

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Newsletter of the Mississauga South Historical Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE • ELAINE EIGL

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020's first edition of THE LIGHTHOUSE!

And so starts a new decade.

My fellow Board members and I are pleased to advise you that plans are well in hand for this year's events. We have a full slate of exciting speakers lined up and discussions are underway for our annual summer field trip. Details will be posted to our webpage and announced in future issues of *The Lighthouse*. But as a teaser, this year we will hear from an architectural photographer, an archaeologist, an air ship aficionado, and a protector of Canadian art!



Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 28, 2020** at the Lorne Park library. As we always do at the start of the year, our meeting will kick off with our AGM. After a quick update on business matters, we will invite our members and guests to participate in our always informative (and often quirky) annual **Show & Tell**. So, dust off your curios and brush up on your family stories and come enjoy five minutes in the spotlight.

And please remember to bring your membership renewal form. We exist because of our members and I hope you will continue to support our efforts to protect and celebrate our community's history.

See you on January 28th and find out who is in the photo on the left!

NEXT MSHS MEETING

SHOW & TELL

Tuesday, January 28
7:00 pm

Lorne Park Branch,
Mississauga Public Library
1474 Truscott Rd.,
Mississauga

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To advertise in *The Lighthouse*,
or to inquire about rates,
please contact Jenny Dale at:
missysouth@rogers.com

Le Surf Hotel

On the front page of the September issue of *The Lighthouse*, you may have noticed a photo of “Hotel Le Surf”. Being curious, I did some research and learned that the hotel was located east of the Credit River, south of Lakeshore Road. To help you orient yourself, on the far left of the photo is the old Port Credit post office building,



PORT CREDIT YACHT CLUB, JAMES V. SALMON, 1955, Toronto Public Library

which although it’s much altered still stands today at the corner of Stavebank Road South and Lakeshore Road East.

According to the library’s Historic Images Gallery, Hotel Le Surf was built in 1912 for A. Wilbur and, at the time, was called Lakeview Inn. The inn was constructed on the same property as the Wilbur House, which had been built in 1847 by Robert Lynd. And, as early as the Wilbur House was, it was a relative newcomer compared to its close neighbour, the Government Inn, which was built in 1793.

All of these buildings are gone now. The Government Inn was destroyed by fire in 1861; the Wilbur House was demolished in 1913; and, Hotel Le Surf/Lakeview Inn was demolished in November 1965, having suffered three fires the last one occurring on 8 August 1964. In the area today, stands the Credit Village Marina building.

If you have any information on any of these hotels and inns, or any south Mississauga hotels, we’d love to learn more. Please contact us at missysouth@rogers.com.



↑ LAKEVIEW INN, PORT CREDIT
Mississauga Library System
(Harold Hare Collection)

↓ WILBUR HOUSE, PORT CREDIT, C.1907
Image courtesy Charlie Hare and the
Mississauga Library System



THE HOUSE FOR TRAVELLERS AT PORT CREDIT,
ERECTED IN 1793 BY THE PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT OF UPPER CANADA.

→ GOVERNMENT INN, PORT CREDIT
Image courtesy Charlie Hare and the
Mississauga Library System

Mary Fix

Have you ever wondered about the little blue house nestled in the south-west arm of the Highway 10/Queen Elizabeth Way off ramp? I did for many years, until I was fortunate enough to get to know it quite well when I worked in the Culture Division at the City of Mississauga.

25 Pinetree Way, as it is known municipally these days, is the former residence of renowned politician and philanthropist, Mary Fix, who is noteworthy for being Toronto Township's first female politician. Mrs. Fix decided to enter politics in response to massive post-World War II tax increases being imposed at the time. In January 1953, she was elected as the Township's Deputy-Reeve. Subsequent roles included Reeve, and in 1959 she once again broke the mould when she was elected as Peel County's first female Warden.

Mary McNulty was born in Ottawa in 1896 and educated in Ottawa and Toronto. Graduating from Osgoode School of Law in 1918, McNulty became Ottawa's first female lawyer, however, she practiced law for just two years leaving in frustration upon realizing that, as a woman, she would never receive important cases. Instead, she decided to turn her love of fashion into a career and became a clothing buyer working for a number of clothing chains, including Eaton's.

In 1931, McNulty married virtuoso pianist Albert Alphonse Fix, and in March 1939 they bought the property and had their home built.



MARY MCNULTY, CA. 1925 ¹



MARY AND ALBERT FIX WITH THEIR DACHSHUNDS, CA. 1940S ²
MARY FIX HOME, CIRCA 1950S ³



Upon her husband's death in 1945, Mrs. Fix opened the Cloverleaf Dress Shop which she ran out of the house. It is believed that the shop was named as it was as a nod to its proximity to the recently opened Queen Elizabeth Way, which was notable as Canada's first inter-city divided highway, and which featured the first cloverleaf interchange in Canada (at Hurontario Street/Highway 10).⁴

Per the terms of Mrs. Fix's will the property was transferred to the Town of Mississauga in 1972. In 1973, the property was rented out to a local not-for profit organization, an arrangement that remains in effect to this day.

More information about Mary Fix, her home and her career are available through the City's web page as Item 7.1 of the January 2017 Heritage Advisory Committee meeting minutes. https://www7.mississauga.ca/documents/committees/heritage/2017/2017_01_10_-_HAC_Agenda.pdf ⁵

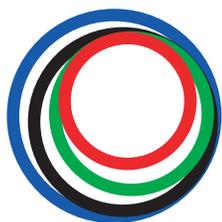
¹ Mary McNulty as a young woman, ca. 1920 - 1935, Museums of Mississauga, Bradley Collection- BR2009.20.58. Inscribed on the back of the photo, "M. McNulty, T. Eaton Co. 103 R. Lafayette, Paris, France"

² Mary Fix and Albert Fix with two dogs, ca. 1940s, Museums of Mississauga, Bradley Collection- BR2009.20.14.7

³ Mary Fix fonds, Region of Peel Archives (RPA)

⁴ The Ministry of Transportation 1916-2016: A history. <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/about/mto-100/> - accessed 18 November 2019

⁵ "Proposed Heritage Designation Mary Fix Property, 25 Pinetree Way (Ward 1)", City of Mississauga, Corporate Report, 1 December 2016 - accessed 18 November 2019



The Port Credit Village Project invites you to the **Stonehooker Brewery** for a special **Dinner Evening** to enjoy **Canadian Historian Alan Skeoch** and his fabulous stories of Port Credit.

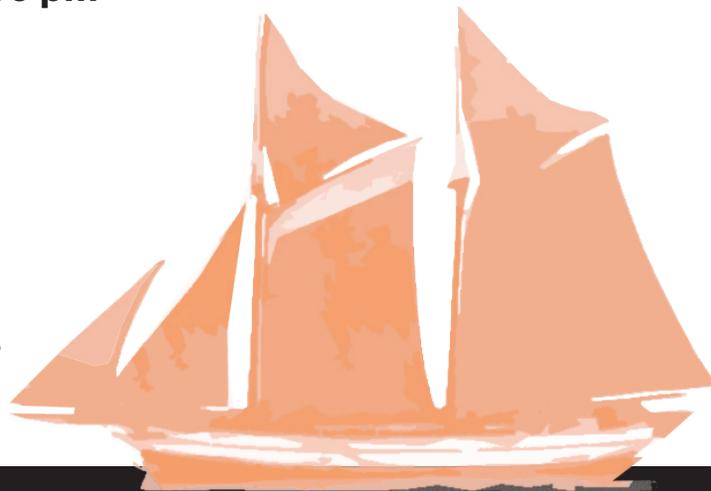
Saturday, February 29th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Tickets \$50.00

Cash Bar | Dress – Warm & Casual
Chance to win a Mystery Bag

866 Lakeshore Road East, east of Cawthra Road,
2nd right turn after East Avenue – Ample parking
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Tickets may be obtained from
Impressionable Gift Shop – 74 Lakeshore Rd. E.
cash only – or cheques/cash dropped off at
Stonehookers Brewery address above.



Mississauga South Historical Society Membership

I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and are looking forward to the excitement of a new decade!

With the coming of the New Year, its time to renew your Mississauga South Historical Society membership. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'd like to invite you to continue to support our mandate as a community resource that promotes and preserves our local history, something we do by hosting interesting and exciting speakers, and through our annual summertime field trip. By renewing your membership, or becoming a new member, you can help us do this important work.



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Sadly, due to fiscal restraints, starting with the March 2020 edition, we find ourselves unable to continue to send our newsletter to non-members. However, we are happy to continue to advise you by email of our upcoming meetings.

You can become a member, or renew your membership, at our next meeting which is scheduled for January 28th, or by mailing a cheque to:

Mississauga South Historical Society
1921 Dundas Street West
Mississauga ON L5K 1R2

Membership is still just \$20.00 and covers the period between January and December. For your convenience a membership form is included in this newsletter (see the last page of this newsletter).

We welcome you to join us again as we look to the past while moving forward into the new decade.

Jenny Dale,
Membership Director & Social Convener

This edition's mystery!

As taken from the minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Port Credit IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire), dated 25 April 1924, which recorded that the group had a guest speaker by the name of Col. Hamilton, who says (amongst other things):

“It is a well known fact, that the British had a military post here during the war of 1812. This was situated where the Lakeview Hotel now stands; and from that date down, whenever danger faced us, notably, during the troublesome days of 1866-85 & in the great-War, this vicinity always had its quota of men under arms.”

If you, or anyone you know, has any information on the Port Credit IODE members and branch activities, or about Lakeview Inn, please contact Mississauga South Historical Society at missysouth@rogers.com. We'd love to learn more!

British Home Children

In November 2019, John Jeffkins gave a very interesting presentation to our group regarding the British Home Children and his family's link with the organization. If you are looking to follow up with research of your own, please go to www.britishhomechildren.com



Love is in the air at the Museums!

The Museums of Mississauga is fortunate to have a variety of wedding dresses in our collection from various community members including a beautiful wool wedding gown worn by Mary Magrath when she married Arthur Harris in 1881. Inspired by the dress as well as the love stories of the Harris and Sayers family of Clarkson, the Museums is thrilled to be curating an exhibition about love opening in May, 2020.

The public will be invited to explore some of Mississauga's historic love stories featuring artefacts from our collection and see a wide variety of items on loan from our community.

This project will invite residents to share their own stories, traditions, rituals and expression of love to be included in this exhibition.

Do you have a love story to share or want to be featured in our community wedding album? Please contact us at museums.collections@mississauga.ca

Check out our exhibition at the Port Credit Arena and follow us on social media for updates on this exciting project!

www.museumsofmississauga.com

INSTAGRAM: @SaugaCulture

TWITTER: @SaugaMuseums

FACEBOOK: Museums of Mississauga

WEDDING DRESS AND CAPE WORN BY MARY MAGRATH AT HER WEDDING TO ARTHUR HARRIS. THE COUPLE LIVED AND RAISED THEIR FAMILY AT THE BENARES ESTATE IN CLARKSON.



Upcoming Meetings

January **28** **Show & Tell and AGM**
Please bring along an interesting item to display!

March **17** **Joginder Singh**
Spaced Out, Architectural Photography

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Mississauga South Historical Society

2020 Membership Form

- Renewal
- New Membership



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Email: _____

- Check here if you would like to receive your newsletters via email to help us save on printing costs.
- Individual Membership \$20.00
- Family Membership \$30.00

Please bring to the next meeting or mail to:
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