

# Henry Farm

## A Place We Call Home

Shirley Paquette, Editor





# Henry Farm

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Edited by Shirley Paquette

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Interest Association (HFCIA)

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# Dedication and Acknowledgements

## Dedication

This book is dedicated to the residents of Henry Farm, past, present and future. May our community continue to be “The place to live.”

## Acknowledgements to the Henry Farm Book Committee

This book is the result of the hard work of the Henry Farm Book Committee who volunteered their time and expertise. Their contributions have taken many forms, from providing information, materials, and photography, to research and writing.

## Book Committee Members

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John Gartner	Jane O’Keefe
Thea Haller	Shirley Paquette, Chair
Brigitte Lee	Wendy Petcoff

## Editor’s Note

It has been my privilege to leaf through the pages of our storied past and bring to light our heritage, life and times. I hope you enjoy reading this book and that it invokes joyful memories and inspires future generations to keep the Henry Farm spirit alive.

*Henry Farm is a neighbourhood in the City of Toronto, bordered on the north by Sheppard Avenue East, on the east by Don Mills Road, on the south by Highway 401, and on the west by the East Don River.*

# A Message from the President

The Henry Farm community that we call home has been together for half a century. What better cause for celebration than by capturing what makes us unique in a book to mark this milestone!

The Henry Farm anniversary book brings to life the richness and diversity of our community with highlights of our history and the development of the land, and stories about the people who have lived here and thrived during the past five decades.

It is my distinct pleasure to invite you to read our commemorative book. This book has been produced by a group of dedicated neighbours, led by Shirley Paquette.

Henry Farm has celebrated its 50th Anniversary with two special attractions: a Gala, and a Neighbourhood Party.

I want to extend my thanks to John and Marla Fryers for their leadership and creativity for a very successful Gala Dinner held in April. It was a sell-out with more than 200 Henry Farmers and guests enjoying a first-class event.

My congratulations to Daryl Paquette who organized the Neighbourhood Party, where over 500 neighbours of all ages and stages of life turned out to enjoy great food, music and family activities, on a warm evening in June.

The key to our success has been the hard work of the Henry Farm Community Interest Association, where residents have volunteered in abundance their time and expertise for the greater good of our community.

It is this engagement that has been one of the keys to fostering our particular brand of community spirit.

Past President Peter Lowry challenged us 25 years ago, when he said, “The Henry Farm is a strong community. We can expect its next 25 years to continue to make it: The Place to Live.”

Twenty-five years later, I believe we have lived up to his challenge. Henry Farm has continued to prosper as a community with successful social activities throughout the year, community activism, neighbourhood safety initiatives, an exceptional quarterly newsletter, and an informative website.

Henry Farm is “The Place to Live.”



Namby Vithiananthan, President  
Henry Farm Community Interest Association

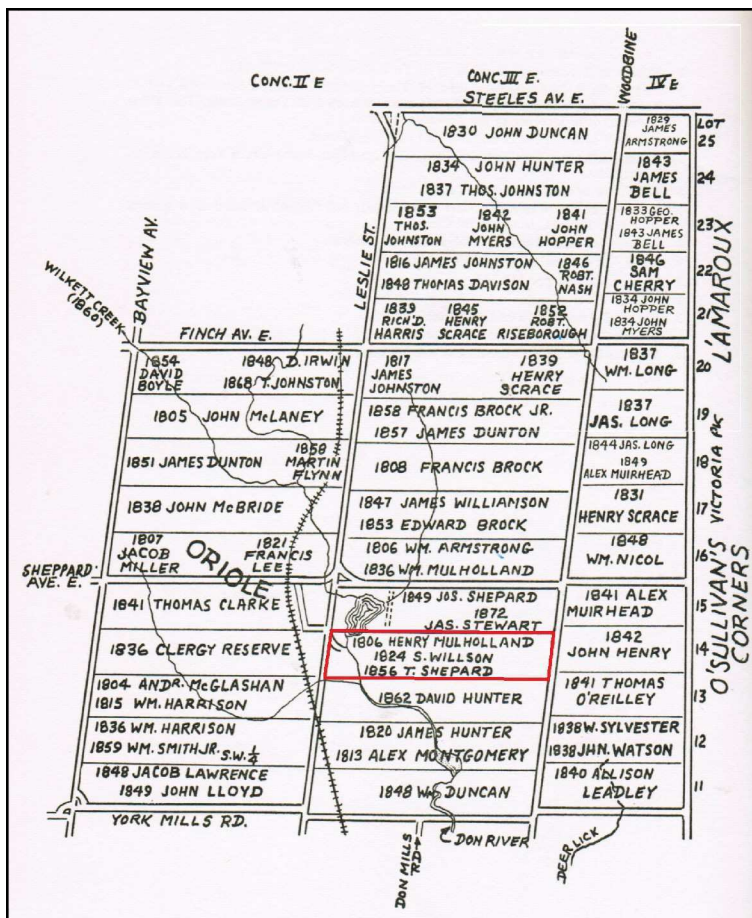


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# Putting Down Roots



Mulholland's Land Grants in East York, 1806 (shown in red)

## Our Story Goes Back 206 Years Ago when ...

Newlyweds Henry and Jane Mulholland arrived from Ireland to begin a new life. Like many immigrants coming to Canada in the early 1800s, Henry and Jane worked the land and together they built a life in Ontario, raising their family. Their philosophy of mutual support and assistance helped set the stage for a stable, thriving and lively community in the County of York.

Soon after their arrival, Henry and Jane received a government land grant for 400 acres in East York, Lots 14 and 15 on Concession 3. To qualify for a grant of land, a man had to prove he was a professing Christian, capable of manual labour, and a law-abiding citizen of the country in which he last resided.

Before obtaining the final deed, the settler had to complete certain duties over a two-year period. These included clearing the land for cultivation, building a frame or log house at least 16 by 20 feet with a shingle roof, and fencing 10 acres of land. All timber across the lot had to be cut, with 33 feet leveled off for half the public road. A typical Crown grant lot was 200 acres.

The Mulhollands began their pioneer life living in a log house erected on a mound on Lot 14, known as "the island", situated in the East Don River.

They had 10 children, with Mary Ann born in 1807, followed by William, and then twins Sarah and David.

In 1812, Henry bought more land, part of Lots 6 and 7 on Concession 2 in West York, comprising 375 acres, on the west side of Bathurst Street north of Lawrence. The family moved there and six children were born on this homestead – Elizabeth, Thomas, Jane, Angeline, John and Henry.

Henry Mulholland farmed the land, and he also took part in the War of 1812, participating in the battles of York, Stoney Creek and Lundy's Lane. Along with his Bathurst neighbour William Moore, Henry blazed a trail through the forest to the Town of York and called it Serpentine Road, now known as Forest Hill Road.

In 1814, Henry sold the original land grant to William Marsh Jr. who built a saw mill near what is now 401 and Leslie Street. The mill site became the centre of Oriole and provided lumber and later flour for the area. Many people owned Mulholland's original land in the intervening years.

At one time, Mulholland's son-in-law James Stewart bought parts of Lots 14 and 15 on Concession 3 and lived in the house on the farm that great-grandson George would one day reclaim.

In 1832, Henry Mulholland made one of his trips to Ireland to encourage others to come to Canada, and to borrow money to purchase more land.

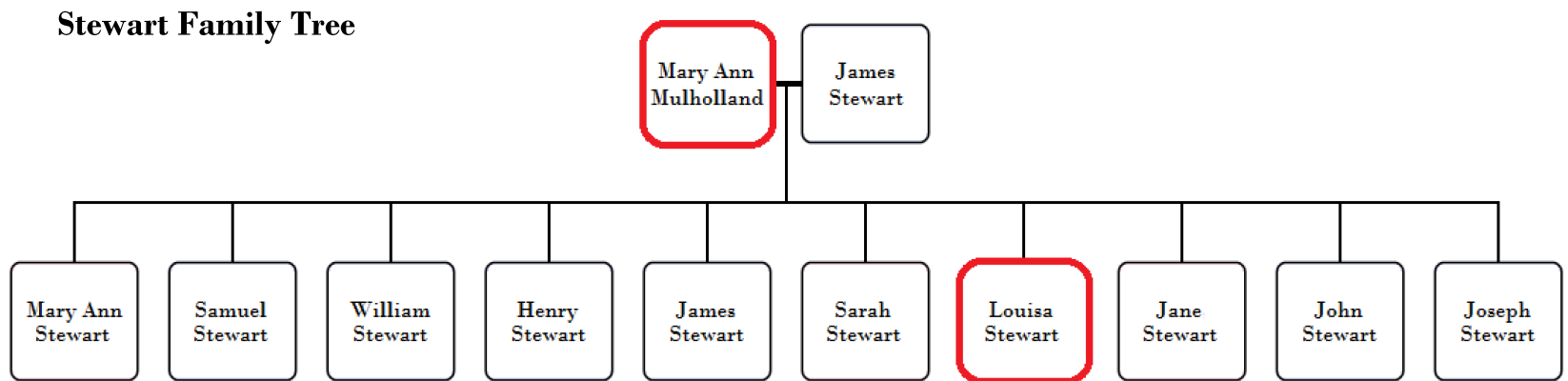
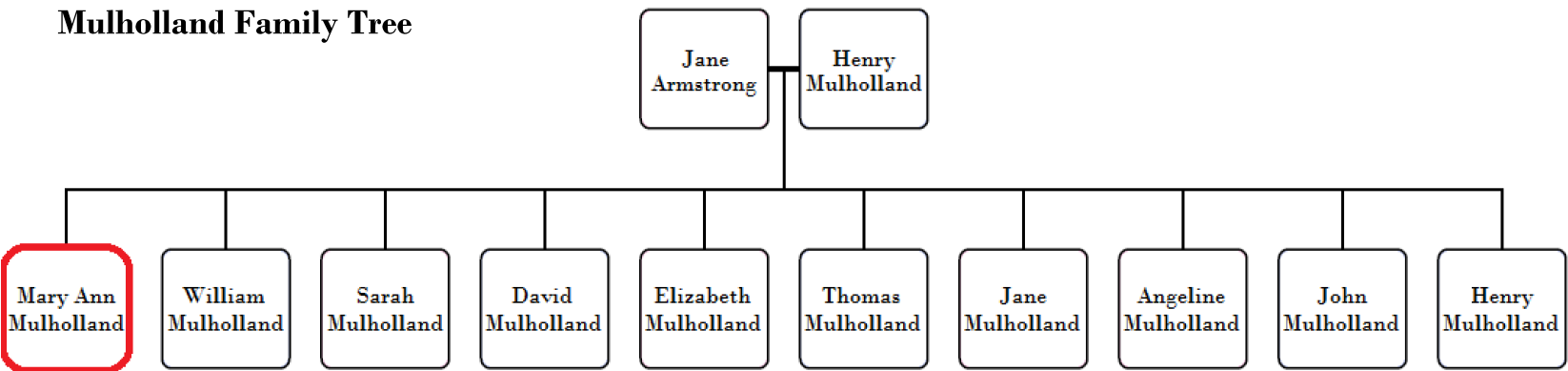
Unfortunately, on his return trip from Belfast, Henry drowned when the Scottish brig "Lady of the Lake" struck a large field of ice and sank about 250 miles off Cape St. Francis, Newfoundland. Henry was forty-four years old.

His untimely death robbed the community of a strong leader and enterprising pioneer, and his family lost a loving husband and father. His wife, Jane, continued to live on their homestead in West York, and died at the age of sixty-six. Their son Thomas inherited the Bathurst Street farm, which continued to be the Mulholland homestead for over four generations.

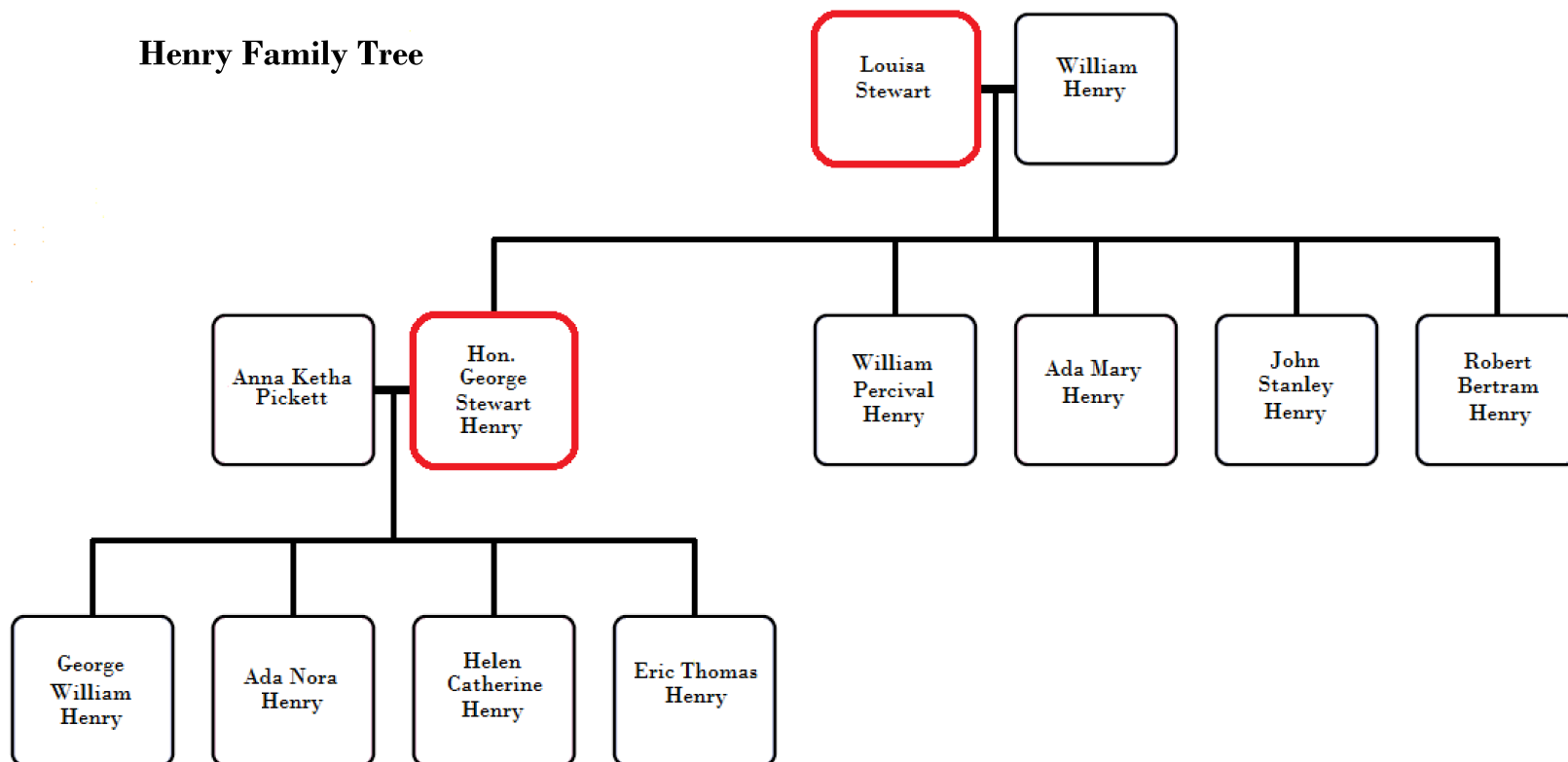
### **The Mulholland Family Tree**

Henry and Jane were survived by eight children. Sons William, David, and Thomas married and carried the Mulholland name. Daughter Mary Ann married James Stewart; Sarah married William Duncan; Elizabeth married George White; Jane married James Francis; and Angeline married David McBride, resulting in eight branches of direct descendants. Sons John and Henry died of small-pox in their early teens.

# The Mulholland Family



## Henry Family Tree







Oriole Lodge on Manorpark Court

### **George Stewart Henry, Premier of Ontario**

George Stewart Henry was a great-grandson of Jane and Henry Mulholland, from the Mary Ann (Mulholland) and James Stewart branch of the family. George was born in 1871 and grew up in the Township of King. He was educated at the public schools of Toronto, Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, where he received a BA and LLB. He also spent a year at the university's Ontario Agricultural College and decided to become a farmer in East York. In 1898, Henry bought the farm house and property on Lot 14 on Concession 3 for \$14,500 bringing the Mulholland property back into his family's ownership.

George named his farm "Oriole Lodge" because of the abundance of orange and black orioles. His mailbox read "George S. Henry, Holstein Breeder". Built circa 1840, Oriole Lodge stood on a rise of ground and faced west. Additions were made circa 1900 and major remodelling in 1912.

In George's time, the farm was a big place, modern in its equipment, and active in all aspects of Ontario farming. Of the 80 to 90 head of cattle, there were some 30 milking cows – considered to be a good-sized dairy operation.

On a hot summer's day, the large flock of sheep could be seen sheltering from the sun under the trees of the apple orchard; in a nearby field a score of young turkeys strutting their stuff and chickens scampering about the poultry barn.

His was a typical successful farm, employing modern methods to give maximum production, winning awards at livestock shows, sending tons of milk each year to the Toronto market –



and, in the old homestead at the top of the hill, still preserving an atmosphere of old-fashioned hospitality and simple, bountiful living. Henry's residence is still standing and is a privately owned home in the Henry Farm, and has been deemed a heritage site by the Toronto Historical Society.

In 1903, George began his political career on York Township Council as a member, reeve and then warden. He was elected to the provincial legislative assembly in 1913, and served as Minister of Highways from 1923 – 1930. When Premier Howard Ferguson stepped down in 1930, George succeeded him as leader of the Conservative Party and Premier of Ontario. The Conservatives lost the next election, and George became the Leader of the Opposition in 1934 until 1938. George was married to Anna Ketha Pickett and they had four children: George William, Ada Nora, Helen Catherine, and Eric Thomas.

### **Honouring the Family's Legacy**

The Honourable George Henry was regarded as the family patriarch and played a major role in unifying the family. He initiated family reunions with the first held on June 28, 1906 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Henry and Jane Mulholland to Canada and their grant of Crown land.

Family gathered to honour their brave and hardy ancestors and to connect across the generations with eight branches of their family. George planned and hosted this reunion on his farm on "the island", believed to have been the site of the Mulholland's first home.

Over 79 direct descendants attended along with neighbours whose grandparents had settled in the area.

On June 6, 1931, the family celebrated their 125th anniversary with an event held at Oriole Lodge Farm. The two-day celebration started with a garden party on "the island" on Saturday, and a special service Sunday afternoon at Asbury and West United Church, built on Bathurst Street on land donated by Jane Mulholland in 1845.

George and Anna hosted four generations of Mulhollands, neighbours, and the Lieutenant-Governor Mr. Ross and his wife, with an 18-piece band, display of family heirlooms, and four christenings including George's granddaughter Colleen Diane Henry. During the event, Colonel Alexander Fraser, the provincial archivist, paid tribute to the men and women who laid the foundations of integrity, loyalty and honour for the community and historical development of York.



Mulhollands celebrate their Centennial on June 28, 1906



The Locke House on Lesmill Road

The family marked their 150th anniversary on September 15, 1956 at George's farm. Since then, the family has carried on their tradition, holding reunions at Pioneer Village, keeping close ties to their agricultural roots.

In 1933, George built the Locke House, a Tudor style home, for his daughter Nora Locke. Husband Clark Locke was a noted naturalist, and they named their home "Birches End" for a grove of birch trees behind the house. The Lockes lived in the house until 1964, when the land and house were expropriated for the widening of Highway 401.

The City of North York bought the house in 1975 and three years later leased it to the Federation of Ontario

Naturalists, an independent, not-for-profit organization – a provincial voice for the conservation of forests, wetlands, waterways, grassland and wildlife.

A stone cairn was erected in 1937 by the family to commemorate Henry and Jane Mulholland, and was protected against expropriation by the provincial Mulholland Cairn Act.

With the family's agreement, the Mulholland Cairn was moved from its original location at Woodbine and Sheppard Avenue 30 years later, to make way for a new parkway extension north of Highway 401.





Mulholland Cairn on Manorpark Court

To accommodate this move, the City bought property close to where the original Mulholland farm had stood, and relocated the cairn across from Oriole Lodge. The cairn is surrounded by trees planted by the family to represent the eight family branches.

George Stewart Henry's contributions to the community and the province have been honoured with a plaque at St. Matthew the Apostle – Oriole Anglican Church, commemorating his term as Ontario's 10th Premier, and with the naming of George Henry Boulevard and George S. Henry Academy on Graydon Hall Drive.



George Stewart Henry, Premier of Ontario

# A Rooster's Tale



**Let me introduce myself. Henry's the name.**

I'm a male Welsummer chicken, a Dutch breed developed in the Ysel River area of Holland in the 1900s. Our females are popular for their extremely dark brown eggs, described as being a rich terra cotta colour. My breed was first imported to the United States in 1928, and our distinctive eggs often sell for premium prices. We are prized for our docile, friendly temperaments, which make us an excellent choice for families with small children. We are very hardy, especially in cold weather, energetic and friendly. A note of caution: our musical talents can be loud.

Like any rooster worth his feathers, I was prepared to rule my roost and look after my flock, belting out the daily cock-a-doodle-doo to wake-up the Farm.

But, developer Paul Hellyer and his creative team wanted me to work harder than that. Thinking out of the barnyard, they wanted to give me a loftier perch. They'd seen my ancestors on the Hellyer family crest, and my cousin Cornelius on the Kellogg's cornflakes box in 1957. They wanted me to help push their quality brand.

So, I've been making appearances. You've seen my silhouette on original sales brochures, printed materials, and signage. I've shown up in various disguises at golf tournaments, bonspiels, and community events. You've even dressed me up for parties; I've even worn plaid.

I've had a makeover because 50 years is something to really crow about!

**- Henry**

# From Ploughing Fields to Growing a Neighbourhood

Prior to his death on September 2, 1958, George Stewart Henry had entered into an agreement to sell his land to Hendon Estates Limited. A year after his death, in August 1959, the land transfer was officially signed over to Hendon Estates by his four children: George William Henry, Ada Nora Locke, Helen Catherine Clemons and Eric Thomas Henry. The land deal was approximately 258 acres from parts of Lots 14, 15, and 16 on the third concession, and the sale was for \$1,803,025.

Paul Hellyer was the President and Chief Executive Officer in the early days of Hendon Estates Limited. He says, “The name was formed from the first three letters of Henry ‘Hen’ and the last three ‘Don’ represented the Don River. Hendon Estates was jointly owned by George S. Wimpy & Co. of England and Curran Hall Ltd., Hellyer’s building company. Hendon did the developing and then sold off building lots to all of the builders.”

Hellyer’s brother-in-law, John Race, was an officer of both Hendon Estates and Curran Hall and, as Paul puts it, “He was the one who was in charge of making sure that the houses were completely finished and spanking clean before purchasers moved in, so that they didn’t have to go through the lengthy hassle that was the norm for the industry at that time. John and his wife Hazel lived in the Farm and he would have greeted just about everyone who bought houses from us in the early days before he and Hazel moved to Waterford.” Commenting on his time with Paul’s building firms, John remarked, “We tried not to cut down trees and took advantage of the slopes and had walk-out basements when we could.”

When first built, the Henry Farm was promoted as a model community, the place to live. Today, Henry Farm properties are described as “More than a home: a community. Henry Farm is less tangible than the land, roadways and houses. It’s defined by the people who live in those spaces: their spirit, friendships, and willingness to be involved in making this community a better one.”

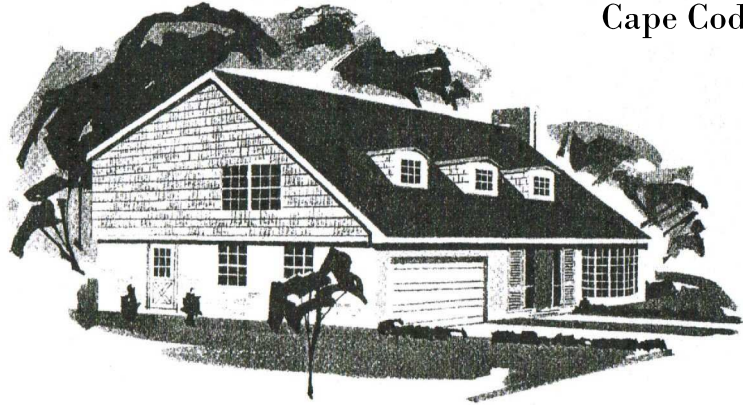
A footnote to our story: The site for Henry Farm almost became home to York University. The university was in negotiations with Hendon Estates to purchase the land, and just hours before the morning meeting at Donald House to sign the agreement, Premier Leslie Frost had a conversation with the Honourable Robert Winters, York’s Chairman of the Board of Governors. The deal was off.



Sheppard Entrance to Henry Farm



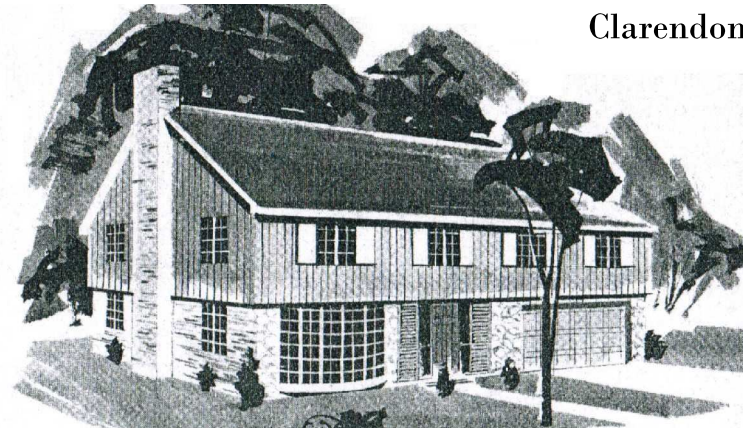
# The Originals Reminisce, by Mel and Betty Anne Moyer



Cape Cod      The Early Years

The focus of this chapter is the Farm's early years, say the first two decades or so. Our lens was the memories of those who experienced that opening period. Here we call those pioneers the Originals.

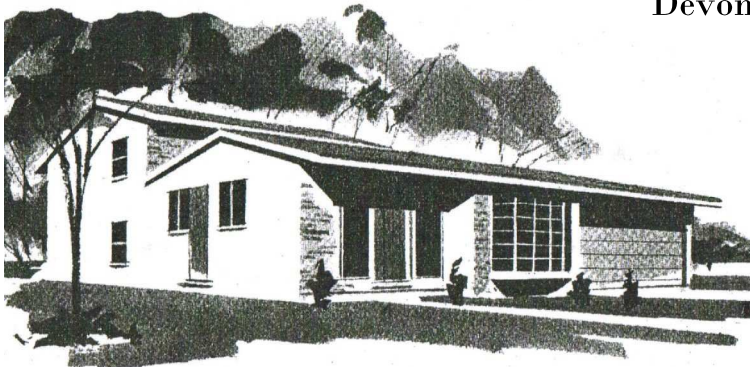
For raw material, we simply contacted a sample of those early settlers and invited them to join us in our home for an afternoon of reminiscing about those times here. Altogether, we met with about two dozen Originals in groups of five or six each.



Clarendon

The spirit of these meetings was remarkable. Initially, most invitees said that it was a fine idea, but they would have little to contribute. Yet virtually all of them accepted and came. And once settled in, their conversation took off. Indeed, the recollections of one guest often sparked a memory by another. What ensued was always a lively, neighbourly, jovial round table. Most went overtime. As researchers, we could not have chosen a more congenial instrument.

So this chapter is not a scholarly history with footnotes rampant. It is simply a story told by those who lived it.



Devon

## Findings

Who were these pioneers? One of our discussants was old enough to have seen combat in the Second World War, while another was young enough to have lost a father in that War. However, most of the Originals were born between the middle nineteen twenties and the middle thirties. Therefore, when they settled in the Farm in the sixties, they were generally

young adults building careers, forming families and ready to put down deeper roots and begin a new kind of growing. Indeed, as one of them put it, “Here was where we reached full adulthood.”

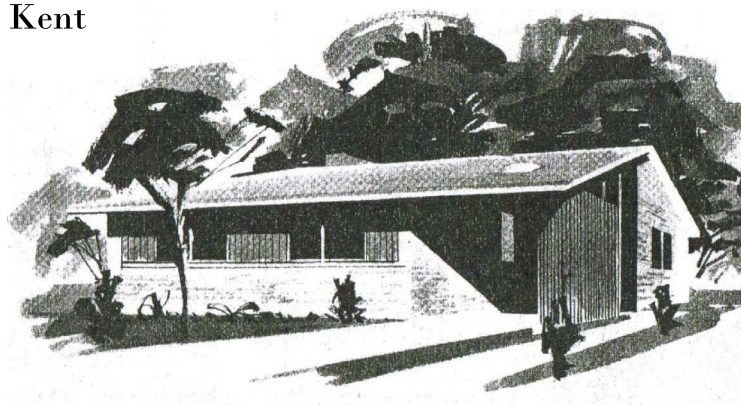
The Farm they moved into had fences of a sort, but they were hardly finished. The first Farmers remember that Sheppard Avenue between Don Mills Road and Leslie was two lanes of asphalt with ditches and no sidewalks. The same was true of Leslie and Don Mills Road as they went south from Sheppard to join Highway 401, which at that time was only two lanes each way.

Within that perimeter, the 1962 subdivision plan showed that about 520 houses were to be built, and land was allotted for rental townhouses that became registered as condominiums in 1969. However, for a time the space was more ploughed than planted. Some of our earliest Originals recorded that time with old snapshots of mounds of earth, heavy equipment, large craters, and partly-finished structures – their homes to come.

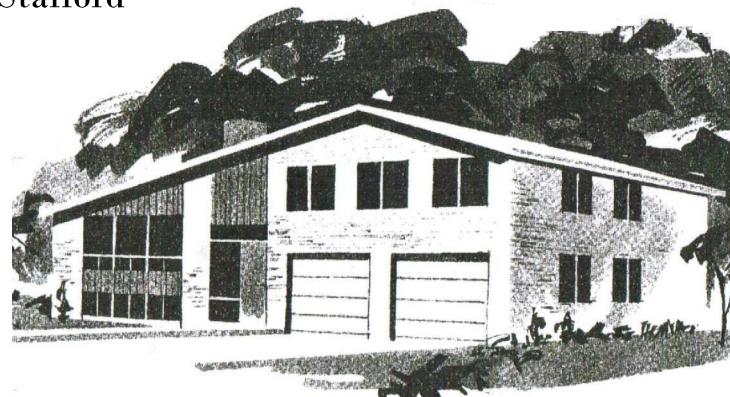
However, even in that disarray, there was already in place one powerful encouragement for the first arrivals to begin to think of themselves as connected. It was that the Farm’s four boundaries, however rudimentary, were clear, fixed, physical, even somehow official. One of our guests put it that “One of its appeals was that it was landlocked.” In our meetings, it was clear that both early and later residents valued that, and still see it as a shaping feature of the lives they would build here. What had bounded them helped to bond them.

Several of our guests also brought with them original copies of the sales brochures put out by the firms that built their homes.

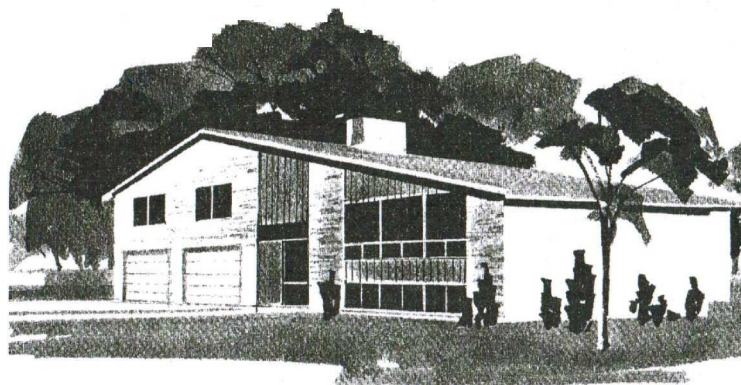
Kent



Stafford

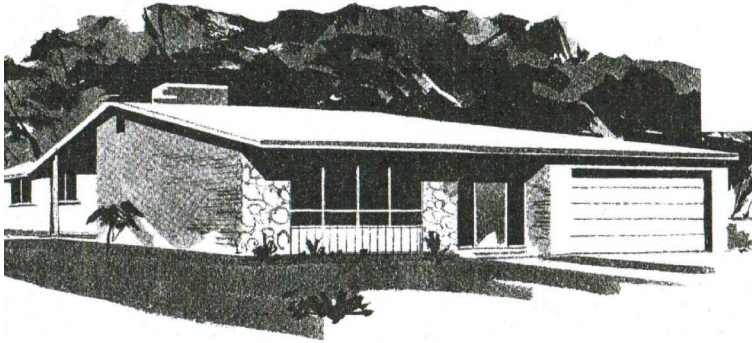


Stonecrest

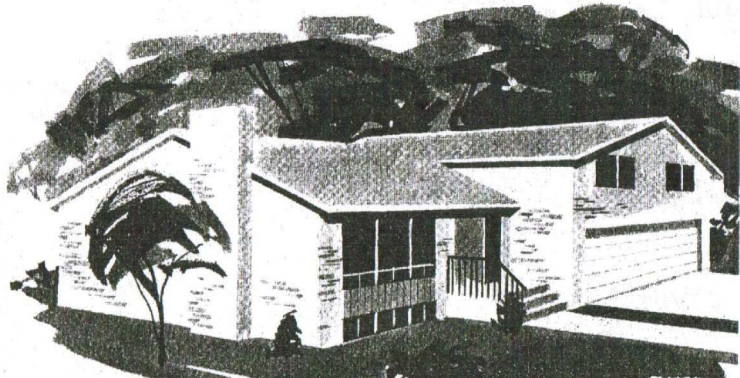




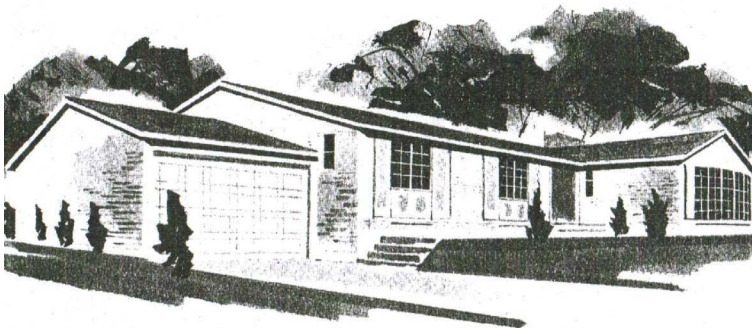
Sussex



Wellington



Windsor



By today's slick standards these handouts are amateurish, but even today they verge on the rhapsodic. For example, Curran Hall introduced its package of offerings with this: "Imagine – three hundred and fifty acres of prime, rolling farmland transformed into Toronto's newest community. The original contours of the land have been expertly preserved to ... lend a gracious sweep to the avenues of enviable homes. Each home is architecturally-designed to ... satisfy the contemporary idiom yet offer a return to the elegant interiors of gracious living." For their part, Arthur-Blakely and The Aluminum Company of Canada reached for prestige by giving their models British-sounding names: the Avon, the Buckingham, the Nottingham and, if one sought a collateral title, the Viscount MK II.

In the middle nineteen sixties the published prices ranged from the middle \$20,000s to about \$30,000. However, for \$500 more one could add all four appliances, and further options included sliding patio doors, stone fronts, broadloomed living and dining rooms, finished "recreation rooms," and "hydronic water heating." Most models had two-car garages.

And why did the Originals settle here? In our early discussions, there seemed to be no common cause. For example, one couple explained that it was to own their dream house, while another pair noted that they left their much-loved home to be closer to the husband's growing business. Again, for some it was a first house, for others a second or third. Similarly, many of the Originals already had a cottage when they bought in the Farm, while others were to choose a relatively new option – the backyard pool. So as their explanations began, the Originals seemed to indicate that they came to the Farm for a diversity of reasons.

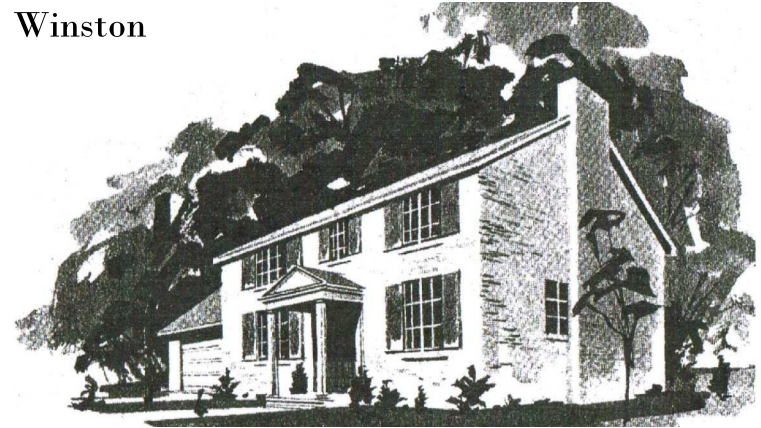


But as our conversations continued, it became clear that the Originals themselves were not so diverse. Even before they became neighbours, they often had these things in common: they needed more space, they were moving up the income scale, they saw a strong economy, they found mortgage rates acceptable, and they were optimistic about their prospects. Overall, then, they shared a belief that they were ready and able to step up to a more comfortable and expansive life.

More immediately, they were drawn to the Farm by several other inducements. Many noted that at that time they did not find many other new housing developments available in North York for middle and upper-middle class families. They were also attracted by the opportunity to choose among several model homes, some before they were finished. Indeed, one couple bought theirs in the bedroom of their house while it was still serving as a model home and sales office. Our guests also agreed that they were motivated by the implied promise that the Henry Farm would be a special place because, unlike other new areas, it would have boulevards with planted trees, underground telephone, TV and hydro wires, sharp restrictions on clotheslines, no TV aerials and, as one prospectus put it, “no utility poles to mar the visual serenity of the neighbourhood.” One of our number wondered whether this invoked snob appeal.

In retrospect, it's worth noting one inducement for investing in the Farm that the Originals did not mention. Our discussions showed that it did not cross their minds that the homes that they were stretching to buy would be selling, half a century later, for more than twenty times what they paid – a heady investment.

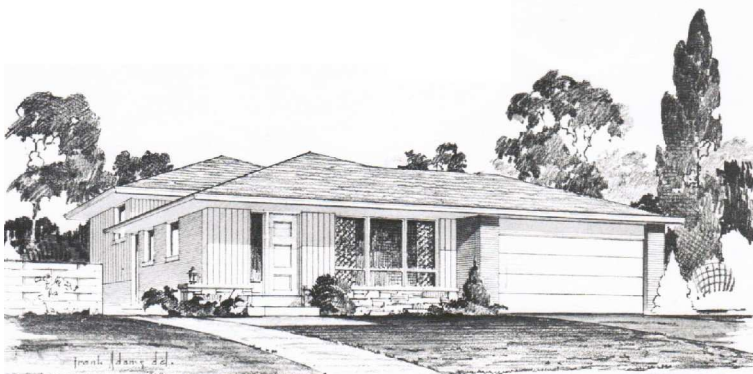
## Winston



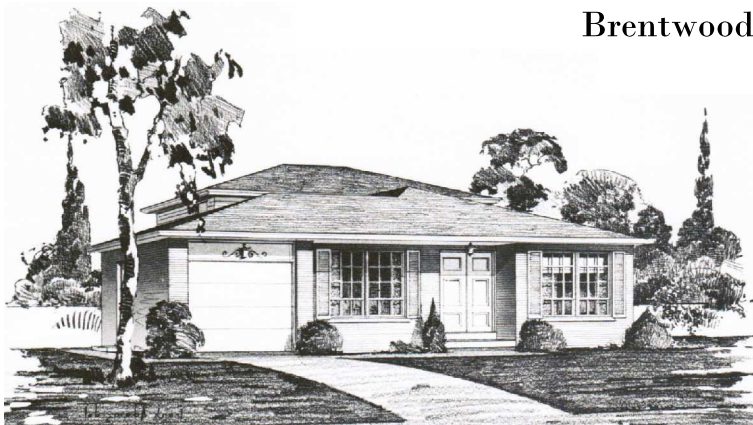
PLAN	STYLE	GARAGE	PRICE	MORTGAGES
VISCOUNT	2 Storey (Family room at rear)	2 Car	\$28,960/29,960	
THAMES	2 Storey	1 Car	\$26,750/27,750	Conventional
BUCKINGHAM	2 Storey	2 Car	\$29,965/30,990	26
OXFORD	2 Storey	2 Car	\$31,875/32,900	66-2/3% } at 7%
HAMPTON	2 Storey	1 Car	\$27,010/28,010	& 75% }
GRAMADA	Split Level	2 Car	\$32,875/33,900	
ETON	Split Level	2 Car	\$31,465/32,490	83-1/3% } at 7-1/8%
NOTTINGHAM	Split Level	2 Car	\$29,635/30,660	& 87 1/2% }
BRENTWOOD	Split Level	2 Car	\$30,285/31,310	
HARTFORD	Split Level	2 Car	\$32,275/33,300	25 year Amortization
AVON	Bungalow	2 Car	\$27,400/28,425	
Prices and down payments are subject to change without notice				
M.E. Optional Features:			HYDRONIC WATER HEATING	
			Finished Recreation Rooms	
			Fireplaces	
			Stone Fronts	
			Sliding Patio Doors	
Mortgages:	On M.E.A. Loans increase selling prices by 2.2% of the Mortgage amount being assumed, to cover M.E.A. Insurance and Application Fee.			
	On 83-1/3 and 87 1/2% Loans increase selling prices by 2% of the Mortgage to be assumed, this amount is added to your Mortgage and not to the down payment.			

August 10, 1965 Price List: Alcan Design Homes  
by Arthur-Blakely Limited

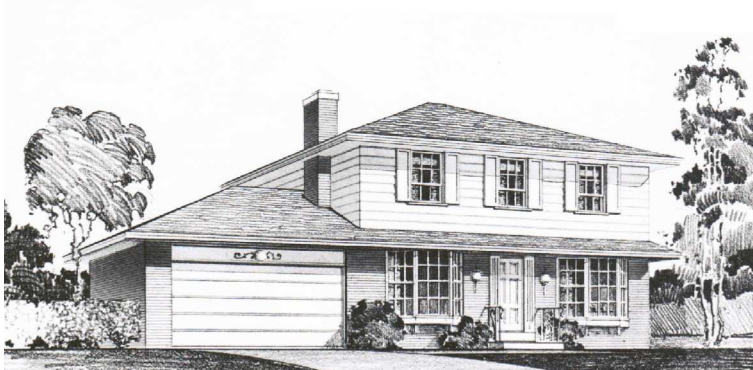
Avon



Brentwood



Buckingham



As they moved in, the Originals seemed to have confident expectations that the infrastructure necessary to support their promising new lives would appear in due course. On the other hand, they had no clear picture as to when it would appear, or in what form. For example, they did not know that within a decade they would be served by a regional hospital, a major shopping centre, a medical arts facility, a centre for seniors care, and a community centre with an arena.

Perhaps because memories can be mercifully selective, our earliest inhabitants reported that until such supports were in place they had little difficulty in moving around their new, rudimentary world. In fact they cited some of its advantages. For example to picnic, one family would simply hike along Sheppard to the woods east of Don Mills Road and, to relax, another rode a horse in the unbuilt areas nearby. In these reminiscences there may have been a hint of pioneering pride.

If the Originals' immediate motives for buying into the Farm were quite diverse, their longtime backgrounds were not. In our sessions, we encountered neighbours whose roots lay in Germany, Scotland, Ireland, France, Sweden, England, and the United States. However, once or twice removed, these "immigrants" could be seen to share a common origin, which was northwestern Europe. The influx of "New Canadians" from southern Europe, which was to begin to change the City, had not yet come to the Farm. In effect, then, the Originals, living in a fully occupied upscale enclave of largely Anglo-Saxon stock, were not part of the great transformation that would recast Toronto into one of the most multicultural cities in the world. While that had its cost, it also had a benefit. It meant that, sharing fundamentally common origins that were not soon challenged or changed, the Originals thereby found it



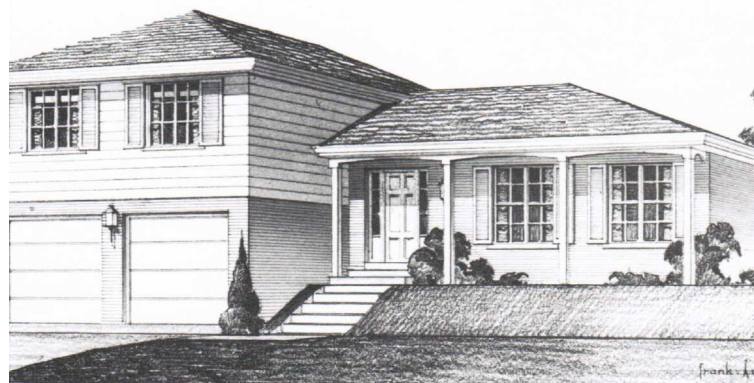
easier to relate to neighbours, to make friends, and to feel an early sense of community. As one put it, “If you had to do something and couldn’t, your neighbour did it for you.”

And other actors were at work. Most important were our discussants’ children. In the early Henry Farm, there seemed to be an explosion of them. When one of our groups was asked to name their dominant early memory, one said it for all: “Kids”! The routes that connected their children, in carriages, in strollers, on tricycles, led to parental interactions. Then, in school, those ties were strengthened. Later running free and unafraid, children were the connectors that led to their parents’ affiliations.

And the outreach of the Originals and their children was made easier for another reason: In the newly-built Farm, there were few fences, mature trees or busy streets, all of which can be social silos. As one remembered, “We were real social then.”

In addition, the group noted that in their moving-in years three institutions offered a range of services that drew them together. St. Matthew the Apostle – Oriole Anglican Church partnered with the Covenant United Church, and in their shared building were to be found such communal activities as Girl Guides, Brownies, a co-operative nursery school, and very popular charity bazaars. In parallel, Shaughnessy Public School served as a locus for such after-school programs as ballet, gymnastics, needlework, floor hockey, indoor soccer, and meetings of the Boy Scouts. Added to that, the Henry Farm Community Interest Association sponsored a newsletter and such events as a bike sale, a communal barbecue, and the Neighbours’ Night Out.

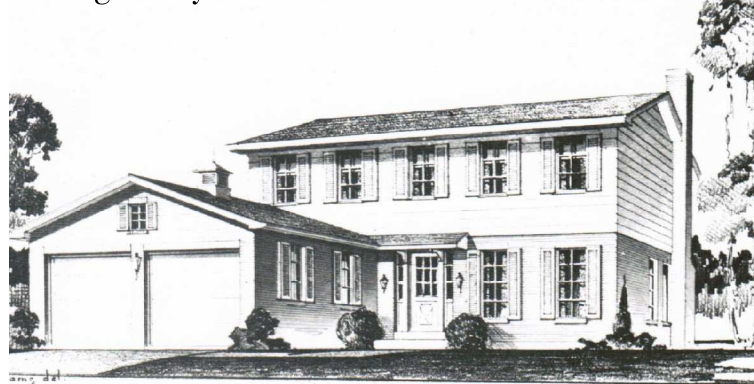
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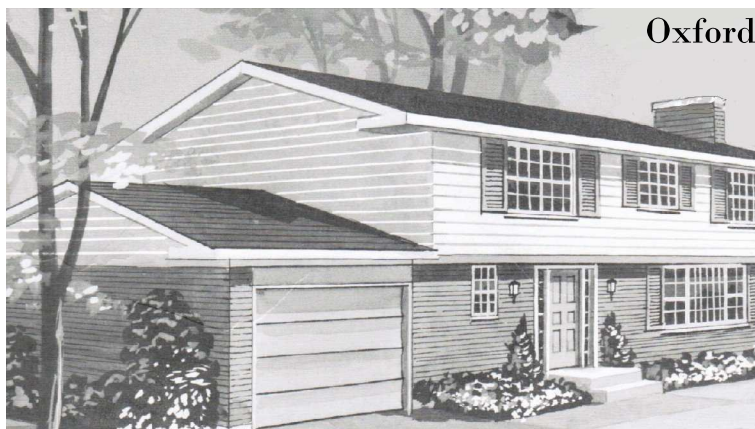


Hartford

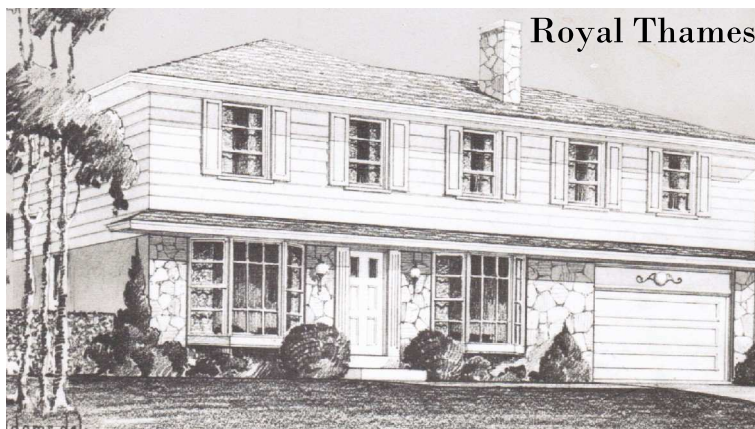


Montgomery

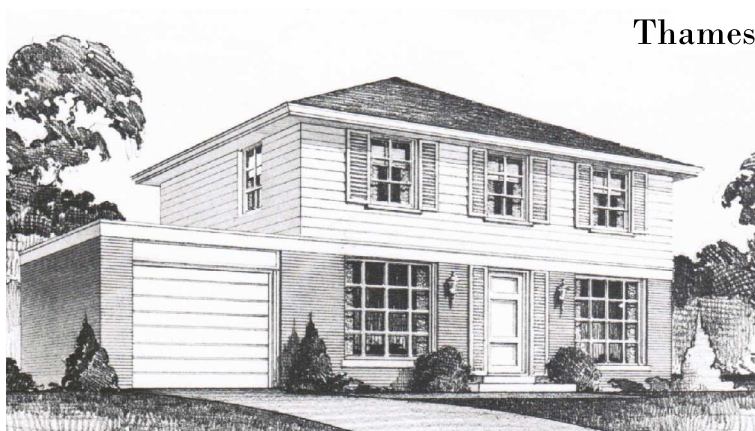




Oxford



Royal Thames



Thames

However, it should be noted here that each of these institutions was an important agent of community-building. The reasons were three. The first was that they had an early, shaping influence. The Church built its permanent structure in 1969, the School opened in 1966 and the HFCIA was established in 1973. Second, all of these enterprises were located within the Farm, and those it served were therefore mostly Farm people. Third, each of them could only have fully played its role if the residents had been prepared to support them as volunteers.

Which leads us again to the Originals. Some societies embrace volunteering, some do not. As it happens, the Farm did. In our conversations, it became clear that volunteering is a basic value among the Originals. Their remembered activities – campaigning for a political candidate, keeping accounts for the tennis club, teaching ESL classes, coordinating Neighbourhood Watch, coaching baseball, running teen dances, watering the community skating rink – testified more than rhetoric that “giving back” was bred in their backgrounds. As one put it, “It’s where you come from.” That volunteering, too, glued the community.

In their reminiscences, the Originals help us to understand how the Henry Farm came to be such a close community. It began with a perceptible perimeter to bound and bond its earliest inhabitants. It also encouraged cohesion that these early pioneers were quite alike in social class, stage of life, ethnic background, economic prospects, and basic values. Further, within the early Farm there had not arisen physical barriers that can become social solitudes. That openness gave safe scope for those catalysts of community which are children. And where their children led, the Originals followed, building their own connections and commitments.



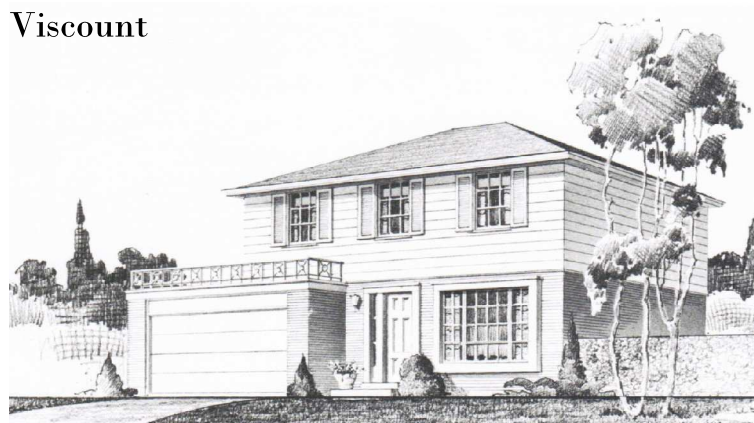
As they share their memories, our neighbours revealed another, deeper, sentiment. It was that they were fortunate to have been born when they were and to have come to the Farm when they did. And with that came a strong sense of community.

But it's hoped that readers will not see this chapter as simply a nostalgic narrative with a feel-good ending. Communities which are close don't just feel good, they work better. They have less crime, safer public spaces, lower costs of security, less pervasive surveillance, less intrusive policing, and higher levels of trust. They also find it easier to resolve conflict among neighbours, to mobilize support for community-wide projects, and to get consensual action on broad, forward-looking policies. So a sense of community is not just an appealing concept, it is a huge tool.

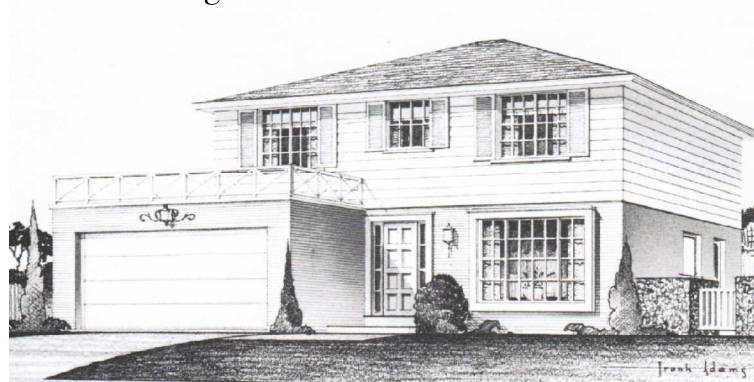
Through their reminiscences, the Originals testify that they have in hand that tool. Perhaps, then, the Farm's biggest challenge in its next half century will be to redefine "community" and put that tool to still more wonderful uses.

This chapter had many co-authors. They include Andrew and Barbara Borbas, Bob and Mary Ferguson, Jack and Judy Flynn, Barbara Gartner, Arline Goldwater, Leslie Golombek, Marg and Bob Heilig, Chris Hinde, Agnes Houston, Jack Kember, Suzanne MacLean, Barbara and Russell McKay, Jack and Linda Meyer, Susan Robertson, Astrid and Torsten Walther, and George and Catherine Yates. To these (blameless) contributors we express our hearty thanks. Marg Heilig was especially helpful in offering constructive suggestions on earlier drafts. It's called: "community"!

Viscount



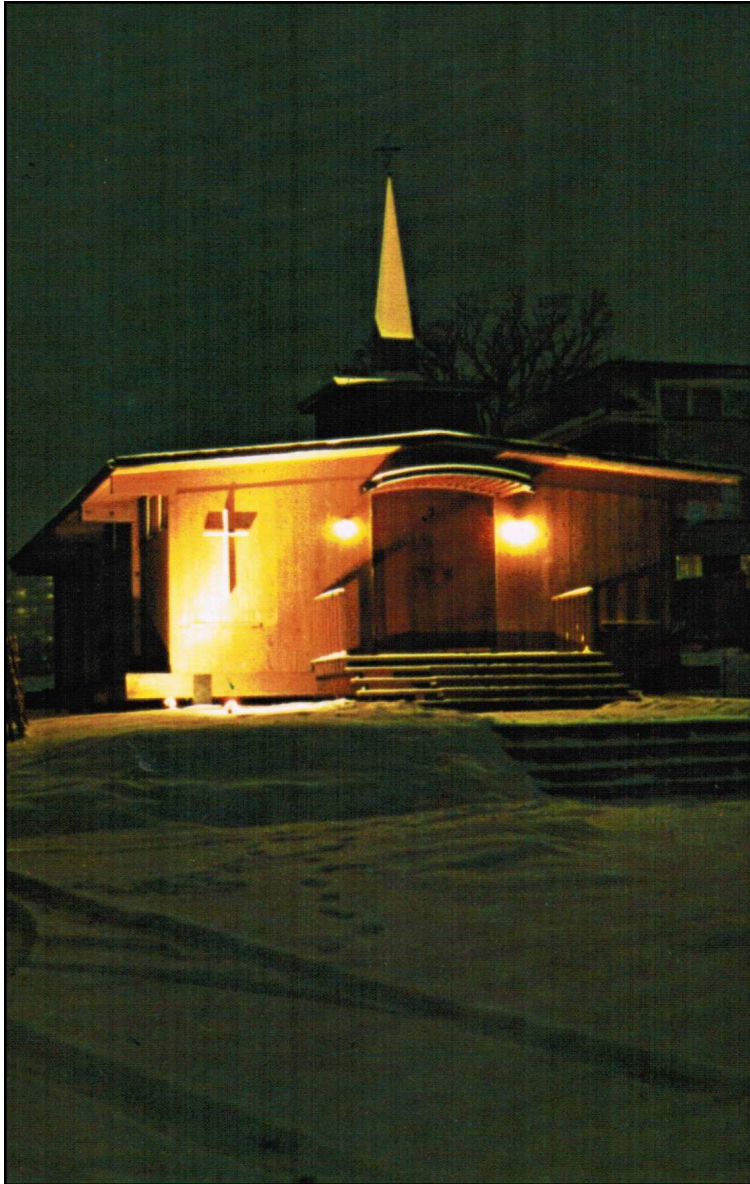
Williamsburg



Henry Heights Town Houses

*"We are in a community each time we find a place where we belong." – Peter F. Block*

## A Neighbourhood Church, by Jane O'Keefe



Parishioners worshipped in the first sectional portable building of its type, built in Canada by the Anglican Church

Having a church built as part of the new subdivision helped give the community early reasons to bond and connect in the neighbourhood. St. Matthew the Apostle – Oriole Anglican Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014, and although the Church has seen a lot of change its founding spirit remains.

In April 1964, the Rev. E. Paul Morley was appointed to serve the needs of two new subdivisions – Henry Farm and Don Valley Village. Rev. Morley canvassed for members door-to-door and by June had begun holding services in family homes, including Oriole Lodge.

The first church structure was a portable, built on 2 acres of land purchased for \$40,000. Doors opened on September 13, 1964, welcoming 169 adults and 69 children. Church school classes were held in Dallington Public School and in neighbouring homes, and a nursery was held in the rectory. The congregation soon grew to 748 adults and 230 children, and plans for a permanent structure were underway.

During 1969, Anglican and United parishioners came together and agreed to share ownership and use of the new building. On Sunday morning, January 25, 1970, parishioners worshipped in their new sanctuary with the Anglicans at 9:30 and the United members at 11 a.m. This partnership continued until 1992 when the Covenant United Church – Oriole congregation joined Donway United Church.

St. Matthew's has always been a beehive of activity, initially serving the needs of the immediate neighbourhood, and then over the years reaching out and attracting congregants from other neighbourhoods. The first annual church bazaar was held

in 1965, and the monthly clothing sale continues to this day, relying on generous donations from the neighbourhood and volunteers. Over the years, the Church has actively encouraged community use of its facilities. Groups have used the facilities for homeowner meetings, movie nights, skate exchanges, dressmaking clubs, sports meetings, community fundraising events, dance schools, Cubs, Scouts and Brownies, Red Cross blood donor clinics, polling stations, AA meetings, and a Montessori school.

As part of the Neighbourhood Church Council, St. Matthew's helped found Information Fairview, an outreach centre still serving the community today. The Council also played a part in the development of the Oriole Arena, the tennis courts and the community building, a much needed recreational outlet for area youth. St. Matthew's also took part in offering community Christmas and Easter services held for a time at Fairview.

### **Recollections from Rev. Canon Greg Physick**

*It was an exciting time for us as we moved into the St. Matthew's rectory on George Henry Boulevard back in December of 1988. Christmas was just around the corner and our twins were wondering about the new school they would soon attend. The rest of Grade 3 awaited them, and so it was Ian and Devon entered Shaughnessy Public School and were introduced on the first day to another set of twins!*

*Susan and I would soon discover not only a sense of community and caring within the Church itself but in the broader community as well. Susan had just gone back to school and would begin a new career in the Courts of Ontario so her*

*day-time life in those days was downtown each day, and she did not have much time or opportunity to meet a lot of other women/neighbours in the Farm. However, it became home for us and we became part of the community outside the church enjoying our early morning walks around the neighbourhood and our encounters with various people living around us – not just parishioners.*

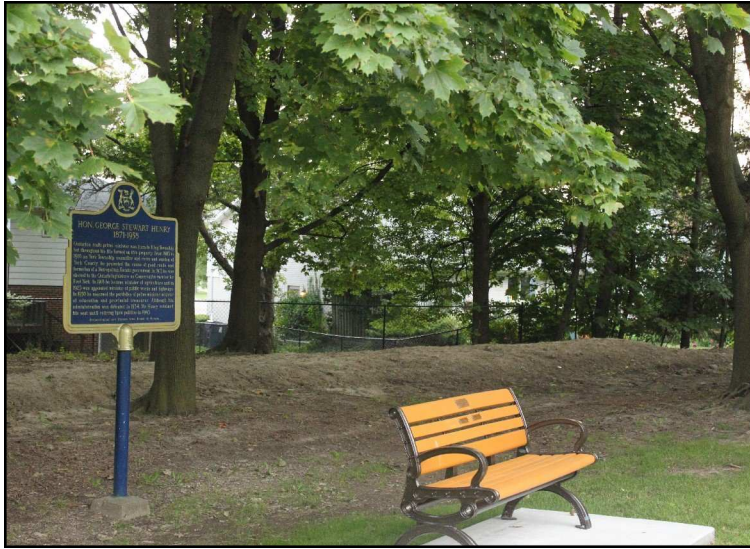
*Ian and Devon made good friends at school, some of whom they see to this day. I was an active member for a number of years on the Henry Farm Community Interest Association. It was not always easy to make certain events due to parish life, but I do recall that good sense of community spirit that was such a part of our time there: bike sales, dinners, the “meet your neighbour nights” and juice stands in June, and the Neighbourhood Watch updates, to name but a few. It was a time when people seemed to really watch out for one another.*

*We were thankful for our many years at St. Matthew's. It was always a good feeling to drive back into the community after we had left. When Susan died in March 2012, it seemed so right to have her Visitation at St. Matthew's. It felt as if we had taken her home – and I speak not only of the Church, but of the Henry Farm neighbourhood too.*

*May such a community spirit continue as the neighbourhood inevitably changes, as many who have lived there for years will move out and new neighbours are welcomed.*

*What will the next 50 years hold?*





Commemorative Plaque and Bench at St. Matthew's Church



St. Matthew the Apostle on George Henry Boulevard

## Reflections from Rev. Canon Brad Lennon

*A plaque and bench stand in the sheltering grove of trees on the southwest lawn of St. Matthew's, symbolizing the strong links between the Henry Farm and the Church.*

*The plaque was unveiled by former Premier Leslie Frost on July 16, 1963 to commemorate George Stewart Henry, 10th Premier of Ontario, and local farmer.*

*The bench was placed by the HFCIA in June 2012 to honour the long service of former president, James "Jim" Coombs. Jim also served for many years as the secretary of the Church Council. His work in both organizations represents the contributions that many church members make to improve the well-being of their neighbours. Helen Flanagan's name also adorns the bench in memory of her extraordinary work as the Association's president.*

*We have Helen and Gordon Flanagan to thank for suggesting a memorial bench. Helen had invited the Pastor to sit on her executive to provide input to the Association, and given this strong connection, the Church readily agreed to place the bench on their grounds.*

*In 2006, St. Matthew's became involved in the petition to voice concerns about the displacement of long-time residents of Parkway Forest, and how incoming purchasers would blend into their new community. A new Residents Association in Parkway Forest began to form, modelling itself on the HFCIA. St. Matthew's Church has proudly served as a link between the emerging Parkway Forest Community Association and the HFCIA, and is grateful to Helen Flanagan for her leadership and support on this issue.*



# A Neighbourhood School, by Wendy Petcoff

In early 1965, plans were put in place to build a school to serve the families in Henry Farm. Students attended Lescon Public School, Cameron Public School or Dallington Public School until the school opened its doors in 1966.

Originally there were 278 students in grades up to 8, and when Woodbine Middle School opened, Grade 7 and 8 pupils were transferred there, and Shaughnessy operated Kindergarten to Grade 6. Arthur Ward was the first of a long line of distinguished and dedicated principals.

From day one, parents of the tight-knit Henry Farm community have been passionately involved in their children's education. The Home and School Association is now called the Shaughnessy Advisory Council, and it provides a number of roles including fundraising. As school budgets are determined by enrolment, and Shaughnessy has on average just over 200 students, the Council runs bake sales, flower sales, and an annual yard sale to raise funds to purchase items such as a computer lab and sports team clothing.

In 2008, parents spearheaded the creation of a yearbook compiled by the students. This cross-generational participation contributes greatly to the sense of community that permeates Henry Farm.

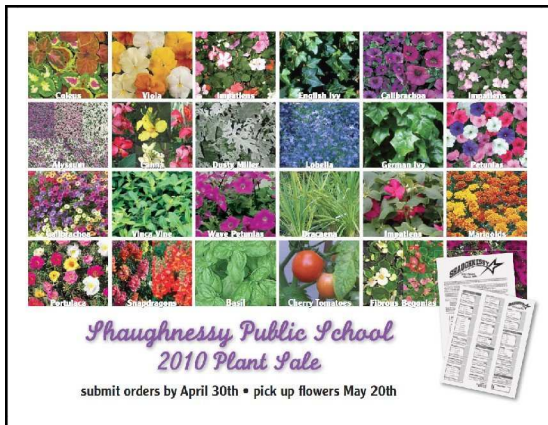
In 2010, Principal Ian Turner, Trustee Michael Coteau and the Shaughnessy Public School Parent Council worked together to reinstate Grades 7 and 8. Today, Shaughnessy remains one of Toronto's most proactive and progressive schools, offering an enviable and intimate learning environment for children from Junior Kindergarten through Grade 8.



Shaughnessy Public School, named after Thomas George Shaughnessy, President of Canadian Pacific Railways, 1899–1918



Shaughnessy Stars School Photo

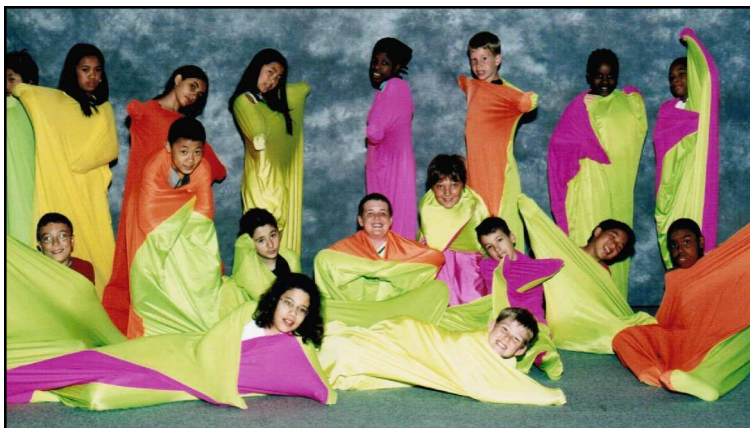


## Community Ties

Since the 1980s, green thumbs in the Henry Farm community have counted on Shaughnessy's spring flower sale for the spectacular bedding plants and flowering baskets that adorn the area's gardens and homes. Plants arrive just before the long weekend in May – in time for the biggest gardening push of the year. Through this fabulous fundraising effort, thousands of dollars are raised each year to help support programs for student trips, computers, library books and more. Each spring the gym is filled with the colours and scents of beautiful annuals, and the school has earned a reputation for offering the best plants for the best prices in town!

In addition, nothing says spring like the awakening of the senses – especially the sense of bargain-hunting! The annual school yard sale began a few years ago, and continues to be a neighbourhood hit as parents raise money to pay for special school programs. Collectors and bargain-hunters have a blast browsing through everything and the kitchen sink to find treasures that will make their lives complete. In 2012, a barbecue lunch was added to feed hungry shoppers. Those wishing to donate items drop them off at the school ahead of time.

One of the school's most beloved teachers – Gloria Hutchison – taught Junior and Senior Kindergarten from 1978 to 1998. She says the school is "special" for many reasons. Because of its intimate size and diversity of students, Shaughnessy was often selected as a pilot school for new curriculum and teaching techniques. Representatives from other schools often visited Shaughnessy to witness first-hand how the innovative programs worked.





During the 1980s, the school put on successful musicals such as *Peter Pan*, complete with stage lighting and smoke machines. Parents like Gertrud Knogl were extremely helpful when it came to sewing costumes and building sets. In fact, Mrs. Hutchison praises the parents for their generous support in all aspects of school life, particularly extra-curricular activities. She remembers parents organizing sports teams and holding everything from pizza lunches to read-a-thons, raising funds for playground equipment, book-bags, and maintaining the outdoor skating rink.

The 1990s brought further changes, as the school developed an art-based curriculum. Top artists and consultants were brought in for instruction and inspiration. Mrs. Hutchison was also part of the early childhood program that established a new report card system – the very system that is still in use today.

Over the years, Shaughnessy held its own winter carnival the same week that festivities took place in Quebec, organized fall fairs, and even celebrated Earth Day before it became a trend. Mrs. Hutchison remembers one year when the school had a huge earth ball that had to be inflated in the school yard, as it wouldn't fit indoors. Like a globe, the ball had maps of the world on it, and the children enjoyed pushing it around the school grounds.

To this day, Mrs. Hutchison often sees former students, and they always greet her warmly. She says she felt blessed to be part of the school – and everyone she touched felt blessed to have her in their lives, especially those early years.



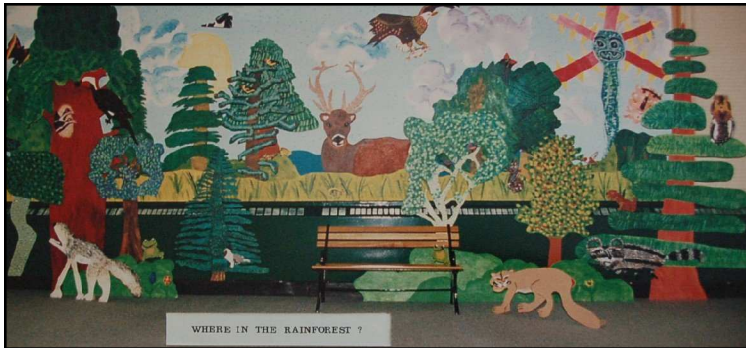


## Shaughnessy Today

In 2012, full-day Kindergarten will begin with three classes and three new early childhood educators on staff. The Ontario curriculum's "Big Ideas" of language, the arts, mathematics and the sciences is embraced at Shaughnessy, with expert teaching and support staff leading the way.

According to Principal Ian Turner, "At SPS, talented teachers, support staff and families work together to set high academic and social standards, and to encourage personal bests throughout the community. We embrace the size of our intimate school community as an opportunity to build strong, familial interpersonal connections, focus strategically on school-wide goals, and grow school safety organically through a network of supportive relationships. At Shaughnessy, we know, and are known by, one another."

Fully engaged school administration, staff, students, their parents and members of the surrounding community work together to create strong relationships that benefit everyone. People in the neighbourhood tend to know one another, and children thrive in this environment, both academically and socially.



The school population reflects Toronto's multi-ethnic communities, with no dominant national or language group. This diversity has always brought phenomenal resources and rich perspectives to school life. Shaughnessy's choir was chosen to join a larger ensemble, under the direction of Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, to reflect Toronto's culture in its official bid for the 2008 Summer Olympic Games.

The celebration of diversity at SPS goes beyond ethnicity; the school offers the only grade one-to-eight learning continuum for students on the Autism Spectrum in the Toronto District School Board. Through this intensive support program, students benefit from years of interaction with the entire school population through classroom integration opportunities and school-wide activities.

Shaughnessy is also certified as an Eco-School. Everyone is encouraged to reduce/conserve, reuse and recycle. An Eco-team continually reviews and revises school practices to meet the high standards of Eco-responsibility. In addition, the Positive School Culture committee is dedicated to educating, inspiring and engaging the community in social justice initiatives.

To promote leadership qualities for older students, each is matched with a learning buddy. Teaching and support staff work tirelessly to differentiate programs so that all learning styles are accommodated. On any given day, the students may act, sing, dance, study, play, perform, problem-solve, debate, dialogue, share, paint, calculate, experiment ... and every day, they enjoy learning.

Judging by the number of hugs, high-fives, smiles and first names, students love coming to Shaughnessy Public School!

### **Shaughnessy School Song**

In 1996, Henry Farmer Norman Campbell, a Television and Radio Producer, and Lois Bertram collaborated to create a

musical legacy for the children at Shaughnessy. Norman put to music a poem Lois wrote of her feelings on her last day as School Secretary. With the support of Principal Marni Angus and Choir Director Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, the Shaughnessy Community Choir performed the song as part of “A Gift of Music” in June 1996 at the Fairview Library Theatre. The spirit of this remarkable educational institution is best expressed in its school song.

*Shaughnessy, Shaughnessy  
On Henry Farm we stand.  
In future years we'll not forget  
The best school in the land.*

*Henry Farm, Henry Farm  
It reaps what it does sow.  
Good friends we've made, fine lessons learned  
Where happy children grow.*

*When good-byes come,  
We'll leave as one,  
A heartstring tied to ev'ry one.*

*Shaughnessy, Shaughnessy  
On Henry Farm we stand.  
In future years we'll not forget  
Best school,  
Best school,  
In the land!*



## Artist Who Gave Back to Students, by John Gartner

John Joy (1925-2012) lived more than half his life on Ringwood Crescent in Henry Farm, moving there with his wife Elsa in 1965. John was one of Toronto's, if not Canada's, most recognizable and respected painters. He was a "Plein artist", one who paints outdoors to capture the mood and feel of the moment and to embrace the changing colours of the landscape. The winter provided many challenges for a Plein artist who painted with water colours; especially how to keep your water from freezing. John's solution was simple. Add crystals of road salt to the water.

His favourite medium was watercolours, but his many "back alley architectural" paintings of Toronto's old neighbourhoods were usually painted with acrylics. Here he captured the personality of the house. John felt that the backs of these houses provided more shape and character than the pristine front that the homeowner wanted to portray to the public.

There was another side to this wonderfully talented man, and that was he gave back to the community. For much of his life he would go to local schools and share his love of art and discuss his painting techniques with the students.

He would start his presentation by quickly drawing a rooster with just a few brush strokes. He did this to gain the students' attention. Once they were on-side, John would explain the techniques of watercolour landscape painting and then paint a landscape picture from memory. His wife Elsa told me later that in fact it was not a rooster, but a hen he drew; something to do with the lack of tail feathers.

Here was a world famous artist who took the time to give back to the community, especially the youth.

John travelled the world, picture by picture. He visited most provinces in Canada, the Arctic, Europe and Asia. His favourite area to paint was Haliburton. He once remarked, "I find the most difficult season is summer, there is too much green. Winter lends itself to watercolour – working in reverse to utilize the white of the paper – focal points become stronger; shadows deeper and sharper."

As a founding member of the Society of Canadian Artists, his paintings have been exhibited in numerous private and public collections, and John's work may be found among a long list of international, private, public and corporate collections.

John always felt extremely lucky not to have a 9 to 5 lifestyle, or work in an office. His office was the great outdoors, and his mentor Mother Nature. What a life!



John Joy Demonstration – Shaughnessy School, February 21, 1975

# Community Interest is Our Middle Name

## At the Heart of Henry Farm

Early Henry Farmers recognized the need for an active association to maintain the quality of life enjoyed in the farm, and to give voice to important issues. They understood the benefit of a kind and caring neighbourhood, relative safety of our streets and homes.

Since its inception over four decades ago, the Henry Farm Community Interest Association has worked hard to create and sustain a vibrant and desirable living environment, based on a strong foundation of volunteering.

## Uncommonly Good

Over the past 40 years, many Henry Farmers have volunteered their time and talents to the Association, doing uncommonly good deeds for the benefit of our community. We gratefully salute the following:

• Gail Edwards • Sue Campbell • Arline Goldwater • Peter Lowry • Jim Coombs • Jane Grant • Richard Whittle • Helen Flanagan • Namby Vithiananthan • Linda Atkins • Sue Donaldson • Nancy Jarvis • Shirley Young • Joanne Johnston • Ida McKenna • Herma Gregga • Seymour Coryell • Anthony David • Jeff Goldwater • Maureen Bainbridge • Sheila Strachan • Margaret Ann Cutler • Nancy Sinclair • Mary Lou Heenan • Omman Hussain • Nancy Austrins • Betty Anne Moyer • Sue Eaman • Mary Lou Fullerton • Jan Freedman-Condlln • Sharon Wiggins • Julie Cormack • Isobel Roxborough • Ann Horne • Marjorie Wilson • Mary McGuire • Fran Rose • Bella Edelstein • Dawn Cramer • Karen Forbes • Val MacDougall • Linda Mitchell • Kelly Perrin • Bart Mindszenty • Karen Kitchen



*“The International Association for Volunteer Effort says Volunteering is a fundamental building block of civil society. It brings to life the noblest aspirations of humankind – the pursuit of peace, freedom, opportunity, safety and justice for all people ... Volunteering is an essential element of all societies.”* – Helen Flanagan, Past President, reflecting on the value of the many volunteers who contribute to the Association

*“A word of thanks to the executive – for without their volunteer assistance, we would not have an association. Everyone has contributed in her or his own way to ensure that all of our projects – wheels sale, all-candidate meetings, Neighbourhood Watch, our newsletter, annual golf tournament, fitness classes, Block Parents – were organized and functioning. To each and everyone on my team, many thanks.”* – Jane Grant, Past President

*“When I stepped into the Association, it was to replace a long-time and hard-working group that had been running after-school and evening programs for adults and children, in Shaughnessy School. The programs were well attended and continued for some time and we enjoyed an excellent relationship with the school. We are fortunate, here in the Henry Farm, that whenever the need arises, there are always capable and enthusiastic volunteers ready and willing to step forward.” – Arline Goldwater, Past President*

**CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS** 10 weeks in the Fall and 10 weeks in the Winter and cost \$15 to \$30 for each program

Music ~ Tiny Tots ~ Fun with French ~ Cooking Club ~ Luncheon Club ~ Acrobatics & Tumbling ~ Indoor Soccer ~ Kindergym ~ Arts & Crafts ~ Acrobatics & Tumbling ~ Tap Dancing ~ Activity Hour ~ Gymnastics ~ Beavers @Dallington PS ~ 319th Wolf Cub Pack ~ 319th Boy Scouts & Venturers @St. Timothy School ~ Brownies @St. Matthew’s Church ~ Cooking Drawing & Painting ~ Crafts for Children ~ The Art of Acrylic & Oil Painting ~ Beginner Jazz ~ Elementary Jazz ~ Intermediate Jazz ~ Puppetry Magic ~ Babysitting ~ Model Building ~ Indoor Soccer ~ After Four Activity Program

**YOUTH PROGRAMS** 10 weeks in the Fall and 10 weeks in the Winter for \$20 with some offered for \$2.50 per session

Judo ~ Learning to Drive ~ Needlepoint ~ Youth Centre ~ Fun with Photography ~ Volleyball

**ADULT PROGRAMS** (18 yr+) 12 weeks and cost \$18 - \$40

Ladies’ Fitness ~ Men’s Fitness ~ Badminton ~ WEN-DO ~ Stained Glass Workshop ~ CPR Course ~ HF 64 Club ~ I made it myself ~ Christmas Craft Blitz ~ Halloween Costumes ~ Calligraphy ~ Conversational French ~ Low-Impact Aerobics

**TENNIS CLUB** lessons for juniors, adults, groups & individuals; \$50 per couple, \$30 adult, \$10 under 18, \$20 18 - 21 age group

• Denise Brownlee • Karen Wason • Barb Simpson  
• Robert Wason • Tueson Dunstan • Shelley Altrman • Joy Alloway • Thea Haller • Wilson Lam • Bernard Assouad • Joseph Ceneda • Sue Eddy • Gloria Sobbbchak • Gail Leitch  
• Adrienne Mays • Bob McGeachie • Daniel Stronach • Grant Fitz • Mary Jo Nicholson • Elizabeth Flavelle • Jim Spencer • Jeanne Hopkins • Julian Colman • Raju Rangaswami • Peter Erwood • Frank Condlln • Mina Rangaswami • John Fryers • Marla Fryers • Sig Schrottner • David Ivey • Gary Jarvis • Jack Schurman • Orv Barber • John Steiger • Elaine Benton • John Crichton • Eric Gibson  
• Betsy Cooper • Penny Gallier • Donna Radford • Greg Physick • Jane O’Keefe • Laurie Clark • Hilary Braive • Rita Ceneda • Elayne Fraser • Gertrud Knogl • Peter Schouten • Michael Lende • Steve Hayto • Paul McCabe  
• J. Boyce MacDougald • Don Drake • Pat Stobbs • Jim Chung • George Margolius • Ted Northcott • Barbara McKay • Brad Lennon • Gord Flanagan • Ian Turner • Ron Martineau • Karen Austerberry • Sue James • Marcelle Killey • Prem Pape • Pat Ginou • Mark Hale •

## **After-school Programs**

Through the efforts of countless volunteers, the Association arranged for after-school programs for Henry Farm children, youth and adults. Our community partner, Shaughnessy Public School, opened its doors and provided space and accommodations. The Association offered these programs on a first-come-first-serve basis to Henry Farmers, and extended to the broader community whenever it could.



## Protecting Our Interests on What Matters

The Association has worked with all levels of elected officials to give voice to the things that matter to our community. These issues pertain to land development, transportation and neighbourhood services and supports. Some of them have taken years to resolve, and some have only just begun.

### Development Issues

- Land for park and bicycle path through ravine between Don Mills, Duncan Mills & Sheppard
- Greenwin high-rise towers at Duncan Mills & Don Mills: 14-storey rather than 26-storey towers
- Municipal Shelter by-law to place emergency/homeless shelters anywhere in the city
- Proposed Official Plan 2002
- Parkway Forest Development condos at Don Mills & Sheppard. No demolition or new construction until replacement units available for tenants
- Bloorview MacMillan Children's Hospital site
- Rusty Rail at Leslie & Sheppard
- Relocation of Don Mills Civitan Ice Rink to Don Mills & Hwy 401

### Transportation Issues

- Additional parking using Havenbrook Park
- Parking fees for North York General Hospital
- Improve Sheppard entrance to DVP at Fairview
- Traffic flow problems with interchange of Hwy 401, 404 and DVP
- Amended by-law to extend 40 km/h zone on Shaughnessy from Sheppard to Havenbrook

*"I have always said that we have a special sense of community in our neighbourhood and that the backbone of that spirit is the newsletter. The newsletter not only provided awareness of neighbourhood news, it promoted interest in events and became a drawing card for volunteerism that we continue to benefit from today, perhaps even more so now. I am continually impressed by the volunteers who never fail to step forward to lead the way on community events and initiatives. One particular example that comes to mind is the work that Henry Farm resident Don Drake originally spearheaded in order to have the sound barrier berm constructed across Havenbrook Park. This effort involved a collaboration of Liberal and Conservative MPPs, City Councillors, a private engineering company, and residents to come up with an innovative solution that took advantage of nearby widening work on the 404. There were enormous obstacles that were overcome, not the least of which was rejection of the proposal by authorities at the outset, to provision this significant enhancement to Henry Farm."*

– Richard Whittle, Past President





Noise Barrier along Highway 401



Berm across Havenbrook Park

- Barrier to reduce noise from westbound lanes of Hwy 401 between DVP & Leslie
- Berm across Havenbrook Park to reduce noise from Hwy 401
- TTC reverses decision and uses tunnelling rather than cut and cover method under Sheppard between Leslie & Don Mills to build subway
- Diamond lanes extended from York Mills to Finch
- Nine of 10 most dangerous intersections in Metro reported in North York: traffic lights changed at Shaughnessy & Sheppard with addition of left turn arrow signal, and additional stop signs
- Additional stop signs at Shaughnessy & Parfield, George Henry & Silkwood, Quincy & George Henry
- Repair stairs from George Henry to Betty Sutherland Trail
- Reduce traffic flow into Henry Farm on Shaughnessy, by reducing number of incoming lanes from two to one and add a median
- Landscape improvements near Havenbrook & Don Mills
- Additional lighting on Shaughnessy south of George Henry
- Bridge reconstruction at Leslie, Sheppard, North York Hospital, Don Mills over Hwy 401
- Renovate baseball diamond and replace grass with low shrubs and trees
- Above-ground LRT proposals for Eglinton, Sheppard and other parts of Toronto, and expansion of Sheppard subway

### HFCIA Neighbourhood Services

- Newsletter, website and business directory
- Social events to bring us together
- Leadership for sport facilities & youth groups
- Town hall meetings to provide a public platform for community leaders

### HFCIA Neighbourhood Supports

- \$200 to Peanut Neighbourhood Youth Centre
- Donations and support for Eva's Place, the first youth shelter built in North York
- Funds toward new play structure at Shaughnessy Public School
- Sponsorship to provide children with tennis lessons, season memberships and racquets
- \$275 donation to Care Canada to assist with Haiti Earthquake relief efforts
- \$100 donation for Christmas drive for families
- Financial donations to Henry Farm Tennis Club
- Purchase of new snow removal equipment to scoop snow from end of driveways
- Improved water line and boards for Shaughnessy skating rink
- City pamphlets and funding for animal control services to discourage visits from skunks and other wild animals
- Customized Henry Farm street signs for three entrance points to the neighbourhood

**700 North York families need us to share christmas**

I'm 14 and I want to help  
please can you help?

FOOD : staples, rice, oatmeal, beans,  
powder milk, can vegetables, fresh or can  
fruit, canned ham, tuna, etc

TOYS : wrapped or unwrapped if wrapped  
indicate sex and age

drop off at 28 deepglade cres. between now  
and dec. 15th or call and we will pickup ask  
for my mom jerri

any teenager or adult that wants to help with our door to  
door drive on dec 14th and 15th please call us at 499-1218  
we would love to have one person on each block to help

**every little bit will help make christmas  
brighter for someone**



*“When I went to my first executive meeting the members were, for all intents and purposes, strangers. Now we are good friends and, together over the years, we worked as a team to achieve our goals – and had lots of fun doing it! I thank the executives for all of their interest and support ... and a thank-you to all Henry Farm residents for supporting our association through the membership and participation and by everyone doing their best to ensure that our neighbourhood is safe – and warm – and home.”*

*– Jim Coombs, Past President*



# Fun in the Farm



First Curling Bonspiel held in 2000 at Avonlea Curling Club  
organized by Julian Colman  
(2010 Curling Funspiel)



Sue Stronach started Guess Who's Coming to Dinner in 2005  
(2011 Dinner)



Bob & Pat Houston and Don & Jane Grant launched the Golf Tournament in the late 1980s  
(2009 Tournament)



## Henry Farm at 25

In 1987, the Association celebrated our 25th year in grand style. Elaine Campbell, chair of the anniversary committee, brought together volunteers to plan a number of events at various locations throughout the neighbourhood.

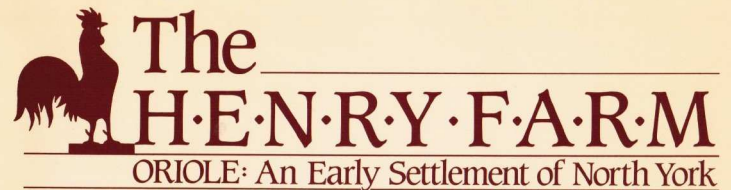
On Saturday, June 20, Henry Farmers participated in a dedication ceremony for a new walkway along the Don River valley, a nature walk conducted by the Ontario Naturalists Association, and an ecumenical church service at the Mulholland Cairn to honour the original settlers. The neighbourhood all turned out to Shaughnessy School to enjoy children's games, old time fiddlers, a barbecue, and street dance with band and vocalist.

The Association produced souvenir coffee mugs, and sweat shirts and children's t-shirts, imprinted with "Henry Farm, a great place to live."

Jeanne Hopkins, an original resident of the Farm, researched and published a book to coincide with the 25th year, entitled "The Henry Farm – Oriole: An Early Settlement of North York." In her book, Jeanne Hopkins traces the development of Toronto from early settlements of Oriole, Lansing, Willowdale, Don Mills, Newton Brook, Milneford, Flyntown and L'amaroux, and the first families to settle in this area including Mulholland, Duncan, Clark, Gray, Milne, Hogg, Harrison, Nicol, Hunter and Henry. Churches, schools, and roads were built, leading the way to the development of the Henry Farm subdivision.

*"The 25th anniversary is a celebration of more than just years. It expresses the values of community that we share today. Community values are not demanding. They are not onerous. They are merely recognition of the fact that what we put into building community strength is returned to us many times over. The Henry Farm is a strong community. We can expect its next 25 years to continue to make it: The Place to Live."*

– Peter Lowry, Past President



Jeanne Hopkins

## The Threads that Bind, by Thea Haller



In the late 1970s and early '80s, a few “at-home moms” in the Henry Farm formed a group and got crafty making sock monkeys, picture frames and quilted shopping bags. On one of these occasions, Elaine Campbell suggested that they make a quilt to celebrate the Farm’s 25th year.

At that time, neighbours Martin Wakim and Suzanne MacLean were members of the York Heritage Quilting Guild, sharing a love of quilting from their early years growing up in New Brunswick. Suzanne was a founding member of the guild, which grew out of the quilt revival that began in the 1960s. At that time, interest in quilts and quilt-making had exploded leading up to the Bicentennial, as women reclaimed a heritage that had been lost and a renewed pride in quilt-making. For the first time, quilts were read as social documents of the women who made them, embodying the history and values of their makers. Women of the '60s viewed quilt-making in a new way, discovering their personal and family roots, history and traditions.

With characteristic zeal, Martin and Suzanne launched the Henry Farm quilting project. They supplied each crafter with fabric and asked everyone to create a block that represented an aspect of life in the Farm. To everyone’s amazement, 27 different designs emerged. To assemble the quilt, Martin organized a quilting bee at St. Matthew’s Church with the help of Kay Phillips of the York Heritage Quilting Guild and their members. Suzanne added trim and binding to complete the quilt.

To the delight of everyone involved, the Henry Farm quilt was exhibited at the York Heritage Quilting Guild Show in 1987, as the first commemorative quilt.

This distinction was continued when local MPP Eleanor Caplan arranged for the quilt to be on display at Queen's Park later that year. Eventually, the quilt returned to the neighbourhood Oriole Community Centre, where it was on display for the next 24 years.

The 50th Anniversary of Henry Farm seemed an ideal time to bring the quilt back home. The Henry Farm Community Interest Association worked with the Oriole Community Centre and Toronto Parks and Recreation to make this move possible. Ian Turner, Principal at Shaughnessy Public School, agreed to provide a permanent home for the quilt. Our thanks to Rob Spencer, Mike Wylie and Frank Suppo for helping HFCIA with the arrangements needed to preserve this important piece of our history.

To mark the quilt's "homecoming", HFCIA hosted an event at Shaughnessy on June 5, 2012. Eight of the original quilters attended ~ Astrid Walther, Barbara Barbos, Lois Bertram, Margaret Heilig, Marjorie Wilson, Martin Wakim, Rita Bruni, and Sue Robertson ~ Margaret Goss and Suzanne MacLean sent their regrets. The occasion served as a wonderful reunion, especially for those who had not seen each other in recent years.

The Henry Farm quilt represented a new genre of quilts depicting historical events and landmarks, raising the so-called cottage craft to its rightful place among the arts. Modern designers have used quilt-making as their medium to make social commentary about their times. Thank you, ladies!

Through the art of quilt-making you have captured an important part of our heritage for many generations to enjoy.



Astrid Walther ~ Duck  
 Barbara Borbas ~ Brownie  
 Bev Patterson ~ Queen's Park  
 Deena Bray ~ Farm scene  
 Freda Shea ~ Bird  
 Gayle Hickling ~ 24 Quincy Cresc.  
 Irene Gibson ~ Backyard hockey  
 Jean Barringer ~ Cardinal  
 Joan Oben ~ Henry Farm map  
 Judy Davidson ~ Farmhouse  
 Kay Smith ~ Farm scene  
 Lisa Genova ~ Milk cans  
 Lois Bertram ~ Shaughnessy  
 Lorraine Williams ~ Trillium/Ontario

Marg Donahee ~ Hen  
 Margaret Goss ~ Olympic rings  
 Margaret Heilig ~ Tobogganing  
 Marjorie Wilson ~ Rooster  
 Martin Wakim ~ Quilt name, Tennis,  
 Mulholland Cairn  
 Renelle Kuntz ~ Apple tree  
 Rita Bruni ~ 37 Havenbrook Blvd.  
 Sue Robertson ~ Swimming pool  
 Suzanne MacLean & Irene Gibson ~  
 St. Timothy Church ~ Quilters  
 Suzanne MacLean ~ Home sweet  
 home ~ St. Matthew's Church



## Henry Farm at 50



### Putting on Our Party Shoes

It's 2012 and we're celebrating our 50th with flare. This year's events have been nothing short of amazing.

On April 20, the Association hosted a Gala Dinner and Dance at Le Parc banquet facilities. The Association had hoped they would sell 100 tickets, but to everyone's delight, Henry Farmers surpassed expectations with over 200 attending. Everyone was dressed to the nines and enjoyed a wonderful evening of live band music, great food and mingling. John and Marla Fryers organized the event and even arranged for a bus to transport revellers from the neighbourhood to the Gala and safely back home.

On June 19, the Association hosted a Neighbourhood Party on the grounds of St. Matthew's Anglican Church. With threatening skies and above average temperatures, Daryl Paquette and his team pressed on to put in place all the elements of a successful event. Over 500 residents attended and enjoyed barbecue fare, snow cones, candy floss, cold drinks, and donuts. The event was especially a hit with young families and their children enjoying face-painting, balloon art and Toronto Marlies' Duke the Dog.

Sincere thanks to Rev. Brad Lennon and St. Matthew's Church for providing us with a venue that accommodated a hungry crowd of Henry Farmers from across the neighbourhood. Everyone felt very welcomed by your hospitality.




**HENRY FARM COMMUNITY • 50TH ANNIVERSARY**  
1967-2012

# GOLDEN JUBILEE GALA NIGHT

In celebration of Henry Farm's 50th Anniversary,  
we are having a GALA NIGHT of friends,  
music, dining and dancing

WHAT: Open Bar • Five Course Dining • Live Band • Dancing  
WHERE: Le Parc, 8432 Leslie Street, Banquet Hall 4  
WHEN: Friday, April 20, 2012 • 7:30 – 1pm  
DRESS: Snazzy and Elegant  
*Bus ride from the Farm to Le Parc & back*

COME BACK HOME TO HENRY FARM & SEE YOUR OLD FRIENDS!  
*This is a great opportunity for the kids of Henry Farm who have moved out, to reconnect with their childhood friends*

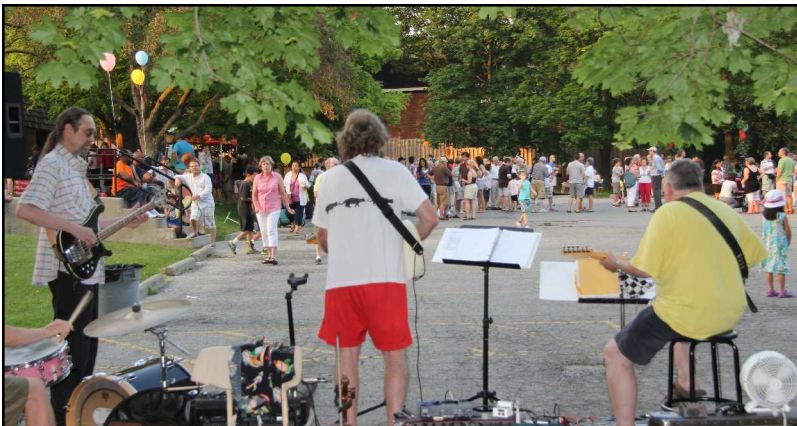




# Neighbourhood Party







# The Henry Farmer – Special Edition



## What's Making the News in Our 50th Year?

### World News

- London, UK, welcomes the world to the 2012 Summer Olympics, the Games of the XXX Olympiad, with more than 10,000 athletes from 204 countries participating, and the Paralympics with a record 4,200 athletes from 166 countries.
- Twenty years ago, Sir Tim Berners-Lee created the world's first website, sparking a technological revolution. By 2012, 2.7 billion Internet users; 4 million internet searches per minute worldwide; 33% world population with Internet access.
- August 6, 2012, NASA's rover Curiosity lands on Mars. The one-ton rover touched down onto Mars to end a 36-week flight and begin a two-year investigation. The wheels of Curiosity have begun to blaze the trail for human footprints on Mars.
- Rolling Stones played their first gig, 50 years ago, on July 12, 1962 at London's Marquee Jazz Club.
- Queen Elizabeth celebrates her Diamond Jubilee marking her 60th year as monarch. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary was crowned Queen of England, following the death of King George VI in 1952.
- 75 years ago, Kraft Dinner became one of the world's first and most successful convenience foods. Kraft Canada manufactures 120 million boxes of KD at its factory in Mont-Royal, Montreal.
- The first Oreo cookies rolled out of the oven 100 years ago. The cookies are sold in over 100 countries, and the Oreo is the world's top-selling cookie.
- In 1912, the Titanic sank off the coast of Newfoundland.

### National News

- 40 years ago, Paul Henderson scored the winning goal in the 1972 Hockey Summit Series against the USSR.
- Canadian Wildlife Federation celebrates 50 years.
- 50 years ago, the Trans-Canada Highway officially opened. The highway is one of the world's longest national highways, with the main route spanning 8,030 km.
- 60 years ago, The National Ballet of Canada was founded and made its debut at the Eaton Auditorium in Toronto.
- 100 years ago, the Calgary Stampede was born from the vision of Guy Weadick, a man with a dream of celebrating the romance and authentic culture of the old west.
- The Grey Cup celebrates its 100th year in Toronto, with a ten-day, eleven-night festival encompassing street parties, entertainment and activities, leading up to the game.
- The Ottawa River Parkway renamed Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway, in honour of Macdonald who was elected Canada's first Prime Minister in 1867, 145 years ago.
- 200 years ago, the United States declared war on Britain, and the Americans began a series of invasions into Upper and Lower Canada. It changed the course of history and defined Canada. With the treaty of Ghent in 1815, the United States, Britain and Canada have enjoyed peaceful relations for two centuries.



## Henry Farm Hall of Fame

### Local News: Uncommonly Good, It's in Our DNA

Over the years, the Association has acknowledged people who do uncommonly good things for the betterment of their families, our neighbourhood and the broader community, through stories in the newsletter and website, and through public expressions. In this, our 50th year, we salute:

- Block Parents
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Henry Farm tennis club
- Book clubs, dinner clubs, Annual Wheels Sale
- Caregivers for children and seniors
- House sitters, dog walkers, cat sitters
- Rink rats who flood the Shaughnessy skating rink
- Leaders for Brownies, Girl Guides, Cubs, Scouts
- Neighbours' Night Out and Guess Who's Coming to Dinner hosts
- Neighbours who turn to each other in times of great joy and for encouragement

Henry Farmers sharing the spotlight:

- Volunteer Service Award recipients Mary and Tomi Hiraishi
- Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient Helen Flanagan
- Philanthropists John and Ethel McGeachie
- Fundraisers Katie Thrasher, Mary Whittle
- Olympians Sandy Goss and Bernhard Volz
- Chief Scout Troy Austrins
- Film and television actor Scott Speedman
- Television producer-director Norman Campbell

### Presidents

Gail Edwards  
Sue Campbell  
Arline Goldwater  
Peter Lowry  
Jim Coombs  
Jane Grant  
Richard Whittle  
Helen Flanagan  
Namby Vithiananthan

### Term of Office

1978 – 1980  
1980 – 1981  
1981 – 1985  
1985 – 1990  
1990 – 1991  
1991 – 1996  
1996 – 2003  
2003 – 2009  
2009 – to date

*"All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action."*

– James Russell Lowell





### **Congratulations from Betty Sutherland**

**Bill Sutherland**, Alderman, Hydro Commissioner, Controller, and Metro Councillor, 1964–1985

**Betty Sutherland**, North York Alderman, and Metro Councillor, 1972–1985

In a beautiful farmland area, the Henry Farm, named after former Premier George Henry, was created. It has become an active friendly community in a large metropolitan city. Our family, Bill, Betty, John, Bob, Paul and Judy moved into a new house on the ravine on the north side of Sheppard in Don Valley Village in 1962.

As construction progressed, we became active in the community association. I was approached by the editor of the Don Mills Mirror to do a column for them. It became “News and Views from Don Valley Village and Henry Farm.” This column gave me an opportunity to report all of the happenings in both areas.

When my husband, Bill was elected Alderman in 1964, it gave me the chance to meet many of the residents in Henry Farm. Later, Bill was elected to the Board of Control and me to Alderman in Ward 14. Working with the association and many individuals we would solve problems and, by working together, were successful in creating new recreational facilities in our Ward.

It was a pleasure to serve as your friend and representative for 12 years. Naming the pathway system “The Betty Sutherland Trail” was a real honour. Congratulations to the Henry Farm community on your 50th anniversary.

### **Congratulations from Paul Sutherland**

**Paul Sutherland**, North York City Councillor, 1985–1997 and Toronto City Councillor, 2000–2003

It was 50 years ago when a 7-year-old boy started the very first route for the newly established Mirror newspaper in Henry Farm. At that time, some homes and all the townhomes on George Henry Boulevard were still under construction. Everything was new, exciting and somehow, very special. That paper boy was me and little did I know then that this would be the start of a long personal relationship with the Henry Farm community.

Years later, in 1985, I was elected as City Alderman (later Councillor) in North York, following my parents’ successful political careers.

My parents (Bill and Betty Sutherland) worked hard with the Henry Farm Community Interest Association to complete sidewalks, construct the tennis courts, install lighting, and start North York's first (and ongoing) Neighbourhood Watch program. They always ensured Henry Farm issues were council issues. For example, the first ever by-law to ban smoking was introduced to North York Council by my mother after a resident complained to her about cigarette ashes falling onto vegetables in the grocery store! That was a very tough fight at the time and the beginning of a fundamental change in how we viewed public health in our city.

The Henry Farm Community Association worked diligently and professionally to secure the very best of services for the people of Henry Farm and North York as a whole. This included supporting what is now known as the Betty Sutherland Trail. At the time, access to our valleys and ravines along designated pathways was fought by downtown environmentalists. As the Metro Chair of Parks and with the support of the Henry Farm community, Mom persevered and established a policy that ultimately linked bike and walking trails throughout the City of Toronto.

During my term, on your behalf, I introduced the yellow neon signs that make it easier for drivers to see children's crosswalks. The very first one was installed at George Henry and Shaughnessy. These signs are now dispersed across the City of Toronto, making it safer for your children to cross the street.



Issues continued to mature and concerns grew about city-wide policies, governance and tax policies. These all impacted the Henry Farm community directly.

With your support, I championed the long but successful struggle to introduce a form of market value assessment which greatly reduced overall property taxes in the Farm.

And the struggle for limited transit dollars resulted in a subway right to Henry Farm! I was fortunate to be Chair of our Subway Committee at the time. Consider this, in 1985, the TTC published their 2011 transit plan. It included subways from Dufferin to Scarborough Town Centre; along Eglinton, east and west of Yonge; from Spadina to York University. To this day, the only part of that grand vision that has been completed is the first stage of the Sheppard line to Don Mills. This was not a subway to nowhere. This was the beginning of the implementation of the 2011 transit plan that was adopted by Metro Council at that time!

I was there and part of the decision-making process and I can tell you that without the support of the Henry Farm community and its strong Association, it is unlikely the Sheppard subway would have ever been started.

Great leadership has been a significant contributing factor to the success of the Henry Farm community. I had the privilege of working closely with Henry Farm leaders Jim Coombs, Jim Spencer, Jane Grant, Richard Whittle, Helen Flanagan, and Namby Vithiananthan.

The Association's views have been critical to the health and well-being of the residents of Henry Farm. They have also influenced decisions affecting people across the City of Toronto. Today, this tradition continues.

Reflecting back on the Association's 50th anniversary, I remember those early days as a child and all that has occurred and changed since then. What a unique and very special place. A model of civility, it has supportive neighbours and friends; strong parent and teacher relationships; tennis, sports and playgrounds for kids; annual golf and community events; an informative newsletter and political activism as needed. All of these things and more are the Henry Farm. A very special community indeed!

## Congratulations from Shelley Carroll

**Shelley Carroll**, Toronto City Councillor, 2003—to date

For any municipal urban design fan, Henry Farm is a bona fide classic. Designed at the dawn of Canadian suburban planned-neighbourhood building, Henry Farm had all of the elements; a range of housing types, from large family dwellings to apartment towers, a school, a park, a place of worship and transit connections. Road infrastructure was going in, a covered shopping centre and even a neighbourhood hospital was promised. Built on beautiful land with heritage aspects, some of those aspects were carefully preserved as the modern subdivision went up.

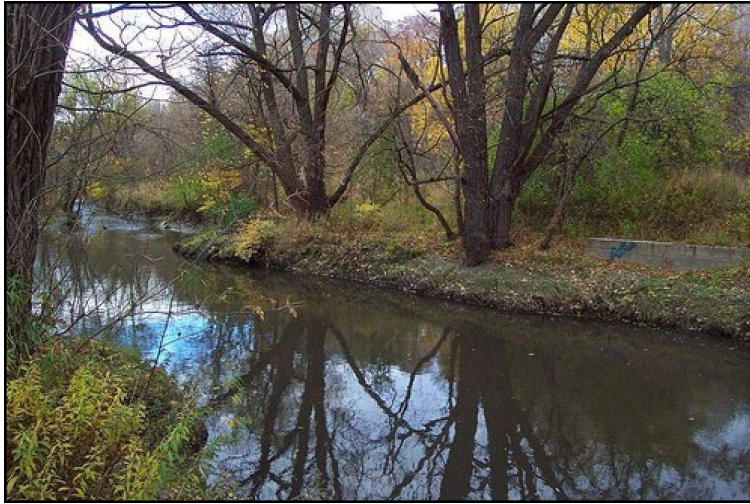
But that is true of many sub-divisions in North York. Some have endured and some have not. What has made Henry Farm so successful is its people. There has been a high degree of community engagement in Henry Farm from the beginning. The Henry Farm residents' groups, school groups and congregations have always offered a great balance of addressing neighbourhood challenges and just good plain social celebration. It's why so many make houses in Henry Farm their homes for a lifetime. That sense of engagement is why children of the sixties return to establish their own family-homes when they can. And today, it is why new residents of the area are able to so quickly feel a sense of belonging to someplace special.

You are, 50 years later, a model to all communities. Every time you gather, you demonstrate how to turn community responsibility into a joyful exercise.

*"We know that strong neighbourhoods are crucial building blocks to a strong city. Building strong communities where people can live healthy lives. When each part of our city is strong — every person, every neighbourhood — our city as a whole is stronger, healthier and more prosperous."*

— Susan McIsaac, President and CEO, United Way

# A Walkable Community where a River Runs by



East Don River



East Don River

## Our Natural Heritage

For those of us who call this hamlet our home, we are fortunate to reside in an area where streets are lined with mature trees, neighbours take pride in their gardens, people enjoy strolling through the streets, or playing baseball, tennis, tobogganing, cycling and skating. A unique feature of our neighbourhood is its proximity to the East Don River, which gives us a beautiful natural setting where we can enjoy nature first-hand.

Prior to European settlement, the Don River was covered almost entirely with forest, with some wetlands and native meadows. Just over 200 years ago, Elizabeth Simcoe described this area as a wilderness landscape with wolves, bald eagles, and runs of Atlantic salmon up the river.

The Don River watershed covers approximately 36,000 hectares including portions of the City of Toronto and the City of Vaughan, and Town of Markham and Town of Richmond Hill. The watershed drains southward from the Oak Ridges Moraine about 315 metres above sea level. The Don River has two tributaries with the East Don and West Don Rivers which join together south of Eglinton Avenue. The Lower Don flows south and empties into Toronto Harbour, one of Canada's largest inland ports at the doorstep of the largest city in the country.

This network of rivers, streams and valleys has provided an historic highway for Aboriginal hunters, explorers, traders, soldiers, and settlers. There are over 193 archaeological sites within the watershed registered with the province.

For the past 200 years, the Don River and its tributaries have



slowly changed from a series of relatively healthy watercourses serving agricultural lands and rural communities, into an urban river that suffers from flooding, erosion, poor water quality and threatened ecology. The Don River watershed has a long history of grassroots and advocacy efforts engaging the community in projects to transform the Don River into a healthy urban river.

Many major transportation routes pass through the Don River watershed. The 400 series highways, rail lines, and rail transfer stations. The DVP runs through the river valley from the mouth to Don Mills.

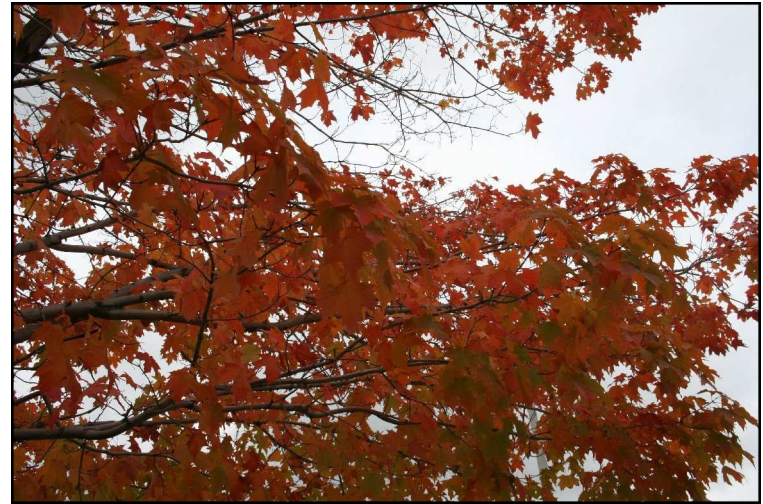
### **Urban Forest**

Today, about 16% of the Don River watershed has some kind of natural cover, with the greatest forest cover in the upper East Don River and lower West Don River.

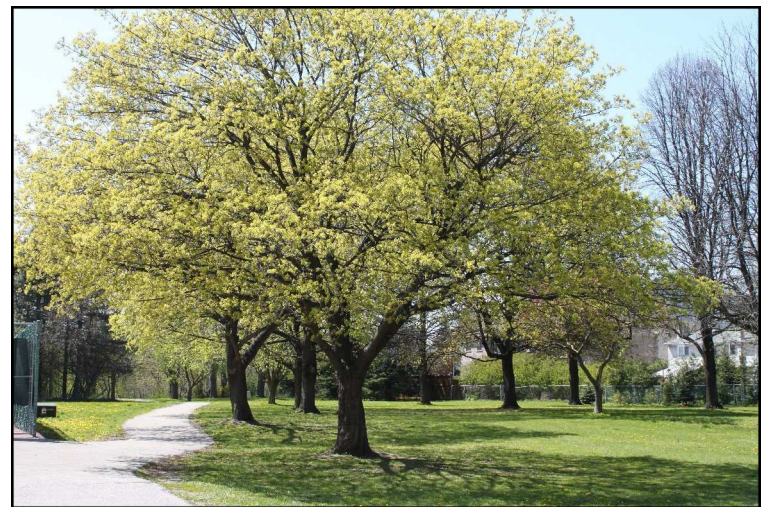
We know that a healthy urban forest can cool the city, control flooding, clean the air, and help reduce the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. The City of Toronto has approximately 7.5 million trees. This urban forest provides shade, moderates air temperature and improves the aesthetic appeal of our neighbourhoods. Over the past six years, an estimated 110,000 native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and aquatic plants have been planted in the watershed.

### **Connecting People and Places**

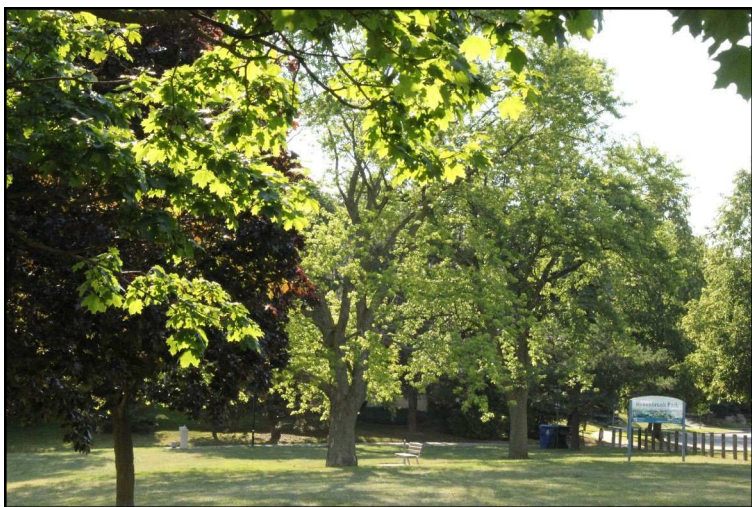
The Don River watershed provides over 143 kilometres of trails, with 13 km in Markham, 32 km in Richmond Hill, 26 km in Vaughn, and 72 km in Toronto. People can hike, bike, ski,



Autumn Foliage



Pathway Leading to the Betty Sutherland Trail



Havenbrook Park



A Young Northern Cardinal

bird watch or enjoy a picnic. Within the Henry Farm, there are approximately 10.7 km of sidewalks along our 14 streets, where people enjoy walking and jogging throughout the neighbourhood, and connecting with our very own Havenbrook Park and network of trails. Some use the Betty Sutherland Trail to walk or cycle to work or school or access the Sheppard subway, or enjoy one of life's simple pleasures of taking the dog for a walk.

### **Fish Making a Come-back**

Since the early 1950s, 47 fish species have been reported in the watershed. Twenty-one species are currently present, of which 17 are native. Over the years, there has been a decline in the diversity of fish communities and in the number of native fish species. Native Atlantic salmon, historically present in the Don, were destroyed in the late 1800s; however, stocked Chinook salmon have been migrating in the fall through Pottery Road and the York Mills area to Highway 7, with recent interventions.

### **Birds Aplenty**

We live in a country that is home to billions of birds with over 450 species native to Canada. A report issued in 2012, a first of its kind, draws on 40 years of data, and summarizes the status of Canada's bird populations at the national level and for each of the eight major physiographic regions. Henry Farm lies in the Lower Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Region, an area dominated by agricultural and urban landscapes. This region includes the only tracts of Carolinian forest in Canada, which supports a distinctive community of animals and plants.



According to the report, about 22% of Canadian bird species spend the whole year in Canada, with more than 75% spending at least half of the year outside the country in warmer climates: 33% migrate to the U.S.; 23% head to Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean; 15% to South America; and 7% migrate to Europe or Asia or spend long periods of time at sea. Migration is becoming increasingly risky, and most challenging for birds which travel the farthest distance. International treaties between Canada and the United States help to link conservation efforts.

By increasing forest cover, expanding and linking larger forest patches, and conserving as much of the natural landscape as possible, we can help our bird population. The birds help us by controlling insect and rodent populations, and disperse and pollinate plants.

Bird watching is one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities in Canada, and a favourite pastime in

Henry Farm. Neighbor Charles Munro is an avid bird watcher and claims that over 30 species visit his backyard in a given year. Here's what the report has to say about the status of birds Charles keeps his eye on. The symbol (+) indicates species on the increase, symbol (–) indicates species on the decline. Some species have not been tracked.

–Great blue heron, –Black-crowned night heron, +Canada goose, +Mallard, –Red-tailed hawk, –American kestrel, –Killdeer, +Ring-billed gull, –Herring gull, +Common tern, +Rock dove, +Mourning dove, Common nighthawk, –Chimney swift, +Ruby-throated hummingbird, +Downy woodpecker, +Hairy woodpecker, –Northern flicker, –Tree swallow, –Barn swallow, +Blue jay, +American crow, +Black-capped chickadee, +Red-breasted nuthatch, +White-breasted nuthatch, +American robin, +Cedar waxwing, European starling, +Northern cardinal, –Rose-breasted grosbeak, Multiple little brown birds, Dark-eyed junco, –Red-winged blackbird, +Common grackle, –Brown-headed cowbird, –Northern oriole, +House finch, Pine siskin, +American goldfinch, Cormorants, Turkey vultures



Just a regular Sunday morning at Havenbrook Park with Best Friends: Akala, Bella, Brodie, Breeze, Buddy, Chaser, Chichi, Duchess, Guinness, Hana, Harvey, Henry, Joey, Leonard, Lexi, Macel, Maya, Oscar, Phin, Rich, Roxy, Sammy, Solo, Zeus & Zoe. (Border Collie, Collie & Labrador, Coton De Tulear, German Pointer, Labradoodle, Lhasa Apso, Miniature Poodle, Pomeranian & Pekinese, Portuguese Waterdog, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Schnoodle, Sheltie, Shih Tzu, Springer Spaniel, Yellow Labrador)



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