



To promote the exchange of information on issues that impact the quality of life in our neighbourhood, broader community and the Town of Oakville, with a particular focus on preserving and protecting our history, streetscapes, natural environment, heritage districts and homes.

OLRA Fall Newsletter

Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association

Fall 2023

In This Issue

by Hazel Cole

Greetings from the Board of OLRA! We trust you all had a good summer and are now turning your sights to Christmas. There certainly seems to be many fun activities planned for downtown Oakville in the weeks to come. Our newsletter is a little late this fall, but we hope you will find it worth the wait.

This issue contains an update on the lake, the Sixteen Mile Creek, and a report from the Heritage committee. In addition, you will find our series on gardens, neighbourhood dogs, and a new series on heritage houses, which we hope you will find of interest. We have not included a downtown store feature, but this series will be back in 2024.

Now that this issue is signed, sealed and delivered, we are looking for potential material for Spring 2024 – and we need you help. If you would like us to feature your lovely heritage house, your eccentric dog or your beautiful garden, or if you have a stand-alone article in mind, please contact the editor at hazel.coleegan@gmail.com. We are counting on you!

64 NAVY STREET

by Anita Mackey

Anita Mackey and Michael Shaen live in the charming cottage at 64 Navy Street and have provided us with this snapshot of its architecture and history.

Architectural Description

64 Navy Street is a modest vernacular cottage-style home clad in stucco. Though the house is likely much older, a structure has been on the property since at least 1875, as it appears in the assessment rolls from that date.

The windows and sashes on the front and sides of the rectangular portion of the house are original and have been restored, including bubble glass of the era to replace broken panes of glass, and reglazed.

These windows are of note in that they are quite different from the more common double-hung windows in most of the homes in the district. They are casement windows with three panels. The outer panels of each window open inward, and the middle panel opens upward from a hinge at the top of the window.

The house is a typical Gothic style with a central peak. It is one and a half storeys in height. The door would have originally been in the centre

and the house with a porch. This is visible on the Fire Maps of 1910 and 1924, and there is photographic evidence from the turn of the century of its existence. The porch, however, was sadly removed at some point. The original outline of the opening of the door in the centre of the house is still visible in the stucco patch from when the door was moved to the side. The back portion of the house has a stone foundation basement. The front of the house has no basement and is built on a shallow lake stone foundation with a dirt floor crawlspace.

Historical Description

Much of the history of the ownership of 64 Navy and 115 William Street has been confused over the years. The owners commissioned a title search to sort out the title to the two parts of Lot 8 by the metes and bounds descriptions. So the history of the ownership is as follows. In 1831, William Chisholm bought the land in the Old Oakville Heritage District from the Crown, which he surveyed and divided into lots. He held the lot on which 64 Navy Street sits (Pt Lot 8 in Block 51) and he then sold it to his son, George. George K Chisholm (the first Mayor of Oakville) also owned the land on the NE corner of Navy and Robinson Street, upon which he built a brick house in 1848. Sometime prior to 1857, John MacPherson held the property as well as the other part of Lot 8 and Lot 7 next door, which together form what is now 115 William Street.

In 1857, John MacPherson sold 64 Navy Street to Hiram Konkrite, who was a ship's carpenter, as were many of the original owners or residents of homes in the Historical District. John MacPherson sold the other part of Lot 8 and Lot 7 (115 William Street) to William Sumner.

Hiram Konkrite owned 64 Navy Street for 30 years from 1857 until 1887. Given he was a carpenter, it is likely that he built what is recorded on the tax assessment rolls as a dwelling by 1875. He has been the longest owner of the property to date.

The tax assessment rolls showed that, for a period of time, Hiram Konkrite leased the property to Jeremiah Hagaman, Wagonmaker. Hagaman operated a wagon making shop out of the neighbouring property at 68 Navy Street.

In 1887, Hiram Konkrite sold the property to James Kelly, Blacksmith, who owned it for six years before he sold it to John Kelly, a hardware merchant, who in turn owned it until 1904. (The Kellys were owners and builders of other properties in the district.) It was subsequently bought by Alan Stewart Chisholm, Gentleman, for \$300, who held it until his death in 1918.

Since then, the house has had a succession of owners, culminating in the current owners, Anita Mackey and Michael Shaen, who have resided there since 1994 and raised their three children. Anita and Michael cherish the history of the house and honour the heritage characteristics of the house, and hope soon to be able to restore a porch to the front of the house to bring back some of the charm that was lost when it was removed.



Eye on the Sixteen

by Geoff Godard

We continue to keep an eye on upcoming Oakville Harbour upgrades and improvements, and on expected lake levels.

The multi-year steel seawall replacement project is proceeding on schedule. According to Rakesh Mistry, the Town's Waterfront Development Projects Coordinator, the next phase will commence in Shipyard Park later this fall.

The Oakville Club's separate seawall replacement project is currently in abeyance; however, we understand it is likely the Town will undertake that project on behalf of the club, since it has the relevant experience and expertise. Timing has not been announced.

That's what is going on in the harbour. What about lake levels?

The record levels we experienced in 2017 and 2019 do not look as if they will recur, at least not this year. Mother Nature has been relatively benign this summer, without too much heat, and with ample rain, but not in record-breaking quantities. Since 2019, the lake has stayed within its traditional shoreline.

According to the International Joint Commission (which controls outflows from the lake at its dam at Messina on the St. Lawrence River), the lake is currently slightly above its long-term average recorded between 1918 – 2021, but nowhere near the 2019 October level.

Here's what the IJC said about water levels in early October:

This is the time of year when all the lakes have typically reached their annual peaks and started their seasonal declines, aside from Lake Superior, which is typically nearing its seasonal peak.

With water levels remaining above average in all lakes, and the possibility of large storms and winds, low-lying areas are at risk for accelerated coastline erosion and flooding.

Old Oakville Heritage Conservation District Plan Update

by Anita Mackey

As we have previously reported, the Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Plan for Old Oakville has been in the process of being updated by the Town of Oakville. Much progress has been made on the first part of the process - the study that contains the inventory of the built heritage properties, and an analysis of the heritage, cultural and landscape elements that make up the character of the Old Oakville Heritage District. Some work remains on this first part, namely some further additions and corrections to the inventory, and on the character areas, which will replace the previous block analysis that was included in the 1981 Plan. The Heritage Working Committee of the Board of OLRA has been hard at work on this part of the study.

The next stage of the process involves the plan and guidelines themselves, which will help manage change and preservation in the Old Oakville Heritage Conservation District. The Town held a public information meeting to kick off this next phase. It was held on October 17, 2023 and was very well attended. The Town Staff and Dillon Consulting, the consultants hired by the Town to assist, conducted round tables in small working groups on various topics like sample guidelines, architectural attributes, zoning, parks and open spaces, landscape and views. The Town has a link to the materials and encourages any input or comment, so go take a look on the Town's website under [Heritage Conservation District Plan Updates](#).

A Garden We Love – Knox Memorial Garden and Farrow Cloister

by Geoff Godard

Many know the oasis of quiet and beauty in downtown Oakville beside Knox Presbyterian Church. This lovely enclave of ironwork lattices and benches framed by vines, shrubs and flowers evokes the tranquil space of the medieval cloister, with its central court planted with flowers, herbs or trees to symbolize the paradise of Eden or the heavenly Jerusalem.

The Garden and Cloister were created in 1993. Knox's website describes more fully its genesis. The Cloister was dedicated to the memory of Arnold (Arn) Farrow. So, who was this man to whom a Cloister is dedicated? George and Carol Gordon, members of the Church, introduced us to a fellow member, George Farrow, Arnold's son, who answered our questions.

Arnold was born in Fergus in 1908 – the youngest of eight, to a family that immigrated to Upper Canada from England in the 1820s. In 1910, the Farrows moved from Milton to Oakville, eventually to a house near Forsyth and Lakeshore.

Arnold died in 1987. 1908 to 1987! What a tumultuous time to be alive! He was born five years after Orville Wright flew his Flyer at Kitty Hawk: the first manned, controlled, heavier than air machine, all of 120 feet! A calamitous world war and a second even more calamitous one followed a worldwide

depression. But those clouds cleared, and when Arnold was in his early sixties he witnessed humans standing on the surface of the moon. By the time he died, the personal computer was proliferating across the world.

He grew up in a family surrounded by music. A natural musician, he played instruments as varied as piano, trumpet and banjo. His favorite was banjo, on which he played and sang all the songs people loved. As a professional, he played with Guy Lombardo's Royal Canadians, including at the Waldorf

Astoria ballroom in the years when band was a fixture of New York City's New Year's celebration.

He was a golfer. In his twenties he was pro at a long-lost golf course near Milton (pros in those days were also general factotums of the course), and he became an accomplished gardener. This led to an appointment at RayDor, the estate of Ray Dorfman, who had made a fortune in mining in the early part of the century. The RayDor estate is now Fairway Hills and the Glen Abbey Golf Club (it was briefly

owned by the Jesuits in the 1950s – hence "Glen Abbey").

Arnold joined the Oakville Golf Club in the 1930s, and as recently as 1984, won a tournament there with the lowest gross score (for the edification of non golfers, an impressive achievement at any age!).

He married Elda May in 1929 and they raised three sons. His main focus was music and his faith. As an active member of the Knox congregation, he led the choir; and thanks





to his charismatic nature, held many governance positions in the congregation, including Sunday School Superintendent.

Eldest son Milt was born in 1931. Milt was an Ontario Land Surveyor before he entered government. As Assistant Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, he was known as “The Fixer” for his ability to get things done. He and his wife also actively established and supported orphanages around the world. Milt died last year.

Equally remarkable were the twin brothers, born in 1934. George, eldest by an hour, became an architect in Oakville and elsewhere. He designed and developed many Oakville landmarks (notably the library and swimming pool at Centennial Square), and the Tannery townhouses on Forsyth, which preserved the structure of one of Oakville’s oldest buildings. (More on this landmark in our Spring issue.) Approaching 90, George remains a lively and devoted member of the Knox congregation. Grant, his younger brother, a renowned urologist, pioneered many surgical procedures, including Toronto General Hospital’s first successful human kidney transplant. Grant passed away 2019.

George’s son Tye, also an architect, designed the Garden and Cloister. Tye started his career at his father’s firm, and now heads Farrow Partners, recognized worldwide for its innovative use of neuroarchitecture, in which structure (form) is particularly focussed on enhancing quality of life (function), a concept especially applicable to health care. He and his firm design multi-billion dollar hospital projects around the world.

Many members of Knox Presbyterian Church will remember Arn Farrow and know his legacy. For the rest of us, the name “Arnold Farrow,” etched in granite on a plaque, was but a name. Now we all know what he achieved during his time here on earth: a man who gave much to our town in his lifetime, and through his remarkable family, much to our country and the world.

Next time you pass Knox Presbyterian Church on the southeast corner of Dunn and Lakeshore, take the time to step into this serene, magical place. Pause a while and reflect on a life well lived: the legacy Arn left and on how fortunate we are to have had such a man make Oakville his home.



OLRA Matters

OLRA Annual Garden Party ***A long-standing tradition***

by Geoff Godard

The OLRA's annual garden party was held on Saturday, June 17, a warm and sunny spring day – probably the best day of the year up to that point. Our hosts were board member Trish McTavish and her husband, Ross.

This year we returned to our long-standing tradition of holding the party in a member's garden. As usual, there was no agenda; it was simply an opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow members, neighbours and members of the OLRA board.

Because it was in a private (and beautiful) garden, we were freed of many of the restrictions and extra costs we incurred in 2022 when we met in the newly renovated Coach House at Erchless.

Like last year, tickets sold out very quickly, although we were able to accommodate many more members this time. Total attendance, judging by the ticket sales, was just under 100. As in the past, the ambience was warm, conversations flowed, and a good time was had by all.

Thanks again to our hosts. Additional thanks to Trish for organizing the ticket sales, to Ross, Julie Thompson and Kate McManus for acting as bartenders, and to Hazel and Amanda for hosting the welcome table. On a final note, because of the party, we were able to acquire eight new members.

Any volunteers for June 2024? Let us know. We would certainly appreciate it.



OLRA Board Appointments

We are pleased to announce that Duncan Galloway has joined the OLRA Board and has accepted to take on the role of Treasurer. Welcome Duncan! We look forward to working with you.

There are two open Director positions on the Board. We invite interested members to put their names forward.

Art In My Garden - Over 1500 Visitors!

by Rachel Williams

In its third year, Art In My Garden has continued to thrive. Hosted in early September, well over 1500 visitors attended and enjoyed paintings, textiles, mosaics, letterpress activities, and captivating sculptures, with local homeowners and St. Jude's Church parishioners also contributing their own artistic flair.

This is Oakville at its best - offering a free, community-based arts initiative that was created to foster a sense of goodwill, celebrate local talents and inspire everyone to go a little slower appreciating what we have right here, at home.

Rachel Williams, a local artist and founder of the day, attributes the event's success to the unwavering support of local friends and their neighbours who generously shared their gardens. "Thanks to the ongoing support of the OLRA, our volunteers and support of local business we were able to deliver a great day. The wonderful thing about how things have grown is that we have a list of local homeowners keen to be involved, and different artists applying to take part every year. We know it's appreciated by everyone who comes, and by the artist community who have this amazing opportunity to share their work."

Planning for the 2024 season will be underway soon. To find out more: www.artinmygarden.ca or contact Rachel directly via www.rwilliamsart.com

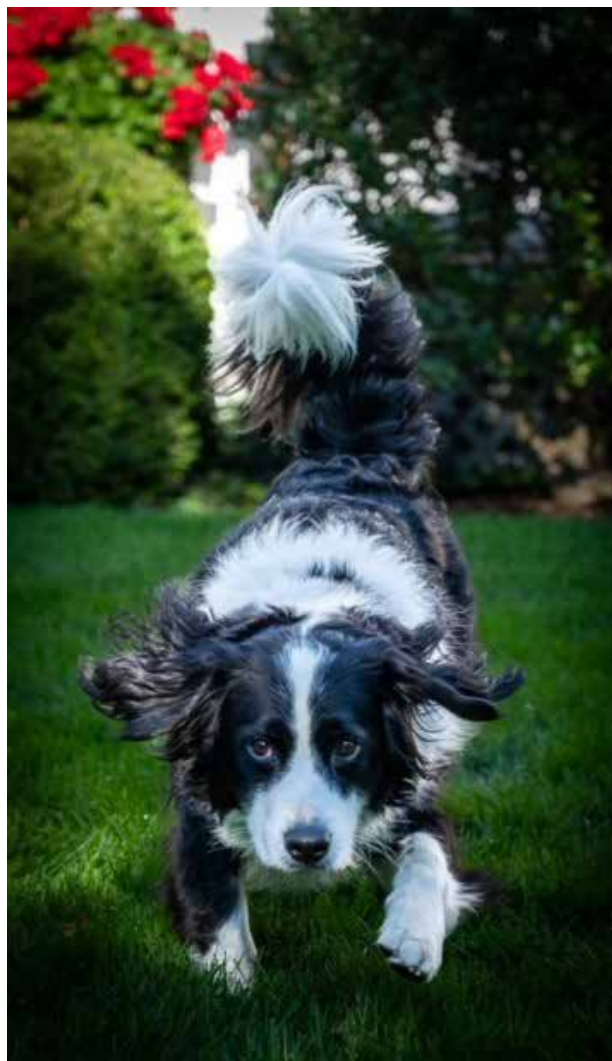


Our Neighbourhood Dogs The Fab Four + Charlie

by Hazel Cole

Introducing right to left Parker, Dougal, George. Then there's the outlier: the bounder, Charlie. These are the remaining dogs owned by members of the OLRA Board. I thought I would bundle them together and finish with the nepotism. Boone is on the Fab Four picture (*image right*) as well, but you know all about him already (see our last newsletter!.)

Here we have four very different dogs, each with



his own personality. Let's start with Anya's Old English sheep dog. Dougal is all about personal care. He takes pride in his person, requires a thorough grooming at least once a week, topped up by a visit to his personal groomer every so often, which costs his owners a fortune! But, like the L'Oréal ad, he feels he deserves it! After all, his greatest accomplishment is looking beautiful!

Let's move onto freedom-loving Parker, Amanda's Cavachon. From the description his mistress gave me, I have a sneaking suspicion that Parker thinks of himself as a "person," preferring human food over kibble and Amanda's bed over his own. His preference, however, would be to live in the mid 20th Century, before the advent of the laptop computer — he thoroughly dislikes those high-pitched beeps.

The last of the Fab Four is Trish's English Golden Retriever, George, who has a predilection for bananas. Now here's a dog who requires high standards of his human family. "Shut that closet door, please. You are always leaving it ajar." He also demands much of himself, remaining steadfastly on the front porch, while many of his doggie friends walk by. But, like all of us, he is not perfect, and will

prefer to let down his standards and run across the road rather than to get into the car.

And then there's George's FI Unfurnished Miniature Bernie-Doodle, Charlie. (I had to look that one up.) (*image bottom left*) He's the outlier. No way, he was going to be photographed with the four blond wonders. He wanted his own picture. After all, his comes from a long line of Bernese Mountain Dogs, bred to herd sheep in the Swiss Alps. Charlie, however, finding a dearth of sheep in downtown Oakville, has had to be content with chasing rabbits. Anyway, he's still smiling.

That's it for our pooches. Please let us know if you are still enjoying this series; and, if so, do send us a photo and a description of your pet so that we can carry on producing these light-hearted articles.

Neighbourhood Happenings

Light up the Night

Towne Square, November 17th 5pm to 9pm

Take a stroll and enjoy Downtown Oakville's spectacular holiday lighting! Join live entertainment in Towne Square featuring the CW Carolling Champions The Sugar Plums.

The Sugarplums perform your holiday favorites a cappella with a vintage flair, their beautiful harmonies, bring back memories of the Andrews Sisters - a trio of girls so sweet they'll give you a toothache! (Shows: 5:30, 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30)

Take a horse and carriage ride around historic Downtown, pick up at Robinson Street in Towne Square. (5-9)



Visit with Santa

17th Nov, 5pm to 9pm

Meet Santa in his Cozy Cottage in Centennial Square (Navy/Lakeshore) during the Light up the Night celebrations. Santa will roam the streets of Downtown between 2pm and 3pm, followed by booked appointments at his cottage in Centennial Square. All proceeds collected will go to the United Way of Halton.

For other dates visit: www.oakvilledowntown.ca

Neighborhood



Live Holiday Music - Candy Cane Carollers

17th November, 5pm to 9pm.

Enjoy the carollers in our Winter Wonderland of Light at Oakville Public Library – Centennial Square.

2023 Oakville Santa Claus Parade

18th November at 10am

Mark your calendar! Rain or shine, Santa Claus is back in Oakville for this year's in-person parade. Save your spot on the parade route Downtown.

<https://visitoakville.com/events/oakville-santa-claus-parade-2023/>



Rock'n Around - Silent Holiday Disco

Nov 25, 7:00 p.m.

Back with a beat, this Silent Disco night is all about grooving and moving under our twinkly festive tree lights!. Rock out at a 60-minute session filled with iconic Christmas tunes, dancing, and pure holiday joy. The Downtown Oakville streets will come alive as visitors jive at this unforgettable event filled with memorable moments and holiday cheer. Reserve your headset today!

<https://www.oakvilledowntown.com/community-happenings>

Happenings

St. Jude's Christmas Bazaar

25th November 8.30am to 2pm

Each year St Jude's hosts a Spring and Fall rummage sale followed up by a Christmas bazaar at the end of the year. These events have become an integral part of community life at St Jude's bringing together people from all parts of the congregation and neighborhood. All proceeds from these sales are given back into the community at the end of the year.

<https://stjudeschurch.net/rummage-bazaar-sales/>



Sixth Annual Christmas Eve "Carols in the Square"

Sunday, December 24, 2023



Chartwell Church invites the Oakville community to join them for Christmas Eve "Carols in the Square." Singing will start at 6:00 pm and finish at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to bring their family, friends and neighbours to sing along and also to enjoy hot chocolate and cookies.

In the spirit of Christmas, there is also an opportunity to bring a non-perishable food item in support of Kerr Street Mission's foodbank.

For more information, please contact Chartwell's church office at 905-844-2801. Please note: in the event of rain, the event will take place at 228 Chartwell Road, Oakville.

St. Andrew's Christmas House Tour is back!

December 1st and 2nd

This year's tour will present an interesting mix of eight architecturally unique homes. Each home is decorated for the Christmas season by talented local designers, offering visitors an opportunity to soak up the holiday vibe and be inspired to decorate their own homes for the festive season. The tour premieres with a special Candlelight House Tour on Friday, December 1. Ticket prices are \$60 for the Saturday Tour, \$120 for Friday's Candlelight Tour, and \$150 for Friday's Candlelight Tour & Reception.

All proceeds from the tour support local charities: Home Suite Hope, Food For Life, Fare Share Food Bank Oakville & St. Andrew Church. <https://standrewhousetour.ca/>



Join the OLRA or Renew

Membership Information

The Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association is a volunteer non-profit organization. Since 1966, we have been a strong voice for our neighbourhood on issues that impact our community. We are committed to keeping our members informed on what is happening in our neighbourhood and our Town.

We engage our members via: oakvilleira.ca, email, Facebook, newsletters, blogs, meetings, and neighbourhood events.

JOIN or RENEW TODAY!

The membership fee is \$25 a year (May 01 - April 30) per household or \$40 for two years.

Check out your current membership status at oakvilleira.ca/mambers

We offer 2 ways to pay:

- 1 Cheque:** Please mail your name, street address, phone number and email along with a cheque payable to "Oakville Lakeside Residents' Association" to:
338 Lakeshore Rd E
P.O. Box 69585,
Oakville, ON
L6J 1G0
- 2 INTERAC e-Transfer:** Please send an e-Transfer through your online banking to:
olramembership@gmail.com -
ALSO email us your name, street address and phone number.

Our success depends on a broad base of support in a well-informed community!

Gratitude and appreciation to the following people who contributed to this edition of the OLRA newsletter:

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