

# The Herald



**Fall  
2003**

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**erindalevillage  
@rogers.com**

## **Erindale Community Hall 75th Anniversary**

By Brad Schneller



On October 26 the Erindale Community Hall will be 75 years old. It was on this date in 1928 that the hall was officially opened by the then Lieutenant-Governor W.D. Ross. Built of Credit River stone through the efforts of local people and organizations, such as the Erindale Women's Institute, and with support by the Toronto Township Council, the hall has been a meeting place for a wide range of activities and groups.

Variety shows were the highlight of the year at the hall in the '30's and until the mid 50's. Other events included talent shows, dances, card parties and children's Christmas parties. During that time the Brownies met regularly, as did the Erindale Women's Institute. Today, the hall is still the meeting place for regular meetings of the local Lions Club, a union, a church, a craft show and by the Village Association for its Annual Meeting and Halloween party.

The hall is owned by the Erindale Community Hall Association and operated by a Board of Directors who are either appointed by groups such as local

churches or elected at the annual meeting.

Incorporation as a not-for-profit organization was granted in 1954. Many local residents have contributed many hours of volunteer work to maintain the hall. Three who had more than 40 years of service were the late Tommy Adamson (Homelands), who was chairman in the 1960's, the late John Sproule (Mississauga Rd.) who was both treasurer and caretaker, and Mrs. Dorothy Adair who was secretary for many years and retired from the board last year. Dorothy at one time lived on Mindemoya Road across from the hall.

The current Board of Directors who live in Erindale Village are: Sharon Carruthers, Josey Hobbs, Brad Schneller and John Young. Former Directors from the Village include Linda Black, Blanche Drahun, Rainer Fuerst, Jim Kellhammer and Jack MacDonald. Frances Leiss, formerly of Dundas Crescent and who now lives at Purple Valley, also served on the Board. Other names of Villagers who are now deceased but contributed greatly to the work of the Erindale Community Hall Association are Canon George Banks, Grace Barker, Anna Burke, Connie Ford, June Robinson and Mrs. Wm. Williamson.

A dinner for present and former Directors and their spouses will be held in October to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



**Erindale Village Association Directors for 2003:**

**President and Corn Roast Director**

Linda Black  
905-306-0767

**Secretary**

Renee Kellhammer  
905-270-5209

**Treasurer**

Mary Galipeau  
905-276-5686

**City Liaison**

John Johnston  
905-276-0516

**Membership**

Michele D'Angelo  
905-281-1551

**Garage Sale & Hallowe'en**

Linda Amos  
905-275-5544

**Canada Day**

Deryck Fox  
905-277-5484

**Director at large**

Elizabeth MacDonald  
905-277-1070

**Newsletter Editor**

Matthew Wilkinson  
905-279-5295

**erindalevillage@rogers.com**

## A Message from the President

Well as another summer nears its end so does my tenure as President of the Erindale Village Association (EVA). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the present Board members for all of their support and camaraderie. As well, I would like to thank all those residents who have generously donated their time, energy and baked goods at all of our many social functions.

Speaking of functions, your EVA is busily preparing for the upcoming Corn Roast, Annual General Meeting (AGM) and of course the Halloween party. As most of you are aware the AGM is not only a time to meet with all of the Directors of the EVA and socialize with

your neighbours, but also when we nominate new people to the Board of Directors for a term of one year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being on the Board for the last few years and urge any of you who want to take an active interest in your community to come forth and be nominated. It is helpful to us if we know in advance of your desire to be elected, so please contact either any Board member or myself.

Remember, volunteers are always needed to not only **take part** in all the various social functions but to **be a part**.

Thank you, Linda Black

## From the Councillor's Office

Dear Friends in the Erindale Community,

My uppermost thought whenever the Erindale Village comes to mind is the unique and significant nature of this area as well as the very special people who live there. This recently culminated after some diligent efforts on the part of some local residents to have street signs erected to recognize the distinct history of the Erindale Village.

I temper this joy for representing such a unique enclave with the constant fear that development pressures and people in it for a "quick buck" might try to alter your neighbourhood. It is for this reason that we all must remain informed and vigilant when such pressures arise. That is why matters as simple as a Committee of Adjustment application or a new street-lighting program within your

community will always garner more than just the average attention from my office. But the real credit for what you have been able to achieve in your neighbourhood goes to the area residents and your ratepayers committee who have been fair and firm in preserving your way of life in this "Gem Within the City".

In closing, I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share these thoughts and as always look forward to being of assistance in any way I can in the future.

Councillor Nando Iannicca, Ward 7

Office #905-896-5700  
Home #905-277-5037



## Coming Up ... The Corn Roast

By Linda Black

Mark your calendars ... the annual community Corn Roast will take place on Sunday, September 14, from 1pm – 5pm. Again this will be held on Greg & Linda Black's back lot down along the Credit River. There will be plenty of fun and games — for young and old — food, refreshments and more! In order for this event to be a success, volunteers are needed to assist with:

- Setting up and cleaning up of the days' events
- Helping out for a ½ hour or so with the BBQ, corn pot, food table, games or scarecrow building
- Taking photographs
- Wood for the fire pit (to cook the corn)
- Use of coolers, fold up tables and chairs (please be sure to have your name clearly marked somewhere on the item)
- Garage or space — for 1 week or less — for storage of items related to the event (to ease in the drop off / pick up of coolers, etc. and setting up / cleaning up)



Anyone who wishes to volunteer for any of the above is asked to contact me prior to the corn roast. We also welcome any suggestions you may have to help make this event an even better success than it already is. Further information will be distributed via a flier, closer to the date or you may telephone me at 905-306-0767.

### Upcoming Erindale Village Events:

**Village Corn Roast**  
Sunday, Sept. 14

**E.V.A. Annual General Meeting**  
Thursday, Oct. 2

**Children's Hallowe'en Party**  
Friday, Oct. 24



## The Annual General Meeting & Cocktail & Wine Reception

By Michele D'Angelo

The Erindale Village Association invites you to attend the Annual General Meeting. Please mark your calendar for:

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 2003**

The Annual General Meeting, followed by a Cocktail Reception, is held at the Erindale Community Hall at the corner of Mindemoya Road and Dundas Street.

We encourage you to show your community spirit and come out and join your neighbours for an update on the Association and election of new Directors, to be followed by a friendly cocktail.

Further details will be issued in a separate flyer in September.





## Editorial

By Matthew  
Wilkinson

I would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and input into the newsletter. It has been a truly enjoyable undertaking. It has also been enjoyable for me to serve on the Board of Directors for the EVA for the first time. I highly encourage my fellow Erindale residents to become involved, either in the EVA or other organizations, and to let the enthusiastic Erindale voice ring loud and clear. So please, this forum is yours to use and I invite you to use it and share stories and concerns with your fellow Erindale residents. My own article on "Searching for Old Erindale" will continue in the next issue as I search to uncover some of our industrial past and the missing mills. I welcome any thoughts on what you would like to hear about relating to Erindale's past. This issue attempts to focus on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community Hall and I hope you enjoy reading it.

## Remembering ... the Erindale Community Hall

By Mary Barker-Wilkinson

I've lived all of my life "within a stone's throw" of Erindale Community Hall. My parents, Delmar and Marjorie Barker, operated Erindale Garage, a convenience store and later Erindale Post Office, just across the street from the Hall. They were also "the keeper of the key" for the hall.

Family associations with this charming building extend through 4 generations. Relatives raised funds, and supplied vision, energy, time, labour and materials for its construction and maintenance. Several served on the Board of Directors, most notably my Grandfather Charles Adamson, and my uncle Tommy Adamson. The women participated enthusiastically in the Erindale Womens' Institute. They enjoyed many happy social functions such as parties, reunions, dances, rummage sales, bazaars, and craft shows, and countless memorable evenings of cards, cribbage, checkers, crokinole and bingo. The Hall was often used as a Polling Station during Elections and it was here that my father learned many times that his friends and neighbours had overwhelmingly elected him Hydro Commissioner for Toronto Township. I find it heartwarming to know that on the last evening of his life he had a grand time at a Euchre Party in this very building.

The Hall's yard was an ideal playground for the village children, especially for games of Hide-And-Go Seek, skipping, hopscotch, roller-skating, street hockey and bicycle riding. It was neutral territory, safe and highly visible. The annual Hallowe'en Party was much anticipated, with costume and pumpkin-carving prizes, entertainment, sing-songs, games, films, and of course special treats! In those days costumes were hand-made, the result of fertile imaginations and much planning and cooperation. Local farmers supplied apples and cider, and thankfully this annual village tradition continues to thrive. The Hall was also my first school! Due to overcrowding of

Erindale Public School, I was fortunate to attend Grades One and Two in this building under the excellent tutelage of Mrs. Rena Adamson. Friends were envious that I could leave home at two minutes to nine, and still not be late!

Like many other village children, I took piano lessons from Delia Olsen (O' Dwyer) on Adamson Street. My practicing was done on the Hall's piano. I remember many prolonged and frustrating battles with the lock and the big heavy door on the Hall, but also many enjoyable hours of solitude, safety and peace as I practiced my lessons. For seven years I attended Girl Guides in the Hall, under the captancy of Mrs. Ida Sproule and later Miss Elizabeth Hoople. According to the rules, in those days a girl was eligible to join Girl Guides at age eleven, but I started at 10! I used to lie on the hill and enviously watch the goings-on through the windows. Eventually, I was noticed, and invited to join. I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of Guiding and while earning badges learned much that has greatly enriched my life.

The Talent Shows directed by Mrs. Evelyn Crickmore were most memorable. They certainly helped to build self-confidence, creativity, imagination, friendships, and community pride, while at the same time providing great entertainment for Erindale and the surrounding areas. Each show would run for several evenings, and always to a "sold-out-standing-room-only" crowd. Almost everyone participated. Some of the highlights for me were "The Hop Scotch Polka" at age 8, "The Gypsy Act" at age 10, and the "Maypole Dance" at 12. And who could ever forget the number "I'm a Big Girl Now" ... about the "goings-on" in Erindale Park? A few years ago a dramatic presentation of Erindale's most famous moment, "The Great Fire of 1919", by Queenston Drive P.S. students, was also greatly enjoyed. **Continued on Page 7**





## Doors Open Mississauga: Open Doors Open Minds

By Jayme Gaspar, Executive Director of Heritage Mississauga



Heritage Mississauga invites everyone to join us on September 13th & 14th, 2003, as we open "doors" all over Mississauga. Discover Mississauga's hidden treasures, as part of the Ontario Heritage Foundations 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ontario-wide Doors Open programme.

Doors Open began in Glasgow, Scotland in 1990 and has spread all over the world to include over 47 countries holding similar events. The Ontario Heritage Foundation launched its first province-wide Doors Open in 2002, with over 40 communities involved, where 560 or more sites open free of charge to the visitor. Doors Open is held between April and October and over 300,000 visitors participated in 2002.

We invite you to visit the 12 fascinating heritage sites available this year in our first Doors Open Mississauga. Sites include The Benares Historic House, The Blackwood Gallery -UTM, The Bradley Museum, DuPont Canada Inc., The Lithuanian Museum-Archives and St.John's Cemetery, The Living Arts Centre, Meadowvale Theatre, Mississauga Civic Centre, The Old Britannia Schoolhouse, St. Peter's Anglican Church and Cemetery, Springbank Visual Arts Centre, and Streetsville Public Cemetery. Opening times vary for each of the sites, so be sure to pickup a Doors Open brochure from any of the sites.

If you would be interested in participating in this exciting cultural & heritage event as a volunteer please contact James Fairbairn at 905-615-4415 or email [james.fairbairn@mississauga.ca](mailto:james.fairbairn@mississauga.ca).

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

By Deryck Fox



This past month my school board (TCDSB) sent me to Pearson College in Victoria, British Columbia. The purpose of the conference was to find out about the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This award is over 40 years old in Canada and is recognized by both universities and colleges in Canada and abroad. The award is based on four foundational Pillars: **Service, Skills, Physical Fitness & Expeditions and Explorations.**

Candidates must be at least 14 years of age and willing to participate fully in all four areas. It was made very clear this was something for all motivated individuals and was not just for the High Academic Achievers. The purpose is to help mold individuals with strong and diverse backgrounds. The Registrar of U of T noted that "the Duke of Edinburgh award offers students a way to demonstrate concrete evidence of their accomplishments ... the Duke of Edinburgh program gives young people an excellent opportunity to strengthen the qualities and skills that will make them successful in University or College and in later life: Time Management, Organization, Volunteerism, and most important, self confidence based on solid achievement." I would strongly encourage all young people between the ages of 14 - 25 to consider participating in this program. It is a GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

### Community Tidbits:

#### Heritage Mississauga

For a list of upcoming heritage & history related events call:  
**905-615-4415.**

#### Doors Open Mississauga

Sept. 13-14.

#### Ghost Lecture & Cemetery Walk

Oct. 30

#### Mississauga Garden Council Indoor Gardens

905-279-5878.

Oct. 9

#### Mississauga Arts Council

Call 905-615-4278 or log on to [www.mississaugaartscouncil.com](http://www.mississaugaartscouncil.com) for a list of events for the visual and performing arts.

#### Museums of Mississauga

905-822-1569

"Fall Fair"

Sept. 13-14.

"Home for the Holidays"

Dec. 14.



## Special Thanks:

On behalf of the E.V.A. Members, the Board of Directors would like to sincerely thank Larry and Lisa Kendall for their great generosity and community spirit in printing The Herald newsletter. Kendall Printing has printed the newsletter free of charge for you, its readers! Enjoy!



## Grandma's Stories: "My Friend Anna"

By Renate Kellhammer

"Well, I hope you'll be tidier than the previous people!" The voice startled us. We had been moving rocks to extend the driveway to this old house we had just bought. We had not moved in yet because there was still so much to do. An older lady had come into the yard and looked at us, unsmiling. She wore a battered straw hat, an old man's jacket and stockings were wrinkled.

"I am Miss Burke. I live across the street, there," she pointed out. "And who are you?" We introduced ourselves and explained what we were doing. She relaxed a bit.

"This place has been such a mess, we were all so displeased." Then she sauntered off.

We wondered what we were getting into. Were we welcome in this neighbourhood? Eventually we passed muster. Slowly, over the years we came to appreciate what an extraordinary human being Anna Burke was. This slightly eccentric lady would become a favourite neighbour and a good friend.

Anna was born in Erindale, in the oldest house that is still standing today. She was an elementary teacher all her life, never married and she lived with her mother. While her mother was a famous cook, Anna's culinary products often had a slight "mothball aroma", since she had these mouse repellents all over her kitchen cupboards. Anna preferred gardening. She was proud of her well kept yard. I received many shrubs and perennials from her over the years, with careful instructions on how to care for them. Anna's gardening outfits were practical, old comfortable clothes would do, worn skirts and jackets, and the ever present hat; fancy aprons and flowered garden gloves were not for her.

Our children loved Miss Burke. She would speak to them in her articulate and precise way, still the voice of the former teacher. She would treat them like adults and invited them into her house to test their reading skills. She was a great listener and had a lively interest in everything. But Anna could be blunt. She spoke the truth as she saw it: there were no frills. Once when she celebrated her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, the neighbour ladies gave her a party. After long deliberations we decided on a large magnifying glass, which could be hung around the neck. Just recently her eyesight had been failing. When Anna opened the present, she looked at it and said loud and clear: "I really don't have any use for this at all!" So much for our idea!

When we first met Anna, she had just retired and her mother had recently died. Anna kept active with her many friends and in the church. We visited back and forth, and she was always a guest at our place on Christmas Eve. One year she introduced me to Jane Austen, since she regarded me as a "reader". Every time I read "Pride and Prejudice," I think of Anna Burke. Anna died in a nursing home at age 81, her once analytical mind had become foggy, but she still enjoyed a visit. We will never forget her.

## Springbank: at the Crossroads Part Two ... to be continued



Part two of the article regarding the future of Springbank facility, formerly S.S.#4 Erindale and currently home to Visual Arts Mississauga, will be continued in the next issue of "The Herald." The building remains in the process of being sold to the University of Toronto with a possible use being a student welcome centre. We will look at this process, we hope, in greater detail in the following issue of "The Herald". Thank you and stay tuned.



## Membership Drive Update

By Michele D'Angelo

Thanks to everyone for a very successful membership drive in the Village! The Directors canvassed the community in the month of May and solicited annual membership dues from all the residents. The annual VILLAGE DIRECTORY will be updated with new members and information and will be re-issued to all members in late July. For anyone who was missed the membership drive or was on vacation during the canvas and who wishes to join, please contact Michele D'Angelo at 905-281-1551.

## Welcome

On behalf of the residents of Erindale Village, the E.V.A. would like to extend a warm welcome to the new residents of our community. We look forward to meeting you at the Corn Roast and at our Annual General Meeting (see page 3). If we have missed you during our Membership Drive, we apologize and please let us know!

Welcome to Erindale:

**Katina, Spiros,  
Olivia & Celia  
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Menu features a wide selection of Italian Cuisine or choose one of our daily creations from our specialty board prepared by Piatto's Madrid-born chef

**Fernando Garcia**

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## Community Hall

Continued from Page 4

Countless baby showers, wedding showers, birthday and anniversary parties, and wedding receptions were attended. When I was about to be married, the Erindale ladies gave me a huge Bridal Shower in the Hall... There must have been about 100 ladies there, an overwhelming but greatly appreciated event! Like many other "Erindalers", my wedding reception was also held in the Hall.

For me, the Community Hall is a dearly loved and charming second home, a rich reservoir of happy memories, the focal point and the heart of Erindale. In many ways it IS Erindale. May it continue to thrive as part of our enduring heritage for another 75 years! A most sincere thank you and congratulations to everyone, past and present and future, who protect, promote, and preserve this wonderful treasure.

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## Share your stories:

I ask everyone, of any age, to share your stories with us. Remember what was, enjoy what is, and ask what the future will bring to our small Village, in the midst of the 6<sup>th</sup> largest city in Canada. Even little snippets of what makes Erindale important to you. Share your stories of what it means to you to be living in Canada, in Ontario, in Mississauga, in Erindale. Think of the stories your house, your street or your Village could tell if only they could talk. I urge you to look about your Village and question and remember. Please, share your stories, poems, ideas or concerns with us.

Email submissions: [mwilkinson@rogers.com](mailto:mwilkinson@rogers.com)

or drop off: 2537 Mindemoya Rd.

## Reflections: An Interview with Mrs. Dorothy Adair

*Special Thanks to Mrs. Dorothy Adair for sharing her reflections on the Community Hall with us, and to Renate Kellhammer and Mary Barker-Wilkinson for their assistance with this article.*

Q: Could you tell us a bit about yourself? When did you come to Erindale?

A: I came to Erindale in 1957. We came from a small village near Listowel in Perth County in Western Ontario, the village of Britton where my husband operated a cheese factory. When we came to Erindale, it was rather accidental. My husband was coming to work for what is now Gay-Lea and we were looking desperately for a place to live. My husband had come to the city in April and the kids and I were still living at Britton where I worked at the Britton School. In the meantime we were hunting for a place to live. It was just before the building boom had taken off, and housing was really at a premium. Through some friends of ours we learned that the red brick house in Erindale Village was going to be available, and so, without even seeing it we decided that we would come. We had no idea what we were getting into because we had always lived in the country. We thought at the time it was just a temporary move. Of course, it became permanent and as the time went on we realized that we couldn't have found a better fit than we did. We lived in the red house for five years and then Mrs. Hyde, who owned the house, wanted the house to sell it, and my husband wasn't in favour of buying that house, but just at that time the Dolbys who were living in the small house that also belonged to Mrs. Hyde ... that became available so we moved over there. We carried most everything we could carry across and we exhausted ourselves. We settled in there and at that time Dave was 12, Elizabeth was 10 and Jimmy was 4, so that was our family.

Q: What are your favourite recollections about village life?

A: Well, we sort of seemed to be able to adapt. It was a change for me because I was used to having my husband working at home and we always had a staff for the cheese factory, and they all boarded with us, so I was used to having five or six people to feed all the time, and so here I was left, my kids were in school and my husband was away all day, and there was only Jimmy and I, so it was quite a change. I had two good neighbours. I had Bernice Turner and Betty Boyd, and they took me under their wing. We went to St. Peter's Church at that time because the Erindale Presbyterian Church wasn't there. I had been brought up an Anglican, so it was quite easy. So we went to St. Peter's Church and I went to the Guild meetings, with Betty and Bernice, and they were a wonderful help to me, those two girls. Yes, the village was very different. There were trees ... and the kids played football and baseball ... and in the spring the blossoms were just beautiful. But it wasn't too long before they started building and cutting down trees.

Q: Did you raise your family here? Was a good place for children to grow up?

A: Oh, it was a good place for children. They all found friends. The boys, there were Bobby Robilliard, and Ian Ford, and the Donner girls: Mary and Jim and Patricia Boyd, they were fast friends. So it was a good place to live and it still is! Yes, and we settled in, although the highway was different, that's before the highway was widened. And the noise! We came from the county, and when we first moved, we thought we would never get to sleep at night! There was a little bump and trucks would come up and they'd go plopp, you'd hear them go over that bump.

Q: So, what are your earliest recollections of the Community hall as an Erindale institution?

A: Well, we were quite interested in the Community Hall, because there was a lot of activity at that time. There seemed to be something going on there all the time and we just used to watch what was going on ... and of course, very soon the kids got involved in things there.

Q: I heard from you and Anna Burke, that Mrs. Crickmore had theatre performances?

A: Oh, Mrs. Crickmore was marvelous! She put on the Variety Show every year ... she had some talent come from Clarkson, people she knew, but it was local talent and so the kids were all asked to play in that. It was amazing, people came and the Hall would be full. She had talent from here and there and all over the place. It was just an amazing show!

Q: So, at that time, it was mostly local people using the Hall?

A: Yes, the Erindale Woodlands was just beginning to be developed.

**Continued on page 11**





# Canada Day Arts & Literature Contest Winners

## The Spirit of Canada

By Elizabeth Amos  
Age 9



The spirit of Canada is the wind as it blows gently around the Prairies and around the forests and cities. The nature as it lives and dies, the river as it flows majestically through Canada. The maples and pines that sway gently in the breeze are also part of Canada. Prairie grass as it sways and beavers hard at work building homes are the spirit. Caribou, moose, geese and bears all find a home in this wonderful country. The Natives before us had to live off nature, using everything for a special purpose, never wasting food or clothing or building materials. To me, the spirit of Canada is also in the people as we are giving thanks for having a free, peaceful country. Canada is not made up by the land it has but by the people, plants and animals it has. We would be Canada without this land as long as we kept the spirit.

## Erindale Public School Reunion:

Some former students of the Erindale Public School (S.S.#4) are beginning to plan a reunion for former students and teachers, or for anyone else who has fond memories to share.

If you or anyone you know would like more information or would like to volunteer to help plan this event, please contact Mary (Barker) Wilkinson at 905-279-5295 or email:

[delamaryw@rogers.com](mailto:delamaryw@rogers.com)

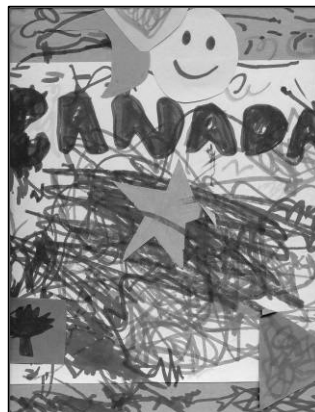


## "Time to take that dream trip to Canada"

By Laura McKenzie, Age 13



By Brendan Fox  
Age 14



By Cole Taghikhani  
Age 3



# Village Garage & Bake Sale Report

By Linda Amos

Despite a cloudy sky and some rain, neighbours enjoyed a fun day of "garage saling" and visiting on driveways and around the BBQ. I know my kids had eaten hot dogs and \$5 worth of baking before 10 am! Thanks to all of you that donated some time to help out, either at the BBQ or by donating your baked goods. We raised enough to pay for our advertising, and some extra to put toward future EVA events. See you at the next one!

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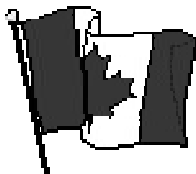
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## Canada Day Celebrations

By Deryck Fox



What a great July 1<sup>st</sup> turn out! Fantastic!! Not only was the night well attended, the food and beverages were very much appreciated as well. Thank you to Cadbury Beverages for the drinks. Also, thank you to Blockbuster Video for the movie passes and Guinness for the HVM gift certificates that were awarded to our Canada Day contest winners this year. Special thanks go out to the following people, for their help in preparing and managing the event. Without their help the event would not have been such a great success: Joe & Michel D'Angelo, John & Linda Amos, Greg & Linda Black, Cameron & Laura McKenzie, Brendan & Lynn Fox, Mathew Wilkinson and Renée Kellhammer. Also, thank you to Aidan Fox and Julien Kubiki for their help with the fireworks. A great day and a better night was had by all!!! See you next year!!!



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## ***An Interview with Dorothy Adair ... continued from page 8***

Q: What did people use the hall for ... mostly meetings and parties?

A.: Yes, yes, wedding receptions and parties and all sorts of different community things. The Women's Institute of course met there regularly and had entertainments.

Q: It was actually the backbone of the Hall in the beginning wasn't it?

A: Yes. We had different things to make a little bit of money, occasionally, and to entertain. I remember that we had an Amateur Show. We had Mrs. Aitken, and real old Gordon Sinclair as judges. We had people there from outside the area. They must have advertised it at that time. It was a big night, and there were prizes given. Another thing they used to have in the spring were Plant Sales. The Girl Guides met there, and the Scouts, and the Women's Institute, and other groups. The Hall Board was made up of representatives from the different. There were four elected members, and then they were the representatives, so that's how I came to be on the Board. I represented the Guide Mother's Group, back in 1960, I guess, when Elizabeth was in the Guides. The four elected members were elected at the annual meeting and then the others were appointed, from the various churches, the Lions' Club and the Women's Institute, and then once I got in there, they couldn't get rid of me!

Q: How long did you serve on the Board of Directors? What offices did you hold?

A: From 1960 until 2002. I was the secretary, and then I left that to take over the rentals from John Sproule.

Q: What are your fondest memories from serving on the Board Of Directors?

A: Well, I can tell you one thing that happened ... we had a flag pole and it was stolen, and one night George Tweedy came in and he was late and John Sproule said: "oh by the way we have a new flag." They had put it up that day and George Tweedy said: "I didn't see a flag." So of course they went to have a look, and between the time when we had come in and the meeting had started, and George Tweedy had come, someone had removed the flag ... so we had a great laugh over that! They just stole the flag! So they got a new one, and they got it arranged so it's not so easy ... it's higher up! But, I enjoyed the fellowship and I met and I got involved with a lot of nice people...that I wouldn't have maybe met otherwise. There are people who have worked and there were a lot of people who were very important to the community; people, the farmers who brought their teams of horses in, and their shovels, who dug out the foundation for the Community Hall when it was built. Much of the labour building the Hall was done locally, and I should think that those people were very important. When the Parish Hall had burned down (in 1919), they had a lot of troubles about how they were going to build and they had a lot of problems raising the money. The Women's Institute had raised one thousand dollars which was a lot of money in those days, but then, they came to the men who had formed a Board, and that wasn't enough, so they went back and raised some more (\$2500) ... people paid and much of the labour was done by the people, the farm people, and by the community, so it really was a community hall. At one time it was given to the School Board because somehow or other it had to be registered somewhere in the government ... it couldn't belong to a group, it had to belong to something and the School Board was the only thing that was in the neighborhood, so it had to be registered that way, and it was used as a school during a couple of years in the forties. It still belonged to the Board of Education until I was involved. I was the Secretary and I tried to think what year that would be. It was given back to the community then. I remember that very well, but with the stipulation that if it ever ceased to be used as a community hall, the city would have the first refusal. So people say, "Well why don't the Lions take it over? Why doesn't somebody else take it over?" They can't. And I would hate to think what the city might do with it.

Q: As progress has changed the lifestyle within Erindale, how has the role of the Hall changed over the years?

A: Well, I think that for one thing, people ... we used to have a lot of weddings ... we still do have showers, and that sort of thing but it isn't large enough and it's maybe not grand enough for some weddings now. Now both of my kids had their wedding receptions, their dinners there and we had a good time both times, but nowadays, I don't think we have as many community gatherings either as we used to have.

Q: So you were part of the Erindale Women's Institute before it closed?

A: Yes I was. I was also made a life member of the W.M.S. in the Presbyterian Church...

Q: What role did the Women's Institute have in community life around Erindale? Was it valuable? Did they still assist in running the Community Hall?

A: Oh yes, it was very valuable. We played a large part and the Community Hall did too with parties and things like that and life in the village. They sponsored parties and dances. When our kids were small they had dance classes.

Q: Is the current usage of the Hall in spirit with what it was originally intended to be?

A: No, no, very few local people. It's used very seldom by anybody local. Except by the Village Association, the church people and the Lions Club.

Q: To you, what does the building symbolize?

A: It's an important part of Erindale as far as I'm concerned. It is a wonderful building.

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