

Oakville Historical
Society
since 1953

Historical Society News

www.oakvillehistory.org



The Girl on the Tricycle

Volume 56 Number 3

September 2022

Bursary Awarded

by Steve Bysouth

Every year the Oakville Historical Society has been honoured to award a bursary to a cadet from 1188 Lorne Scots Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps.

This year the very deserving and accomplished cadet is Master Corporal James Cory who is continuing his studies at the University of Ottawa.

The bursary is given in honour of a past or current member of the Society and this year it is given in honour of June Hitchcox, a member of the OHS for many years, and who recently celebrated her 90th

birthday. Some of you will remember we had Speakers Night about Farmerettes who worked on Ontario farms during the World War Two years and after. June was one of those female workers and her story is featured in the book, *Onion Skins and Peach Fuzz*.

OHS president George Chisholm presented the bursary to James with June in attendance.

We wish Master Corporal James Cory all the best in his future endeavours.



Master Corporal James Cory and June Hitchcox
photo Steve Bysouth

Speakers Nights

September 21, 2022

We are pleased to welcome Town of Oakville Heritage Planners Susan Schappert and Carolyn Van Sligenhorst. Topics they will cover include heritage permits, cultural heritage landscapes and the Old Oakville Heritage Conservation District.

November 16, 2022

Rick Barrett will relate the history of Oakville firefighting.

Presented at St. John's United Church at Randall and Dunn Streets, 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Free admission and refreshments are served.

A Note from the Society President

by George Chisholm

We have received some responses to my call in the last newsletter for volunteers. Among them is one from Jeff Ward who has been hard at work replacing siding and painting the exterior of the office. Jim Bond responded and has been working on the Thomas House. Another is from Susan Bowen who has stepped up to run the Annual Christmas Wine and Cheese, this year on the 2nd of December, so mark your calendar.

We're still looking for a volunteer to take on running the pot luck meal part of the Annual General Meeting held in March. Another volunteer(s) is/are needed to be in charge of the Mayor's Annual Picnic held in Lakeside Park in June.

We've received a very interesting email from a historical society on the outskirts of Indianapolis. They were recently given a box of glass negatives found during a renovation, many taken by a Sumner descendant who moved there. Some of them are the originals of photos we

have in our collection. A representative will be visiting our office this fall.

By the time you read this newsletter, the Thomas House should have received a new roof. Eavestrough should follow next year. Some work also needs to be done on the chimney and eventually the foundation. The building is sitting on stones. Also, our unreliable sewer line at 110 King St. will soon be repaired.

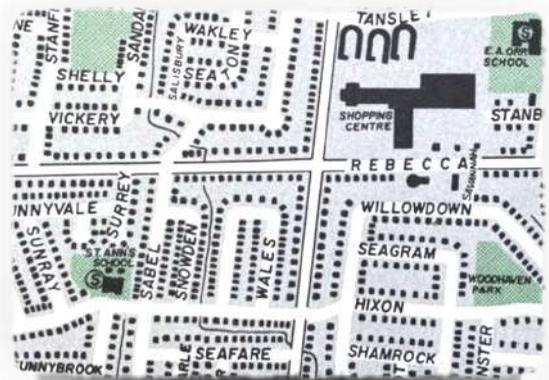
After many years on the Board, Andrea Stewart has retired. On behalf of the board, I'd like to thank her for her dedication and hard work. Andrea continues to volunteer at the Thomas House, hand-deliver memberships and books to new members, among other tasks.

The Oakville Historical Society's Next Chapter (continued from June 2022) will appear in a later issue.

Naming Oakville Streets and Roads

There is an area of Oakville bordered roughly by Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre to Bronte Athletic Park, Speers Road, Fourth Line and Lake Ontario in which most of the street names start with the letters S and further down the alphabet. Town policy at the time was that streets in that area start with S and on. My father Dan Chisholm worked for the planning board then and consulted his London, England Street Directory to come up with names. He acquired the directory in 1943 while serving with the Canadian Army in London. George Chisholm

Map at right c1970



The Girl on the Tricycle

The following was taken from conversations our member Barbara Warden enjoyed with her late mother as they read the book Oakville A Small Town 1900-1930 by Frances Robin Ahern. As her mother reminisced, Barbara took notes of her mother's comments. We used her late mother's voice to tell her story.

I was born Jacqueline Stunden on September 19, 1925 in the village of Bronte, the oldest daughter of George and Mary Stunden. My brother George was exactly two years older; we shared the same birthday. We had two younger siblings, Ray and June. My father supported our family by working as a mechanic at Whitaker's Garage located on Colborne Street (Lakeshore Road) in Oakville. Since we were of modest means, we initially lived above the garage. I did not like staying there and I particularly did not like having the customers come upstairs to use our only bathroom. At night I could hear the rats running in the walls.

Our family moved several times in my childhood, living in homes on Thomas Street, Allan Street at Palmer and on Douglas Avenue. I remember watching the dairy horses having their shoes changed just west of us on Church Street.

I worked in the strawberry fields as a child, picking fruit for the jam factory. My brother George and I attended Sunday school at St. John's United Church. My Sunday school teacher was Mrs. Ryland New who gave us shiny red apples at Christmastime. I was also taught by Mrs. Tuck. I loved them both.

I attended Central School as a youngster and remember the children from the orphanage on Bond Street crossing the bridge to attend school. I joined Brownies and loved my Brownie Leader, Miss Finch-Noyes. She held a party in her backyard of her beautiful big home which took up the whole block at the north-east corner of



Built in the 1870s by C.W. Anderson, "Grit Anchorage" was bought by Finch-Noyes in 1911.

Colborne Street and Allen Street.

I enjoyed the Christmas parties at the Oddfellows Hall on Colborne Street where we were given gifts. I also attended Brantwood school on Allan Street with my siblings. At that time, we lived on Palmer Road, just two houses away.

My mother babysat children during the day to bring in extra income. One of the mothers worked at the Murray House, a hotel at Navy and Robinson Streets.

I remember the burned-out remains of the beautiful home called Mount Vernon which caught fire in 1928.



Mount Vernon, now Lakeside Park on Front Street.

I recall the weekly gathering of women called The Monday Club, at the Oakville Club, a gathering that my mother could not aspire to. Gracious living was not our lifestyle; “just coping” was a better way to describe it. I loved to read, so would go to the library on Colborne Street at George Street supervised by the head librarian, Mrs. Irvine. Only whispering was allowed. My favourite books were the Marjorie books, Little Women and Camp Fire Girls. Overdue book fines were a penny a day.



Urquhart's Medical Hall (c1835) was located at 182 Lakeshore Road. For a lengthy period of time, this store offered apothecary products, as well as medical and surgery services.

I have vivid memories of drug bottles lined up on the upper shelves around the entire room of the Colborne Street drug store of Dr. Urquhart. I was best friends with Joan McLeary, his granddaughter whose family lived above the store.

Our dentist's name was Dr. Jebb and I did not care for him after he extracted a tooth without anaesthetic, but I loved his daughter, Barbara, who would invite me to play in her wonderful backyard playhouse.

My siblings and I were taken care of by our family doctor, Dr. Eric Soanes who gave us an awful anti-polio spray in our noses. Later in my early 20s I would contract polio and was in hospital for over a year recovering. My eldest son was only 18

months old and was sent to my parents in Carleton Place as my husband was working and studying part time. It was a difficult time for us then.

When I graduated from grade eight, our family moved to Carleton Place, Ontario, a small town near Almonte, far away from Oakville. Upon graduation from high school, I would go on to study nursing in Ottawa. While in training, I met my future husband, Douglas Wickware, who was an intern at the time at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. After four dates we became engaged, married in December of 1946 and had three beautiful children together.

My husband became a psychiatrist with a lengthy career helping many patients as the Superintendent of London Psychiatric Hospital. After leaving the hospital he would further his career specializing in Forensic Psychiatry. We were happily married for 61 years until my husband passed away in 2007. A year after that, I moved from London, Ontario to Oakville. My youngest child and only daughter, Barbara, took care of me while I lived at the Kensington Residence on Lakeshore Road. My two older sons who lived in Toronto and Almonte helped when they could. I had six beautiful grandchildren.

Mrs. Wickware passed away at OTMH in April 2013. Her daughter has lived in Oakville since 1994 where she and her husband have raised their two sons.

Cover photo (provided) shows Jacqueline Stunden on a tricycle with Whitaker's Garage in background.



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Take a Walk in my New Blue Sneakers

by Ruth Verlinden

Starting this summer, you can see a new sign on the sidewalk of Lakeshore Road in downtown Oakville: a decal showing a pair of blue running shoes, with the words “Downtown Oakville Historical Walk” and a QR code. Madison Carmichael, the OHS intern for the spring of

revealed how the street evolved. The street changed from being a row of hotels, to housing multiple hardware stores, to having several gas stations, and then changing to having no hotels, no hardware stores, no gas stations, but very many restaurants. It was fascinating to see, and he wanted to share this historical material with the public.

He approached the Oakville Downtown Business Association with the question-how could the OHS promote our history in conjunction with the merchants of downtown Oakville?

The historic sidewalk decal project is a combination of these two ideas. They can be read and enjoyed while sitting at the new sidewalk cafes, where the immediate neighbourhood is featured.

Madison prepared historical material and added appropriate photos. The concept was presented to the BIA, who liked the idea. They had already had a lot of

success with QR codes during the Christmas season when the codes had been used for a scavenger hunt. They found that an astonishing 12,000 people had clicked on the QR codes!

Sandra Kay and Adrienne Gordon of the BIA came up with the idea of using decals on the sidewalk. They created several designs and the BIA and OHS teams agreed on the final choice. Madison provided the history in words and photos for the stories. The same creative



2022, has created a historical moment about the space that you are standing on. You can access this information by using your phone to read the QR code. There are five of these decals in the downtown Lakeshore Road area (and the public can access free Wi-Fi here).

Two years ago, when we were all in the depths of COVID isolation Mark Verlinden spent many hours putting together archival photos of Lakeshore Road as it appeared over the decades. The photos



Fine ladies of Oakville with a trusted escort are distracted during a walk about town searching for QR code decals. photo Steve Bysouth

team of Kay and Gordon of the BIA provided the folksy music in the background and looked after the technical details that makes the text come up over the photos and come alive. Then the BIA installed the decals in the downtown area. It was a great partnership between the OHS and the BIA, each providing their unique talent and material. We

hope that this may be the first of more such projects with the BIA of downtown Oakville.

Find the blue sneakers on Lakeshore Road and try out all five decals!

Oakville Historical Society has this walk and almost 50 more on our YouTube channel.



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Thomas House

by Mary Davidson

September heralds the final days of our season at the Thomas House. We opened for the May and June weekends which saw crowds of visitors (1,600+) and again in July and August (2,748 +) when weekdays and holiday Mondays were added. Visitors (so far from Albania, Canada, China, France, Germany, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Libya, Netherlands, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Syria, UK and USA) have been very complimentary in their comments and appreciative of all our volunteers who give so generously of their time to provide this window into the history of Oakville. As one commented, "How much harder they had to work back then."

Our gratitude goes to those volunteers who opened each day and the students who helped them keep up our great tradition after the worst pandemic many of us have endured and our thanks are due to those who showed up and literally "kept the home fires burning" even in some of the hottest days on record!

Thank you Wendy Belcher, Susan Bowen, Betty Dolbear, Carol Gall, Margaret Godfroy, Madlyn Kayer, Phyllis Kingsley, Donna Koumoundouros, Linda North, Shona Rochefort, Stewart Sherriff, Donna Starkey, Andrea Stewart, and Norman Young; students Ellie Belcher, Archer Lawrence, Colin Vali and Emma Wunderlich, and Board Members George Chisholm, Mary Davidson, Greg Munz, Marie Descent, Mark Verlinden and Susan Wells who opened and closed the House for those visitors.

We look forward to welcoming you in 2023.



Our Thomas House roof is being prepared to receive a fresh new treatment.

photo Mark Verlinden

The Person Behind the Plaque

Donald Campbell

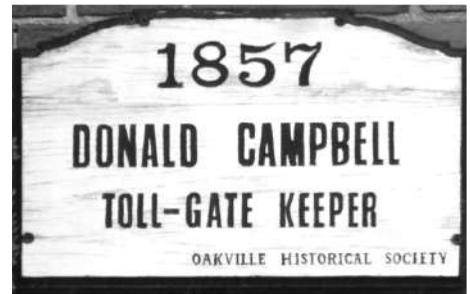
293 Macdonald Road

by Janet Godber

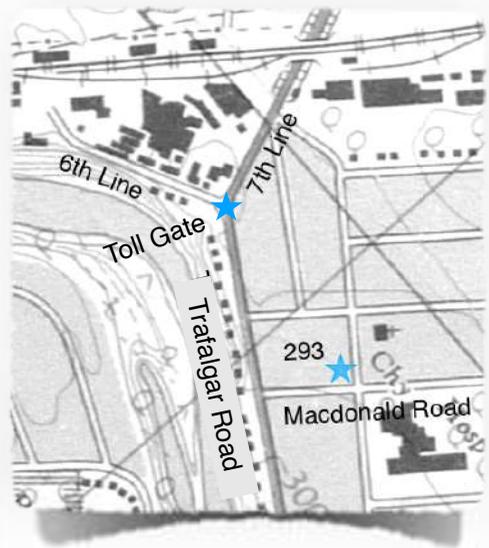
Oakville was built on the vision of William Chisholm as a port with "a rich and densely settled back country for 40 miles, of which Oakville must always be the market and shipping port." For this vision to be realized, the farm produce - mainly wheat - of this hinterland had to be moved to a shipping point, Oakville harbour, using the rough and hazardous facility of the 7th Line (now Trafalgar Road). It was only passable when dried out or frozen. In the 1840s, the first attempt to improve the 7th Line was undertaken. A joint stock company with headquarters in Oakville's post office was formed in 1846 with \$7,000 capital to construct the first 19-mile section of roadway from Oakville to Stewart Town (now part of Georgetown). Ultimately the road extended about 60 miles to Fergus. The road was built on 4" square longitudinal sleepers on which 3" planks were laid crosswise. It was a very expensive road. The rewards to the enterprising builders were tolls collected at toll gates set up every few miles along the road.



293 Macdonald Road. photo 2022



Donald Campbell was born in Scotland and came to North America with his regiment, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. On his discharge in 1842 he settled in Oakville and married Jane Laing. He became a tailor and was given the position of toll keeper.



The toll gate stood at the corner of 6th Line and Trafalgar Road where the Sunrise retirement home now stands. 6th Line runs parallel to Trafalgar Road and to the west of it. It now stops at the QEW but at one time it continued south across the tracks and then curved east to meet Trafalgar Road.



293 Macdonald Road. photo 1957

Campbell purchased this property from John A. Chisholm in 1856 for \$100 or \$400. The house was built within a year. Campbell, who also called himself Douglas, died in 1882. His daughter Jane Ann married William Street and after his death at age 43, lived in the house with her mother and four children. She died two years later leaving her mother with the four children. The two daughters never married and the house stayed in the Campbell/Street family for almost 115 years or until about 1970.

The two storey front facade is unique in Town in that it has Flemish bond brickwork with a cornice of decorative brick and brick eave returns.

Sumner Diaries

Constable Sumner's hand-written (and typewritten decades ago) 1867 to 1909 diary entries are continuing to be added on line, available to anyone doing research into his life or studying that era in Oakville, thanks to volunteers with good keyboarding skills, namely Chris Casale, George Chisholm, Mary Davidson, Janet Godber, Sandy Gordon, Stewart Sherriff, Mark Verlinden and Susan Wells. If you would like to participate in this project give us a call.

Membership

by Andrea Stewart, Marie Descent, Susan Bowen

We are pleased to welcome 10 new members to the Society for a total of 241 active members. New members since June are:

Ms. Nasreen Alamri, Ms. Ella Belcher, Mrs. Libby Houston, Mr. Scott Lamb, Mr. Douglas McTaggart, Mrs. Lesley Pittman, Ms. Karen Stephenson, Mr. Colin Vali, Ms. Callista Wild and Ms. Eva Wild



Dr. A. W. Chase's Calendar Almanac 1949

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OHS Yard Sale

Our dozens of volunteers were invaluable, the treasures many, the bargain hunters came in droves, the weather was perfect and we exceeded last year's profits. Thank you to 1188 Lorne Scots Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps who also carried, sorted and delivered. Sale coordinator Brenda Chisholm once again made this day a success.

1188 Lorne Scots right, Brenda Chisholm lower right.
photos Andrea Stewart



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The *way* things were...

Do you know...

This object's original location?

The current location?

Look for the answers in our next issue!



From June 2022 **The way things were...**

Life Ware factory was on the west side of Trafalgar Street (Bronte Rd) south of Triller Street (Lakeshore Rd). Now demolished, photo from 1970.

Archive Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 to 4:30 pm
Third Sunday of the month 12:30 to 4:00 pm

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