

The Brampton Heritage Times

A NEWSLETTER OF THE BRAMPTON HERITAGE BOARD

2012

The Memorial Cenotaph Refresh Project



In the fall of 2011, the City of Brampton began a project aimed at ensuring the longevity and beauty of the Memorial Cenotaph located in Ken Williams Square. The Cenotaph, first unveiled on July 4, 1928 by Lord Willingdon, Governor General of Canada, honours those who served and died in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. The literal definition of the word cenotaph is “empty tomb”, and it is often erected in a community to commemorate a group of people whose remains lie elsewhere.

The Buildings and Property Management Department, in conjunction with E.R.A. Architects and Colonial Building Restoration, conducted the “refresh” project, which included the repointing of mortar joints, a hot water wash, a light cleaning of rust areas and an overall inspection of the condition of the plaque. The project also involved the extraction of the “Book of Remembrance”, a book containing the names of soldiers that died during combat, to assess its condition and record and update the contents.

“This monument and the ground it stands on are of tremendous importance to our citizens and our community. It is a lasting memorial to those Brampton residents who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of Canada,” said Mayor Susan Fennell. “Through these preservation efforts, we will ensure our cenotaph will continue to stand as a memorial to our veterans and their great sacrifice for generations to come.”

On September 7, 2011, a ceremony was held to remove the Cenotaph plaque and extract the “Book of Remembrance”. On October 18, the book was opened in seclusion, with the assistance of preservation experts, due to the sensitivity of the document. City staff were pleased to discover that the book was in good condition despite its age. A long-term plan is being undertaken to standardize the maintenance procedures of both the Cenotaph and the “Book of Remembrance”.

The renovated Memorial Cenotaph was finally revealed to the public on November 11, where it assumed its role as a focal point of the City’s Remembrance Day ceremony. With renewed vitality, it will continue to serve as a reminder of the sacrifice and memory of all veterans. ■



Creditdale Farm: A legacy continues

The north west corner of Creditview Road and Steeles Avenue West, near the Credit River, is the site of a recent success story for heritage preservation in the City of Brampton. To the north of a small cluster of trees sits a newly restored farmhouse surrounded by gorgeous landscape. It is hard to believe that the architectural integrity of the house was once deteriorating due to water damage, animal intrusions and erosion, which were the unfortunate results of vacancy.

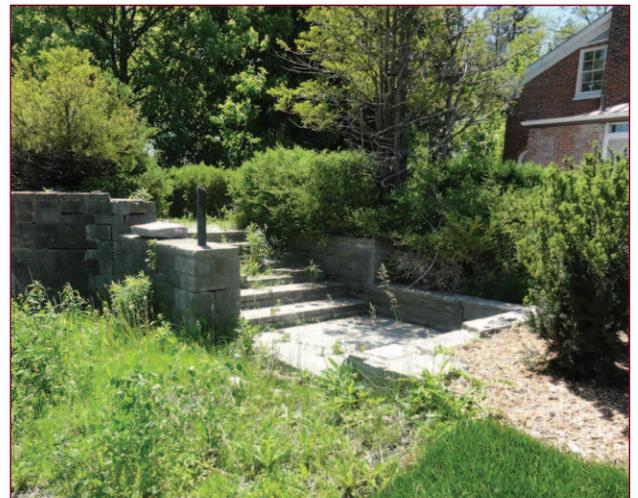
The farmhouse at 8028 Creditview Road, known as the Creditdale Farm, is one of Brampton's most significant heritage sites. The house is an example of a Neo-Classical design with Colonial Revival influences. Many of the architectural elements are intact, most notably the detailed millwork and unique window types. While the built-form of Creditdale Farm is impressive, the landscape design and nationally significant historical background of the property set it apart from other designated homes in Brampton.

The house was built in the late 19th century on grounds that were once used as aboriginal hunting and fishing campsites in the late-Archaic period. At one point, the house was a landmark site as it stood at the western end of Steeles Avenue. The house was later inhabited by Carl Borgstrom, an accomplished and revered landscape architect. Borgstrom was the co-founder of the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects (CSLA), and designed the Royal Botanical Gardens. He executed a landscape plan between 1939 and 1943 that included rows of trees, hedges, climbing vines, flower beds and a small orchard. The land also once contained a privately owned, in-ground swimming pool, which is said to have been the first of its kind in Brampton. A curved stone retaining wall, steps and walkways have survived to the present day. When Borgstrom sold the home, noteworthy restoration architect B. Napier Simpson was commissioned to assist with the alteration and enlargement of the home in the 1940s.

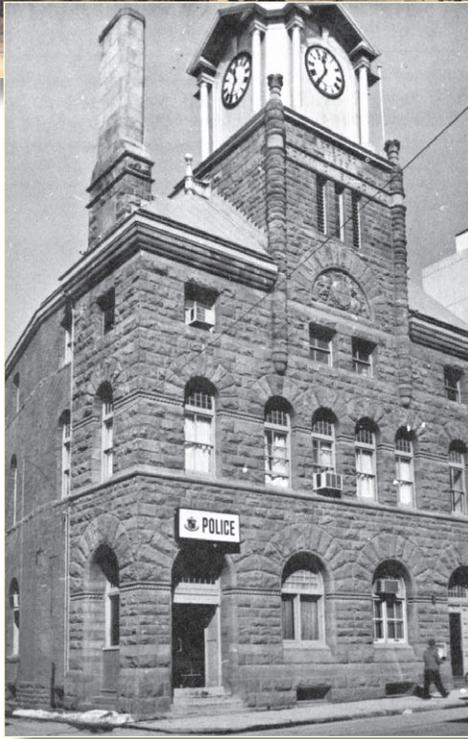
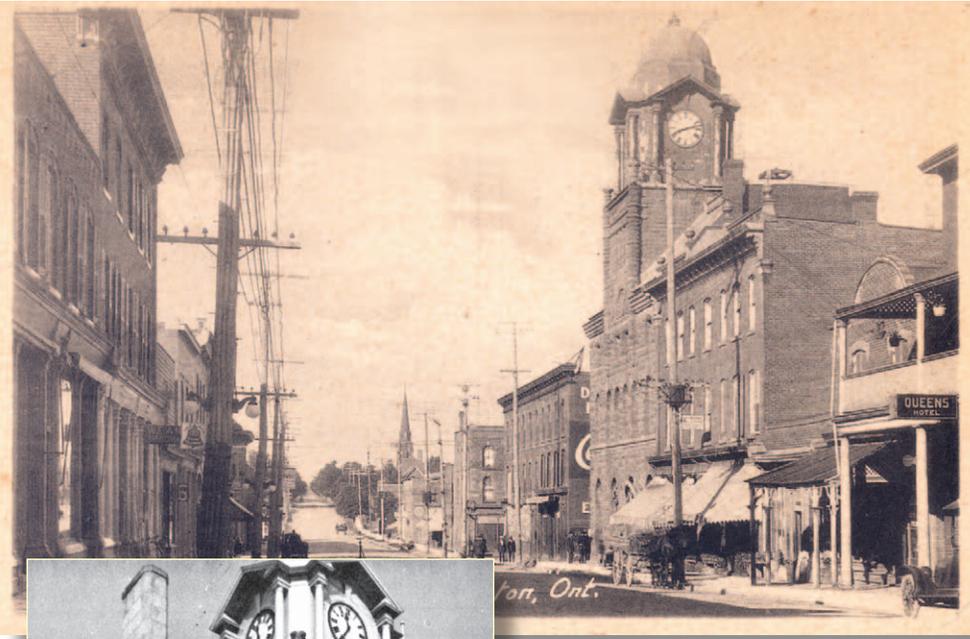
In January 2003, City of Brampton staff identified the property at 8028 Creditview Road as a candidate for heritage designation. A City-funded study was conducted with E.R.A. Architects to assess whether the City should acquire the house or use a private-stewardship model, where other preservation tools would be used to ensure the retention of the house. The study determined that private ownership and residency would be the most effective and safe option for the property. It was ultimately purchased by Steeles-Confour Investments Ltd. and H&R Developments. In November 2004, the developer signed a letter of undertaking with the City where they agreed to the heritage designation of Creditdale Farm. Shortly after, in 2005, they signed a Heritage Conservation Easement which included a Conservation Plan.

Now, seven years later, Steeles-Confour Investments Ltd. and H&R Developments have become a part of the long and fascinating legacy of Creditdale Farm. They were able to restore the house to its full livable potential while protecting all historic exterior features, as well as significant interior elements like the dining room. They also executed proposals for alterations and a landscape plan, which assured the restoration of the stone elements.

Today, Creditdale Farm has been restored to its former grandeur and is waiting to be sold. It stands as a testament to the merit of public and private sector cooperation, and to the art of heritage restoration. This fabulous property now awaits a loving owner to care for and inject it with life once more. ■



The Dominion Building: A Fine Example of Adaptive Reuse



The Dominion Building is one of the most important and prominent designated heritage buildings in Brampton.

Originally built in 1889 to house the post office and inland customs offices for the town, the building was later occupied by the Brampton Police Department and served as federal government offices for a short time thereafter.

In the 1970s, the building was sold to a private owner who converted it into a pub. Although the owners of O'Malley's Pub were sensitive to the building's heritage character, subsequent owners allowed the building to deteriorate and sit dormant for several years.

In 2003, the building was purchased by a Brampton-based real estate developer, the Inzola Group, who sought to enhance and revitalize the structure for new occupancy. The original façade and Romanesque Revival charm were respectfully preserved.

Adjacent to the Rose Theatre and near City Hall, the site is a great location for business as the City moves forward with plans to expand City Hall and revitalize the downtown

core. The building now has new roofing, repaired masonry, an elevator, wheelchair access, modern safety systems, and a new automated clock in the tower, which was previously hand wound each week.

The current tenants in the Dominion Building are Access Employment and Starbucks Coffee. They enjoy the prestige of being in a fine heritage building originally designed by architect Thomas Fuller, who also designed and oversaw the building of the original Centre Block of Parliament in Ottawa. Starbucks manager Ajith Mathew and his staff are often questioned by patrons about the history of the building. He is quick to explain that it is a designated heritage building, as well as a stop on the Downtown Brampton Heritage Walking Tour. Mathew smiles when he says that business has benefitted greatly from

what he calls a "beautiful location". The fact that Starbucks has chosen to operate in a heritage building is a testament to their commitment to environmental sustainability, a goal which goes hand-in-hand with the reuse of aging buildings. The move also showcases the allure of heritage buildings and their massive potential for adaptive reuse.

The success story of the Dominion Building reveals that private investment coupled with enthusiastic tenants can help preserve historic architecture as time moves on. These days, Starbucks customers are able to sit on a patio, coffees in hand, and admire window awnings designed centuries ago by a revered architect. One of the mandates for the City of Brampton and the Brampton Heritage Board is to protect and preserve such buildings for the enjoyment of future generations - it appears we have achieved this goal with the Dominion Building. ■





Those traveling through the intersection of The Gore Road and Ebenezer Road may have to look twice as they drive by the former Ebenezer Schoolhouse. Through the collaborative efforts of City staff, coupled with the strong support of Council and federal stimulus funding, this one-room schoolhouse has been relocated and restored.

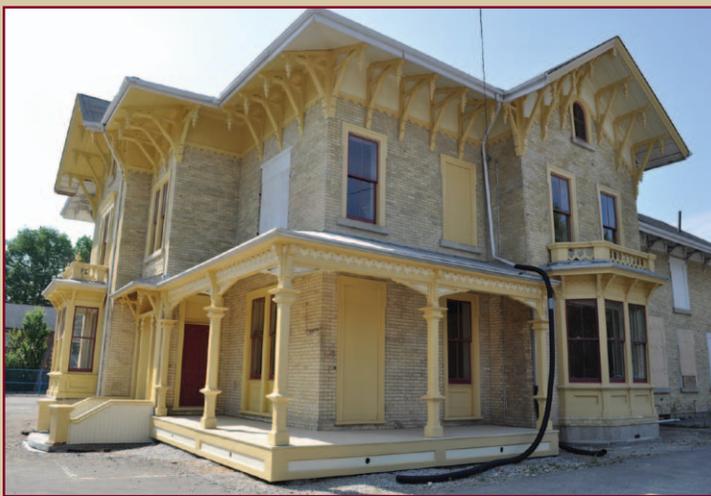
A New Life for the

Some of you may recall reading in a recent issue of the Brampton Heritage Times that the future stability of the designated heritage site was in jeopardy because of The Gore Road widening. A decision was made to relocate the building slightly to the west onto a freshly constructed full-height basement. The additional floor space maximizes the building's potential for reuse as the Ebenezer Community Hall.

The Ventin Group Ltd, an architectural firm specializing in heritage buildings, put together a comprehensive plan for the building that included replacing the electrical systems and installing a geothermal heating/cooling system. The plan also saw the restoration of internal and external heritage features. The process involved the repair of the tongue and groove wainscoting and ceilings, the installation of a period-appropriate cedar shingle roof and distinctive gable end fish-scale shingles, as well as a complete restoration of a prominent belfry and interior lighting fixtures.

The original playground was not overlooked either. The ample space has allowed for the creation of additional parking spaces, handicapped access, gardens and an open wooden kiosk. The area has also been enhanced with period-style lampposts. A large exterior heritage plaque will soon provide

Alderlea Restoration Moves Forward and Exciting Discoveries Continue



Located on 40 Elizabeth Street South in downtown Brampton, Alderlea is one of the most prominent and exciting restoration and adaptive reuse projects in the City! Following the removal of all non-heritage features from the structure, work began on restoring important heritage attributes and retrofitting the building. The restoration of exterior windows and ornamental

wood brackets was successfully completed. The repair of the masonry and stone foundation has commenced, and the wood restoration of the belvedere is also taking place. The level of craftsmanship found in the original construction and materials at Alderlea is being brought back to life by passionate tradespeople who are completing the highest quality of work each step of the way.

September 2011 signaled the beginning of the excavation and backfilling of the stone foundation, as well as utility upgrades. The installation of a hydro duct bank, a storm water discharge system into Gage Park and nine geothermal wells all contribute to the environmental sustainability of the building. Present and upcoming work will update the late 19th century estate with 21st century services, while still maintaining its heritage character. The tentative completion date for the Alderlea restoration project is September 2012.

Exciting discoveries continue within the nooks and crannies of the heritage building. While removing floorboards, workers discovered newspaper pages dating back as far as 1868. The pages came from a variety of newspapers including the Evening Telegram, the Toronto Star, the Globe and Mail, the Orangeville Sun and the Orangeville Banner. Although

Ebenezer Schoolhouse

visitors with the early history of the school and its surroundings.

The days of the Ebenezer Schoolhouse and the Township Offices have long passed. A new chapter has begun as the one-room schoolhouse has been transformed into a much needed community space. With the retention, restoration and adaptive re-use of the old schoolhouse, the City of Brampton has been able to demonstrate its

commitment to the preservation of our local heritage, while addressing the broader demand for public spaces. ■

Note: This distinctive heritage facility is available for various functions including business meetings, wedding showers, small receptions etc. For booking information please contact Graham Hay, Recreation Supervisor; 905.791.2240 x.63392.



the pages were first published between 1868 and 1920, the artifacts are in surprisingly good condition.

Another intriguing discovery was a set of heavy cast-iron tennis stands. They were manufactured during the mid-to-late 19th century by F.H. Ayres, who was better known as a manufacturer of rocking horses. The cast-iron tennis stands were used to hold Cyprus tennis poles in place by fitting them at the cross-section of the T-shaped object. An iron wheel and rod were also discovered. A date cast in the iron wheel indicates that the apparatus was made in July 1878.



The ongoing success of the preservation and restoration of Alderlea underscores the bright future of this significant Brampton landmark and the City's heritage program. ■

Preserving Brampton's Cultural Heritage in 2011

The Brampton Heritage Board (BHB) and City staff are continuously striving to preserve the City's rich history and character by identifying, documenting and protecting valuable heritage resources. Two fundamental steps in this process are the 'listing' and 'designating' of heritage buildings, cultural landscapes and archaeological sites. Now, you may be asking yourselves, 'What is the difference between a listed and designated heritage site?'

When a site is initially recognized as having potential heritage value, City staff members conduct site visits, preliminary historical research and an architectural evaluation, and present their findings to the BHB through a listing report. Through a BHB endorsement and City Council approval, the property is listed on the Municipal Heritage Register. Currently, the inventory consists of over 400 properties. Although listing is not a legally-binding process, it does keep track of properties in the event that new development threatens their retention. Listed properties are also future candidates for the next stage of heritage recognition – designation.

Unlike listed properties, designated properties undergo a legal process. Designated properties are legally protected under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Heritage designation bestows formal public recognition on significant heritage properties through the endorsement of the BHB and the passing of a municipal by-law enacted by City Council. The 'listing' and 'designation' of properties are two procedures that acknowledge the heritage value and significance of worthy buildings, landscapes and landmarks in Brampton. While the latter is more formal in nature, both contribute to the protection of our beloved heritage resources from deterioration, neglect, unsympathetic alterations and demolition.

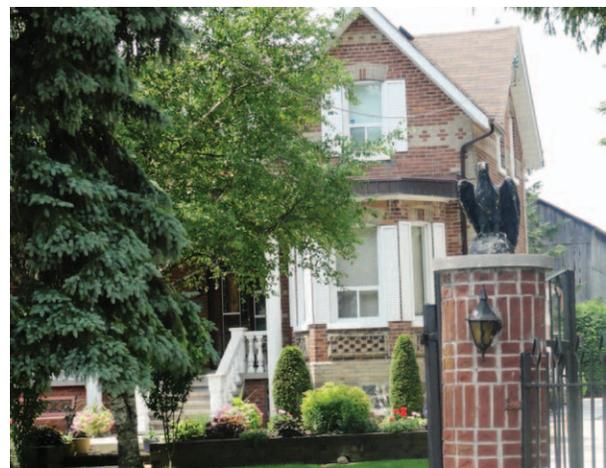
In 2011, five properties were designated under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. Eight additional properties are in advanced stages of the designation process, while three others have been identified as priorities for the near future. Over 30 houses have been identified as 'listing' candidates, five of which have been officially listed. City staff and the BHB continue to work diligently in order to identify, protect and preserve significant tokens of Brampton's rich history. If there is a property that you believe should be listed on the Municipal Heritage Register, or qualifies for designation, please contact City Heritage staff or the BHB. We are eager to formally recognize more of Brampton's historic gems. ■



11 Peel Village Parkway



38 Isabella Street



5556 Countryside Drive



63 Elizabeth Street South

Designated in 2011	Designation in Progress:	Listed in 2011:
9749 The Gore Road	8675 Creditview Road	6791 Mayfield Road
38 Isabella Street	1 Hallstone Road	5556 Countryside Drive
63 Elizabeth Street South	23 Centre Street South	10431 The Gore Road
21 Brisdale Drive	62 Union Street	10916 Coleraine Drive
16 Triple Crown Drive	37 Church Street East	11176 Regional Road 50
	10416 Airport Road	8712 Claireville Road
	249 Main Street North	11 Peel Village Parkway
	3864 Countryside Drive	
	35 Rosedale Avenue	
	9521 Mississauga Road	
	10852 The Gore Road	

Do You Know About the Designated Heritage Property Incentive Grant Program?



If your property has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act, the City of Brampton offers a Heritage Property Incentive Grant Program intended to encourage and assist you with the preservation, maintenance and restoration of your residential or commercial property. The grant offers funds to cover half of the cost of eligible conservation work up to a maximum of \$5,000, subject to available funding, on the condition that the grant is matched by the property owner. Projects must focus on the care and rehabilitation of existing heritage attributes or restoration that contributes to the cultural heritage significance of the property.

The Incentive Grant Program was established as a pilot program in 2006 with an allocation of \$15,000. Recognizing the increasing popularity of the program, Council increased the allocated funds to \$25,000 in the 2010 budget. Furthering their support for heritage, Council made the Heritage Property Incentive Grant Program permanent in September 2011. The permanent program has also been revised to include commercial buildings in its criteria for eligibility.

Financial incentives such as the Heritage Property Incentive Grant Program encourage investment in heritage resources and aid in their conservation. Well-maintained heritage properties give communities a unique character and enrich quality of life. The restoration of heritage properties is a catalyst for revitalizing historic centres and drawing residents, businesses and visitors to communities.

A recent project that benefited from the grant program was the restoration of a deteriorating cemetery plaque near St. Patrick's Church. The plaque is an important and longstanding interpretive element on the property and a central feature of the designated cemetery. Now, the plaque shines proudly as it rests on cemetery grounds, restored to its former glory.

For more information about heritage designation or the Heritage Property Incentive Grant program contact a City of Brampton Heritage Coordinator or see the application kit on the City's website (www.brampton.ca). The City looks forward to receiving future applications for both residential and commercial properties! ■

Spreading the Word about Brampton's Heritage: Plaques, Pedestals and Panels



The City of Brampton is actively expanding the number of designated and listed properties. The Heritage Plaque Program has been an important part of this endeavor. The blue (designated) and red (listed) wall-mounted plaques found on buildings throughout the city identify our rich heritage for the general public. They include the architectural style or significant family or individual associated with the structure, along with the date of construction. On September 18, 2011, the Brampton Heritage Board and City staff celebrated the fourth annual Heritage Plaque Ceremony at the historic Bovaird House, where 25 new plaques were awarded to the proud owners of heritage homes.

In conjunction with the wall-mounted plaques, the City is erecting heritage pedestal plaques and heritage panels. The pedestal plaques tell the story behind one specific place such as Central Public School, one of the oldest surviving public schools in downtown Brampton. The panels tell a larger story, such as the history and importance of the flower industry in Brampton.

Keep your eyes open for the heritage plaques, pedestals and panels to learn about the rich history that surrounds you.

The following are **pedestal plaques** in Brampton:

- Central Public School, located on Alexander St.
- The McKillop House, located on Main St. N. near Church St.
- Etobicoke Creek, located in Ken Whillans Square

The following are **heritage panels** in Brampton:

- The Flower Industry, located at Sproule Dr. and Ken Whillans Dr.
- Brampton's Industrial Heritage, located at Church St. W. and Mill St. N.



The Brampton Heritage Times

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

The Brampton Heritage Board (BHB) is the Municipal Heritage Committee, mandated under the Ontario Heritage Act. The BHB was created in 1976 to advise City Council on all heritage issues. Its mission is to work together with various levels of government and citizens to preserve, protect and promote the heritage of the City of Brampton.

Brampton Heritage Board

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