



Trafalgar Township Historical Society

"Documenting, celebrating and preserving the agricultural heritage of North Oakville"

Spring 2017 Newsletter

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Society News & Updates

2016 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award to Ross Wark

At the 2016 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards presented at Queen's Park, Toronto on Friday February 17, 2017, Ross Wark received an award for lifetime achievement.

Presenting the award to Ross were Professor Thomas H.B. Symons, Chair, Ontario Heritage Trust, and Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.



Photo courtesy of Ian Crysler

Updates to the Palermo Schoolhouse

Recent changes to the schoolhouse grounds include new exterior doors, flagpole relocated from the parking lot to the front of the building, and a fence separating our building from newly expanded Dundas Street. The parking lot has been expanded to accommodate more cars.



More Changes

St. Luke's Anglican Church, Palermo underwent major changes over the past three years. The original church was moved within the site. Administrative and meeting rooms, including kitchen and washrooms are shown centre and right. Parking and the cemetery are behind this new facility. After using the schoolhouse for one and half years, the congregation returned to the original site before Chirstmas, 2016.



Photos courtesy of Ross Wark



Photo courtesy of Ross Wark

Community Funding for Canada 150

At the Oakville Community Foundation Funding Announcement held at Town Hall on January 24, 2017, eleven local community projects received funding to assist in celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation. Michelle Knoll and Ross Wark represented the TTHS. Local politicians present included MP Pam Damoff, MP John Oliver, and Mayor Rob Burton. TTHS received funding to design and print a series of banners showing Trafalgar's history. Our funding was from Oakville Community Foundation and the fund held by them of Larry Wilson Foundation.

Summer Volunteer

TTHS is welcoming back Morgan Oliver, a past summer student, as a volunteer. She studied History in Concurrent Education at Brock University and now holds her Elementary and High School teaching qualifications. She has offered her assistance this spring/summer with the newsletters and social media responsibilities.

Ottawa Newspaper Article on GA Snider

Our Autumn 2015 Newsletter carried a "TTHS Story" by Howard Simkover about George Albert Snider's business advertising sign on a building in Ottawa. Mr. Simkover wondered who G.A. Snider was and this started him on a research and publishing quest which brought him to Trafalgar Township where G.A. Snider was born and raised. Mr. Simkover recently spoke to the Historical Society of Ottawa and using this link, you will not only be able to see a short, embedded video of Mr. Simkover with the intriguing sign behind him, you will be able to read the February 10, 2017 article about his presentation and research by Joanne Laucius in the *Ottawa Citizen*:

<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/ghost-sign-who-was-g-a-snider-this-history-sleuth-had-to-find-out>

Our TTHS digital collection records on the Snider Farmhouse and S.S. #14, Snider's School, include links to the full text of Mr. Simkover's research and the *Ottawa Citizen* article as well.

May Guest Speaker Evening

With some last minute cancellations, TTHS member Ross Wark and Michael Reid, Chair of TTHS, were quick to pull together some excellent presentations for our Guest Speaker Evening on May 10, 2017.

Ross presented an interactive Show and Tell of 20th century artifacts. His showcase ranged from 130 year old children's blocks to clay marbles to a camera purchased in Oakville in 1925 to pop bottles from the Oakville Beverage Company. His collection was accompanied by storytelling and reminiscing about where the items were made, purchased, and what they were used for, as well as how he came across them.

Michael informed us all about the status of the Glen Abbey Golf Club property and plans for potential development. A copy of Michael's updated article on the status of Glen Abbey is on page 5.



Overall, it was a wonderful evening complete with a lot of engagement and interaction from guests. Many queries from guests facilitated some informative discussions and knowledge sharing, making for a successful and pleasant event.



Photos courtesy of Morgan Oliver

**GLEN ABBEY DEEMED A SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL
HERITAGE LANDSCAPE AND
MOVES TO PHASE III**



The Cultural Heritage Landscapes Strategy commenced in January 2014 when the Town of Oakville adopted the Cultural Heritage Landscapes Strategy, which set the foundation for the primary identification of candidate cultural heritage landscapes and the future inventory and evaluation of significant cultural heritage landscapes. It also developed a formal process for addressing the conservation of cultural heritage landscape resources in the Town of Oakville. The Strategy consisted of three phases.

Phase I of the Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy implementation was completed in February 2016 and identified an inventory of properties to be considered. It included 63 properties identified by staff and stakeholders and each inventory report included site details, photos, maps and an assessment of the priority level for protection of the property. The inventory recognized eight high priority properties, 16 medium priority properties, 27 low priority properties and 12 properties for which no further action was recommended. Glen Abbey was identified as a high priority property. On February 16, 2016, Council directed the eight high priority properties to proceed to Phase II of the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Landscape Strategy, Research and Assessment.

In Phase II Draft Heritage Assessment Reports were completed for the high priority properties. The Heritage Assessment Reports included the following:

- An executive summary, introduction and methodology;
- A list of sources and stakeholder engagements;
- Background information on the history, design and context of the property;
- Current and historical photographs and maps documenting the property;
- Analysis of the dominant historical themes, layered, overlapping and/or nested cultural heritage landscapes, and significant views;
- To gauge the level of cultural heritage significance, an evaluation of the property using a Regulation 9/06 Assessment, a Regulation 10/06 Assessment, the Criteria, General Guidelines, & Specific Guidelines for evaluating subjects of potential national historic significance; and
- If needed, a draft summary of cultural heritage value and a list of features which may warrant conservation.

The Report completed for Glen Abbey as the with the other reports references the basis for determining if a property is a cultural heritage landscape, and that is the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement, which defines cultural heritage landscapes as meaning a “defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Aboriginal community. The area may involve features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association.”

The idea of significance under the Policy is also to be noted and the definition of significance is, “...in regard to cultural heritage and archaeology, resources that have been determined to have cultural heritage value or interest for the important contribution they make to our understanding of the history of a place, an event, or a people.”

The Consultants’ concluded that, “in the professional opinion of the project team, the property at 1333 Dorval Drive is a significant cultural heritage landscape as defined within the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement.”

On April 25, 2017 the Heritage Assessment Reports of 6 of the 8 high priority properties, including the report pertaining to Glen Abbey were presented to the Oakville Heritage Committee. The Committee provided comments about the reports and made recommendations to the Planning and Development Council for its meeting of May 15, 2017.

At the Heritage Oakville Advisory Committee meeting on April 25, 2017 after presentations from the Consultants' for the Town of Oakville, the Heritage Planner, concerned citizens and the Lawyer for Clublink the Committee endorsed the report and recommended to Council that the Glen Abbey property be deemed a Cultural Heritage Landscape and proceed to Phase III of the Strategy, which is the Implementation of Protection measures for the property.

The Planning and Development Council dealt with the recommendation that Glen Abbey proceed to Phase III at its meeting of May 15, 2017 and they voted unanimously that,

“That the property at 1333 Dorval Drive be recognized as a significant cultural heritage landscape and move into Phase Three: Implementation of Protection Measures.”

Now that Council has officially recognized Glen Abbey as a significant heritage landscape the Town may wish to consider a wide range of conservation measures and tools including, but not limited to, those available under the Ontario Heritage Act and other legislation and policy.

Michael Reid
Chairperson
Trafalgar Township Historical Society

Street Name Recommendations to the Town of Oakville

We recommended to the Town of Oakville the following names be included as street names in the next phase of development north of Dundas. These names are based on the lot locations:

Street Names - residents

1. Benjamin Tuck

Street names - WW1

1. Howard Gorman - on Munn's Church memorial - killed in action. His two brothers also fought and are on the Munn's Church memorial
2. Harold Dent - killed in action - Dent family lived on lot 18
3. John Cramp - on Knox 16 war memorial
4. Alexander Erskine - Knox 16 war memorial
5. Richard Fay - Knox 16 war memorial
6. Charles Fay - Knox 16 war memorial
7. Donald Mackay - Knox 16 war memorial
8. Frank Rowland Powell - Knox 16 war memorial

Recent Donations & Contributions

Burnhamthorpe Road East Farmhouse

In January 2017, we heard from Mr. Ryan Auger of Melbourne, Australia, who was able to provide information on this TTHS digital record: [Burnhamthorpe Road East Farmhouse](#).

The photograph was taken by the Town of Oakville and in 2014 given to the TTHS for sharing, but all the Town could tell us was that the properties of 1288 and 1264 Burnhamthorpe Road East, Oakville, Ontario were owned by developers and the demolition had proper authorization from the Town of Oakville. Unfortunately, we now don't know which property this house had been on. Mr. Auger told us: (His) family resided at that property from the 1950s until 1983 and I am happy to provide additional information about the property and residents of both (#1264 and #1288).



Both properties and surrounding lands were owned by George McCall, who was the former president of Christie's Biscuits, I believe he took ownership of the property in the late 1930s. George and his wife occupied the small bungalow on the property, where caregivers visited frequently to help them in their retirement.

Through the 1950-1980, two generations of tenants occupied the main farmhouse - first the family of Robert Torrans, who also worked at Christie's, and his wife Dixie and three children, Richard, Cathy and Kimberly. In 1977, Robert Torrans, a keen horseman, fell from a horse on the property and died in hospital days later. After Robert's death, Cathy's family occupied the main farmhouse from 1978-1983, up until when George McCall died, and the entire property reverted to his estate.

The property was a working farm – the surrounding fields were leased to neighbouring farmers and grew cow corn, the barn housed a small piggery, and the family kept horses until Robert's death.

There were a number of working freshwater wells at the property, including the mail pump well at the front of the farmhouse, where the family sourced fresh water for drinking and cooking.

The children at the property attended Snider's school (in the 1960s) and second generation were bussed to Percy W Merry school in Milton (1980s).

What a pleasure to make life on these farms come alive.

Sheridan-Park Royal United Church History Book

We have added the Sheridan-Park Royal history by Rev. Robert K. Munro, "Thy Humble Dwelling; a History of Sheridan-Park Royal United Church 1826-1992" to our book collection, thanks to church archivist, JoAnn Walker. The book is only publicly available at the central Mississauga library which does not allow it to be borrowed so it is an excellent addition to our collection. The book was written in 1992 but our copy has the list of ministers to date. It has a rich description of the church, the circuit, the old area of Sheridan and the people along with personal memories, photographs and programmes. It is a truly excellent research information source.

Pre-1948 Oakville Aerial Photo

TTHS member Ross Wark has shared this aerial photo of the town of Oakville with us. It was taken prior to August 16, 1948 when the Kendall Leather Company burned in a horrendous fire. This is the tall building on the southwest corner of Colborne and Navy Streets.

The Reservoir on the east side of Kerr Street is visible in the lower left corner, the park on the east side of the reservoir was called, "Reservoir Park".

North of the Colborne Street traffic bridge is the Radial bridge. In modern times, the Rebecca Street traffic bridge has taken the place of the old railway bridge. At the south-east end of the Radial bridge is Central School. You can see the schoolyard going south from the multi-story school building.

On the east side of the harbour mouth is the Custom House (at Erchless) which was in use as a Customs House until the 1930's when the harbour ceased to be used commercially (replaced by the railroad.)

North of the Erchless property, you can see the lawn bowling club green, then further north and closer to the Creek, you can see the 3 story Granary (it sits along Robinson Street going west from Navy Street just below Colborne Street) where grain had long been stored in preparation for shipping from the harbour.

You can barely see the lighthouse sitting out into Lake Ontario on the east breakwater/harbour entrance wall.

It looks like a trawler or stone-boat is docked on the west bank of the Sixteen across from the Oakville Club which was formed in 1907 on the east side.

On the west side, just south of the bridge, you can see buildings and docks - this is now Shipyard Park but was previously the location of Captain Andrew's shipyard (which occupied both sides of the creek), where such crafts as the Canada - winner of the Canada's Cup in 1896, and Invader, winner in 1901, were built.



Photo courtesy of Ross Wark

Please contact us if you have stories or information about other places, buildings or features connected with this photograph. We'd like to add to the information here.

Postville Farm Forum

We received a package from TTHS member Rory MacAlpine with information about the Postville Farm Forum. The Forum was formed in 1948 for the farming community around the intersection of Seventh Line and Highway 5 by Joe Wickson and the home of George and Jessie King.

The Canadian Champion reported that in April 1976, the organization was still going strong with about 30 members who met every Monday evening for euchre and fellowship. Four of the original members were still active, Mr. and Mrs. E. Hopper and Mr. and Mrs. L. Fish. A primary purpose of the group now known as "Postville Farm Euchre" was to donate money to the Sunshine School at Hornby, later ARC Industries, and also to cancer and heart funds.

Pictured here at the home of (R.D.) Dewart Fleming, 32 Dundas East, are from Left: seated are two women who are not named, Mrs. Margaret Fleming, Mrs. Dorothy



Photo courtesy of Rory MacAlpine

Dunn, Elton McLean, Lorne Fish, Mrs. Wilfred Pickering, Mrs. Mark Secord, Mrs. Ettie Hopper, George King, Mrs. Marlow Kent, Mrs. Joe Bentley, Mrs. Drewbrook, Mrs. Mildred Fish, Mrs. Ross Fairbarn, Mrs. Jessie King, Ernie Hopper, Mr. Barkley, Mrs. Barkley and Mrs. Stan Barnstaple. Link to digital record: [Postville Farm Forum, 1953](#).

Glenorchy Area Photos from Douglas Askin

Doug Askin brought a number of interesting family photographs to our Open Archives afternoon in February 2017. The Askin family were early settlers in the area of Glenorchy, near Fourth Line north of Burnhamthorpe



Road West. We have added these to our digital collection in OurOntario. Along with the S.S. #14 and family information that Doug brought, the photographs of the potato truck accident that wiped out the Glenorchy trestle bridge over the east Sixteen Mile Creek just below Lower Base Road in about 1963 are rare. Here is the link to the digital record:

<http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3333721/data?n=1>

Doug also brought this photograph of the construction of the new bridge in the mid-1980s. As the record description says, the road is now only used by pedestrians and bicycles. Here is a link to the digital record:

<http://images.ourontario.ca/TrafalgarTownship/3333752/data?dis=dm>



Photos courtesy of Doug Askin

Where's Merton MHS Article, February 2017

David Hobden gave a "Where's Merton?" talk at the Milton Historical Society and produced an article outlining the whereabouts of a small village in Trafalgar Township which existed from 1880 into the 1930s when the QEW was constructed. The article is now available to TTHS thanks to David.

TTHS Queries

We recently received a query about a sign stating “Innville” in the area of Lexena Inn/Pig and Whistle Inn (the inn is located at the North-West corner of Lakeshore Rd. & Burloak Drive). There is a copy of a picture showing this sign with the caption “Harold Curtis looks at century-old sign made by grandfather”. If anyone has any information regarding the Curtis family and property place name and whether the sign was a marker for a community or placed as a “landmark” by the residents of the area and what the motivation was, please contact Michelle Knoll at michelle@tths.ca.

Another query that the Society received was if anyone doing family history research in the Oakville/Trafalgar area had any information regarding the Barker family. James Howard Barker (1882 - 1943) enlisted in the CEF in Oakville in December 1915 and served in France, returning to Canada (Oakville) in 1919 after the war ended. He was in the 164th Battalion of the CEF. His regimental number was 663045. According to his records which are available online, he had served with the Halton Rifles and the 9th Miss. Horse. If anyone has further information, please contact Michelle at michelle@tths.ca.

An inquirer has inconclusive evidence to suggest that Joseph Beatty ran an Oakville store for James Beatty in the period 1835-1838. Joseph and James Beatty both came to Canada in 1830. James Beatty opened his store in 1835 in Oakville. If anyone has any further information to suggest who actually ran the store between 1835-1839, please contact Michelle at michelle@tths.ca.

We received another query asking about the Henderson family which immigrated to Canada (Bronte) in 1826. The inquirer is searching for a record of the marriage between Rebecca Henderson and John Curry in May of 1852. The inquirer is also wondering where Joseph and Jane Henderson were buried. Any information can be directed to Michelle at michelle@tths.ca.

The Society was also asked to help find sources or information on the Evans or Long family branches. Charlotte Evans was born in 1878 and died June 1947. She married in 1915 to William Edward (Billie) Long. Their wedding photo is seen to the right. Any information on these families can be directed to Michelle at michelle@tths.ca.



The Society received a query about John McCabe, who came to Canada in 1826, and Isabella McAuley. Any information can be sent to Michelle at michelle@tths.ca.

TTHS Query Responses

A query from the TTHS Winter 2017 newsletter brought in a wealth of responses in regards to a Matthias Simmerman who sold Lot 25 Con. 4SDS to William Ribble in 1811. The responses are as followed:

From Fred Hayward:

“M Zimmerman was a bonifide UEL. Born 1754-1840. Buried in Grimsby. Had a son Matthias 1790 - 1850 served with 4th Lincoln Regt in War of 1812. Buried in Burford. A Peter Zimmerman lived over at Tansley. Source - Annals of the Forty Book 9.”

From Claire Bennett:

“I was reading the latest TTHS newsletter and was intrigued at the inquiry you received from Dave Rutherford and did a bit of googling on my end (UEL's are so intriguing!) It looks as though Matthias Simmerman may also have gone by the name “Zimmerman” take a look at the Esquesing newsletter from Mar-April 2012 pg 3: “Sergeant Matthias Simmerman of 4th Lincoln Militia under Lt.-Colonel Robert Nelles in 1814” <http://www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca/pdf/Newsletter%20March12.pdf>. This also has some interesting information about Matthias that might be worth researching further:

https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Zimmerman-3255#_note-2”

From Dave Rutherford (original inquirer):

“There were at least four Matthias Simmerman's in Upper Canada at the time.

This fellow (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Zimmerman-3255>) is certainly the man who fought in the War of 1812 and sold the land to my Ribble ancestor. I suspect that he must have been living near his parents in Lincoln county after he sold the Trafalgar land, because that was where he signed up for the militia. But he clearly ended up in Nelson township after the war.

It turns out that his daughter Margaret (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Zimmerman-2064>) married Eli Teeple, whose first cousin Nancy (Teeple) Ribble (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Teeple-143>) was my direct ancestor, as well as daughter in law of William Ribble.

Among the other Matthias Simmerman's in Upper Canada was the uncle of our Nelson township Matthias. His profile is here: <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Zimmerman-3242>. He was UEL. He was a Corporal in the New Jersey Volunteers and came to Upper Canada in 1798. I am not absolutely certain, but I think he settled eventually in Barton, and had several children who settled in Brant county.

A quick question: Is there anyone who might know where the original Ribble farm was in terms of a present day map? (Lot 25 Conc 4SDS).”

From Fred Blair:

“On May 26, 1820, Mathias Simmerman received a militia land grant as a farmer in Clinton Twp. and as a former private in a flank company of the 4th Lincoln Militia in 1812. The land grant was 100 acres in Zorra Twp.

The Simmerman surname was common in Lincoln County and was recorded as Zimmerman and other

variations on some documents and other Simmerman men served in the 4th Lincoln as well.

During the War of 1812, the 4th Lincoln Militia was mustered from Clinton, Grimsby, Caistor, and Gainsborough Townships.

Mathias was born in New Jersey to Peter Simmerman and M. Winterstein. He served on and off as a private in the 4th Lincoln Militia from at least July 24, 1812 to Nov. 1, 1814. It is therefore unlikely that he lived in Trafalgar Twp. during the war. He was buried at St. Andrew's in Grimsby.

I have not been able to verify his parentage or place of burial but do have seen of his militia payrolls.”

Thank you to everyone for their efforts and contributions in helping others research and preserve family histories!

Upcoming TTHS Events

Guest Speakers & Meetings

Please feel free to attend our guest speaker evenings to engage with fellow community members and learn about some of the histories of Trafalgar Township through informative and interactive discussions. Light snacks and refreshments are provided. If anyone has any suggestions for guest speakers, let us know by contacting Michelle Knoll at michelle@tths.ca!

Wednesday July 12, 2017

Speaker/What: TBD

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

September 30, 2017

Fall Fair Doors Open

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Wednesday November 8, 2017

Speaker/What: TBD

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

Open Houses - Archives Research

Location: Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West

All are welcome in joining us in researching family and community histories. Do you have something to donate or contribute? Bring your precious documents and artefacts to one of our open houses and we would be happy to learn about your story! We can scan your documents and add them to our archives so that others can enjoy and engage in research.

Friday May 19, 2017	1:30pm-3:30pm
Friday June 16, 2017	1:30pm-3:30pm
Friday July 12, 2017	1:30pm-3:30pm
Friday August 18, 2017	1:30pm-3:30pm
Friday September 15, 2017	1:30pm-3:30pm
Friday October 20, 2017	1:30pm-3:30pm

Upcoming Events in the Community

Percy W. Merry School Reunion

Date & Time: July 8, 2017 @ 11:00am-4:00pm

Location: Drumquin Park, 185 Britannia Rd, Milton, ON L9T 7G6

Former Percy W. Merry student Denica Hawke has organized a school reunion with the support of other former students and friends.

Come out and touch the past!

Casual affair with a photo display, kids activities, nostalgic background music and an M.C.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED:

\$10./person (18 yrs & under, free)

\$5./ea PIZZA PICNIC (2 slices, pop)

Contact: roundwegoevents@gmail.com or 519-532-0220 for more details

Don't forget to reserve your tickets! This will be a great time for all!



Old Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West
www.tths.ca



Photo courtesy of Denica Hawke