

Winter 2004/05



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Home at The Grange

By Matthew Wilkinson



This delightful testimony to life in early years of settlement, The Grange, tells its story through the amazing number of memorable personalities who have owned and occupied it over the years. Stepping into the building today, I have the distinct feeling of walking in the footsteps of past occupants. If only these walls could talk! Seeing the Christmas tree set up in the front room, with the fireplace and mantle, leads me to reflect on Christmas' past. What must Christmas at The Grange have been like for young Richard, Wolstan, Eleanor and Anna Dixie? Were stockings hung with glee on the mantle, while they gathered around the roaring fire to listen to their father's Christmas tales of St. Nicholas?

But first, a little history! The original owner of the Grange was Sir John Beverley Robinson, Chief Justice of Upper Canada. The Grange was built for him sometime between 1828 and 1833, for the dual purpose of being a government office and a rural retreat from his rigorous schedule. The regency style of the building befits the high social status of the man for whom it was built. The Grange came to be owned by Colonel William Thompson, the first Justice of the Peace in Erindale, before passing to Dr. Beaumont Wilson Bowen Dixie in 1843. Dr. Dixie was a greatly loved doctor who served the area for many years. When the Dixie family first arrived in Erindale, they lived in this remarkable cottage for a time. Dr. Dixie's children were likely the first children to celebrate Christmas here.

The Grange (also known as the Robinson-Adamson House) was sold numerous times throughout the latter half of the 19th Century, coming to be owned in the 1870s by Colonel Charles Mitchell, son-in-law of General Peter Adamson. Weymouth Schreiber and his wife, the renowned artist Charlotte Schreiber, owned the home at the turn of the century. The property later passed to Harry Adamson in 1911, a grandson of Dr. Joseph Adamson. Harry was a farmer, and aside from raising crops, he also stabled ponies from Taylor Statten's boys' camp and racehorses for E.P. Taylor in the winter months. Harry and his wife Olive raised one daughter here, Dorothy. Harry was also my great-great uncle. Their home now stands restored to its full beauty, and designated by the Ontario Heritage Foundation as a significant architectural and historical landmark.

Owned by the City of Mississauga, The Grange is now home to Heritage Mississauga (MHF). I am delighted, in my new position as Historian for MHF, to truly say that we are home for the holidays! I write this sitting alone at my desk at The Grange. It is dark and silent, but peaceful. I find myself reflecting about Christmas past here in this place. The Christmas tree is dark and no fire warms the hearth. But there are memories here. You can feel it. Images in my mind maybe. Fanciful thoughts. But I cannot help but wish Sir John, Dr. Beaumont, Uncle Harry, and yes, "Sam", a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for letting us share your home. We promise to take good care of it. Here's wishing a peaceful holiday season to all, from The Grange.



EVA Directors

Board of

Directors from

2004:

President

Linda Black 905-306-0767

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Renee Kellhammer 905-270-5209

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John Johnston 905-276-0516

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Linda Amos 905-275-5544

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Michele D'Angelo 905-281-1551

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Martha Josephian 905-615-1312

Canada Day

Deryck Fox 905-277-5484

Hallowe'en Party

Andrea Bourgeois 905-279-9883

Newsletter Editor

Matthew Wilkinson 905-279-5295

Director at large

Elizabeth MacDonald 905-277-1070

President's Message



without them we would not have had the quorum to run the EVA. So as the Board also says thanks to Michele D'Angelo and Deryck Fox for their past few years of service, we would like to welcome Helen Holmes, Beverly Martin, Colleen Peddle-Hall and Courtney Rainville. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the EVA, we wish to extend to you all best wishes throughout the holiday season.

Linda Black.



Looking back ... at the Corn Roast

By Linda Amos



Once again neighbours of all ages enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of great food, friends, and entertainment on the Black's beautiful riverside property. The band entertained us with their music while corn, sausages, baked goods and conversation were shared with neighbours.

The children enjoyed a jumping castle courtesy of Pizza Pizza, a kite making workshop thanks to Heritage Mississauga, scarecrow stuffing, an obstacle course, badminton and playing along the riverbank. Matthew Wilkinson treated everyone to his historical display boards, and we all enjoyed the great door prizes donated by the City of Mississauga and Lisa Kendall of Souvenirs Canada.

Thanks to everyone who donated baked goods and their time to help out with this great community event. Special thanks to Matthew Wilkinson and Natalie McHaffie of Heritage Mississauga, Councillor Iannicca, Dominion Westdale and Sheridan Place, Credit Valley Fruit Market, Souvenirs Canada, and Pizza Pizza for their fabulous donations in support of our event.

See you on the banks of the Credit River next September!





From the Councillor's Office

Dear Friends in the Erindale Village



In my last article submission to the Herald, I spoke about the strong connection that the Erindale Village Homeowners Association maintains with my office. A recent example of how their efforts are manifested is the new landscape feature on Dundas Crescent. If you've been out and about you may

have noticed some positive changes in the view from the homes on this tiny enclave. Once a barren and dusty slope, the new retaining wall supports a wide variety of salt resistant and sustainable vegetation. Some specimens include Russian Olive, Rose of Sharon, multi-stem Lilac, and Colorado Blue Spruce.

At the request of the Erindale Village Homeowners Association, and in response to previous communications from area residents, we investigated potential improvements that we could make to the shoulder-slope from Dundas Street West. This new retaining wall is not intended to provide a buffer for sound, but rather to provide an aesthetically pleasing, passive barrier to salt and dust. Our current policy does not permit sound attenuation walls where homes front onto an arterial road and in this particular instance Dundas Crescent provides a suitable buffer in terms of distance and elevation variation. It was therefore determined that constructing a retaining wall would provide a less hostile environment for vegetation and the area at the most westerly portion of the existing wall was stabilized as it was vulnerable to wash-outs across the sidewalk. This entire slope will now be more receptive to vegetation, and if nurtured correctly, will provide many years of enjoyment. Though it is not a dramatic change it proves that the strong voice of the Erindale Village Homeowners Association provides all residents with a City Hall connection that works for the betterment of your entire community! I certainly look forward to continuing this strong partnership and anticipate similar successes in the future.

p.s. My wife Ann Marie and I had a blast at the Erindale Community Hall fundraiser! Thanks for the kind invitation.



Councillor Nando Iannicca

Where Were You?

By Paul Stafford



I bet you remember where you were on 9/11/01. But where were you on 14/10/04? I remember where I was ... at the Erindale Village Annual General Meeting!

I was there for several reasons that I consider important. First, to learn what factors have occurred during the year that could affect the security and continuity of our village and what actions the Board has taken to look after our interests. Second, I was there to provide the necessary voting presence to enable the Board to implement those measures it considers important to us, and on which they have spent time concluding a course of action. Third, and I think very important, I was there to show the Board that I recognize and appreciate the many ...

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A Silver Lining!

How many of us sat and watched and dreamed along with our Canadian athletes at the 2004 **Summer Olympics** in Athens, Greece? Many of us, to be sure. But how many of us made the "Erindale connection" to what transpired before our eyes? So here's a rousing "hats off" and "three cheers" to Mike Wolfs, who teamed with Ross MacDonald of Vancouver to win the Silver Medal in the men's Star sailing class in Athens. Mike Wolfs hails from Port Credit, but grew up right here in Erindale! So, well done Mike, congratulations and all the best in your future endeavours! You've made Erindale, Mississauga and Canada very proud!





AGM Report

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, October 14th, 2004. Regrettably there was a small turnout, but we did manage to engage in a lively and meaningful discussion. Elections for the 2005 EVA **Board of Directors** took place and we are delighted that four new directors stepped forward. Thank you to Beverly, Colleen, Courtney and Helen for showing your strong community spirit! We are also very pleased that six of our directors from 2004 have agreed to return in 2005! After the meeting, all attendees enjoyed a post-election Cocktail Reception with specialty cocktails and select wines kindly donated by Diageo Canada. Thank you to all who donated the cheese trays and plates of goodies! A special thank you to Martha Josephian who put the evening together! Here's to another great year in our village and thank you to everyone who came out! Cheers!



Grandma's Stories A Child's Christmas in Germany

By Renate Kellhammer



When Grandma was a little girl a long time ago in Germany, the Christmas festivities started on December 1st. Most children received an Advent Calendar, with little numbered windows. Every day we were allowed to open one window, which showed a Christmas theme picture. When the last one was opened on December 24, it was time for the "Christkind" to come. December 6th was St. Nicholas Day, and the children would put their boots outside the door the night before. In the morning they rushed to the door and when they had been "good" there were little treats in the boots, like chocolates or candy, or even an orange. Of course, when we weren't quite sure whether we had been good enough, we were afraid that we might get a *rute*, which is a bunch of twigs bound together for spanking.

On the first Advent Sunday – the fourth Sunday before Christmas – the first candle was lit on the Advent wreath as soon as the sun went down. The candles always had to be red. The family would sing Christmas songs. As the days went on, closer to Christmas, Mother would start to bake the delightful cookies and gingerbreads and *lebkuchen*. We were allowed to help, but once the treats were baked they were carefully hidden from us, so we had no chance to raid the treasures.

A big day was when *Christkind Markt* opened. It was a large market in the centre of town where the most wonderful things were sold. The air was sweet with the smell of spices and baking, candle wax and the aroma of mulled cider. The booths displayed wonderful toys and Christmas decorations. In the band shell the local musicians played Christmas Carols. Mother bought a large *lebkuchen* heart, which is a bit like gingerbread, but sweeter, not as spicy and usually glazed with sugar. When we were really good, the vendor would write our name in sugar over the icing.

So many more days till Christmas! We had to make some gifts for the family. There was no money for children to go out and buy things, we had to make everything ourselves. I once made a calendar for my mother, with a different painting for every month. Later I knitted mittens for her.

The Christmas tree was not decorated until the morning of Christmas Eve. For German children Christkind came when the sun went down on Christmas Eve. Nobody had ever seen the Christkind, but he was supposed to look like a young angel. Father took the younger children for a walk and when they came back, Mother would say, "Too bad, you just missed the Christkind, but he left all kinds of things for you!" Hats and mittens were thrown off and the children made a run for the front room door! "Slowly", Mother called, "you have to sing first!" The door was slightly open and we could see the lights of the tree, and now we had to sing all verses of Silent Night, then the door was opened all the way! What a delight! Candles all over the room, glittering stars on the tree, toys on the table, dolls, games, books, treats, one could hardly breathe because of all the excitement! Slowly we opened the parcels, showed each other our treasures, kissed our mother and laughed and giggled and sang Fröhliche Weihnachten (Merry Christmas). We were allowed to stay up long past our usual bedtime, even then everyone was allowed to take a favourite new toy to bed. Early in the morning we tiptoed back to the front room to see whether everything was still there. It was. The sun shone and the snow glittered and all these toys and all this food made us giddy and happy. Merry Christmas to all! Fröhliche Weihnachten!





Thank You from the Friends of the Community Hall

Bv Peter Ward Chairman, Friends of the Community Hall

The Community Hall Fundraiser on October 2nd, 2004 brought out the best mix of generosity and fun for the young at heart! Elvis and Roy took us back to the days when dancing was dancing and poodle skirts turned many eyes! He kept us on the dance floor to the very end. Thanks to those of you who so generously gave your time, talent, and the many wonderful items that contributed to such a successful evening.

It was truly a Village Event with a full house of 100. Comments like, "He is better than the real Elvis" were heard more than once and the set by "Roy Orbison" turned out to be the icing on the cake. You had to be there to appreciate the amazing transformation to a '60s nightclub. The silent auction, raffle, draws, and the event itself raised \$8000.00 for the enhancement & preservation of our precious Community Hall. See the list of donors below. A plaque in tribute to these donors will be placed at the community hall. Thank you.

A Tribute and a Thank You

From Donna Garland & Colleen Peddle. Friends of the Community Hall

A huge "Thank-you" to the many donors, patrons and volunteers who made "The Friends of the Community Hall" Elvis Dinner and Dance Fundraiser a wonderful success. An amazing \$8,000 dollars was raised for the enhancement and preservation of our beloved historical landmark, the Erindale Community Hall. Thank you for your generosity.

Councillor Nando Iannicca Bell Sporting Equipment O'Neil Vacuum Dr. Robert Pasch Glenerin Inn **Kendall Printing** Lyons Auto Body City of Mississauga Paint-A-Car Collision Nightscape Lighting

NutriQuest Nutritional Services Village Treats

Axxess Real Estate **CAA** Travel Walmart Canada Henderville Equestrian Bearing Point

Ladners Clothiers Ball Outdoor Equipment

IBM Canada Top Perms

Doors and Windows Unlimited

Your Independent Grocer

Relizon Canada

Case IH

ReMax Professional Services Sunrise Cleaning Services

Roques

Microsoft Canada Piatto Bistro Tony Roma's

Maple Leaf Entertainment P.J. Ward Enterprises, Inc.

Good Life Fitness at

South Common Mall

Special Announcements!

Join Erindale's own Elizabeth Amos as Meadowvale Musical Theatre presents a production of "Annie" on February 24, 25, 26 and March 3, 4 & 5. Way to go Elizabeth! For tickets, call the Box Office at 905-615-4420.

Also

The First Erindale Scouts will be conducting a bottle drive in mid-January to raise funds to send our local Scout Troup to a National Scouting Camparee in Quebec, July 2005. Please save your bottles and help our youth learn outdoor, community and leadership skills.

Hallowe'en Report

Erindale youngsters enjoyed a fun-filled evening of games and treats on October 29th. About 35 costumed ghosties and ghoulies, fairies and princesses, vampires and pirates, and their families gathered at the Community Hall to share in a spooky and fun-filled evening, complete with baked goods, games, and a fortuneteller! The evening included a visit by "the spaceman" and spider webs were available for snacking on! It was a wonderful night, and everyone went home tired and happy! Thanks to Andy Bourgeois for putting together a memorable evening, and thanks to all the volunteers who helped out during the party and, as always, for aiding in the clean up! See you next year! Boo!





Where Were You? Continued from Page 3

... hours of their personal time that they devote to looking after my interests. I was on the Board for several terms and I was very impressed with the intelligent, dedicated and often professionally accomplished people who have recognized the uniqueness of our village within a metropolis, and are willing to give us the gift of their time and experience to develop and preserve it. Let's not let the board members conclude that we are indifferent to their contributions to us by having them confront thirty out of the forty chairs empty, as they were this year. And by the way, one of our board members with professional clout arranged a free cocktail hour. I was there. Where were you? Remember the date next year and let's surprise the Board with an impressive turn out! I'll be there. I hope you will be too.

An Oasis Grows In Our City

By Douglas Markoff Executive Director, Mississauga Garden Council

Nestled amongst matriarch sugar maples, beech and tall white pines as majestic as any in eastern Canada is the Mississauga Garden Council (MGC). The MGC was established in the 1980's by citizens dedicated to the preservation of a 150-acre natural site, Riverwood, in the centre of Mississauga on the Credit River at Burnhamthorpe Road. Riverwood was designated as public parklands, natural preserves and future public gardens by the city of Mississauga.

The MGC is headquartered in the Chappell House (along with the Mississauga Board of Trade), one of the several heritage structures on site. Here MGC has worked diligently over the years to promote this community asset as a place for its citizens to enjoy the natural beauty afforded by this green oasis in the midst of our concrete desert.

With strong volunteer roots, the Mississauga Garden Council operates as a charity and provides educational programs about gardening, horticulture, nature, environmental stewardship, local ecology and the flora and fauna in the region of Peel, while also supplying advice and horticultural expertise. Our recent stewardship activities in Riverwood restored degraded trail systems with native plants, removed invasive garlic mustard, all the while getting our hands dirty enjoying an infusion of therapeutic energy while working outdoors with a group of like-minded new friends.

The Mississauga Garden Council is poised to deliver a unique nature education initiative next spring. The Nature Education Program is designed for children, families and individuals, using the Mississauga Garden Park site at Riverwood. The initial focus will be elementary school children, with programs that reflect the Ministry of Education and Boards of Education curriculum guidelines. Concurrent with our school focus will be programs for adults and families, including naturalist hikes on seasonal themes such as Owl Prowl, Birding By Ear, Medicinal Plants, and Winter Survival. To support these programs, the MGC will expand and enhance our volunteer base (hint: individuals interested in nature, gardening and stewardship and students who must fulfill their volunteer hours are encouraged to call us to learn about volunteerism).

Motorists and pedestrians have noticed the construction activity. This marks the beginning of construction for the visionary Mississauga Garden Park at Riverwood. Basic park development forged by the city includes a realigned entrance, new driveway, and parking lot. Supporting the development of the Garden Park is the Riverwood Campaign. This group is raising the \$6.4 million to establish beautiful public gardens, build the Visitors Centre, create an endowment to keep the gardens growing, and support the new centre for Visual Arts Mississauga, the city's largest visual arts organization that offers art classes to children, teen and adults in a variety of mediums.

The Garden Park at Riverwood will be open to the public mid 2005. To get involved as a volunteer for the Mississauga Garden Council, to contribute to the Riverwood Campaign, or to learn more about the MGC, please call us at 905-279-5878 or email us at info@mississaugagardencouncil.org.



Garden Park: Preservation of Paved Paradise?

By Greg Blackhurst

There is a hidden paradise in our city that few from our village may have visited. It is the site for the Mississauga Garden Park, on the east side of the Credit River, just North of Burnhamthorpe Road. Mother Nature has been rejuvenating this seldom-visited spot for decades. Each year it gets lovelier and supports more flora and fauna. It also provides excellent hiking, biking, bird watching, dog walking, nature photography, cross country skiing or just plain strolling and relaxing. It is an accessible and valuable resource that provides many benefits not always tangibly shown on a balance sheet. It benefits mind, body and spirit. In our busy lives we need easily accessible activities that do not require a lot of infrastructure or planning. We need to be able to just get up and go, alone, with friends or as a family. We can do this now, but possibly not for very long or in the same capacity. The City's plans for the Garden Park can be viewed at www.mississauga.ca, under the residents' section. I have two areas of concern:

- 1) Citizen and Wildlife Access: in the near future significant areas of the park will be fenced off and admission will be charged. Many trails presently enjoyed will be closed or fenced off. I cannot imagine that the deer, foxes, raccoons, coyotes and rabbits will enjoy being fenced out and their habitat being further squeezed. Also, mountain biking will not allowed in the park. This is a particularly contentious issue and much blame has been heaped upon it for erosion problems. Studies show that biking causes no worse damage than hiking. It is the sheer number of citizens that partake in this activity that contributes to erosion. It is not an inherent fault of biking. Consider that no trail enhancement or maintenance (other than removing fallen trees) has been done and that cyclists, hikers and dog walkers have had the run of the park for a decade. Definitely some maintenance and proper trail enhancement is required but let's have some balance and equanimity.
- 2) The over-gentrification or taming of one of the last narrow strips of woods and meadows in Mississauaga. The plan for the future calls for fencing off significant areas, charging admission, formal display/demonstration gardens, parking lots, roads, interpretative centres, the new Arts building, washrooms, and concession stands. I strongly emphasize that there are some great ideas and concepts and wonderful dedicated people are involved in this project. Educating children/adults at the centre, promoting gardening, conserving the area and even formalizing and fencing some of the areas can be beneficial to all. I just question the extent and/or direction of the project.

Please consider: how many times will you pay to go there? Will you go there for physical, mental or spiritual benefits? The Royal Botanical Gardens was recently hauled out of bankruptcy by taxpayers. Modern municipalities are moving towards natural settings for their parks with reasonable access for all citizens while allowing for wildlife movement. In 20, 50 or 100 years, what will be more appreciated by the people of Mississauga? A natural setting or an aging infrastructure? Maybe we need a more fair and equitable approach? I urge you to explore this site carefully and see what exists there already. Like the Joni Mitchell song says "take all the trees put 'em in a tree museum, charge the people a dollar and a half just to see um. Don't it always seem to go ... You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. Paved paradise and put up a parking lot." If you have concerns over the future direction of the Garden Park, now is the time to voice them to your local councillor.

Around Our City

What's On In Heritage?

Contact Heritage
Mississauga for a list
of upcoming heritage
& history related
events at
905-828-8411 or
www.heritage
mississauga.com

Heritage Showcase at Square One

February 19-20

Mississauga Sports Council

Call 905-896-5853 or <u>www.sports</u> mississauga.org

Sports Week

February 22-26

Celebrity Bowling February 22

Night at the Ice Dogs February 25

Sports & Leisure Show at Square One February 26

Mississauga Arts Council

Call 905-615-4278 or www.mississauga artscouncil.com for a list of events for the visual and performing arts.

Living Arts Centre

905-306-6000 www.livingarts.on.ca



A Christmas Poem "Wind"

By Elizabeth Amos, Age 10

silently observing people as they roam, To find that perfect Christmas tree to decorate their home. Watching the smiling faces of the girls and the boys, Looking through the windows at the brightly painted toys.

Nipping at the noses of the old and the young,
Listening to the tunes of the songs being sung.
Seeing all the trees and the candles all aglow,
Glancing at the footprints in the freshly fallen snow.

Swishing through the skies is the easy blowing breeze, Rushing through the village, and bending all the trees. Bending the naked limbs of the trees that now are bare, Though we may not know it, the wind is always there.

Acting Locally For Our Environment

By Stephanie Crocker, PEN Coordinator

In a city that is changing so rapidly, it's hard not to wonder what the future will look like. Will it be an enjoyable and healthy place to live? Will we have clean air to breathe and enough water to drink? Will our children and grandchildren have forests, rivers and meadows to play in?

The Peel Environmental Network (PEN) provides support to a number of diverse groups and citizens who think globally and act locally when it comes to our environment. From protecting the Credit River Valley, to building native plant gardens, to teaching even the youngest citizens about waste reduction, environmental groups are striving to make our communities as green, healthy and liveable as they can be.

PEN educates the public about the wide variety of groups and individuals, often volunteering their time, for environmental causes across the region of Peel. There are also many ways individual homeowners can do their part for the environment and save money at the same time – especially in the cold winter months! PEN can put you in contact with local groups that can help you do simple things in your own home to become a green citizen. This winter, PEN will launch a new website complete with a directory of environmental organizations in Peel, event listings, volunteer opportunities and a resource for living and acting green in your community. Check www.peelenvironment.org regularly for updates on our website launch and details on how you can win fantastic prizes! To get involved in an environmental project in your neighbourhood, for information on ways to save money and protect the environment from your own home, or to simply learn about local environmental initiatives, contact the Peel Environmental Network at 905-279-1855 or peelenvironment@bellnet.ca.

Editorial

By Matthew Wilkinson



I would like to echo our president's sentiments and thank last year's Board of Directors for all their hard work. I also personally wish to thank Renee for her enthusiasm and support over the past three years. It's been a lot of fun working with her. Also, Michele, Elizabeth and Deryck, thank you for the selfless time you have given to our village. In the vein of well-deserved thanks, where would we be without Kendall Printing? I extend my sincere thanks to Lisa and Larry Kendall and Kendall Printing. For your wonderful community spirit, I salute you. I also send a special thanks to Councillor lannicca and Barbara Johnstone for their continued support of Erindale Village. Lastly, I would also like to wish board member Andrea, her husband Greg, and Nadia, all the best with their "new addition"!

This has been a most interesting year for myself. Little did I know, 3 years ago, where my path would take me! My new position as Historian with Heritage Mississauga has held nothing but excitement. It is also with enthusiasm that I view the move of our offices into Erindale, and into an old family home, The Grange. Please feel free to come in and say hello!

The coming year also looks to be an exciting one for the EVA, with a number of new board members. And, as always, I encourage you, the residents of Erindale Village, to contribute to the newsletter. This forum is yours. I hope you enjoy what we are able to produce, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our myriad of community events throughout the year. Best wishes, Merry Christmas Erindale, and happy holidays to all!