 35, Con. 2), purchased from the Manleys, the Johnsons and others. The first sod was turned in September, 1956.



▲ Tom Peebles, Leonard Finch and Peter Blower  
(Tom Peebles)

The president of United Lands was Leonard W. Finch, who had earned recognition as the force behind the first Transatlantic undersea cable to Newfoundland in the early 1900s. Leonard Finch was a major force behind the building movement in this area. He was a generous, community minded man, whom everyone respected and admired. He was a mover and shaker, who made things happen – and the Park Royal area of Clarkson is definite proof of that.

The land was selling for \$6,000 an acre (hectare). The developer paid \$1,200,000 for a water reservoir and giant feeder main and provided a sewage disposal plant large enough to accommodate the acreage. The community plan would also include accommodations for schools, a recreation centre, parks and a library.

On August 8, 1958, Park Royal was opened by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Denis H. Truscott (for whom, Truscott Drive, which runs through the subdivision, was named). It was a grand occasion hosted by Reeve Mary Fix and the Toronto Township Council.

As the subdivision started to fill up with families, the Park Royal Ratepayers Association was formed with 75 members in May, 1958, with Ron Sauder as president. The first meetings were held in the members' homes, then the new Willow Glen Public School. The group became very active in putting on events for their members. The first was a Field Day, then May 24th fireworks and Bingo Night. They started up Girl Guides, Boy Scouts and Brownies, sponsored hockey teams and held dances, with Tom Peebles as chairman.

The organization, now boasting a membership of 1,300 residents, had a name change to Park Royal Community Association in 1962. In May, 1964, the Association was given the use of a store in the Park Royal Plaza for a Community Centre by United Lands. In June, it was incorporated. In May, 1967, they began operating a Centre out of 2300 South Sheridan Way. The Association held numerous events throughout the year to raise money to build a new, permanent facility. Their activities eventually reached 72 with programs from children to seniors.

Leonard Finch backed the Association completely by offering land with full title for its Community Centre. He said, "Working in close



conjunction with the Campaign Committee, every possible assistance, in addition to further financial support, will be given by the company.” Each year, United Lands matched dollar for dollar of what was collected for membership.

On February 28, 1971, the Clarkson Community Centre and Arena was opened with master of ceremonies, Tom Peebles, conducting the events of the day.

The Park Royal Association is now a caretaker organization with president Judy Lessard at the helm.



▼ Installing Hydro in Park Royal, 1957  
(Enersource Hydro Mississauga)



▲ Park Royal Subdivision, 2001  
(Mississauga Library System)



## The Satellite Family Restaurant — 1958

THIS UNIQUE STYLE DINER, BUILT IN 1958 ON Lakeshore Road West, Lot 30, Con. 2, is one of a kind in Mississauga. When it was completed, it was referred to as “the day the spaceship landed in Clarkson.” The distinctive spherical eatery became a special spot in the hearts of the residents of Clarkson. In its hey day, the parking lot was full to capacity. It was the “in” place where everyone hung out and enjoyed good food and camaraderie.

The present owner, Mike Hantzakos, began his association with Satellite in 1979 as a short order cook, working for Gus Douridis. He immediately loved the history behind the restaurant, which was then owned by Vlado (Wally) Matskovski and his wife, Tina (1975-1996). They also owned the Windjammer Restaurant next door.



Mike says it was originally called “The Mexican Hat.” When the owner, Steve Holowachuk, heard people referring to the place as a spaceship, he changed the name to Satellite. Up went a huge neon sign and a string of lights to encircle the roof, and it became a drive-in of distinction serving delicious hot dogs and hamburgers and later the popular Buffalo wings that Mike introduced that sold over 700 pounds a week!

This was the original location of Kallen Gardens, a motel owned by George and Olga Kallen. The property was part of Warren Clarkson’s acreage. Phillip Mitchell, Mildred Clarkson’s husband, sold it to Colena Aitken in 1939 and the Kallen’s purchased it from her in 1942 and called their business Deluxe Cottage Hotels Limited. During W.W. II, they had a Farmerette Camp for young ladies, who would work on the farms during the summer months. They sold it to Holowachuk and it then changed hands a couple of times before the Matskovskis bought it.

In 1985, Mike took over the lease and has been working for himself ever since. His children George, then 11, and daughter, Katina, 10, started working there after school and later got more involved in the family business.

The Satellite Restaurant, at 1969 Lakeshore Road West, has been used a few times as a movie site. In 1990, “*Prom Night III*” was filmed there. In 1996, it was used for “*Hidden in America*,” in which Katina played an extra.

In 1998, Mike celebrated a 40th anniversary of his establishment. All in all, the Satellite is still a throw back to the fifties.

◀ The Satellite Restaurant, 1980  
(Mississauga Library System)



George, Mike and Katina  
Hantzakos, 1998  
(The Mississauga News)

# Highway Expansion — 1958-59

IN THE EARLY 1950S, WHEN THE DEPARTMENT of Highways decided on widening the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW), which was opened in 1939 by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, for whom the highway was named, land had to be expropriated along the thoroughfare. The far ranged plans included a major intersection at the Fifth Line (Southdown Road) with North and South Service Roads to be constructed adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth Way (QEW). The rotary interchange was constructed in 1958 and opened in 1959.

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## ▼ Middle Road (QEW) early 1930s

(Edith Nadon)



In 1965, the QEW was widened to six lanes and in 1974 the exit ramps from the QEW were separated from the rotary and realignment of the service roads and full resurfacing of the highway was carried out.

The Erin Mills Parkway was reconstructed north of the QEW in 1984 to incorporate an additional northbound lane and raised median. The interchange, which was the last interchange of its kind in the province, became a dangerous one to manoeuvre and many accidents occurred, so the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario decided to reconstruct it into a safe one, removing the rotaries, and replacing them with a network of ramps, some of which would be controlled with traffic lights.

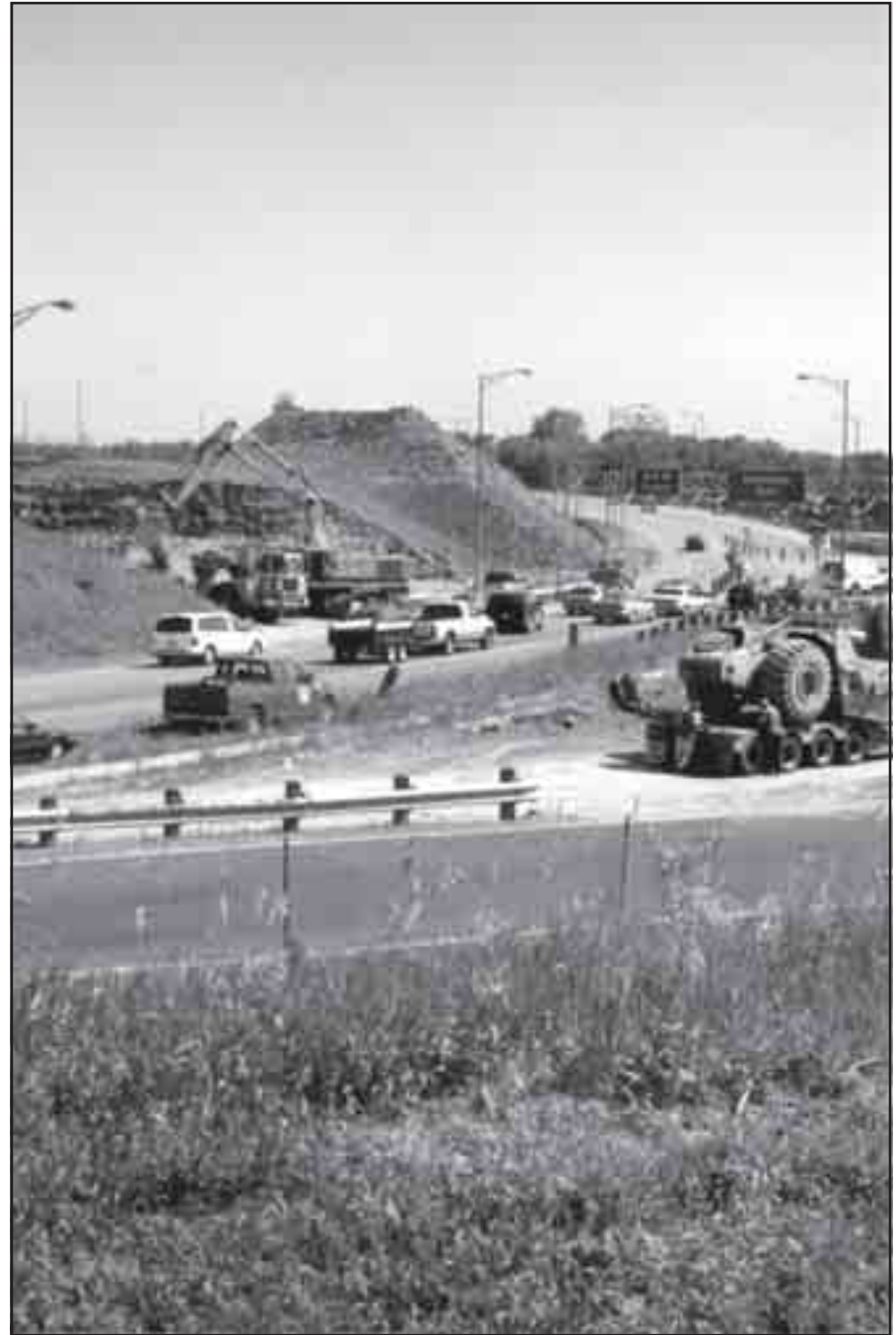
In May, 1999, construction got underway with Graham Bros. Construction as the contractor for the \$18.3 million undertaking. The new interchange design was developed by Cole, Sherman & Associates Ltd. The new Erin Mills Pkwy/Southdown Road alignment would go beneath the new QEW post-tension structured bridge.

The interchange was reopened in the summer of 2001.





*(Heavy Construction News)*





▲ Aerial View, 2002  
(Ministry of Transportation)



# Saving Rattray Marsh — 1959

TODAY, THE 36 HECTARE (89 ACRE) Rattray Marsh is a protected conservation area. However, the history behind it becoming protected took some determination on the part of several devoted conservationists.

In Samuel Street Wilmot's first survey of Toronto Township in 1806, this area is noted as "Cranberry Marsh" as there were tall cranberry bushes growing there.



◀ Harry H. Fudger



▲ Barrymede Mansion (Photos courtesy "Rattray Marsh Then and Now")

Because of its tall, majestic white pine trees, it was designated land from which would be supplied logs for the British Navy's ship masts. This changed in 1808 when Christian Hendershot, a cooper, was granted the 200 acres (81 ha), Lot 26, Con. 3. He sold the north half of this acreage to David Kerr, then Peter Oliphant purchased it in 1820 for the equivalent of \$325 and the south half in 1843. It was then called "Oliphant's Swamp."

In 1827, John Peer purchased the north half and farmed it, growing watermelons and cantaloupes on the sunny slopes. In 1855, the Peer family built a substantial brick house which is still in existence today on what is now Bexhill Road.



### ▲ Hannah Fudger's House

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The south half of the property was sold to Thomas Slade in 1851. Slade purchased part of Lot 27, which became Rattray Marsh Estates in 1967. Most of the Marsh's conservation area lands belonged to Slade until his death in 1913.

Harris H. Fudger bought Slade's 100 acres (40 ha) from the National Trust on June 7, 1916, and another 35 acres (14 ha) from L.A. Hamilton on June 17. His family hailed from Bexhill, Sussex, England, and he was born in Toronto in 1851. He became a partner in the purchase of the Robert Simpson Company in 1898 and was president. The marsh became known as "Fudger's Marsh." Between 1918 and 1920, Fudger constructed a mansion he called "Barrymede House." A gatehouse of two cottages joined by an arch-

way over the driveway was built in 1927. Some years later, the archway was taken out and the two cottages were put together to make a substantial house that is located at 725 Bexhill Road. Barrymede House, however, has not survived. When it was to be demolished, the wreckers tried to burn it, but the mansion was mostly fireproof and they had to dismantle it.

Fudger's son, Richard, built a mansion he called "Bexhill House" in what is now Jack Darling Park. He died in 1918 and his eldest sister, Hannah, inherited the house. This house, a rebuilt version, is located at 1309 Gatehouse Drive and is owned by Michael Eagen.

William Cole, the architect for the Queen Street Simpson's store, designed and built a bridge over Sheridan Creek at this time. Fudger

▼ Major Rattray with his beloved dogs, Bluegirl and Simon.



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

died March 18, 1930, at age 76. His estate totaled \$2,063,805. Mrs. Fudger was given disposal of the country estate, Barrymede, and contents and the use for life of the Bexhill Farm life insurance and the income from the residue for life.

The estate was sold to Major James Halliday Rattray on May 26, 1945. Rattray was born in 1887 in Portsmouth, Ontario, to Scottish parents. His father, Reverend James Rattray,



▲ Mr. Burton viewing demolition of Barrymede House



▲ Entry driveway to Rattray Estate  
(James G. Dickson)

was the oldest rector of Queens University when he died at age 90. Rattray graduated from Queens as a geologist. Having served in World War I, he received the Military Cross and came out a Colonel. He was called Major and was a bachelor.

When the Major first came to this area, he rented Riverwood, a luxurious estate at the northeast corner of Burnhamthorpe Road and the Credit River, which was built by his friends, Ida and Percy Parker. (This estate is now being turned into a Garden Park by the City of Mississauga with an opening scheduled for 2005.) He became acquainted with Frank Burton, who worked for Mrs. Parker, who was now widowed. Burton had been one of the labourers who had built Barrymede. He started to work for the Major and became estate manager. Burton and his wife and daughter lived on the estate.

Distinguished guests of Major Rattray included: Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, the Grand Duchess Olga, playwright, Mavor Moore and singer/actor Robert Goulet.





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▲ *The former Fudger Gatehouse,  
725 Bexhill Road, 2001*  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

When he passed away at age 72 on September 18, 1959, Burton was the one who discovered him. He left an estate worth \$2.5 million, thanks to his involvement with Kerr Addison Gold Mines Limited in Cobalt as a young man.

The Major was only dead two days when his neighbours started talking about a preservation effort. They talked to Bryan and Ruth Hussey.

► *Ratray Marsh*  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

Frank Burton knew his late employer had desired that his estate be preserved. A small committee was formed and the Department of Lands and Forests was contacted. The Department was asked to purchase the property for a provincial park. Burton and Hussey gave the representatives a tour of Barrymede.

A letter from the committee was dispatched to Premier Leslie Frost. However, the provincial government rejected the purchase. But the Husseys and Burton did not give up.

The executor of the estate, Mr. Brockington, managed to postpone the sale of the property until 1963, with the hope that the committee would succeed with its quest.

The Ratray Estate was also thought to be an ideal location for a subdivision by Clemens Neiman and, finally, a sale was made to him in March, 1963, for \$425,000.

This did not deter the committee's conservation efforts. The South Peel Naturalists Club formed the Ratray Estate Committee with its president, Professor Alan Coventry, as chair. The group took its cause to Queen's Park for a hearing. Other groups were also represented, such as The

Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA), headed up by chairman Roy McMillan. The opposition, Neiman, stated his case for luxury homes and a private yacht basin.

The Rattray Estate Preservation Committee was formed and chaired by Dr. William Gunn. Their goal was to purchase the estate and preserve it for prosperity. Funds would have to be raised, so Dr. Gunn founded The Nature Conservancy of Canada for this purpose. The South Peel Naturalists gave support. They managed to raise \$158,150. In May, 1965, the Committee's brief went before Toronto Township Council and after the Council voted down purchasing the property, the group disbanded.

The local citizens groups protested for a few years, but in 1967, Neiman received approval for the first phase of his subdivision, Rattray Park Estates.

When Dr. Ruth Hussey saw an article in *The Globe and Mail* by Bruce West praising conservation efforts of lands near a major American city, she was prompted to respond to express her devastation over the future development of her beloved Rattray Marsh. Her letter carried a tidal wave of response from conscientious naturalists across Canada. She was so encouraged, she and Dr. Gunn decided to try again. They started a petition that 2,000 people signed. This was sent to Toronto Township Council. Others bombarded Council with letters. With the help of other interest groups in the area, briefs and an alternative plan were presented to Council in March, 1967, the year before Clarkson was no longer a village, but swallowed up in the amalgamation of the Town of Mississauga. The request was declined.

When the City of Mississauga was formed in 1974 with a population of over 200,000, this brought conservation conscious Mary Helen Spence in as councillor for Ward 2. Her interest sparked a meeting before Council and Mayor Martin Dobkin. The Council agreed to recommend that Mississauga acquire the Rattray Marsh under the condition that the Rattray Marsh Preservation Committee raise the funds to match the City's share. It was resolved that the CVCA acquire the property on behalf of the City and offered \$1,050,000 for 56 acres (23 ha). The province approved this price and would pay half. Having acquired 25 acres (10 ha) of the marshland on June 24, 1972, at \$9000 an acre this would bring the acreage to 81. However, Neiman had set the price at \$3 million and declined the offer. But when he was informed that the

Rattray land had been changed from a residential to open space designation by Amendment 248 to the Official Plan in 1973 and that he would be subjected to an Ontario Municipal Board hearing, he changed his tune. When the CVCA proceeded with expropriation in March, 1975, he did not oppose it.

The Rattray Marsh Conservation Area was officially opened on October 5, 1975, by chairman of the CVCA, Grant Clarkson, and Mayor Dobkin. A 16 year struggle was over and satisfaction was claimed by all who had persevered and made it happen.



## Information

According to "*Trails in Mississauga Walking and Cycling Guide*" put out by the City of Mississauga, Rattray Marsh is recorded as "The diverse habitats of beach, marsh, swamp, meadows and upland forest contain rare plant species and provide refuge for wildlife including 428 species of plants, 227 species of birds, 26 species of mammals, 18 species of reptiles and amphibians, as well as 11 species of fish."



# Church of St. Bride — 1959



A church was constructed in time for Christmas services in December, 1961, with Reverend Canon Thomas Rooke as pastor. Its cornerstone is from Church of St. Bride on Fleet Street, London, England. Additions were added as the congregations grew. The first was dedicated on November 5, 1971. On February 1, 1983, the mortgage was burned at the annual vestry meeting by Phil Embury, Church Warden, Rev. Canon T. H. Rooke, Rector Elliott Heslop and Church Warden Archie Johnston. The Church was consecrated on January 29, 1984, and the cornerstone for the second addition was laid December 18, 1988.

In 2003, the congregation stands well over 300 families. Archdeacon Harry Hilchey is the present minister. St. Bride is a self-supporting parish in the Diocese of Toronto under Bishop Terence Finlay and the Credit Valley area under Bishop Ann Tottenham.

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▲ St. Bride's Church  
(Mississauga Library System)

ST. BRIDE ANGLICAN CHURCH AT 1516 Clarkson Road North, was founded on February 1, 1959, and named for the Irish saint, St. Bridget, on whose saint day it was chartered. It held its first services in a former school portable and Sunday school classes took place in the Hillcrest Public School.



▲ Mortgage burning at the 1983 vestry meeting



Aerial View of Clarkson — 1960  
(Tom Peebles)

# Annie Hall Retires — 1962

“So, Miss Hall is retiring! I suppose every community has in its history, those events which mark off each era from the following ones with full clarity. Such will be the event of Miss Hall’s retiring.

“I left Clarkson in 1948. It was then a closely knit community. There is no doubt that during my public school days from 1935 through 1943, Miss Hall filled the role of community symbol. Every community has one. During my years in Clarkson that somebody was Miss Hall. Truly for me, Miss Hall’s retirement marks the final disappearance of the Clarkson I grew up in.

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▲ Miss Hall at senior's graduation, June, 1957



▲ Miss Hall's retirement  
(Phyllis Williams)





▲ These are the pupils of Clarkson S.S. #6 Public School. Annie Hall, Principal, is on the left, second row from the back. On the right hand side are teachers Myrtle Speck, seated, and Violet McCleary, standing directly behind Miss Speck. This photo was taken in 1941.

(Birthe Sparre)

“MISS HALL HAD THE ABILITY TO RUN THE SCHOOL AS principal, without neglecting her duties as teacher. She would mobilize the entire school as a general on a familiar battlefield... only better; she would maintain an esprit de corps among them and among her fellow teachers; she would insist on each child’s best efforts and then still have time for care and affection, for kind personal words and sound advise.

“Thank you, Miss Hall. I am proud to be among your alumni. I am

certain that you, and your teachers Miss (Violet) McCleary and Miss (Myrtle) Speck, guided me to an acceptance and concern for my world, my neighbour and myself as have none of my later, excellent and learned mentors.”

*Excerpt from a letter by John D. Crickmore to his mother, Evelyn Crickmore, author, May 13, 1962.*

*Author’s note: Miss Annie M. Hall died in 1987.*



# First Shopping Plaza — 1965

THE FIRST MAJOR SHOPPING PLAZA IN Clarkson was the Park Royal Shopping Centre built in 1964-65 by Dumer Corporation at the corners of Truscott Drive and Bodmin Road, Lot 31, Con. 2. Clarkson's population was now standing at 13,000 due to all the subdivisions that had been established.



▼ The original shopping plaza



▲ The Park Royal Plaza, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

The Shopping Centre advertisements stated “Ready and Eager To Serve You.” The merchants behind this slogan were: Steinberg’s Supermarket, managed by John Sotkowy; Dixieland Cleaners; Joseph Camenzuli’s Beauty Boutique; Alfredo Mandaririno’s Barber Shop; Star Taxi, operated by Russ Green; Coin Laundry and Cleaners; Saveway Shoe Store; Park Royal Hardware; Park Royal Variety; Cramer Fine Footwear; Clarkson Boutique; Champagne Bakery; Park Royal Restaurant; Toronto Dominion Bank; Liquor Control Board of Ontario; Brewers Retail; Four Corners Fashions; Pay-Less; Keene Pharmacy; Stardust Music Centres; and Bowling & Billiards.

Lyons Home Furnishings, owned by David Lyons, came in 1966. Lyons followed up by opening a store in the Southdown Plaza in 1967.

## Clarkson Rotarians — 1965

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CLARKSON WAS STARTED in 1965 by the Rotary Club of Port Credit. It has had several name changes since its inception, but it is now called Rotary Club of Mississauga-West and its weekly meetings are held at the Faculty Lounge at the University of Toronto at Mississauga every Tuesday evening at 6:30.

The Club started with 25 members, some of whom were prominent Clarkson citizens. The first Dentist in Clarkson, John Williams, was the charter president and Bill West and Gordon Oughtred were charter members. Anson Hardy joined the club in 1969 and is still a member.



The Rotary Club's focus is divided into four avenues of service: Club Service, which covers its programs, bulletin, membership, social and fellowship involvements; Community Service, which takes in funding and services provided to individuals and many community organizations; Vocational Service, which includes sponsorship of student education, seminars and bursaries; and International Service that covers projects undertaken outside Canada through Rotary International, such as Youth Exchange and numerous worldwide health, hunger and humanitarian projects.

◀ Current President Wayne Fyffe  
(Wayne Fyffe)



Over the years, this club has had many fund raising projects, such as the Travelog, a travel and adventure film series, which has run for 30 years, sponsorship of the Peel Region Science Fair, Youth Employment Service and many others. The current largest fund raiser is a weekly Bingo at the International Centre with up to \$100,000 raised annually, which is distributed to the World Wide Polio Immunization Program, and to physically and mentally challenged children, The Credit Valley Hospital, the Trillium Health Centre, university scholarships and a youth drop-in-centre.

In 2003, the membership is 40 and the president is Wayne Fyffe, President and CEO of Credit Valley Hospital.



▲ Paul Harris Award to Audreas Kiedrowski by Wes Heald and Pieter Kool

(The Rotary Club of Mississauga West)

◀ Erin Mills Breakfast Club operated by the Erin Mills United Church and the Rotary Club of Mississauga-West

(The Rotary Club of Mississauga West)

## Flyash/Birchwood Park — 1966

ONTARIO HYDRO PURCHASED 18 acres (7.3 ha) of land on February 23, 1966, Lot 27, Con. 2, on the north side of Lakeshore Road West for \$96,750 from Max Tyndall, William Campbell and Norman MacPherson, who had formed a partnership when they bought the acreage from John Trenwith in 1964. This property once was part of the John Peer farm that had been in the family from 1854 to 1933.

The site was purchased as a worked out sand pit (sometimes referred to as the gravel pit) that had been the location of John Trenwith's Clarkson Fill and Loam operation. The Hydro wanted to use the land as one of several disposal sites for flyash from the Lakeview and Hearn Generating Stations. The flyash was deposited here and then covered with loam. The area became called Flyash Park.



▲ (Robert J. Groves)

The City of Mississauga took over the ownership of the site just prior to the installation of the vegetative cover in 1974 and re-named it Birchwood Park. The Park, now 15 hectares (38 acres), has an enormous sloped hill that is used in the winter for sleigh rides and tobogganing and in summer for strolling, walking dogs and flying kites. The children of the area used to refer the park at 1547 Lakeshore Road West as “Kentucky Hill” because of the Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet to the west of the Park.



## Memories



*"A harmless old black man named Henry Perellette worked as a guard at a gravel pit located on the north side of the Lakeshore Road as you entered Clarkson. He lived in a broken down tar paper shack on the property. He was there to guard the equipment, such as bulldozers, and he took his work seriously.*

*"One Halloween, some teenagers, wearing bed sheets to resemble ghosts, came along the railway tracks onto the property to scare him. He shot over their heads, but unfortunately hit one of the boys and we were called about the incident and had to arrest him. He said, 'I knew dey wasn't ghosts 'cause one of dem swore*

*at me and ghosts don't swear.'*

*"Another time two men came with a truck and told him they were going to take one of the bulldozers as it was being seized for back payment. They started to put in on their truck. Henry said they couldn't take it and when they wouldn't listen to him, he jumped in another bulldozer and started to ram the bulldozer and the guy came back at him, but old Henry won. Again, we were called in to settle the disagreement of a bulldozer fight and he had him pinned up against a fence. We had a lot of unusual cases in the pits."*

*Recollection of Former Police Chief Bill Teggart  
Detective, Toronto Township Police Department (1959-68)*

*Author's note: Henry ended up his life at Sheridan Villa and died in 1986. He is buried in Spring Creek Cemetery. The gravel pit mentioned was where Birchwood Park is now located.*



▲ Photos of a young William Teggart and (above) as Police Chief (William Teggart)

## Clarkson GO Station — 1967

THE CLARKSON GO STATION, located west of Southdown Road, north of Royal Windsor Drive, was officially opened in the cool of early dawn on May 23, 1967, when a small group of commuters boarded the first silver coloured, aluminum GO Train, Number 946, eastbound to Toronto. The official opening took place with a low key ceremony, which involved politicians, dignitaries, reporters and photographers at the Oakville GO Station. Ontario Premier John Robarts and Canadian National Vice-President Douglas Gonder read the first GO Train order. This served as the opening of all the stations from Oakville to Pickering. The GO Station and transit service replaced the old train station located at Clarkson's Corners.



*(The Mississauga Library System)*

The building of the GO Station had a great impact on the neighbourhood. Construction slowed down traffic and the noise of machinery was disturbing for local residents. But once the GO Station was opened and operating, it was a great asset to the community. In 1967, a one-way fare from Clarkson to Union Station in Toronto was 75¢. Today it is \$4.15.

The station serves up to 10,000 commuters, two-way ridership, on a daily basis. The parking facilities can accommodate 2,273 cars. From its humble beginnings, as a single, experimental train line, GO Transit had become one of the premier transit systems in North America.



◀ Opening ceremony, 1967  
(GO Transit Archives)

▶ Original rolling stock  
(GO Transit Archives)

▶ Today's train  
(GO Transit Archives)



## The Clarkson Community Centre — 1971

### THE CLARKSON

Community Centre and Arena at 2475 Truscott Drive, designed by Port Credit architect, Donald E. Skinner, was constructed in 1970 and held its official opening on February 28, 1971. The evening festivities started off with entertainment in the Arena that was filled to capacity. The audience enjoyed the Clarkson Lions Drum & Bugle Corps and Majorettes, the South Peel District Boy Scouts and the Jalna District Girl Guides.



► Councillor  
Lou Parsons, Mayor Robert Speck and  
Howard Burton  
(Mississauga Times)

Acting Mayor Grant Clarkson gave a poignant speech and Donald Skinner presented the chairman of the Mississauga Recreation Committee, Jim Murray, with the keys to the elaborate facility. Then the Clarkson Lions turned over an \$80,000 cheque to Grant Clarkson. Mayor Robert Speck, who was recovering from a heart attack, made a surprise appearance, much to everyone's delight.

Another event that evening was a National Hockey League Old Timers' hockey game with such players as Toronto Maple Leaf's Sid



Smith, New York Ranger's Ivan Irwin and Boston's Murray Henderson. Following the game, young and old fans alike lined up to get their favourite hockey player's autograph.

The Township of Toronto (now the City of Mississauga) had a plan in the works for an Arena in Clarkson in the mid-1960s, but it was not going to be constructed until the mid-1970s at a cost of \$400,000. However, the Clarkson Lions, along with the Park Royal Community Association, were anxious to have it much earlier, so in March, 1967, the same month it had been officially announced that the Township would become a Town, their representatives approached the Recreation Director, Bill Hare, to ask if they did a fund raising campaign and raised \$100,000 could it get started sooner. The Lions wanted the Arena to be the Lions monument to the Clarkson community.

According to Mississauga's former Director of Recreation & Community Centres, Jerry Love, there was quite a search for a suitable location.

There was even talk of it being located in Jack Darling Park. "The best location at that time was finally chosen," he said.

So on October 22, 1969, the Ontario Municipal Board finally approved \$500,000 required to build the Arena. The Lions were half way to their commitment when the sod turning took place on Sunday, April 22, 1970, with Mayor Robert Speck and Councillor Lou Parsons taking turns at wielding the shovel.

The actual cost of the project was \$770,000. The money was raised by the Town of Mississauga (\$400,000), a provincial government grant (\$20,000) and the United Lands Corporation (\$250,000), which also donated the 7¼ acres (3 ha) site and helped promote the project. (The auditorium was named for United Land's president Leonard W. Finch.) G. V. Kleinfeldt & Associates from Brampton were the consulting engineers, the mechanical and electrical consultants were from P. C. Engineering of Mississauga and the general contractor was C.A. Smith Construction Ltd.

The Arena would have an ice surface of 80 by 180 feet (24.4 m x 54.8 m) with concrete bleachers that would hold 500 spectators. It would have six change rooms and a snack bar. The 4,200 square foot (390 m<sup>2</sup>) auditorium, with its small, modern kitchen, and a second smaller auditorium, would be ideal for banquets and other group activities. In 1988, an addition was completed, which included special facilities for seniors and youth.

On June 13, 2000, plans for a complete overhaul of the facility were unveiled and Mayor Hazel McCallion presided over the sod turning ceremonies.

The renovated Community Centre, which now houses the Clarkson Branch Library, of the Mississauga Library System, was officially opened on September 21, 2002.



◀ Community Centre and Library 2000  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

## Sheridan Villa— 1974

SHERIDAN VILLA, A SENIORS' residence on Truscott Drive, opened on Friday, June 21, 1974, with William G. Davis, Premier of Ontario, cutting the ribbon, and Lou Parsons, Regional Chairman of Social Services and Warden of the Region of Peel, and Kaye Killaby, Social Services Regional Councillor, and guests looking on. The chief administrator was Mrs. Rita Ward. There were 132 rooms to accommodate 248 seniors.

Plans for Sheridan Villa began on December 17, 1971, with architect Donald Skinner chosen to carry out the design. The total cost of construction was \$3,371,617.

This facility is under the auspices of the Region of Peel's Social Services and its staff have always prided themselves in being dedicated to the comforts of the aging adults who inhabit the four storey structure. The activities available are fitness classes, baking, crafts, a greenhouse for gardening, creative writing and flower arranging.



▲ Sheridan Villa, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)

In 1992, a parent/child drop-in-centre was opened, which allowed interaction between the children, mothers and seniors. This innovation was the brain child of Jean Peers and it has been very successful. A therapeutic garden with a gazebo and rock water fountain was established on the Villa's five acres (2 ha) in 1998, thanks to the Clarkson Kiwanis Club's help. There is also a music therapist and a horticultural therapist on staff.

In 2003, there are 236 seniors in residence and Mrs. Inga Mazuryk is the administrator.

## Clarkson Business District — 1976

IT WAS DECIDED BY THE CLARKSON Merchants Group that the business strip along Lakeshore Road needed refurbishing. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, August 14, 1974, to make plans for rejuvenating “Old Clarkson,” a centre serving a population of 19,000. Mary Helen Spence, the new Ward 2 Councillor, attended and was extremely supportive.

A study carried out by Peat, Marwick & Partners at a cost of \$10,000 was presented at the Council’s last planning committee meeting of the year. It was estimated that the overall cost would be around \$230,000.

The money was to be raised through the taxation of the 40 Clarkson merchants on a voluntary basis. It was suggested that if the Clarkson Lakeshore Business District formed a Clarkson Businessmen’s Association and designated the area as a business improvement district, it would be reassessed with a special business tax. This was approved in a By-law on December 8, 1975, Section 361 of the Municipal Act.



▲ Clarkson Business Section looking East, 1960  
(Gordon Hatten)

**T**he Clarkson Business Association held a meeting on March 3, 1976, at the Lorne Park Community Centre to select a board of management for the Clarkson Business Improvement District.

On April 13, the public was invited to view the plans at City Hall. Three landscape architectural students from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute were retained by the City to assist in the development process. Many problems, disagreements and concerns arose during the process, when various merchants objected to certain plans that were underway. Letters were sent back and forth between them, the City and the Ward Councillor, until the final work was completed and everyone was happy with the end result. The major changes were done on the store fronts with bright colour schemes, textured sidewalks with potted trees and



street parking facilities for a pedestrian oriented village-like atmosphere. It became known as Clarkson Village Centre.

The official opening was held on Saturday, October 30, 1976, with a parade down Clarkson Road North, east along Lakeshore to Smith & Savoury's parking lot, where the official ceremonies took place with Councillor Spence presiding. The parade, with motorcycle police, the C.O.P.S. Band, the Clarkson Secondary School Band, majorettes, the Mississauga Trolley carrying dignitaries and children in costume on decorated bicycles, which were judged by M.P.P. Doug Kennedy, was a big success.

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▲ Clarkson Business Section  
Looking West, 1960

(Gordon Hatten)

◀ The Lake Shore Road was put through in 1804, having been the long used Mississauga Indian trail that snaked along Lake Ontario from York (Toronto) to Niagara. In 1944, it became known as Lakeshore Road.

(Kathleen A. Hicks, 2002)



# The International Year of the Child — 1979



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▲ The International Year of the Child floral display in front of Clarkson-Lorne Park Branch Library is admired by 5-year old Karen Work.

(The Mississauga News)

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

# Clarkson Village Signs — 1983



▲ Bruce Carr  
(Bruce Carr)

THE CLARKSON VILLAGE signs were installed on August 9, 1983. They were designed by Bruce Carr, a Landscape Architectural Planner for the City of Mississauga, who worked closely with the Clarkson Merchants' Group during the rejuvenation of the

store front business section.

His third year thesis for the Landscape Architectural Technology program at Ryerson was used for the Clarkson Business Improvement District Master Plan.

Bruce Bogden of Rustic Design Limited in Welland built the signs, which were made of pine and stood 12 feet high and were eight feet wide (3.7 m x 2.5 m). They were sandblasted and sealed with epoxy to make them sturdy, weatherproof and easy to repair.

The Beautification Committee, made up of local citizens, financed the signs and the local merchants paid for the planters and shrubbery.

► (Robert J. Groves)

Bruce Carr said at that time, “The signs are significant as a good example of the City, businessmen and private citizens cooperating on a project.”

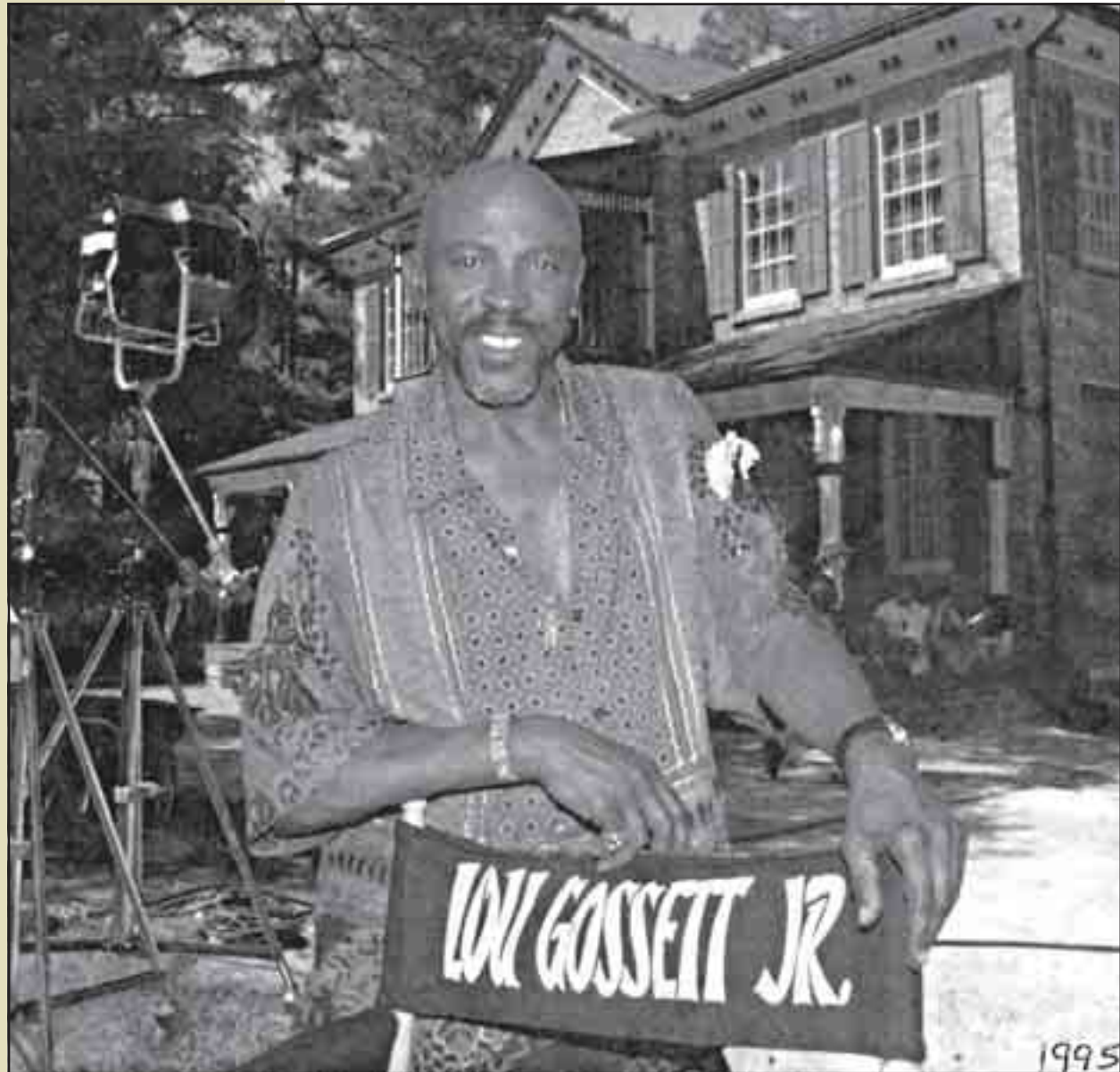
Bruce’s signs were removed in May, 2002, and replaced by new ones of equal quality.



## Movies Shot in Clarkson — 1990s

MANY MOVIES HAVE BEEN shot in Clarkson over the years. A few of the most recent include: in 1990 “*Prom Night III*” was partly filmed at the Satellite Family Restaurant, as was “*Hidden in America*” in 1996. Benares Historic House is a popular location for shooting movies: “*Captive Heart: The James Mink Story*” was filmed there in 1996, with Louis Gossett Jr. and Kate Nelligan; as was “*Amanda America Dickson Story*,” 2000, Walt Disney’s “*The Miracle Worker*,” 2000, and Ann Rice’s thriller, “*The Feast of All Saints*,” 2000.

► Louis Gossett Jr.  
(The Mississauga News)





# Waterfront Trail — 1995

THE LAKE ONTARIO WATERFRONT Trail was opened in May, 1995. It starts at Niagara-on-the-Lake and when completed will extend along Lake Ontario's shoreline for 350 kilometres (200 miles) to Gananogue. With its constant use, it has managed to create an awareness of the potential for regeneration along the lakefront. The Trail links 28 cities, towns and villages as the asphalt strip weaves its way through 177 natural areas such as Rattray Marsh, 143 parks, 80 marinas and yacht clubs and hundreds of historical places. In the Clarkson area, the Bradley Museum is one.



▲ Rattray Marsh  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)



▲ Bradley Museum (Kathleen Hicks)

**A** re-discovery of the significance of Lake Ontario's shoreline began in the 1970s when the stories began to spread that the lake was so polluted it was beyond help. Chemicals in the drinking water and fish too contaminated to eat were scary realities discovered back then. Out of the five Great Lakes, (largest to smallest in area) Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, west to east spanning 1,200 kilometers (750 miles), Lake Erie was the first to be reported of oxygen depletion, which was in the late 1920s. By the late 1960s, the startling news went out that Lake Erie was dying. Canada and the United States governments responded with the



# Waterfront Trail



◀ Part of the Mississauga Waterfront Trail

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signing of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQ) in 1972 for a major cleanup to reduce the toxic substances, such as phosphorous, being dumped into the Lakes. The Ontario government raised its pollution standards and established more stringent regulations on companies that used the lake and rivers for waste dumping grounds and invested millions of dollars to upgrade its sewage plants. In 1978, Canada and the United States signed the second GLWQ Agreement, but things still moved slowly. By the 1980s, there was almost no commercial fishing done in Lake Ontario. Beginning in 1983, closed beaches, with 79 beaches affected, became an annual happening. Toxic hot spots in the Great Lakes were highlighted in a poster map in 1986, noting over 800 chemicals in the Lakes. Over 33 million people now reside in the Great Lakes basin and there are 180 species of fish that are affected by the pollutants.

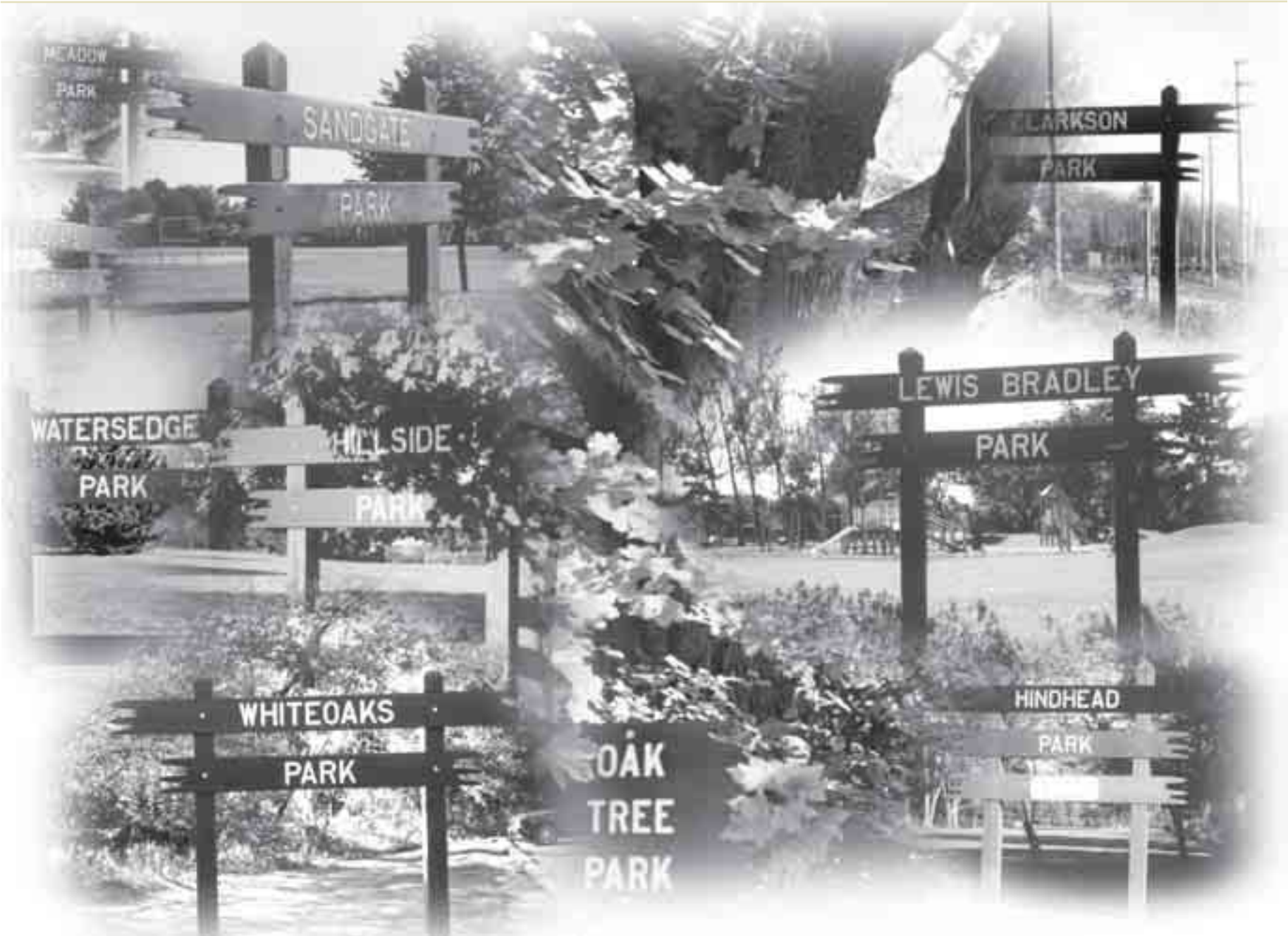
A long slow process brought awareness to the significance of the

waterfront and municipalities and conservation authorities began to acquire waterfront properties for parkland.

In 1988, the Federal government established the Royal Commission, chaired by former Mayor of Toronto, David Crombie, to oversee the future of the Toronto waterfront. This was a beneficial move that stirred up people's imagination to the point of speaking out on what they wanted the waterfront to consist of. At the termination of the Royal Commission in 1992, the province initiated the Waterfront Regeneration Trust to help put in place the Waterfront Trail. Now it is a reality. In 1997, the Trail won an International Award from the Waterfront Centre in Washington, D.C. for its contribution to waterfront excellence.

The Waterfront Trail Guidebook, published in 1996 by Waterfront Regeneration Trust, explores every interesting aspect of Mississauga's sites from Lakeside Park on the west to Marie Curtis Park on the east along the 21.5 kilometre (15 miles) asphalt trail.

# Clarkson Parks



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(photos courtesy of Robert J. Groves)

### Oak Tree Park

Oak Tree Park is on the east side of Clarkson Road North, just above the railway tracks.

Although it is a small park, it is best known for harbouring one of the oldest trees in the area, a giant, imposing oak that makes this a rare and distinctive historical site. The exact age of the tree is unknown, but its enormous dimension indicates that it has been around for many decades: circumference 4.9 m (16 feet); diameter 1.6 m (63 inches); height 22 m (72 feet).

This tree is the central attraction in this tiny park which is surrounded by residential and commercial buildings, yet retains its old country feeling that some things remain the same.

### Hillside Park

1311 Kelly Road, 4.6 ha. (11.4 a.)

### Hindhead Park

1944 Hindhead Road, 1.5 ha. (3.7 a.)

### Lewis Bradley Park

1975 Orr Road, 2.5 ha. (6.1 a.)

### Meadow Park

2203 Truscott Drive, 1.4 ha. (3.6 a.)

### Meadowwood Park

1620 Orr Road, 13.2 ha. (32.7 a.)

### Sandgate Park

1650 Sandgate Crescent, 1.7 ha. (4.3 a.)

### Watersedge Park

1630 Watersedge Road, 0.4 ha. (1.013 a.)

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### Clarkson Park

1125 Winston Churchill Boulevard, 4.4 hectares (11 acres)

### Forestview Park

2021 Barsuda Drive, 1.1 ha. (2.9 acres)

### Glen Leven Park

929 Silver Birch Trail, 2.7 ha. (6.8 a.)



*Clarkson and its Many Corners*

# Ward 2

WHEN IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT TORONTO Township would be incorporated as of January 1, 1850, a special meeting of the Home District Council in Toronto was held on October 2, 1849, to pass By-law No. 220 that divided the Township into five wards, which were designated according to The Baldwin Act 12, Victoria, Chapters 80 and 81. The power of the Province's role varied over time. Clarkson was originally part of Ward 1 with Colonel William Thompson as the first councillor. At Incorporation, the Toronto Township Council was granted the authority to hold municipal elections and in those early days, elections were carried out yearly on the first Monday in January when the five councillors were voted for. The councillors then chose the Reeve and Deputy Reeve.



In the early 1900s, in the Council meetings' minutes, the councillors were listed, then they were given the supervision of roads and bridges in five Divisions. Wards were not mentioned. Reuben Lush was supervisor for Division 1 (Clarkson) in 1906. At some point, Wards 1 and 2 (Lakeview) were reversed or it was done in 1951 when Council annexed Toronto Gore, still retaining five wards. In 1959 Council decided to make seven wards, which became official in 1960, Robert Speck's first year as Reeve. Since that time the wards have been changed in 1970, 1977, 1983, 1990 and 1992, as urbanization dictated. Each time the wards are changed they are established by Municipal By-laws.

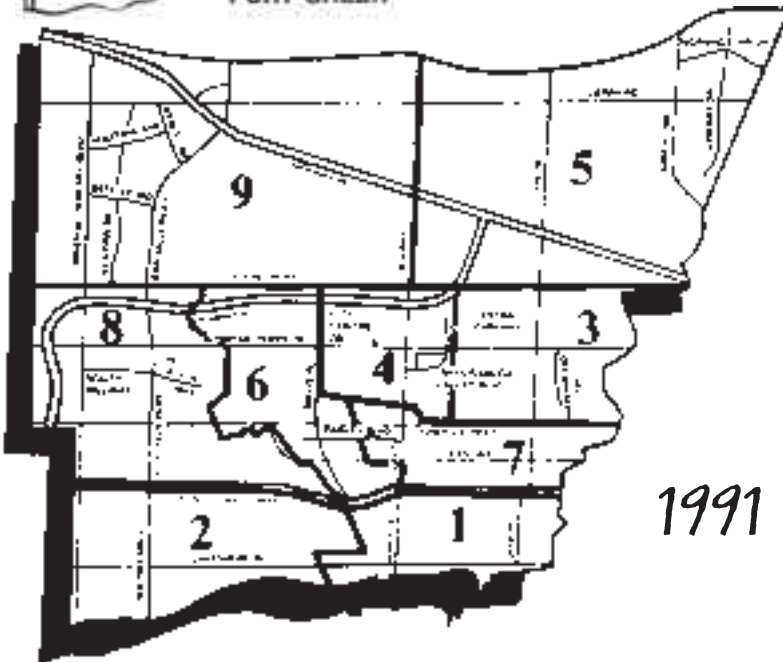
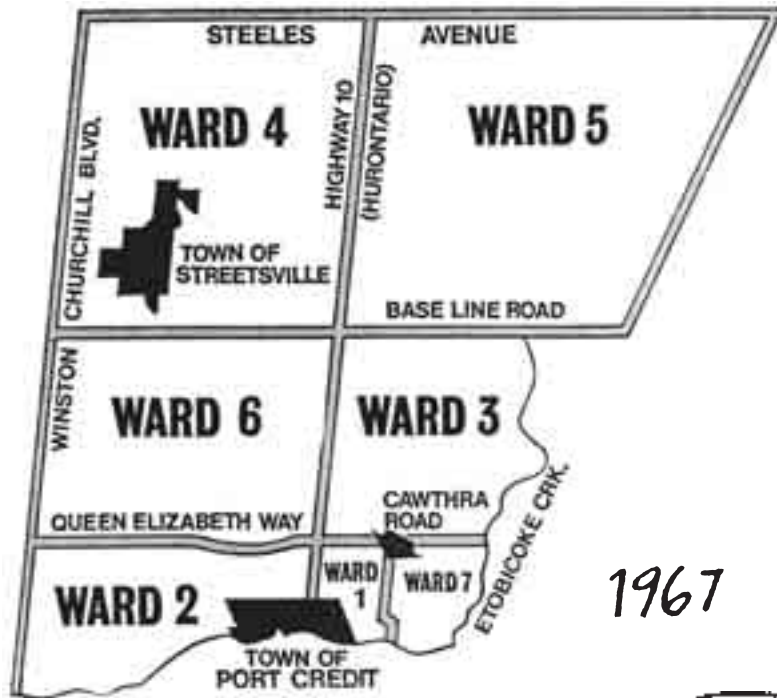
The councillors holding office in ward 2 since the Town of Mississauga was formed in 1968 are: Lou Parsons (1968-72, went on to be Warden for the Region of Peel in 1974 when Mississauga became a city); Richard Withey (1973-74); Mary Helen Spence (1975-78); Margaret Marland (1979-85); and Pat Mullin (1986 to present).

▼ Left to right: Lou Parsons, Richard Withey, Mary Helen Spence, Margaret Marland, Patricia Mullin (City of Mississauga)



# Example of Ward Changes

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Clarkson and its Many Corners

## The Oldest Building

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▲ The Warren Clarkson House, 1084 Feeley Court,  
Warren Clarkson, 1825  
(Mississauga Heritage Foundation)

# Clarkson's Historical Buildings

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▲ Warren Clarkson House

*Clarkson and its Many Corners*



▲ The Anchorage

**The Anchorage**

1620 Orr Road  
Probably built by Frederick Starr Jarvis, 1820s

**Barn Antiques**

1675 Lakeshore Road West

**Benares Historic House**

1503 Clarkson Road North  
Edgar Neave/James Harris, 1835/  
1857

**Bexhill House**

1309 Gateway Drive  
Richard Fudger, 1916

**Boulder Villa**

2030 Lakeshore Road West  
David Stevenson, 1930

**Bradley House Museum**

1620 Orr Road  
Lewis Bradley, 1830

**Bush's Inn**

822 Clarkson Road South  
Russell Bush, 1836

**Clarkson Store**

1130-1132 Clarkson Road North  
Warren & Edith Clarkson, 1835/  
1905

**Edith Clarkson House**

1160 Clarkson Road North  
Edith Clarkson, 1913

**William Clarkson House**

1140 Clarkson Road North  
William Clarkson, 1865

**Clarkson Cold Storage**

1109 Clarkson Road North  
Cooper Construction, 1948

**Durie Store/Basket Factory**

1115 Clarkson Road North  
Probably Henry Clarkson, late  
1800s

**Alex Durie House**

960 Meadow Wood Road  
Alex Durie, 1926

**Fudger Gatehouse**

725 Bexhill Road  
Harry Fudger, 1927

**Lakeshore Golf Course Pro Shop,**  
1918

1029 Johnson's Lane

**Livesay's Woodlot**

1219 Ravine Drive  
John F.B. Livesay, 1922

**Lush House**

1998 Lakeshore Road West  
Reuben Lush, 1919

**Merchant Bank/Auld's**

1109 Clarkson Road North  
Probably Henry Clarkson

**Methodist Church**

1764 Lakeshore Road West  
Congregation, 1875

**Pattinson/Shoreacres Building**

972 Clarkson Road South  
Gordon Pattinson, 1915

**Peer/Harris House**

956 Bexhill Road  
John Peer, 1855

**Preston/West House**

831 Sunningdale Bend  
Sidney Preston, approx. 1910

**Proctor/Cavan House**

1404 Clarkson Road North  
Richard Proctor, 1853

**Robertson Farm House & Barn**

381 Winston Churchhill Blvd.  
Andrew Robertson, 1851

**Sayers/Larson Log Cottage**

1723 Birchwood Drive  
Beverly Sayers, 1922

**Charles Terry House**

1040 Welwyn Drive  
Probably William Bowbeer, 1905

**David Terry House**

1333 Clarkson Road North  
Arthur Durie, 1928

**William D. Trenwith House**

1567 Davecath Road  
William D. Trenwith, 1904

**William H. Trenwith House**

1503 Petrie Way  
William H. Trenwith, 1926



# Clarkson's Oldest Resident — 100 Years



(Isabel Trenwith McArthur)

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**O**n June 23, 2003, Amy Trenwith celebrated her 100th birthday with a small gathering of family and friends. Amy was born in Toronto on June 28, 1903. Her father, David Stevenson, was a tailor, a builder and entrepreneur. In 1913, he brought his wife, Jenni, and eight children to live in Clarkson. He had decided he would like to farm, so he bought property at what was called Lushes Corners, and is now the Lakeshore/Southdown Road intersection. Here, in 1930, David build a two storey house with boulder stones from Orangeville. It became known as Boulder Villa.

AMY AND HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS WENT TO SCHOOL #5. When Amy graduated from high school, she secured a position with Laura Secord Candy Company in Toronto. She met John Trenwith through her brother, George, and they were married on December 2, 1924, at Toronto's City Hall. Marguerite Stevenson and William H. Trenwith stood up for them. They had two daughters, Jean and Isabel. They lived with William D. Trenwith until John took over the Trenwith Market, at which time he built a boulder house behind the market. Amy was a hard worker, who planted and picked strawberries, and helped in the market. The business continued until the early 1940s. In 1943, John purchased 35 acres (14 ha) across Lake Shore Road and built three houses. He farmed for some time and then went into the Clarkson Fill & Loam business in 1952. He retired in 1962 and he and Amy spent their winters in Florida.

John passed away in April, 1971, and Amy carried on alone, living in the ranch style house John had built, with daughters Jean and Isabel living nearby.



► Amy and John  
Trenwith  
(Isabel McArthur)

## The longest Married Couple — 60 years

**R**uth and Bud Crozier celebrated 60 years of wedded bliss in 2002, making them the longest married couple in the Clarkson area. They have resided here all their married life. Ruth is the daughter of Edna and Bert Abbs. Her father started Clargreen Gardens on Southdown Road and her brother, Lawrence, kept the family tradition going.

Ruth was born in the house behind the garden centre, which is still there but stands empty. Bud was born in Toronto and came to Toronto Township to go to Port Credit High School, where they met.

They were married on April 11, 1942, by a minister in Toronto. They do not have a wedding picture because they eloped. They have four children, Jim, Dave, Laurie and Tom and five grandchildren, Douglas, Jocelyn, Steven, Stephanie and Michael.

► *Ruth and Bud Crozier*  
(Doctor Howard Vernon)



IN 1992, THEY CELEBRATED THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT Christ Church on Mazo Crescent and had a family dinner at a restaurant afterwards. For this milestone of 60 years, they held a family gathering in their condo party room with 30 people. The highlight of the event was receiving congratulations from Queen Elizabeth II, Prime Minister Jean Cretien, Premier Mike Harris and Mayor Hazel McCallion.

# Lifelong Clarkson Residents

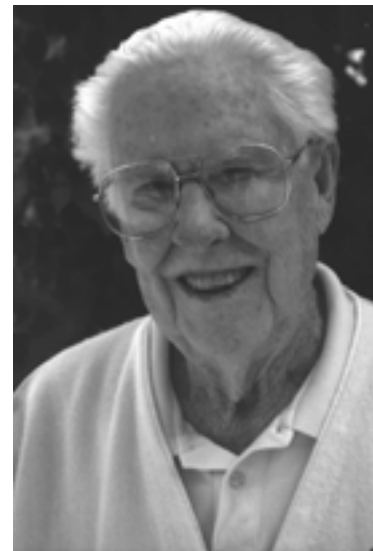
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▲ Top: Back row, left to right, John Speck, Dr. Howard Vernon, Mary Orr; Front row: left to right, Pat Leaver, Edith Nadon, Doris Bodley, Ruth Crozier, Irene Dougherty, Jean Lindsay, Doris Speck, Barbara Larson

(Don Mills)

► Clockwise from left to right: Enid, John and Doris (Pattinson), Jane Barnett, Phyllis Williams and Isabel McArthur (Trenwith), Don Cavan



## SMALL VILLAGES AND HAMLETS

Because of the success in producing this book, *Clarkson and its Many Corners*, the author was given a five year contract by the Mississauga Library System in January, 2001, to write a 10 book series to cover the entire history of the City of Mississauga. This is the first in the series, even though it is not the first community in Toronto Township. Dixie was the first to spring up as the settlers came in along the rutted trail of Dundas Street in 1806/07 and took up their land grants, then Cooksville, Lakeview and Clarkson. With the Second Purchase of 1818, Erindale, Streetsville, Meadowvale and Malton were founded. Port Credit came about in 1834. These nine major areas will make up nine of the books. The tenth will be on how our streets were named.



Throughout Toronto Township, small villages and hamlets sprang up, mostly at the four corners of interchanging roadways. These small communities were usually located as a crossroads hamlet, an intersection that had a small store, a tavern, school and church and was named for the resident or inhabitant who was industrious in his community and had most of the land, which he usually donated a portion of for a school or church. It is only fitting then that these small villages, interspersed throughout the vast countryside of Toronto Township (Mississauga), be recognized.

So in this series of histories is a homage to these small communities that were big in their day. In this book, it is Lorne Park that became a thriving community that unlike the others is still a prominent area of Mississauga today.



# Lorne Park: A Little Village that Grew



▲ *Marquis of Lorne*

**LORNE PARK** takes its name from the Marquis of Lorne, John Douglas Campbell, who was the Governor-General of Canada from 1878 to 1883. It was reported that on May 24, 1879, he officially opened the 75 acre (30 ha) Lorne Park Estates, Lots 22 and 23, Concession 3, that

fronted Lake Ontario. The Marquis was married to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's fourth daughter, Louise, who it is thought accompanied him by steamer to the elaborate festivities put on with great fanfare by the Toronto Lorne Park Association.

This Association, which had nine shareholders headed up by Neaven McConnell, was responsible for putting Lorne Park on the map.

**L**orne Park is located between Port Credit to the east and Clarkson to the west. It consists of approximately Lots 22 to 25, Con. 2 and 3. Lot 22, Con. 2, of only 65 acres (26.5 ha), because the mile on either side of the Credit River was the Mississauga Indian Reserve, was granted to Esther Borden Denison on October 11, 1811; Lot 23, 100 acres (40 ha) to John Steel, Nov. 30, 1807; Lot 24, Con. 2, 128 acres (51.8 ha), was granted to Kings College in 1822. David Buchanan sold it to Charles Mitchell for £178 (\$445 York dollars) on January 30, 1854; Lot 25, 200 acres (81 ha), was granted to Joseph Cawthra, a York merchant and Lakeview grantee, on July 8, 1812. His son, William, inherited the land upon Joseph's death in 1842. William sold it to George McGill, a Scotsman from Edinburgh, who had emigrated in 1834, for £300 (\$750) on April 31, 1851.



▲ *Glen Leven Pond and Hotel on hill*

George and his wife, Elizabeth Bishop, built a house and barn and called their estate Glen Leven in remembrance of their homeland. At this time, Lorne Park Road was just a logging trail that ran through their property. The house faced the Lake Shore Road and had a pond alongside it that required a few bridges. George's farm prospered as did most of the farms in the area. When the Great Western Railway began construction in 1853, George received £48 (\$120) for 3½ acres (1.41 ha). When it was completed in 1855, he built a bridge as a pedestrian walkway over the tracks that was high enough for trains to pass under.

When George died in 1861, his sons, Henry and James, inherited the property. Henry received the south section with the house and he and his wife, Margaret, resided there until 1893 when he died. It was sold to James MacKerrow. John Peer bought several acres (hectares) in 1898 and turned the house into the Glen Leven Hotel.

By this time, the Lorne Park Estates had been sold to a group, The Toronto and Lorne Park Summer Resort Company, represented by John W. Stockwell. The other company had put in a long wooden wharf, and steamers came from Toronto's Yonge Street wharf to Lorne Park. There was a restaurant-bar, a bowling alley, a shooting gallery and a dance



▲ McGill/Luker House (Mississauga Heritage Dept.)

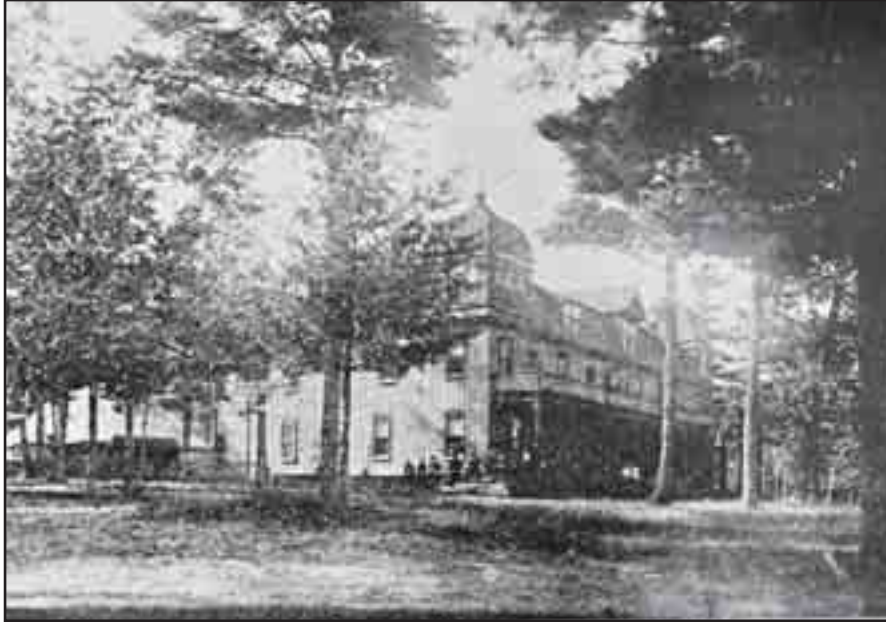
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▲ Steamship "Rotheway" at Lorne Park Wharf

pavilion. It had overextended itself and had to sell out. The new group subdivided the acreage into 50 foot (15 m) building lots, which they sold for \$100 each. The acreage had originally been grants to Arthur Jones in 1833. He sold the land to entrepreneur Frederick Chase Capreol who also purchased Jones' Lots 21 and 24, in 1834 for £50 (\$125) a lot. By 1878, the property was bought from Columbus H. Greene by The Toronto Lorne Park Association for \$7,525. Under new ownership, the resort boasted The Hotel Louise, managed by Thomas Anderton, large, two-storied residences that had broad verandas and spacious balconies, designed by architect Edmund Burke (famous for designing the Robert Simpson building on Queen Street and St. James Cathedral), boating, bathing, fishing, a 25 acre (10 ha) picnic grounds, and numerous amusements such as lawn bowling, tennis, croquet, lacrosse and baseball. The area often attracted up to 5,000 people for events such as the May 24th anniversary celebration. There were travel accommodations available via the railway and steamboat service to Toronto.

In 1889 and 1890 more property was purchased bringing the Estate to 90 acres (36 ha). Roadways were in place and named for the men



▲ Hotel Louise, 1889

involved in the Estate's construction, such as McConnell Avenue, Burke Avenue, and others named for poets, Longfellow and Tennyson. This company was also plagued by financial difficulty and a transfer to The Lorne Park Company was made in 1891 with Frederick Roper as president. A new roadway was named Roper Avenue.

By 1909, the Lorne Park group was floundering and the land was sold to William R. Travers and his newly incorporated company, The Lake Shore Country Club Limited, took over ownership. The Hotel Louise was renamed after the company. The ambitious investors mortgaged the property through the Farmers' Bank, which then failed and by 1912, the Lake Shore Country Club was dissolved. The property was again sold to Sydney Small in January, 1914.

In 1919 there were 25 families living in the Park. A new group, The Lorne Park Estates Limited, was formed from the Cottagers Association and headed by Mary Louise Clarke. The members decided to regain control of the parklands from Small. They managed to succeed and paid him \$20,000 for the property. The Lorne Park Estates became exclu-

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▲ Lorne Park Railway Station, 1910



▲ Post Office, 1900





▲ Albertonia Hotel



▲ Mary Louise Clark and the Girls' Club



▲ L. A. Hamilton

sively residential. Mary Louise Clarke died in 1931, but the group carried on through the depression years with financial support from her estate. In April, 1948, the Lorne Park Estates Limited became the Lorne Park Estates Association and the deed for the lands was transferred from the Clarke Estate to the villagers.

Throughout these years, the neighbourhood was changing and growing. The Lorne Park train station was a going concern. Albert Shaver opened the Lorne Park Supply Store in 1892 at the Lorne Park/Lake Shore Road corner, next to the Lorne Park Estate gates. The Lorne Park Post Office opened in 1892 in Albert Shaver's store with George D. Perry as the first postmaster. Shaver had a small



▲ Mr. O'Hara's Store



wooden building put up for dispensing the mail. It opened on October 1, 1900, and Shaver became the post master. When Shaver resigned as post master in 1914, Clarence Albertson opened a post office in his new store near the railway station. (A Shopping Centre now occupies the Shaver Store location.)

James Alberton purchased 25 acres (10 ha) of Lot 24 in 1899 from Clarence McCraig for \$6,000 and built the Albertonia Hotel, a three-storied brick and frame structure. In 1927, it was leased to W. J. Bosworth, who changed the name to Lorne Park Lodge. It burned down in 1929 at a loss of \$70,000.

Lachlan Alexander Hamilton purchased the McGill/Peer Glen Leven Hotel property in 1902 for \$4,500 and lived in the Hotel with his wife, Constance. (It also burned down in 1936.) The pond was an active place where ice was cut every winter and stored in sawdust in sheds for summer use. Not long after the Hamiltons took occupancy, the bridge that George McGill had built over the railway tracks was knocked down

when a railroad car with a high projection passed under it. The Railway compensated Hamilton for his bridge, but he never replaced it.

In 1902, the O'Haras took over the Shaver store and ran a general store that sold groceries. They delivered throughout the community. It, too, was destroyed by fire. Wesley Peer helped build the wooden Lorne Park Mission Hall in 1902. David Shook was instrumental in raising funds for the building. It had an open porch and a belfry on the roof, and was fronted by a rail fence and had a driving shed in the rear.

The first library was organized by Robert Taylor in 1903. He started up a sawmill on Indian Road in 1904 that had the finest timber in the area. He gathered donations from local residents and purchased books which he displayed in a bookcase in Mrs. O'Hara's store. Apparently, a set of leather bound Everyman Library of classics were extremely popular. The first library meeting was held in January, 1904, in the Lorne Park Mission Hall. The Library Board consisted of Robert Taylor, David Shook, Arthur and Richard Luker, George Horne, W. Moore, Henry Pickett, James Ramage and George Weston. The library grew and soon utilized a small room in the Mission Hall. Then it was moved to the Lorne Park School with Annie Ross as the librarian. In 1947, the library was relocated to a small building next door to the Community Hall. A new library, under the direction of librarian Miss Gardner, was opened on April 15, 1953, in the basement of Weaver's Store. Today, the Lorne Park Branch of the Mississauga Library System is located at 1474 Truscott Drive.

The first church of Anglican denomination was organized in 1906, holding services in the Lorne Park Mission Hall with Reverend H. Thompson officiating. Then in 1914, St. Paul's Anglican Church was built on Lachlan Hamilton's Lot 25. The deed was turned over to the church in 1941 by Hamilton just before he died in his 90th year. It burned down on February 6, 1951, and a new church was built that still stands today at 1190 Lorne Park Road.

The Lorne Park Baptist Church started Sunday, May 18, 1919, in the Lorne Park Mission under the direction of Reverend J. Williamson. A temporary building 12 feet by 20 feet (3.7 m x 6 m) was erected in 1920. Oil lamps were used during the first services because the building was not wired for electricity until 1922. In 1925, a new Baptist Church was opened. It prospered over the years with Sunday school, Young People's Junior Union, the Women's Sewing Circle and a thriving



▲ Lorne Park Mission Hall

(Mississauga Library System, Barnett Scrapbooks)



▲ Jack Darling Park, 2001

(Robert J. Groves)

congregation. In 1967, a new Church was constructed at 1500 Indian Road.

The children of Lorne Park had to attend S.S. # 5 and #6 schools until Constance Hamilton promoted the first school in 1923 in what became School Section # 22. Lorne Park Public School was built on Indian Road on two acres (0.8 ha) of Robert Taylor's property, which was purchased for \$2,500. It was a two-storied structure of four rooms and cost \$35,000. It opened with 76 pupils. The first school board included chairman William Peer, Mr. R. Colloton and Frank Taylor.

Alfred Weaver Sr. bought Clarence Albertson's 15-year-old grocery store in 1929, initiating many successful years of business acumen of the Weaver family in Lorne Park. In 1948, the business was operated by Alfred's sons, Alf and Tom, and they opened a new store in the Bolton-Ellis-Weaver Shopping Centre, which they ran until 1961. Arthur Luker, a mechanic, opened a garage on Lorne Park Road in 1932. By

1936 he was selling Chrysler cars and in 1941, he incorporated a paint shop into the business. In 1933, James Madigan and his wife opened a grocery store in the front portion of their Indian Road home that prospered for many years. In 1950 they had a store built on the property.

A major industry in Lorne Park was Superior Bulb Company Limited, which was established in 1933 at 1155 Birchview Drive. The company built a warehouse in 1946 to store flower seeds and a pre-cooling chamber for the treatment of tulip, daffodil and lily bulbs as well as seed packaging machinery. By 1950, it had over a dozen employees under president, J. L. Van Zyverden, and manager, Colin Campbell. It remained at this location until 1999 when it was relocated to Brampton. Today, it operates as Ball Superior Limited.

Lorne Park's unspoiled jewel of nature is Jack Darling Park, which is owned by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy and harbours the Water Purification Plant. The property is leased to the City of Mississauga as parkland. It was opened on December 14, 1970, and named for a prominent Clarkson resident. It used to be called Thompson's Wood for its former owner, Joseph Thompson, who purchased 86 acres (34.8 hectares) of Lot 23, Con. 3, in 1887. At that time it became the home of his brother, author/artist, Ernest Seton Thompson, who changed his name to Ernest Thompson Seton. Thompson's \$8500 mortgage was foreclosed on and Ernest left for Europe. He travelled extensively pursuing his craft until his death on October 23, 1946, in Sante Fe, New Mexico, at age 86 years.

In June, 1979, a Centennial Picnic was organized to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Lorne Park Estates. It was an elaborate affair that was centered around costumes and entertainment of 1879. The event was described as an anachronism by the *Mississauga Times* reporter in attendance.

Some of the character of the early days still resides in Lorne Park Estates. Driving through the area, beneath the stately pine trees, you discover houses of exquisite architecture. There are only a few left that were built when the park opened, but they are well maintained in their elegant setting. The narrow asphalted roads are more like driveways and you find your way by reading the road signs nailed to the pine trees. All this lends to an atmosphere of days gone by.



▲ Lorne Park Entrance

*(A village Within a City: The story of Lorne Park Estates)*



▲ Entrance, 2001

*(Kathleen A. Hicks)*

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▲ Corner of Sangster and Henderson Avenues, Lorne Park Estates

*(Kathleen Hicks)*



▲ 863 Sangster Avenue, owned by Patricia Roberts

*(Kathleen A. Hicks)*





▲ Sangster Avenue, 1900, looking north  
(A village Within a City, The Story of Lorne Park Estates)



▲ Sangster Avenue, 2001  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)



▲ Then, a cottage on Roper Avenue



▲ Now, 1048 Roper Avenue owned by Harry Saunders  
(Kathleen A. Hicks)





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