

times

the Brampton Heritage



Source: John Ryan

Alderlea Awakens!

Brampton's iconic historic mansion has been transformed into a magnificent event venue.

The much anticipated opening of Alderlea, Brampton's crown jewel, has arrived! Following a comprehensive plan involving selective demolition, heritage restoration, adaptive reuse, and a complementary addition, Alderlea has been transformed into a magnificent event venue.

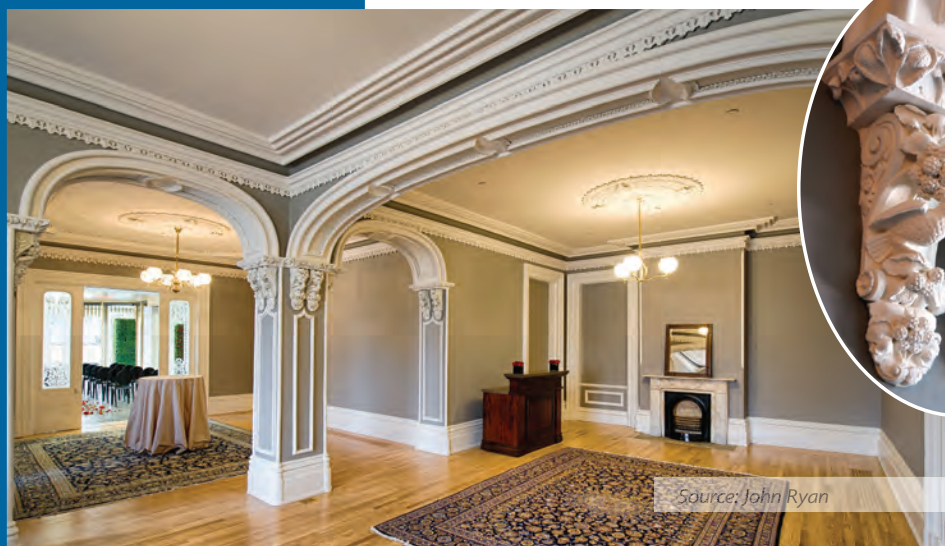
Built between 1865 and 1879 for Kenneth Chisholm M.P.P., son-in-law of John Elliott, a founding father of Brampton, Alderlea is one

of the finest examples of Italianate architecture in Ontario. It is believed that Chisholm retained one of Canada's leading architects of the day, William Kauffman, to design the home after being impressed by his work on the Peel County Court House just across the street. The original grandeur of this structure included a large front lawn and garden which is currently Gage Park, Brampton's first municipal park.

In 1944, the Royal Canadian Legion purchased Alderlea, which they expanded in 1947 with a two-storey addition called "Memorial Hall". The City of Brampton purchased Alderlea in December 2002 as part of its sesquicentennial in order to protect and conserve this significant cultural heritage resource in the heart of the downtown core.

With support from Council, the knowledge, skill, and collaboration of City staff, architects, consultants, contractors and specialist trades-people, as well as the patience and cooperation of neighbours and the local community, Alderlea has come back to life.

The rejuvenation of Alderlea began in 2010



Source: John Ryan



with the demolition of the Legion addition, followed by the removal of non-heritage elements from the structure. The next stages saw the interweaving of old and new. Original defining features on both the interior and the exterior were carefully restored or recreated, the latest climate control, electrical and mechanical systems were introduced, and a new addition was constructed.



inspired from 19th century interior design and furniture.

As one approaches Alderlea, they are immediately struck by the Italianate architecture including generous eaves, large turned brackets, bay windows, wrap-around verandah, tall windows, wood detailing, corbelled chimneys, red and buff brick, and the delightful belvedere that crowns the roof.

Inside, especially on the main floor, the rooms further reflect the City's commitment to retaining and



restoring Alderlea's unique heritage character while creating a modern, flexible space. Eleven foot ceilings, stunning decorative plaster-

work, large wood moulding and trim, marble fireplaces, and a marvelous set of pocket doors with etched glass allude to the opulence of the mansion's past. Many of these features were hidden under walls and ceilings for decades, like treasures waiting to be discovered. The elegant Dining and Morning Rooms are complemented by a décor theme

The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Pavillion, which now houses the main event space, was a contemporary interpretation of the original conservatory that once graced the south façade of the Alderlea. It is named in honour of the sixtieth anniversary of Her

Majesty's accession to the throne as Queen of

Canada. It features floor-to-ceiling windows and opens out onto the landscaped gardens.

Upon booking a function at Alderlea, clients will have exclusive use of the venue, whether the event is a wedding, conference, social gathering or photo shoot. This allows for a thoughtful use of space and rooms for every gathering, and enables guests to fully

enjoy the beauty of the property. Alderlea can accommodate up to 80 people for sit-down events and 110 people for cocktail parties. The second floor, named the Chisholm Room, may be used as a bridal suite or breakout space. The venue features a state-of-the-art audio/visual system and WiFi. The original and restored details of this nearly 150 year-old space will charm visitors for decades to come.

Alderlea stands as a monument to our heritage and a showcase of the successful synthesis of classic and contemporary. Its revival will be celebrated with an official grand

opening ceremony in spring/summer 2015.

Bookings are now being accepted for spring 2015 onward. For more information, please visit www.brampton.ca/alderlea or contact alderlea@brampton.ca ■





Source: PAMA

Italianate Architecture

Alderlea is a fine example of Italianate architecture. Inspired by Tuscan architecture during the Italian Renaissance, this style experienced a period of popularity from 1850 to 1900, and was seen as an alternative to the Classical Revival and Gothic Revival styles.

The adaptability of Italianate architecture made it an appealing style that could accommodate the needs of domestic living. This style tended to be

highly decorative, with elements such as generous eaves, large brackets, tall and narrow arched windows, bay windows, quoins, low-pitched roofs, pedimented windows and doors, and balustrated balconies.

One of the most notable features of the Italianate style, particularly the Italian villa, is the presence of one or more towers (also referred to as a belvedere or campanile) and the asymmetrical composition. Italianate structures enliven a streetscape due to their ornamental appearance. The style was popular with both residential and commercial buildings across Ontario. ■

A Timeline of Alderlea

- 1867 - 1870:** Alderlea (meaning meadow of Alder trees) is built for Kenneth Chisholm
- 1902:** Large portion of Alderlea estate severed
- 1903:** Sir William Gage donates part of the former estate for a public park
- 1903:** Gage Park becomes the first municipal park in Brampton
- 1916:** Alderlea sold to the Salvation Army
- 1944:** Alderlea sold to the Royal Canadian Legion
- 1948:** Legion builds a two-story addition called "Memorial Hall"
- 2001:** Alderlea is designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* by the City of Brampton
- 2002:** City of Brampton purchases Alderlea from the Legion
- 2009:** City of Brampton begins restoration of Alderlea
- 2014:** Alderlea opens for adaptive reuse as a special event centre



Source: Walker & Miles Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Peel, 1877

Who Was Kenneth Chisholm?



Source: PAMA

Kenneth Chisholm was born in Toronto Township in 1829 and became an influential politician and businessman in Peel County from the mid-1800s.

After working as a grain salesman in the early 1850s, Chisholm entered into a business partnership with Matthew Elliott, son of Brampton founder John Elliott. Their store at Main and Queen Streets dealt in general merchandise, grain and produce.

In 1863 and 1864, Chisholm purchased two plots of land from his father-in-law, John Elliott, totalling over four acres between Elizabeth Street and Main Street South. On this property he built Alderlea.

Chisholm entered politics in 1866 as a Council member of the Village of Brampton. A year later, he was elected as the first Reeve of the municipality, a position he held for 11 years. For three of those years, he served as Warden of the County of Peel, the first Bramptonian to hold that post.

Chisholm held the position of postmaster for Brampton from 1855 - 1873, until he was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1873, replacing John Coyne. He served as a Liberal member for Peel for 19 years.

Chisholm also served as a director of the Central Bank of Canada, vice-president of the Haggert Manufacturing Company, and following his retirement from politics, as the registrar for Peel County until his death in 1906.

The Chisholm-Elliott business failed in the depression of the 1890s. As a result, the grounds of Alderlea and the adjacent Elliott Estate were put up for sale.

During his time of public prominence, Chisholm contributed much to his community. Along with his father-in-law, he was instrumental in establishing Brampton as a centre of Primitive Methodism in Canada. He donated land for St. Paul's Primitive Methodist Church, and stone from his quarry for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. He also gave land for and built the town's concert hall. Chisholm contributed generously to the Brampton Agricultural Society, and is credited with being a founding member and organizer of Brampton's first golf, cricket and tobogganing clubs. ■

Resources:

Gayle M. Comeau-Vasilopoulos, "Chisholm, Kenneth," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 13, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003.

William Higgins House

A look into the history of the man and his home

To the casual observer, it appears to be a quaint and quiet side street; a leafy few blocks lined with stately trees and century homes. But in reality, in today's downtown Brampton, Isabella Street represents much more.

Named after the wife of English settler and farmer Robert Lowes (1780-1843), Isabella Street runs in a north-south direction between English and David Streets one block west of Main Street North. It's part of a section of the city known as "The Washington Block". Presently, the majority of vehicular traffic is northbound. It wasn't always this way, of course. Isabella Street was once on the edge of town, terminating close to the northern boundary of the then Town of Brampton, and skirted the sprawling Dale Estate.

The southern-most section of the street features an eclectic mix of homes, all one-offs of unique architectural styles. Some date back to the 1850s. One residence, south of Lorne Avenue on the east side at number 36, known as the William Higgins House, is of particular interest today not only for its Edwardian



Source: Jeff Chalmers

Classicism design, but also because of its history. A large part of that history has to do with two successive deaths

within five months, and the story of the survival of those left behind during the Great Depression.

William Higgins was born in Brodbytown (now part of Brampton) in 1876. As a boy, he worked for the local hardware store, Peaker & Son. In 1905, Mr. Higgins went into business with a plumber, William Large, to form Higgins & Large, and ultimately bought the very same business where he had worked in his youth. Together, they set up shop in the Hartlett block on Queen Street. By that point, Higgins was a married man, having wed Mary Elizabeth Downey who had come to Brampton from Dixie (now part of Mississauga) as a child. The couple had three children - Mary, Margaret

and Catherine.

In 1908, Higgins purchased lot number 53 on Isabella Street from the estate of Robert Lowes for the sum of \$225. A house was built the following year. Sitting on what today would be considered a large lot, the two and a half story house is of simple design and noted for its stone sills, bulls-eye stained glass window and prominent front porch. In November 2013, the house was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* by the City of Brampton for its cultural heritage value.

A man about town, 'Bill' was a prominent member of a number of institutions in Brampton, among them, the Ionic Lodge, the Rani Ghar Grotto Club, the Brampton Curling Club and St. Paul's United Church. Having served as Brampton's Water Commissioner for 15 years, William Higgins sought a subsequent term and filed his qualification papers at the municipal building downtown on the morning of December 31, 1934. It was a Monday. Afterward, he stood on Main Street speaking briefly with fellow candidates before jumping into his car and stopping in at the store. Everything seemed like a normal day, however, on arriving home during the noon hour, Higgins felt faint and calling for a glass of water, collapsed into a chair. His daughter made a quick call to Dr. W.H. Brydon but before the good doctor arrived, Higgins was dead. "Heart Attack Takes Water Commissioner" read the headline in the Brampton Conservator.



In what surely must have been a difficult time for his children as their mother Mary, also passed away the following May in the home after suffering a brief illness. Suddenly, three young women were orphans. Not long afterward, eldest daughter Mary, married and moved to Niagara Falls, N.Y., while Catherine and Margaret remained at home. In fact, the two younger siblings lived together for quite some time, even after Marg married a gentleman by the name of Daniel Byrne. Mr. Byrne was employed at Dale Estate nurseries, and to help make ends meet, the couple rented out rooms to boarders (likely Dale employees) in the third floor attic. The cordoned-off rooms remain intact to date. Sister 'Kate' passed away in 1975, and Dan in 1992. Dan's brother Peter, a local teacher, offered financial assistance to Margaret, now the immediate family's sole survivor, by putting money toward the household bills. Margaret remained in the home well into the 1990s before moving to Woodhall Park Retirement Village on Kennedy Road. She died in 1998.

Most interestingly, it was during a garage sale held by the current residents of 36 Isabella Street several years ago that a chance meeting with a distant Higgins relative lead to a look, and later a loan, of the family photo archives. To be afforded a glimpse into the past, one that offers visual documentation of the very people who once called the house home, is beyond unique. Today, the house remains largely the same as it was. There have been few alterations. Given the tenure of the initial occupants, it has been sold only three times. While every picture tells a story, one photograph in particular is most revered; a framed formal portrait of William Higgins taken not long before his death on that last day of December all those years ago. It hangs over what is now a bricked up corner fireplace in a cozy room at the back of the house. And so, every New Year's Eve the family who now calls 36 Isabella home, stand in front of that fireplace, look up and offer a toast. Not just a salute to the former man of the house, but a modern day shout out to a father, businessman, volunteer and pillar of his community... and, a big part of the history of Brampton. Cheers, Bill. ■

Wilkinson-Lundy House Gets a Facelift

In our last edition of the Brampton Heritage Times Newsletter, we reported the move of the Wilkinson-Lundy House from its original location facing Queen Street West to a new place of honour within the new residential community of "Salisbury Square" with the cooperation of Mattamy Homes and Sedgwick Marshall Heritage Homes Ltd. The relocation was a success and the house is now located at 28 Francis Lundy Street. Over the last year, the house has undergone extensive and successful rehabilitation.

In restoring the Wilkinson-Lundy home, several key decisions were made before it was moved, namely the removal of the late 19th/early 20th century rear additions so that the rehabilitation could focus on the original 160+ year-old brick two-storey Georgian house. The project was undertaken by Sedgwick Marshall Heritage Homes Ltd., a Milton, Ontario-based company that specializes in the restoration and rehabilitation of older homes.

The Sedgwick and Marshall partnership began several years ago after meeting at a committee of the Milton Historical Society responsible for restoring the Waldie Blacksmith Shop. They were volunteers together for several years and their relationship and commitment to reinvigorating older properties grew.



Eventually, they took their shared passion and expertise and formed Sedgwick Marshall Heritage Homes Ltd, a firm that focuses on rehabilitating old historic homes, and their portfolio has grown every year.

For the Wilkinson-Lundy House, they faced a few unique challenges. "For one thing, trying to get started in one of the coldest winters in years (2013) delayed the start of a number of elements," recalls Mandy Sedgwick.

Another test was presented when the paint was removed from the brick exterior and revealed the poor condition of the original exterior masonry. The solution involved the replacement of the exterior layer with new sympathetic brick. After some research, they sourced a brick from the U.S. that matched the size and colour of the original brick, and the mason then installed the new brick using the same bond pattern as the original.

For Manual Maciel, Master Carpenter for Sedgwick Marshall Heritage Homes, one of the more exciting jobs was the

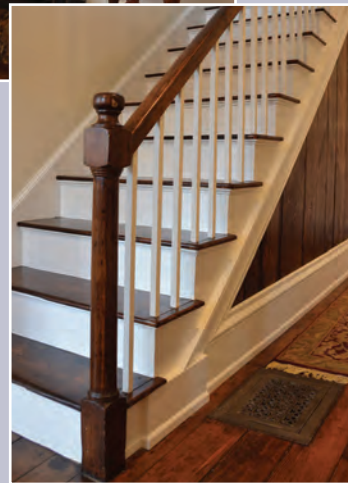
rehabilitation of the historic windows and storms, which were disassembled, restored, and then reconstructed. Maciel also enjoyed creating the new porch columns and corbels, which were modelled after the original features. The replication of the side porch was necessary because of its poor condition. The rehabilitation also saw the installation of a new sympathetic front portico, and some new windows on the east and rear facades.

The vernacular Georgian architectural design has remained, as well as the original two-over-two sash windows, surrounds and sills. Inside, the house retains several features such as the front hall layout, the stairway with original newel posts and railings, and the surviving fireplace. Even the original hand-hewn timber joists were saved - they are in fine condition and still visible along the ceiling of the new modern basement.

Mandy Sedgwick of Sedgwick Marshall Heritage Homes Ltd talked about the challenges



and rewards of rehabilitating older homes, referencing the many ongoing decisions that she and her business partner, Mirella Marshall, have to make. Balancing heritage conservation with the demands of modern living can sometimes prove challenging, but they have carefully trans-



formed the historic house into a unique 3-bedroom, 2½ bathroom home that fits the needs of today's family.

"It's a fabulous centerpiece to the new subdivision," Sedgwick said, "and it works because it's on a corner double lot, that really shows it off. We've had a really great response from the neighbors as well, who really appreciate having the historic building in their neighborhood." When asked about what

her favorite part of a project is, Sedgwick replied, "The best part is seeing the project complete and the finishing touches."

The Wilkinson-Lundy House is now on the market for a new owner, and future generations will hopefully enjoy many more years in this landmark home. ■

The Pendergast Log House

The Historic Bovaird House is Getting a New Neighbour - the Pendergast Log House!

The Pendergast Log House is a rare cultural heritage resource built in the mid-1800s, and is one of last known surviving log houses in Brampton. In the 1920s, the log house was clad in brick, which helped protect it for almost a century. The log house was originally located on the Pendergast Farm near McVean Dr and Countryside Dr, which is currently owned by Hayford Holdings Inc. and is being developed as part of a newly planned community called the

Vales of Humber.

The Friends of Historic Bovaird House expressed a keen interest in having the log house moved to Historic Bovaird House property (563 Bovaird Dr E), as historically a log house was once located at this site and the Pendergast log house would fit well into their programming.

In Fall 2012, Council approved the relocation of the log house to the Bovaird House site, where it will be appropriately integrated and



programmed to ensure its long term reuse and enjoyment by the public.

The City of Brampton, Hayford Holdings Inc., and the Friends of Historic Bovaird House have been working collaboratively to complete the relocation and restoration of this unique historic asset.

The dismantling of the log cabin commenced last winter,

where one by one, the logs were carefully documented and numbered, and then systematically moved to the Bovaird House site. Currently, with the new foundations poured and ready, timber building specialist, Vic Snow, and his team continue to work on preparing the logs and other building materials for reconstruction.

The anticipated completion date is fall 2015. Stay tuned for the next issue of the Heritage Times Newsletter for comprehensive reporting of this exciting project! ■

Reid House Conservation

Conservation of this beautiful Queen Anne home is nearing completion

The Reid House was a prominent building along the once rural landscape of Mississauga Road, just north of Queen Street. Built circa 1894 by noted Brampton Architect W.B. McCulloch, the house was later acquired by Weir McCulloch Reid in 1919. He lived on the farm with his wife and six children, and farmed until his death in 1970.

When a shopping centre and commercial development was planned for the area, City Heritage staff and the Brampton Heritage Board rallied to preserve this fine example of Queen Anne Revival architecture. The Reid House was designated under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 2012 for its design/physical value, historical/associative value, as well as contextual value, representing the area's rich agricultural history. "The Reid House is an exceptional example of the increased prosperity from farming in Chinguacousy Township and early Brampton in the late nineteenth century wherein such a grand farm residence would have replaced a previous settler house, in this case an earlier log cabin," explains David Eckler of AREA Architects Ltd, the heritage consultant on this project.

Once designated, City staff worked with Senator Homes and North American Development Group to ensure the retention of the home as a residence. This resulted in a two-stage process. The first step was to physically move the home to a nearby location on a new residential street. This was completed in summer 2011 and the Reid House now rests on a new foundation among other new homes on Royal West Drive.

Since the move, Senator Homes and North American Development Group has been rehabilitating the house. Heritage Permits were obtained and conservation work was undertaken to comply with heritage best practices under the guidance of AREA Architects Ltd. "The Brampton Heritage Board and City heritage staff demonstrated versatility in working with the property owner/developer and their consultants to achieve a creative solution for relocating and restoring this outstanding historic house," Eckler proclaims.



Three years later, the project is nearing completion. Work included masonry repair, the restoration and/or replication of wood features, a new slate roof, new wood sash windows, and the reproduction of the magnificent porches. The interior is also undergoing a make-over, bringing a new life to the former farmhouse.

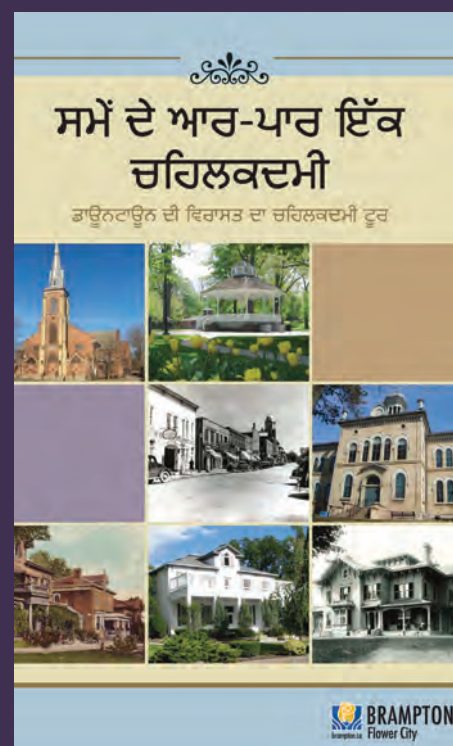
A heritage interpretive plaque outlining the history of the home and agriculture in the area will be erected near the house to tell the story of the building, its first family, and the history of this area of Brampton. The Reid House serves as a fine memory of the prosperous agricultural activity in this area. The descendants of Weir Reid are delighted that their family's legacy stands as a showpiece of the community. ■

Downtown Heritage Walking Tour:

Now also available in Punjabi

A Walk Through Time: Downtown Heritage Walking Tour, Brampton's popular self-guided walking tour booklet is now available in Punjabi. The tour showcases downtown Brampton's distinctive and vibrant built, natural and cultural heritage. The detailed, illustrated guidebook allows you to take the tour at your own pace, whether you have an hour or a full day. It provides walking directions, detailed information and amazing archival images.

According to the 2011 National Household Survey by Statistics Canada, close to 40 per cent of Brampton's residents are of South Asian descent. Of that 40 per cent, Punjabi is spoken by 18 per cent of the populace, second to English at 52 per cent. The translation of the walking tour will help make the history of downtown Brampton accessible and engaging to more people than ever before. ■



Conserving a Cherished Neighbourhood



Brampton City Council Approves the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Study

Main Street South, between Wellington Street and the Etobicoke Creek, is well on its way to becoming Brampton's second Heritage Conservation District. In September 2014, Brampton City Council approved the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Study, the first phase in the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) process.

The District Study, prepared by heritage consultant ERA Architects Inc., recommended the creation of the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District. Three distinct sub-districts of development were identified within the proposed district boundary based on the relationship between development patterns and topography, including the Etobicoke Creek, the Guest Plan and the Town Incorporation (previously referred to as the Jones Plan). The consultant found that the multi-layered development of Main Street South has resulted in an eclectic mix of architectural styles. They observed that the heritage value of the neighbourhood is further reinforced by its streetscape and landscape character, which provides a

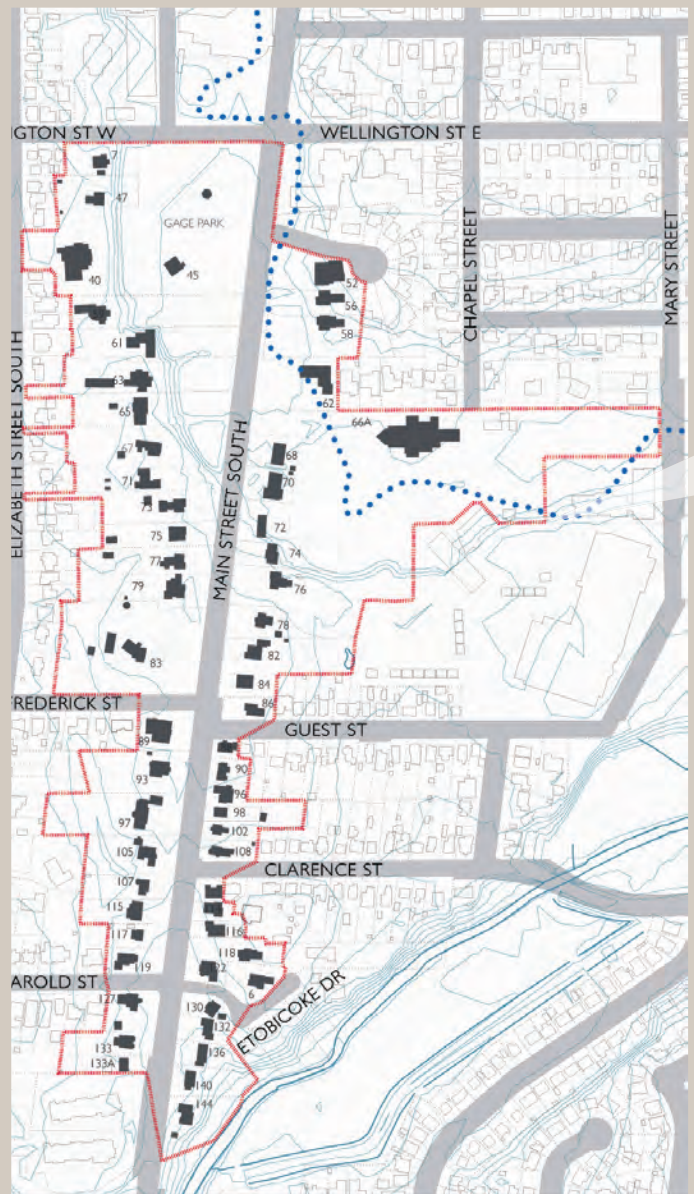
unique setting for the homes. The study

recommends that the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District boundary

consist of all properties that front Main Street South, between Wellington Street and the intersection of the Etobicoke Creek with Main Street.

In addition to approving the District Study, Council also directed staff to proceed with the final stage of establishing the HCD, which includes preparing the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Plan and supporting guidelines, as well as the designation by-law, and amendments to the City's planning documents. These materials will be presented at a statutory public meeting before being presented to the Brampton Heritage Board for endorsement and Council for adoption.

Public consultation will continue to occur as part of this next stage, and all properties within and surrounding the proposed District will be notified of future public information sessions and/or statutory public meetings via mail. Updates will also be available on the City website: www.brampton.ca



We look forward to the public's continued support as we move toward the designation and implementation of the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District, one of the most important historic neighbourhoods in Brampton! ■

The Churchville Heritage Conservation District is currently Brampton's only HCD. It was established in 1990 and is one of the province's earliest HCDs.



Source: Peel Art Gallery, Museum + Archives (PAMA)

A Two-Stage Process

The implementation of the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District involves a two-stage process that commenced in 2010 with the City of Brampton retaining ERA Architects Inc. to undertake the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Study (Stage 1) and to prepare a District Plan (Stage 2).

The boundary of the proposed Main St. S. HCD consists of all properties that front Main St. S., between Wellington Street and the intersection of Etobicoke Creek with Main St.

Stage 1: Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Study (COMPLETED)

The primary objective of the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Study is to further examine the heritage significance of the properties within the Main Street South study area and propose a boundary that distinguishes the Main Street South neighbourhood from the surrounding downtown character areas in accordance with the requirements of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Stage 2: Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Plan and Implementation (NOW UNDERWAY)

Stage 2 is the preparation of the Main Street South Heritage Conservation District Plan. The *Ontario Heritage Act* requires municipalities to adopt a District Plan when Council passes the by-law to designate an area as a Heritage Conservation District. The overall objective of a District Plan is to provide policies and guidelines that will assist in the protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage values of the District. ■

From Sorrow to Rebirth

St. Elias the Prophet Church is being rebuilt

The last issue of our Heritage Times Newsletter featured an article on the designation of one of Brampton's most unique buildings – St. Elias the Prophet Church at 10193 Heritage Road in Brampton. On the morning of April 5, 2014, to the shock and despair of everyone, this beautiful wooden structure was engulfed in flames. After a valiant effort by Brampton Fire and Emergency Services, all that was left of the church were charred timbers and ashes. Firemen managed to get in and remove the gospel, a chalice from the altar and the holy cross. The fire was ruled an accident, likely caused from incense igniting.

Within days of the fire we found out that St. Elias the Prophet Church will rise again – the congregation vowed to rebuild the landmark. Father Roman Galadza read from his smoke damaged gospel within sight of the ruins on Easter Sunday. Protected by a large white tent, he was joined not only by the regular congregation but by visitors from far and wide. The congregation of St. Elias now gathers at St. Augustine Secondary School in Brampton to hold mass until a new church is ready.

The parish, Catholic Mutual and Chancery Office and City of Brampton are

working collaboratively to re-establish the local landmark. Father Roman Galadza said that he is “overwhelmed by the interest and support of our local community - this is a source of great encouragement to us here at St. Elias.” The new church will closely follow the original design, with minor changes to improve maintenance and operations. The anticipated start date is spring/summer 2015. Donations to help rebuild the church can be made through the church's website at <http://www.saintelias.com/ca/home/>. ■

Hidden Treasures are Everywhere

One day in July while I was volunteering at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum + Archives (PAMA), a gentleman came in with several artifacts. Always interested, I listened in and soon heard the names Dale Estate, Harry Dale and Calvert. Having been employed as a horticulturist for almost 40 years I was intrigued.

An array of items including annual reports, advertising, pictures and doorknobs were presented. "You might be interested in these pictures", the gentleman said as he pulled out his camera and showed me a picture of a beautiful door. The door once adorned the home of Harry Dale that, back

in time, stood at the south-east corner of Main Street North and Vodden Street. It still has its original stained glass and hardware. It was salvaged from the house before it was demolished, and is now the front door of an unassuming home on a quiet street in Brampton. I was kindly invited to his home to see the door first hand!

Many secret gems like this are scattered across buildings in Brampton – remnants of days past silently woven into the built fabric of today. If you keep your ears and eyes open, you never know what other treasures and stories you'll stumble across. ■
- Paul Willoughby, Brampton Heritage Board



Farewell J. Brian Gilchrist



Source: Peel Art Gallery, Museum + Archives (PAMA)

Our genealogist and local historian will always be remembered for his devotion to discovering, preserving and sharing the past

In May 2014, the genealogy, local history and heritage conservation communities lost a prized leader – Brian Gilchrist. Brian, an extremely devoted and knowledgeable genealogist and Reference Archivist, most recently worked for the Peel Art Gallery, Museum, and Archives (PAMA) for the past 11 years.

He was well-liked and respected, known for his infectious laugh, easy going manner, and encyclopedic knowledge of the history of Peel. He shared a deep connection with the documentary heritage of the Region, serving as a founding member of the "Peel Archival Committee," a group instrumental in the establishment of the Region's archival program in 1977.

He was also a greatly sought-after author and speaker on the subjects of genealogy,

local history, and heritage. He was a founding member of the Halton-Peel branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) 40 years ago, and a founder or member of many other OGS branches, and a founder, charter member and director of the Board of The Friends of The Archives of Ontario.

He made appearances on "Bloodlines" (History Television), "More to Life" (TVO), "Steven and Chris" (CBC) and "DNT0" (CBC Radio), was a researcher for "Who Do You Think You Are" (CBC), and wrote a column for The Toronto Star ("Tracing Your Roots," 1979-1981). He also published a wide variety of material, including: An Inventory of Ontario Newspapers, 1793-1986, Genealogical Research in Ontario, and The "Clan" McClure: Historical Highlights. In February 2013, Brian was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his "contributions to genealogy and local heritage, having inspired people not only in Canada, but around the world."

He will be missed, and will be remembered fondly for his friendly demeanor and deep devotion to researching and preserving the past. ■

2014 Ontario Heritage Conference

“Bridging the Past, Crossing into the Future”

The Ontario Heritage Conference is held annually to cultivate meaningful discussion and learning on a variety of topics impacting cultural heritage in this province. The event is organized by Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) and Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) and is hosted in a different municipality each year. I had the pleasure of attending the 2014 Ontario Heritage Conference in Cornwall from May 23rd to 25th. The title of the conference, “Bridging the Past, Crossing into the Future”, reflected the opening of a new lower-level bridge connecting Cornwall and Cornwall Island. The theme also had a broader meaning where the bridges refer to the tools we will need to bring our heritage into the future - how will our past “cross over” and remain relevant for the years to come?

After braving the dirt, noise and temporary sidewalks, I made it into Toronto’s Union Station. I was soon on a VIA train, whisking me to Cornwall. A shuttle bus took several of us to the Nav Centre where we would be staying for the next few days. This was also the site of the majority of the program. After checking in I headed up a long ramp and around a corner to the elevators. Once I reached my floor, I continued to go around corners (eleven in total) and

traverse narrow halls. A name came to mind – Ronald “Ron” Thom – as it was so similar to his design of Champlain College at Trent University, Peterborough. The next day I learned that the Nav Centre was indeed designed by the famous Canadian architect.

That evening there was a welcoming reception, a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends and acquaintances in the field of heritage and make new ones. After a good night’s sleep and a delicious breakfast, it was time for lectures and workshops. Friday morning started with a lecture by the keynote speaker, Dr. Avi Friedman, a noted architect, writer and educator. Dr. Friedman is a professor at the McGill School of Architecture, and internationally recognized expert in home design, community development and sustainability. His presentation focused on the importance of carefully retooling our communities for the 21st century. He interestingly noted the importance of fighting for higher quality and design in new buildings of today so that they can be the heritage buildings of tomorrow.

Following the lecture, people broke off into smaller groups to attend various lectures or workshops. Among the topics were new technology and tools for conservation, heritage property real estate and insurance, accessibility in historic buildings and landscapes, financial

incentives for conserving heritage resources, heritage masonry and carpentry adventures in adaptive re-use, and vacant heritage properties. Interesting tours were also available during the day, such as the former Cornwall cotton mills which are undergoing adaptive reuse as condominium apartments, a trip to Lost Villages Museum, which is a collection of buildings saved when the area was flooded in 1958 for the St. Lawrence Seaway, and a walking tour of the Cornwall waterfront where the old and new bridges to the US could be seen.

The lectures, workshops and tours continued through Saturday. The Conference was capped off with an excellent dinner at the Cornwall Armouries where the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel J. Brownell presided over the Officer’s Mess. He also spoke after dinner, along with Lieutenant Colonel S. J. Young CD, Commanding Officer of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Regiment. Annual meetings were held Sunday morning and goodbyes were said. After another enjoyable train ride I was back to the noise and dust of Union Station.

Events such as the annual Ontario Heritage Conference play an important role in the education and dialogue of cultural heritage. They are multidisciplinary and provide an opportunity to meet and share ideas with the people and organization that are at the forefront of heritage conservation. They are also a great excuse to visit some of the most unique places across the province! ■ - Paul Willoughby, Brampton Heritage Board

A Tribute to Susan DiMarco Now in Garden Square

The water wall feature in Garden Square now bears a tribute to this long-time champion of Brampton’s heritage

In October 2012, Brampton lost one of its long-time champions for heritage conservation,

Susan DiMarco. Susan served the citizens of Brampton for more than 20 years, focusing her commitment to the arts, heritage conservation, planning, public health, works and transportation, and the downtown.

Elected to Council in 1985 as Alderman representing Ward 5, Susan DiMarco served two consecutive terms on City Council before taking a position as Executive Director of the Brampton Downtown Business Association (BDBA). Susan re-entered municipal politics in 1997 as City Councillor for Ward 4. In 2000, Councillor DiMarco



was elected to serve on Peel Regional Council for Wards 3 and 4, at the time one of the most populous municipal wards in Canada. She was a champion for heritage conservation, a member of the Brampton Heritage Board, and spearheaded several citywide historical preservation advocacy programs.

A tribute to the exemplary public career of DiMarco has been incorporated into the Garden Square water wall feature. Family and friends celebrated her life and achievements during an intimate plaque unveiling ceremony on her birthday in September 2014. ■

DOORS OPEN BRAMPTON

September 26 and 27, 2015

You're invited to step through the doors of Brampton's most unique and fascinating sites for free!



www.brampton.ca/doorsopen



Brampton's Heritage Register Continues to Grow

The City of Brampton's Municipal Register of Cultural Heritage Resources continues to grow. The following properties were added in 2014:

Designated in 2014:

8678 Chinguacousy Road
(Robert McClure Farmhouse)
160 Salvation Road
(former Mount Pleasant Church)
44 Lampman Crescent
(LeFlar/McClure House)
28 Francis Lundy Street
(Wilkinson/Lundy House)

Designation Process

Commenced in 2014:

0 Dixie Road
(Mount Olivet Cemetery)

10955 Clarkway Drive
(Pinebrook Farm)
12061 Hurontario Street
(former Snelgrove Baptist Church)
7 English Street
(Magill/Algie House)
44 Mill Street North
11285 Creditview Road
(Drinkwater Farmhouse)
22 William Street
73 Main Street South
10300 The Gore Road
(former Castlemore School S.S. No. 6)
1300 Steeles Avenue East
19 John Street
(former St. Mary's Church)

Listed in 2014:

9050 Bramalea Road
(Crawford House)



Are you a heritage property owner interested in receiving a free plaque? The City is looking for owners of listed and designated properties interested in receiving a wall-mounted plaque identifying their building as a cultural heritage resource.

Please contact City Heritage staff for more information.

The Brampton Heritage Times is a publication of the Corporation of the City of Brampton. For more information please contact a Heritage Coordinator at 905.874.3825 or 905.874.3744.

The Brampton Heritage Board (BHB) is the Municipal Heritage Committee mandated

under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The BHB was established in 1976 to advise City Council on all cultural heritage issues. Its mission is to work together with various levels of government and citizens to preserve, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the City of Brampton.

Brampton Heritage Board

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