

Rich heritage in Halton Hills

By Pamela Kaufman
Special to HHTW

Our understanding of heritage has evolved substantially from the time when the Ontario Heritage Act was passed in 1975 to the present day. It is now recognized that heritage may include many resources including; keepsakes, artifacts, documents, burial places, architecture, archaeological sites, landscapes and natural resources as well as intangible items such as traditions, values, knowledge and beliefs. However, every settlement area has a unique combination of these heritage resources which provide a community with a sense of place and distinction.

Halton Hills is rich in many of these resources such as historic buildings, farming patterns, woodlots, hedgerows, trails, roads and bridges. It has been documented that these resources contribute significantly to the character of our rural landscapes and therefore should be managed appropriately.

Rural heritage not only provides us with an account of human achievement, traditions and values, but may also be used as a guide from which future development can take its form while remaining consistent with the character of a landscape.

Therefore, Heritage Halton Hills, with the financial assistance of the Ontario Heritage Foundation through the Niagara Escarpment Program, has an opportunity to take a closer look at rural heritage along the Niagara Escarpment in Halton Hills.

Heritage Halton Hills, formerly Halton Hills LACAC (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee) is a citizens' committee established through Section 28 of the Ontario

Heritage Act, (R.S.O. 1990, Chapter 0.18), which advises and assists council on all matters relating to the conservation of heritage resources. Our vision is to identify and manage these resources for future generations rather than responding only to requests or threats. Therefore, the focus of this project is to:

- *Increase awareness of local heritage resources and issues;
- *Discover which heritage resources are important to local communities;
- *Discuss issues and concerns about the management of heritage resources;
- *Establish a Heritage Vision for the study area;
- *Make recommendations to the Town of Halton Hills towards the management of heritage resources;
- *Provide a framework which other municipalities may use to obtain citizen input concerning local heritage resources.

To accomplish this, we will be holding a number of Heritage Workshops where interested citizens can discuss their concerns about rural landscape conservation on the following dates:

- Georgetown Sept. 18, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. OMAF Board Room, Limehouse Sept. 25, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Limehouse Women's Institute Hall, Speyside Oct. 2, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tuitman's Garden Centre

and Landscaping, Acton Oct. 16, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. McKenzie Smith School, Silver Creek to Terra Cotta Oct. 23, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Glen Town Hall

If you are concerned about the future of rural landscapes along the Niagara Escarpment and are interested in the Heritage Workshops this fall please contact Pamela Kaufman, Heritage Consultant, Heritage Halton Hills at 873-4961.

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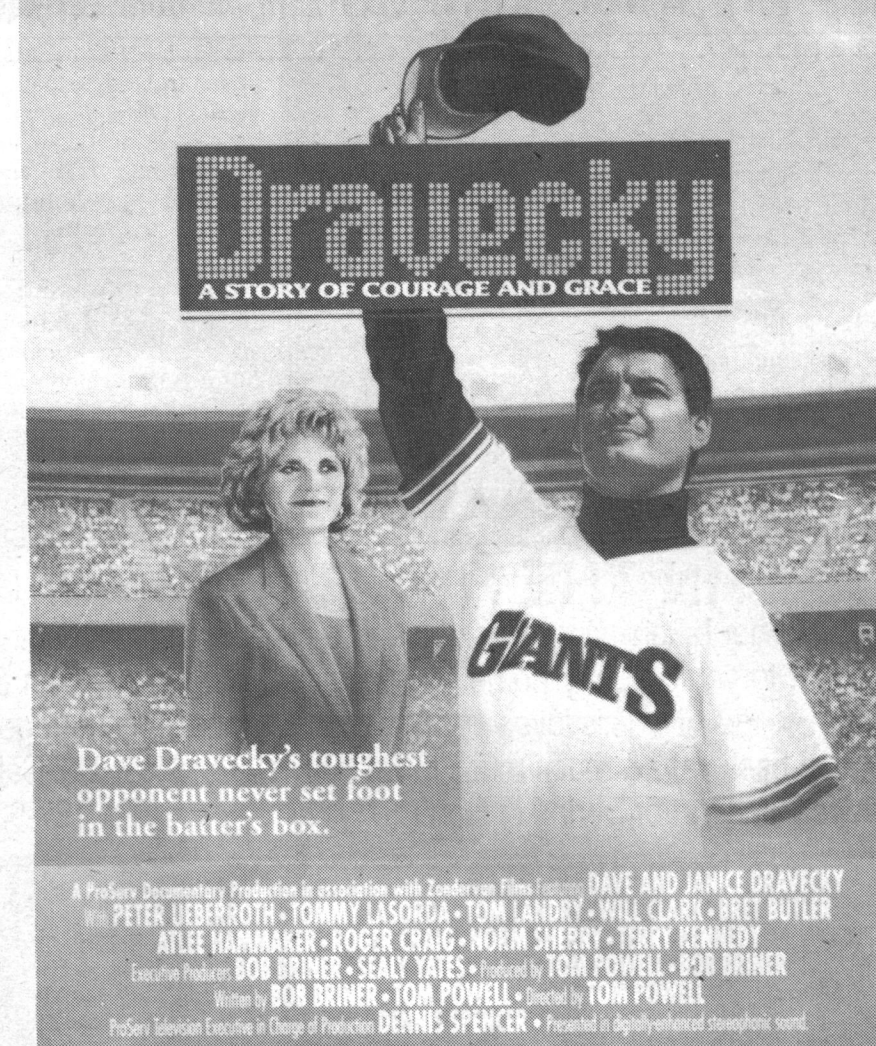
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