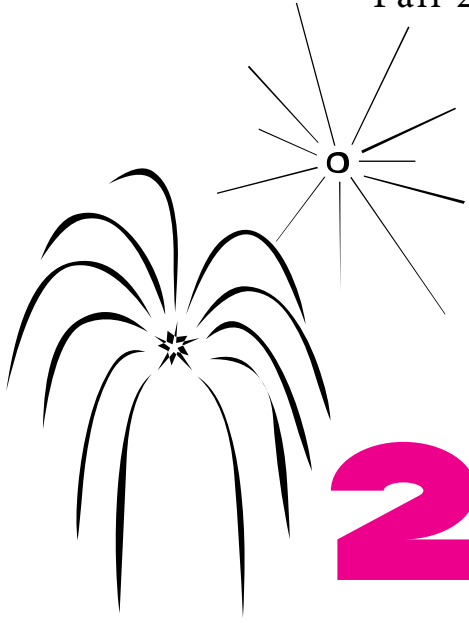


# MERRITTON MATTERS

Fall 2011 • Volume 7, Issue 4 • [www.merrittonmatters.ca](http://www.merrittonmatters.ca)



# 200i-20ii

*Celebrating Ten  
Years of Merritton  
Community News*



Merritton Community Group will hold their Annual General Meeting, including elections, on January 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. at the Seniors Centre. All are welcome to attend.

## MERRITTON MATTERS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Merritton Matters started as a project suggested at the Community Neighbourhood Improvement meetings and was taken on by the Merritton Community Group. The current executive is comprised of Chair Morag Enright, Treasurer Jean Westlake, and Secretary Sandy Burns. Bill Wiley was the Vice-Chair and his passing has affected us deeply.

Lorraine Giroux has been writing and editing Merritton Matters since the very first issue published in 2001. Her mother, Phyllis Thomson, has contributed an article to every issue since the newsletter's inception. This is our 30<sup>th</sup> newsletter published and distributed to the community. Contributors to this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue of Merritton Matters are Tom Barwell, Mike Gander, David Haywood, Denis Savoie, and Phyllis Thomson. Articles without a byline have been written by our editor Lorraine Giroux.

## Mailing Merritton Matters

Do you know people who live out of town who might like to receive the Merritton Matters? If so, please call Jean at 905-938-7178 to arrange for copies to be sent to them.

CHECK OUT THE MERRITTON MATTERS WEBSITE AT [WWW.MERRITTONMATTERS.CA](http://WWW.MERRITTONMATTERS.CA)

# OUR TEAM

Lana Pesant is our graphic designer. Jean Westlake, Pat Durocher and Tony Morra have always handled the advertising for this paper and continue to do so now. You can reach Pat at Bloomin' Busy (905-688-8840). Jean Westlake has been our main photographer and in her 'retirement' from the city of St. Catharines, we have kept her very busy tracking down story ideas and organizing events such as our Adopt-a-Street program. Jean has decided to actually retire and our group will miss her very much.

If you have an article for this paper, or even ideas for articles, please send an email to [merrittonmatters@hotmail.com](mailto:merrittonmatters@hotmail.com) or by regular mail to 3 Capri Circle, St. Catharines, L2T 3X4. Please let us know if you have an event you'd like to publicize.



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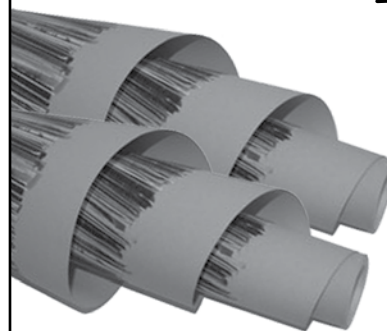


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# WWW.MERRITTON.COM

By David Haywood

When first asked to write about [www.merritton.com](http://www.merritton.com) in Merritton Matters, I have to admit I was a little bit intimidated. It is a well-known fact that every Merritton resident knows about Merritton Matters. Current, past, even out-of-country residents read or have read it at one point or another.

Being a community within a community, Merritton residents past and present are notorious for being extremely loyal to the area. Personally, I am part of this group and particularly devoted to the area. This loyalty stems from the countless and irreplaceable memories that are imbedded within me because of the area.

Growing up in Merritton was inspirational. Visions of attending Maple Crest Elementary School and playing baseball on the dirt diamond even though there was a gravel diamond steps away is a memory that is vivid in my mind. Going to the old Dairy Queen, half-way up Hartzel Road, with my parents, older brother, and sister is another memory I'm still dreaming about. Every winter, getting wrapped in multiple layers of clothing and heading over to Seaway Hill for countless hours of sledding is a memory which I hope to repeat with my daughter in the near future. Lastly, my memories of attending Merritton High School are life-defining while also somewhat bittersweet. Life-defining in the sense that the years I spent attending the high school still shape and define me as an individual. It was also while attending Merritton that I was introduced to the most influential and irreplaceable component in my life that keeps me grounded to this very day – my best friend, my wife, and the mother of my daughter Morgan – fellow life-long Merrittonian Kerry McKenna.

Unfortunately attending Merritton High School was bittersweet because we lost the battle to keep the school open. And this happened even though we, as students, fought every year to prevent its closure. In the end we lost and Merritton High graduated its last class in 1999 - a class that I am proud to say I was a part of. All this may seem unrelated to what [www.merritton.com](http://www.merritton.com) is; but in reflection, it is this last point that has a lot to do with the founding of the website.

Personally, I feel that the closing of Merritton High was a historically epoch for our community. This time ushered in the start of the exodus of local businesses and residents alike. To illustrate, Hartzel Road's deterioration into its current state is something that troubles me every day and is an event that arguably started during this time. Even though I personally live in the same house which I grew up in, I am the exception not the rule. The majority of the people I attended Maple Crest, Burleigh Hill, and Merritton High School with, now call another area their home. As I have said, I have a year and a half old daughter named Morgan and the thought that she may not be able (or willing) to stay in the Merritton area when she starts her adult life is a fact that, to me, is unacceptable.

Coupled altogether, the above cemented my decision to take action personally. Being a local history buff, I knew that during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Merritton was the heartland and an industrial powerhouse in the region. I wanted to know what has since transpired to change this dynamic.

Don't get me wrong, the area has still produced some individual gems. For example, a personal friend, neighbour, and political role model – Mike Collins – was active and productive in the Merritton area until his tragic death a few years ago. Furthermore, Sheila Morra is another example of an individual from Merritton who has had a positive and inspirational effect locally. Who else but Sheila, has the time to be an active mother of 6 children, a former city councillor, a former member of the St.Catharines Green Committee for almost 10 years, a founding member of the Merritton Community Group, and lastly a pillar of this great publication – Merritton Matters?

For this reasons, in the summer of 2009, I stated to my wife that I wanted to run for city council as the Merritton Ward representative. I wanted to make a difference! I wanted to wake the silent beast that I know existed within Merritton. A beast that in my eyes has been hibernating for years – what other reason can be used to describe a voter turn-out in Merritton of just around 23 percent during the last municipal election (one of the lowest in the city!). As a result, I started talking to friends and family about my ambitions. I went to Stags and Does at the Merritton Community Center and talked to people who still live in the area; I attended events locally to engage residents and see what *they* thought the issues for Merritton were; and lastly; I hit the books and studied any material that concerned Merritton's past and present.

It was at one event - the annual Merritton Lions Carnival and Labour Day parade in August 2009 - which I met my brilliant friend and former high school classmate: Jeff Skorski. Jeff and I started talking and I told him about my plans. Not-surprisingly - and an obviously ingrained quality unique to every Merrittonian - he was very motivated and willing to help me with my campaign. Additionally, it was at this meeting that Jeff told me that he had years previously purchased the rights to the [www.merritton.com](http://www.merritton.com) website name. Furthermore, Jeff stated that he would launch the site in order to allow me to better engage people in the Merritton area, while also highlighting the numerous positive qualities of Merritton past and present.

Jeff was very adamant that the website was not just going to be for the short-term goal of helping me with my election campaign. Jeff stated that he would only start the website if I was committed to it for the long run. Jeff would be the technical webmaster and I would be in charge of the website's content.

The mandate of [www.merritton.com](http://www.merritton.com) was simple. Promote local businesses, charities, community groups in Merritton old and new; highlight Merritton's rich and unique history; and lastly, engage Merritton residents socially and politically.

It is the last part – politically – that I am determined to do the most. In part because of my political ambitions; but realistically, I want Merritton to be seen the same way in my daughter's eyes, as it was in mine. Unfortunately, municipal politics dictates this and I am committed to waking the slumbering Merritton Tiger – in other words you, local Merritton residents - though (hopefully) the many voice(s) that will come through [www.merritton.com](http://www.merritton.com). In short (but written long) this is the who, what, why, how, and when of [www.merritton.com](http://www.merritton.com). I hope you, local Merrittonians, will come stop by for a visit.



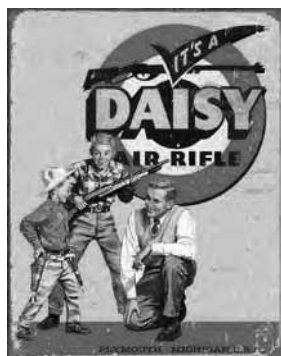
# ME AND MISS DAISY

By Tom Barwell

In my early teen years, two of my favourite companions were my dog Flossie and Miss Daisy. Daisy was my air rifle or BB-Gun. By doing odd jobs, delivering papers and just by being very thrifty, I managed to save enough money to purchase her at everyone's favourite hardware store. Hardy's on Merritt Street. Never was there a rifle so lovingly cared for. I was very proud of the name Daisy engraved on the barrel for they were, and still are, the premier maker of air rifles having started in 1856. Then there was Flossie. I guess you would call her a mutt but in my mind she was a thoroughbred. Always happy, full of life and, if dogs could smile, she would forever have a grin on her face.

Most kids in the neighbourhood had an air rifle. Birds were of course a target. I stuck to bottles, cans and light bulbs. The only exception was the many rats at the local dump. This was done in the evening with a partner holding a flashlight that would freeze them in their tracks. Even then they were not easy targets and hard to kill with an air rifle but we became very adept at picking them off. There were a few 22's around but I was happy with my Daisy.

One morning we were walking along the railroad tracks towards Granny's pond. There were a number of things that you had to be aware of when walking the rails. One of course was the mighty steam engines. The line was a very busy route and the train, although very noisy, could be on you quite quickly. The other was the railroad police or "Dicks" as we called them. The "Dicks" were easy to spot as they always seemed to be dressed in black. Mainly they were after people who tried breaking into the many cars stored in the yards. Then there were the hobos. They kept mainly to themselves except when they would come door to door looking for a handout. But as our parents cautioned, they were to be avoided. It was said that if you gave them a handout they would somehow mark your house as a message to others that this place was easy pickings.



After crossing the old canal we came to the pond. Flossie happily scurried off snuffling in the long grass looking for any small creatures to chase and challenge. This was her favourite sport and she was relentless when on the hunt. I noticed even then, that the subdivisions were creeping ever closer to our favourite haunt. It never dawned on any of us kids that one day the pond would be drained in the name of safety. What a treasure trove of artefacts they would discover. Bottles, numerous hockey pucks, boots used for goal posts, even the odd bike lost when we would ride on the ice. At that moment a train slowly drifted by gliding toward the station farther down the line. I recognized the engineer and with a grin he shot a harmless spurt of steam at us. After a friendly wave my dog and I continued on, enjoying the beautiful sunny day.

I then noticed a pile of brown cardboard paper stacked rather neatly under a nearby tree. Cocking the rifle, I let a pellet fly and it made a satisfying smack. Moving up a little closer I fired off another. When the second one hit, the whole pile of paper exploded and a man emerged cursing and clutching at his arm. The dog began a hysterical barking and ran over beside me her fur raised on her back. I was dumbfounded and frightened at the same time. He came out of the pile still muttering and pacing about while I stammered out an apology for hitting him. Then he slowly sat down with a look of anger on his bearded face.

I cautiously approached, being careful not to get too close for obviously he was one of those hobos we were warned about. The dog stayed at my heels. She is normally very friendly and would lick a person to death, even perfect strangers. But this individual, she didn't care for. I was about to leave when he began talking.

He claimed that he was a traveler and had a great life hopping trains and seeing the country and proclaimed it was a happy carefree profession full of adventure. But I had my doubts. His clothing and unshaven face told a different story. After a few moments of banter I said good luck and was about to back away when he tried to coax Flossie to him. This was trouble. If he ever got his hands on her I would be helpless as I would never leave her in his clutches. I was the main target. No doubt he wanted to settle the score. She didn't budge except to move closer to me. I then cocked the rifle. His face darkened and took on an ugly scowl. We slowly edged away never taking our eyes off of him. Suddenly my foot slipped in one of the many cow flops that littered the field and I almost fell. He chose this moment to take a run at me and as he did he went down in a heap because this little harmless dog of mine had bitten him on his ankle. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect this of her. We then ran for our lives. A rock sailed past my head followed by some very colourful language.

The last we saw of him he was shuffling in the direction of the Pen Centre with a sack over his back still massaging his arm and glancing menacingly over his shoulder. Part of me wanted to yell and return some of his flavoured epitaphs, but I decided to leave well enough alone. No doubt he would have done harm if he had gotten hold of me. So I gave a hug to my lion hearted dog and we headed for home.



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## Another Piece of History Gone

Have you noticed that the colourful house on Glendale Ave west of the railroad tracks has been demolished? Several years ago we ran a story with information about the former tenants of this house and connections to William Watson Suckling, who lived in Merritton from 1888 to 1929. We had started the research because a relative in England sent us an inquiry but we were surprised with what it turned up.

It turns out the Sucklings lived there while the father was employed as a carpenter for Packard Electric. He also served as a Merritton Town Councillor from 1922 to 1926. Mike Johnson helped us follow the trail through his diligent research. The article, published in 2007, was an extremely interesting story about one of Merritton's earliest families.

## Another Inquiry

Peter J. Roome of England is looking for information on his grandfather John Greaves Roome who travelled to Canada in 1905 and worked for the Grand Trunk Railway Company as a 'fireman'. His grandfather lived in Merritton according to his family's information. Interestingly enough, Peter lives on Arlington Avenue in Swinton, England. Pass us any information you might have and we'll pass it along to Peter.



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# A Tribute To My Daughter - Patricia (McCallum) O'Neill, R. N.

By Phyllis Thomson

She was just a little girl when she was diagnosed with Diabetes and thus given a life sentence of insulin injections, daily blood sugar and urine testing, and diet restrictions that must have seemed so unjust to a child. But she never complained.

Throughout her elementary school years, she spent as much time in the hospital as out, or so it seemed, as they tried to find a regime that would work for her particular type of brittle diabetes. But with her never-give-up spirit she still managed to graduate from Grade 8 with her friends and went enthusiastically off into Grade 9 at Merritton High School. In my mind's eye, I can still see her marching around the yard behind the school with the high school Cadet Corps band, this quiet child of mine, blowing the bugle with the same resounding gusto that we were treated to at home.

As a teenager, it was a time of tremendous health challenges with this relentless disease, but she dug her heels in and somehow made it through. She had been a 'Candy Stripper', helping out at the hospital throughout her teen years, so it was no surprise that nursing became her dream. She graduated from the Woodstock Hospital School of Nursing in 1971 and came home to nurse on the Children's floor at the General Hospital. She loved working with children and babies and for the next twenty years that is what she happily did. When a newly diagnosed diabetic child was admitted to the floor, she gave them and their parents support and encouragement and showed them that it was still possible to live a happy and useful life and accomplish anything they wanted to do, despite the struggles of diabetes. There were many ups and downs over the years with her disease and too many times when, but for the Grace of God and her dedicated doctors, she may not have survived, but she attacked life with a cheerful ferocity and with undeterred courage she marched on.

Marriage, a career she loved, and a baby girl who arrived against all odds, added much joy to her life – a little 'miracle' that became the centre of her world. A decision to move to a small town in North Carolina was a new challenge for her – away from home and family for the first time, and from the doctors who had always been there for her. She continued her nursing in a large hospital there and in a few years she had settled in and surrounded herself with many new friends. But she still looked forward to her trips back home and to the family and friends from home who came to visit her in the pretty little southern town.

The progressive effects of diabetes on her health were beginning to take their toll, but she was determined to live until her little girl grew up. And so it was with much joy that her family came to North Carolina on a beautiful Thanksgiving weekend three years ago to see her 'little' girl, now grown up, walk down the aisle with a proud and happy Mom watching.

Each birthday was a milestone to celebrate and last March she marked her sixty-first birthday. It was a happy time for her, she was now a grandmother and everyone quietly rejoiced with her. She made the most of the time she was given, touching the hearts of all whom she met and the patients she nursed along the way – a strong lady with a beautiful, caring heart.

This gentle, loving soul left us suddenly on Tuesday, the fifth of July. A mother's heart lies forever in pieces.



## George Taylor

George passed away in September and his many friends in Merritton and further afield mourn the loss of a man who had a great influence on many young lives in our town. He received many awards and accolades for his involvement in community sports but perhaps the one that touched his heart the most was his induction into the St. Catharines Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. George started coaching baseball with the Merritton Athletic Association when he was only nineteen and his involvement spanned thirty-five years during which he led his baseball teams to six Ontario Championships. During the Baby Blue Jays era (1980-1996), he acted as head groundskeeper at the Merritton Community Park.

George is remembered as a dedicated coach who, beyond winning, wanted his players to be good citizens and be respectful of the people they played.



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# REMEMBERING DAVID MAIN

By Phyllis Thomson

David was born just after the Mains moved into the new house that David's father, Hugh Main, had built for his family behind Main's Drug Store. Many of us will remember Main's Drug Store on Merritt Street – it was the place where neighbours met and the younger crowd congregated at the soda bar.

I remember David as a student at Merritton High School. He was a quiet, pleasant young boy and an excellent student. I last spoke with him when I was doing an article for this Newsletter about his father and the drug store a few years ago. At that time, David was retired and he and his wife, Sylvia, whom he met when they were both students at Merritton High, were keeping busy with various activities and doing a bit of travelling.

He ended his career as a Judge in the Provincial Court, Family Division in Toronto but he had an interesting and varied career prior to this appointment. After graduating from high school, David entered the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto, graduating in 1964. He then entered Law School, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws in 1968 and was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1970. He opened his own Family Law practice and remained there until he was appointed to Family Division of the Provincial Court in 1975.

David expressed to me how much satisfaction and enjoyment he received in the last part of his career – he loved people and his position in the Family Court allowed him to interact with families and children in many different life situations.

David passed away in Toronto in August and Merritton mourns the loss of another of its native sons.



# MORE MERRITTON QUIZZES

We received several compliments about the quizzes in the last edition so we thought we'd try some more. See if you can figure out the correct responses to the following questions before turning to page 15 to get the answers.

**Name places of worship in our ward. How many can you come up with?**

**Which street in our ward has the most churches?**

**Which church had a building that physically used to be located in Port Dalhousie?**

**Which church amalgamated with another church in our ward?**

*Turn to Page 15 for answers.*

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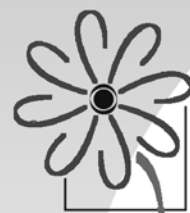
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## Further to 14 Turner Crescent

In the last issue we wrote about the work done on 14 Turner by the Christie family. Mike Johnson wrote us that he remembers the house in the 1950's as a large white place with a veranda and a big stand of lilacs on the south side. The backyard ran all the way up between Turner and Phelps and ended at 15 Phelps in a huge quince thicket. He lived at 11 Phelps and his mother always told him to stay out of the land there as it belonged to the Nelsons. Mrs. Nelson was quite famous for her work in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, an anti-drinking organization. Mike reminded us of the renaming of the streets over half a century ago. Fourteen Turner Crescent was 280 Merritt until 1950. In that year, the road from St. James Church to the arch was renamed Oakdale and the rest of what is now Oakdale was renumbered from high numbers on Merritt to what is there now. 200 Oakdale used to be 300 Merritt. The section of Turner from the corner of Phelps to 284 Merritt was also renumbered. Turner Street used to run from the Garden City Paper Mill westward to the brow of the hill and then down to Oakdale (a place where there were many icy accidents in the winter). In 1950 the hill section was closed and the curve was added to Turner making it L-shaped.

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## Lillian (Minnie) Phelps – A Merritton Social Reformer

Minnie Phelps was a temperance reformer who was born on June 1st, 1859 in Merritton. She was the daughter of Judson Canfield Phelps (born in 1835, died Feb. 19, 1926) who was a Merritton blacksmith and later owned a hammer factory at Lock 10. She never married and died on January 13th, 1920.



Not much is known of Minnie's early life. But what is known about her later life is remarkable! She was a gifted speaker and graduated from the Philadelphia School of Oratory. Minnie is recognized by historians as a great example of the young, single evangelical women who became an integral part of the Ontario Women's Christian Temperance Union after it was founded in 1877.

Minnie was the first recording secretary, from 1877 to 1881. She later became president of the local chapter and worked diligently to encourage more WCTU unions across our region. Minnie was named the WCTU's dominion commissioner for the Columbian exposition in Chicago. In 1895 she was selected to go to London, England, to attend both the biennial council of the World's WCTU and the council of the British Women's Temperance Association.

She also belonged to the Independent Order of Good Templars which was motivated by her strong belief in justice for women. In 1883 she had joined the Canadian Women's Suffrage Association, and in an article published in 1890 she argued persuasively for equity for women in employment, pay, and the vote.



# A THANKSGIVING REUNION

Every Thanksgiving weekend for the past 15 years or so a group of young men from Merritton get together and have a ball hockey game. These men have grown up together and come from the different schools in Merritton. Although parents might bemoan the fact that they even have to plan their Thanksgiving dinners around this game, they celebrate the great tradition being carried out. The picture shown here is from a few years ago.




## WE'RE GLAD TYLER IS FROM MERRITTON



If you go to the Canadian Inter-university Sports website, you'll see something very interesting! One of the young men who get together for the Thanksgiving reunion, Tyler DeMoel, lists his hometown as Merritton. Here's a York University football player who represented his hometown well. Thanks Tyler!

A scan of the York Lions football site also lists Tyler as someone who made a difference off the field. Two players launched a football program that reached out to students at CW Jefferys Collegiate in Toronto. The article also lists several other team members who have made this a success. Included in those players are players from the area Nick Coutu, Will Austin and Spirit Cup winner Tyler de Moel.

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# Merritton Lions Community Days



Congratulating Lydia Hoffman is President Jeff White (right) and Raffle Chairman Arnold Hartnett

## DRAW WINNERS – 2011

### LIONS RAFFLE:

- 1ST PRIZE  
\$5,000  
Lydia Hoffman
- 2ND PRIZE  
Ice Dog Tickets  
Dave Low
- 3RD PRIZE  
Bar Fridge  
Louise Librock

### LIONESS RAFFLE:

- 1ST DRAW  
50-50  
Mark Hemphill
- 2ND DRAW  
42" TV  
Kaley Fulton
- 3RD DRAW  
iPod Touch  
Kaley Fulton

# THE LIONS CLUB OF MERRITTON

*- Just what does the Lions Club of Merritton do for the community? Keith Brown, President 2010-2011, provided us with this valuable report.*

In the period from July 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2011, the Lions Club of Merritton donated over **\$50,000** to over 45 different causes. Approximately 60% of our donations went to support local community needs including: Merritton Community Group; hearing aids, false teeth, bed, and glasses for local residents; Royal Canadian Legion; Amputees Association; St. Catharines General Hospital; RAFT (Street Kids Shelter); Rankin Cancer Run; Thorold CO-OP Nursery; Merritton Athletic Association; Merritton Senior Ball; Applewood School; Brain Injury Community ReEntry; Ferndale School; Salvation Army; St Theresa's School; C. Centre Washroom Upgrade; Highland Dancers; Labour Day Fireworks; Community Care; Niagara Peninsula Kids Centre ; St Vincent De Paul ; Gillian's Place ; Youth at Risk (LEAD); and Merritton Figure Skating Club for "Skating Unchallenged" Program.

The remaining 40% of our donations went to Lions sponsored charities such as: Lions Home for the Deaf; Lions Foundation of Canada; Canine Vision Canada; CNIB Lake Joseph; Lions Grade I Flag Program; Lions No Child Without Program; Lions Eye Care; Lions Journey for Sight; Thorold Lions Club; A-2 Youth Exchange; Camp Dorset; and Sight First. In addition to cash donations, we collected over 2100 pairs of used eye glasses and donated 3500 lbs of food to St. Catharines Community Care, collected during our Labour Parade.

All of this was possible due to the very successful Fundraising Events held this year: Community Days Carnival – Labour Day Weekend; Beer Garden; Beef on a Bun; Bingo held monthly throughout the year; Break Open Lottery Ticket Sales; Bubble Gum Sales; Sight First Bowling Tournament – Nov 13; Elimination Draw and Turkey Raffle – Dec 1; Journey for Sight Bike Ride – May 14; Lobster Fest Dinner - May 28; and Purina Walk for Dog Guides – May 29.

In addition our members were able to host or assist in several service activities. We assisted at Grand Island Lions Club Annual Picnic in July to help with 1200 special needs children and participated in the Adopt-A-Road Clean-Up Days – Spring and Fall along Glendale Avenue. We ran full summer and winter programs at Merritton Arena. At the Merritton Community Centre, we continued to provide a first class facility to the community all year.

On top of our 33 regular and board meetings, we still found time to participate in other Lion Events. We attended Zone Advisories at Stamford, Ridgeway and Grantham and the Fall Rally at Garden City. Our Lions hosted and visited with our Twin Club – Grand Island Lions in Fall and Winter and hosted the Lions Bowling Tournament. We attended A2 and MDA Conventions, Officers Training in Fisherville, and the Lions Eye Care Annual Dance and Lions Hands Across the Border in NF NY. You might have seen us proudly marching with our Float in Thorold and NOTL Santa Claus parades.

The support given to us by the community, in combination with the hard work of the Merritton Lions resulted in this being a very successful year.

Thank you very much!

*Keith Brown*



## PersonalOptical

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Merrittonian Rachel Hill-Campbell - Owner / Licensed Optician





# REMEMBERING

Donald Douglas Andrew (born May 2, 1897), Edmund William Riddell Beard (born October 16, 1879), Frank Belton (born Jan 4, 1888), Robert Roy Boyle (June 20, 1893), John Herbert Bradley (October 2, 1887), John Joseph Brett (October 26, 1893), William Edward Carroll (born May 14, 1877) and Timothy Stephen Cartmell (born December 26, 1896) are just some of the soldiers from Merritton who fought in World War I.

## A Fitting Poem

Joshua Tiffney is in the Canadian Armed Forces, Petawawa. His mother Karen has been writing poems ever since Josh has gone into the military, and she tries to write a new poem each Friday to remind everyone how very important it is to wear RED on Fridays to honour our troops. Here's one of her latest poems:

*We are blessed with so many freedoms each and every day.*

*Special thanks to our troops who always find themselves in harm's way.*

*We enjoy the freedom to live and do not have to think about our time to die.*

*We are able to laugh when we want to and when sad we are able to cry.*

*We are free to work or sneak away to enjoy a day of play,*

*We are allowed our own personal beliefs and are not persecuted when we want to pray.*

*Wearing RED on FRIDAY,*

*Says thank-you in such a simple way.*

"C." **DUPLICATE**  
**ATTESTATION PAPER**  
 No. 850 of 1st Folio. E. 7.  
 176 & Natn.  
**CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**

**QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.**  
(ANSWERS.)

1. What is your surname? *Alexander*

1a. What are your Christian names? *Alexander Merritton*

1b. What is your present address? *Merritton*

2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Edinburgh, Scotland*

3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Katherine Robertson*

4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Merritton*

4a. What is the relationship of your next-of-kin? *Wife*

5. What is the date of your birth? *Nov 20 1873*

6. What is your Trade or Calling? *Joiner*

7. Are you married? *Yes*

8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated and inoculated? *Yes*

9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No*

10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? *Yes thirteen years in 5th Royal Scots*  
If so, state particulars of former Service.

11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*

12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, *Alexander Alexander*, do solemnly declare that the above are answers made by me to the above questions and that they are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date: *March 10 1916* *Alexander Alexander* (Signature of Recruit)  
*H. J. Taylor* (Signature of Witness)

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, *Alexander Alexander*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date: *March 10 1916* *Alexander Alexander* (Signature of Recruit)  
*H. J. Taylor* (Signature of Witness)



Congratulations to Ray Ling for his recent award, presented by Mayor McMullan on the occasion of Ray's 70th birthday. Ray, a Merrittonian who was a partner in the development of The Keg property and is a consistent MM advertiser, has been in business for 40 years.

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Rev. Dr. Gordon Crossfield

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Michael Christopher

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11:00 a.m.

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for friendly and faithful people*

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# Niagara Ostomy Association

People in our community who have undergone intestinal or urinary diversion surgery have somewhere to turn! Consider attending meetings at 7:15 pm on the third Tuesday of month (except Jan, July & Aug) at the Royal Canadian Legion (Br 350), 57 Lakeport Road. Call 905 321 2799 or visit [www.niagaraostomy.com](http://www.niagaraostomy.com).

## THE NEW FIREHALL

We've run several features on fire station Number 4 that will be built on Merritt Street beside the Dairy Queen. This building will serve as the primary dispatch centre and contain a data centre. There was an open house at the Seniors Centre recently and we were thrilled to see that the plans of the architect, Vincent Covatta, shows an adoption of features from classic Merritton structures such as the old city hall.



Current Merritton Fire Station

# LAMB – BOCCHINFUSO FUNERAL HOME

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*Vanda Persia, Italian Interpreter*



# YFC - A NEW ADDITION TO MERRITT STREET

We welcome Youth for Christ/Youth Unlimited to our area in the building at the corner of Merritt and Bessey. Beginning with Billy Graham in the mid 1940's, Youth for Christ has delivered programs focused on positive youth development as a non-profit organization. Fred Pizzo will be their Satellite Director and Fred will oversee the development of all ministry initiatives in the St.Catharines location with the hope of making a difference in the lives of hundreds of young people all across the city. Programs include those for Teen Moms, High School/Junior High night, Youth Mentorship/Leadership, Career Development and Learning, Friday night Drop-In and Summer Camp. The facility will eventually include:

- a multi-purpose room for concerts, gymnasium activity and drop-in
- a café and music lounge
- a computer lab and internet café
- a training centre for young moms
- a food bank and "blessings" room
- a recording studio
- a fitness room

## LADIES AUXILIARY

Congratulations to the Legion Branch 138 Merrittton Ladies Auxiliary's elected executive. The new Ladies Auxiliary has just come back into existence as of July 6, 2011. On Wed.



October 5th, they had a special celebration to receive a new charter to officially recognize the group. Invited guests included their Provincial Command President, the 1st Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary, the Zone Commander, and Royal Canadian Legion Men's Branch District Commander. Other invited guests include Mayor Brian McMullen (who was represented by Jennifer Stevens), Jim Bradley, Rick Dykstra, and Jeff Burch. As well as receiving their charter, they had new flags donated which were blessed and dedicated by Padre Rev. Elliston Bridger.

### Officers are:

President - Patricia Dickinson  
1st Vice-President - Patricia McCabe  
2nd Vice-President - Vera Strickland  
Secretary - Colleen Bradshaw  
Treasurer - Angie Reid  
Sports Officer - Lindsey Butt  
Sergeant at Arms - Mary Novaro  
The Executive includes Susan Meredith, Marlene Wallace, Kathie Bradshaw, Charlotte Broadley, Kristen Corcoran, and Amanda Hancock.

## A Merrittonite? Or A Merrittonian!

An interesting headline in The Standard on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>! It was over an article about the Merritton Labour Day Parade and some great pictures. The article contained comments that reflected the good feelings about the return of the parade to its original route. During the construction of the Merritton Skyway and the realignment of the Glendale-Merritt intersection, the parade had been rerouted so that for a few years, it started on Bunting. But, I noticed with interest the reference to a person from Merritton being a Merrittonite. Absolutely acceptable term, of course! I've always called myself a Merrittonian – another acceptable term! We call ourselves these terms with lots of love for our hometown. Maybe we're both.

When I tried to research both terms, I found out that there's a street called Merrittonia in the Credit Ridge Estates in Brampton. More relevant is that people in Merritt call themselves Merrittonians and there are lots of articles about them in the Merritt News. The weekly Merritt News used to be called the Merrittonian from 1960 to 1982. Merritt is a city in the Interior of British Columbia that got its current name in honour of mining engineer and railway promoter William Hamilton Merritt III.

Back in our vicinity, our local branch of the Legion, 138, calls its online news the Merrittonian. Two years ago The Standard ran an article about the parade, referring to the parade and fireworks being dedicated to the memory of late Niagara politician and Merrittonian Mike Collins. A blogger calls himself a Merrittonian and often responds to articles, including one a year ago by Walter Sendzik, the CEO of the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce, who was urging us all to vote in the elections. Also two years ago, Doug Herod commented on the names shut out of the dictionary. He defines a Merrittonian (1960): a person suffering from separation anxiety who often compensates by harbouring delusions of uniqueness.

I don't suggest that we go through the process of running a contest to see if we are Merrittonians or Merrittonites. But I do wonder what's in your lexicon!

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# A Letter to the Editor:

Two events prompted me to write to Merritton Matters. Firstly, I was in Thorold at a family funeral and took my daughter on a tour of the old town and second, my sister Catherine (Cathy) found your website and kindly sent it to me. I have now read all the newsletters posted on your site and I would be remiss if I didn't say that the memories have flooded back as if yesterday was truly yesterday. I want to compliment your team; especially the writings of Tom Barwell who was a next door neighbour on Park Avenue where we grew up. His reminiscing of days gone by has been thoroughly enjoyed.

As my daughter and I crossed over town line, near where Lorenzi's Restaurant once was, I explained to her what a great spot that was to impress a first date of just how worldly a sixteen year old in a dad's beat up car could be. Down past Interlake where I worked loading and unloading boxcars as a summer job, past the bike path shortcut we took down the "hill" and "over the tracks" through the "war time housing", past our first home on Hazel Street. We traveled down Merritt, past Aldo and Muratori's, past Kaupp's Electric, down to the corner of Glendale and Merritt to remember the great paper mill fire. We turned onto Glendale (the straightening of which threw me off for just a minute) past my grandparent's home still standing there full of childhood memories. Over to where our grade school once proudly stood, next to our church where we all had been baptized. I circled around to take her down the "main drag" past the Barber Shop, Hallett's, Wilson Insurance Agency, Main's Drug Store and where the lawn bowling events took place. On we went past Hardy's Hardware, Knobles, and Piries. By this point my mind was racing along faster than my daughter could keep up. We went on with our tour past the old pool hall, Keating's (free hot dogs, yummy), Richardson's Grocery, the majestic town hall, past our very own fire department with the dedicated volunteers who could get there faster than a bullet if the siren went off. Over to the town library and the benches we hung out on warm summer nights being so cool and defiant in those days. I showed her the old hydro building and the place the lawn bowling group went after vacating Main's, where Dailey Variety was, Honeyford's and Joe Condi's Shoe Repair. Believe me with six kids and a working dad (Hayes Steel in those days) Joe got a lot of business from the Savoie family as did Mary Honeyford. My daughter was mesmerized by the stories that rushed back to me of those early days. How mom and dad had "accounts" with most local merchants that always, always got paid and how somehow we managed to find a way to put a piece of candy on their accounts.

I marvelled at the new bridge over the tracks, drove by the Smith and Sullivan site where we got coal for the furnace, past each of the churches, turned on Seymour Avenue and there it was, my old high school. Past the swimming pool that I spend almost every bright summer day, taking swimming lessons in

the morning, impressing the girls in the afternoon, staying on for the competitive swim team before going home for a quick dinner and then back to the pool for evening swimming. A

quick turn onto Park Avenue felt like I was home again. We went past the tennis courts that we played for hours on in the summer months when not swimming and which substituted as a place for vendors when our Labour Day celebrations took place (Elm Street United Church burgers were the best ever). I showed her the parking lot at the Community Centre where the carnival always set up and was tempted to go into the Community Centre where we attended Teen Town and learned to bowl while at the same time making 5 cents a game for "sticking pins". As we turned around and headed back down Park Avenue the names of as many of the families that lived there bounced back to me. Leahy, Cumerford, Hewitt, McSween, Halliwell (Barry, Nora, Tommy, Patsy), Rankin, Wedsworth, McIntosh, Richardson, Gabriel, Leo, Unrah, Barwell, Pierce, Smith, Griffiths, Copeland, Groat, Winger, Dolbourn, Barrett, Cripps, Saunders, Sneath, all neighbours, all not forgotten in the corners of my mind.

We stopped at our old homestead at 90 Park and a lovely young woman and her husband kindly gave us a tour of the home. The outside has not changed much over the years but the inside is new and impressive. I did reveal a few family secrets of the goings on in the 50's and 60's much to the delight of the present owners. I was extremely happy to find out that they, as well as the immediately previous owners, are relatives of Danny Press (son of Wally and Lois Press) and a childhood friend of mine. It made me feel very proud that now some 60 year later, the house still stands in kind and loving hands.

Merritton was the best place to grow up in. Yes it was difficult at times but not too difficult, always caring, close knit, proud, giving, hard working, strong and independent. We are proud when asked where we grew up to say "I am from Merritton and darn proud of it."

We (The Savoie Kids - Terry, Denis, Mike, Cathy, Rosemary) would like to get in touch with our old friends, school chums and neighbours so we have started an e-mail account for those who might be interested in contacting us. Our family e-mail account is [savoiekids@hotmail.com](mailto:savoiekids@hotmail.com) so if you will, please drop us a line.

*Denis Savoie, Sarnia, Ontario*



*Denis also offered us his version of You Might Be from Merritton If.... Faithful readers will remember that we ran a series of these a few years ago. Here's Denis' list:*

## **YOU MIGHT BE A MERRITTONIAN IF YOU REMEMBER**

- dancing at Teen Town in the Community Center
- when Paul Anka, then 16 years old, came to Teen Town to sing 'Diana' live
- the "Republic of Merritton" signs during amalgamation
- Keating Meat Market, Richardson Grocery, our own police force and jail, Crews Chevy/Olds
- retrieving baseballs or watching a game from the roof of Merritton High
- Labour Day Band Tattoo's at the baseball park
- hanging out on the benches in front of the library
- standing on the old wooden bridge when steam engines would pass beneath
- Aldo and Muratori coal yard, Joe Condi's Shoe Repair, Hunneyfords,
- Granny's Pond for ice skating
- when the TD bank was moved next to the High School
- tobogganing on Burleigh Hill
- Mike Brennan's Texaco Gas Station
- the bark pile fires next to Smith and Sullivan's
- having a First Communion picture taken in front of the Statue of Mary at St. Patrick's Church
- when The Keg was the paper mill, and you can remember the paper mill fire
- running to get off the road when the Fire Siren went, so the volunteers could get to the fire hall
- you could safely walk anywhere in town after dark because you knew every family whose home you passed and unfortunately they knew you
- falling asleep to ship's horns and train whistles from steam engines
- taking swimming lessons with Bob Dunn and Peggy Pratchett
- running to Mrs. Pratchett's house at Halloween to get a molasses candy-apple
- bowling or setting pins in the Community Centre basement
- when the Pen Centre was a Plaza
- playing on the train trestle was an OK thing to tell your Mom that you did
- St. Joseph's School being pulled down, and then being paved over (at one time, I thought the song 'They paved paradise to put up a parking lot' was about St. Joe's school!)
- riding your bike to Lock 11, Cement Bottom or Burgoyne Woods pool
- the old "gym" at Merritton High School
- when the St. Catharines Standard basketball tournament started



# WILSONS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Congratulations to the Wilsons on their beautiful new building!  
We've also heard that another Merrittonian has been added to their staff. Welcome Dr. Nicholls!

## Hartzel Road Squeeze

Hartzel Road is becoming skinnier and the process is painful. Four lanes will become three lanes with a turning lane in the centre. In the end, we will have a repaved road that is supposed to be more pedestrian and cycling friendly with greener surroundings. Besides the car lots that everyone complains about and the vacant buildings, we do have some very attractive buildings. Buildings like Niagara Tire, Wilsons Animal Hospital, Hartzel Animal Hospital, Shoppers Drug Mart, Wendy's/Tim's, Home Hardware are a compliment to the street.

## THE BOX FROM OUR LAST ISSUE



Bob Sadler in London, Ontario sent us an email letting us know that he also has a wooden box with 'Independent Rubber Co, Merrittton ON' stamped on it. It is about 3 foot long and 2.5 feet high and about 17" wide and it looks like it had rubber boots in it at one time. It appears that it was shipped to the London Shoe Company in London ON with 12 pairs of short boots.

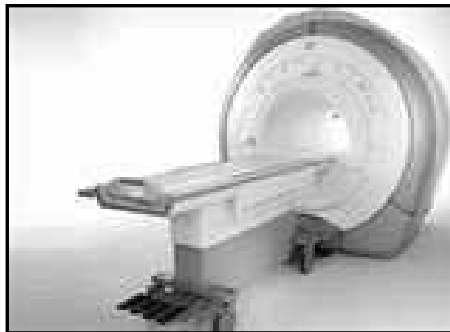
We've corresponded with Bob with the purpose of obtaining the box as a historical artifact of our community. He belongs to a Heritage and Citizenship Society in his area and so greatly understands our efforts to preserve the history in our area. Thanks Bob!

## MRI – Our Connection

In 1999, a person from our community offered up a car for a lottery which achieved its end goal of providing enough money to purchase an MRI machine for the St. Catharines General Hospital.

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a technique to obtain a detailed image of internal structures. The article from the hospital Foundation Report from February 2000 is pictured here. Pat Durocher's husband Denis had passed away in 1997 and she felt that an MRI machine might have helped save his life. So she decided to donate his treasured automobile to help generate the funds to buy such a machine.

Although the MRI technology has been replaced 3 times since the first MRI arrived in the late 1990's, it was still a remarkable initiative. The funds raised from this event are acknowledged on the Donor Wall at the current site. We checked with Kristina Manzi, Director, Marketing & Events, St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation, and she assured us that this donor plaque, along with the others, will be moved over to the new site.



## Heaven Sent



Denis Durocher passed away in December of 1997. His family donated his classic 1970 Oldsmobile 98 convertible to The Foundation for the Classic Car & Holiday Lottery to raise funds for the MRI. In total, 8,000 tickets were sold raising more than \$30,000.

When Tom Ladouceur purchased a \$20 book of five tickets for the Lottery, he remembers saying, "Wouldn't it be funny if I won Denis' car..."

"Funny" because Tom stood up for Denis Durocher as his Best Man at his wedding over 20 years ago. The two men worked together at Dana Canada Inc. and became great friends - the kind of friends your families spend Summer weekends camping with, the kind of friends who take care of your kids at Christmas while you deal with a family crisis, the kind of friends who are among the first you call to share every triumph and tragedy that occurs in your life. Tom remembers the call he received the day Denis was diagnosed with cancer.

Appropriately, Tom wanted to put the phrase "Heaven Sent" on the license plates, but unfortunately, it had already been taken. He is in the process of searching for a new name for the plates.

Now retired from Dana Canada Inc., Tom is storing his dear friend's Oldsmobile near Peterborough where he plans to enter it in weekend car shows while he and his wife vacation in their trailer home.

Congratulations to runner-up prize winners Pat Oakley, winner of a vacation at Palm Island Resort, Fred Verroche, winner of a Drive-a-Way Getaway Vacation, and Chris Foster, winner of a second Drive-a-Way Getaway Vacation.

Sincere thanks to CHSC, Doug Setterington, and many volunteers for their unwavering efforts to make The Classic Car & Holiday Lottery the success that it was.

## Places of Worship Answers:

- Queenston St. has the most churches.
- Elm Street amalgamated with McLean Malpas which used to be on Merritt across from Kimberly Clark.
- The original St. James was moved down the canal from Port Dalhousie.

Here are some places of worship in our ward:

1. St. James (Merritt and Oakdale)
2. St. Andrew (Merritt)
3. Elm Street (Elm)
4. Westminster (Queenston)
5. St. Thomas Aquinas (Queenston)
6. Westview (Queenston)
7. St. Patricks (Walnut)
8. Congregation B'Nai Israel (Church Street)
9. United Pentecostal (on Emmet)
10. Bethel Baptist (Arlington)
11. St. Barnabus (Queenston)
12. Church of Resurrection (Queenston Street)
13. The Life Centre (Merritt)
14. Youth Ministry (Merritt and Bessey)

*How did you do on our quiz? Here are the answers to the questions on Page 7.*

# HARPSICHORDS AND REED ORGANS

Randy and Laura Scott have a very interesting hobby. He is an amateur harpsichord builder and has been doing so since the mid eighties. A harpsichord is a horizontally strung stringed keyboard instrument. It produces sound by plucking a string when a key is pressed. Harpsichords were likely invented in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century and were not used after 1800 until a revival in the 1940s. During the 1970s they began to build these in the historical tradition using actual historical instruments.

Randy is now building them in this authentic manner and his wife Laura paints and flowers them. His nameboard stencil proudly states the fact that these are being built in Merritton. The Scotts also rebuild reed organs from the late 1800s right here in Merritton,



with some help from other knowledgeable people. Reed organs used to be called parlour organs because they are smaller and more portable than pipe organs that you usually see in churches. When the organ is done, Laura arranges and plays all the music while Randy does the recording.

Visit their website to hear some great music! It's located at [www.reedorganrecordingsandmore.com](http://www.reedorganrecordingsandmore.com). You can see her play one of the two reed organs from the late 19th century on YouTube. Just search 'Laura Scott reed organ'.





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# The House Before St Thomas Aquinas Church

By Mike Gander

Your article in the Summer 2011 issue, regarding St Thomas Aquinas Church, brought back memories of so long ago. Before the Church was built, there stood an old farm house, complete with barn and garage and property reaching down into the gully behind. I happened to live there from 1958 until late 1960. The address then, was 318 Queenston Road. They didn't call it Queenston Street until after amalgamation in 1961.

I have many memories of that old house said to have been built in the 1850s. To a 10 year old kid, the house seemed huge, and it was, really. Many good times were spent in the old barn, with school friends. We had a hay loft on the upper floor with a door/window, complete with hoist. We would spend hours climbing the ladder to the loft and attaching a rope and pulley to lower ourselves down to the ground. Other times in that old loft were spent with friends, hanging out and just talking about our favourite TV shows of the day, (Wagon Train, Cheyenne, Bonanza, etc.).

Every season is full of memories. Winters, we would spend the day tobogganing in our yard, down into the gully. We had to make sure that we bailed off before we hit the creek below. Many a day was spent drying our clothes as we, nearly always, ended up in that stream. Spring was especially a great time, catching pollywogs from the creek and watching them slowly become toads. We used to grow asparagus and rhubarb. My mother would make us asparagus sandwiches, which was always a favourite of ours. The stewed rhubarb and rhubarb pies were always a treat as it was picked fresh. We would think nothing of going to the garden with a small bowl of sugar, picking rhubarb, dipping it into the sugar and eating it on the spot. Summers saw my cousins, Molly and Susan Kenally, selling gladiolas from our front yard. We saw more of our cousins during the summer months those years. Autumn brought down the leaves. My brother, Brian and I would rake the leaves into a stack under the upper doorway of the barn. Then, it was back into the loft for more rappelling and jumping into the leaf pile below. Fall, also, gave us our favourite holiday. Halloween! As the area was full of kids, we would make a couple of trips out to trick or treat every year. One Halloween saw heavy rain, just in time for the trip into the neighbourhood. My brother and I decided that, instead of what we had planned to wear, to put on our yellow raincoats and hats, paint our faces green with house paint and go out as "Martians". Well, it seemed to work out fine until we got home and my father marched us to the woodshed off the barn and scrubbed our faces and hands with turpentine. We still wore remnants of that paint for the next week. Come to think of it, as a kid during those years, I would be "escorted" to the woodshed many times.

Some of the people who used to hang out in our barn were our neighbours, Terry and Mike O'Brien, the Paxton boys Robbie and Reed, Brian Henderson, Doug Gough, John Cameron, John Warren, Bob Jablonski and Donny McNevin. (Don became my brother-in-law about a dozen years later, when his sister, Trish, and I married in 1971. We are still together, 40 years later).

In the house, we had a small 2 piece bathroom, under the stairs that lead to the second floor. One particular evening, I was feeling a little experimental. You see, my father used to keep his electric razor in that washroom. Not the rechargeable kind but the one that plugged into a wall socket. It had a separate cord that would plug into the razor, itself. Now, my mother used to keep a pair of fine point tweezers in that bathroom, as well. I got to thinking about the "principals of electricity" and wondered what would happen if I put the tweezers into one end of the cord and plugged the other into the wall receptacle. Curiosity got the better of me, so I went to work. I had the tweezers all set. All that was left was to plug in the other end. BANG! I saw a flash, heard the bang and then, Darkness! How I wasn't electrocuted is a mystery to me. I, quickly, pulled the plug from the dead socket, took the tweezers and put them into my pocket and opened the door. Nobody heard a thing. My father, who had been watching TV in the living room, came around the corner. He told me that we had lost the power in the house and that he was going to the basement to check the fuse box. When he came back, he told my mother that it wasn't a fuse but the main breaker on the panel. He spent the rest of the evening checking outlets and lights. I said nothing and have, only since, related this story to anyone.

Other memories were of Mr. O'Brien and his budgies. He used to raise the birds in a room off of his garage. In the winter months, he would move them all indoors. I used to raise hamsters in our garage and my dad would sell them to the local pet store at the Pen Centre. That gave Brian and me a little spending money - spending money that we could take down the street to Bray Hatcheries and buy baby chicks. We would bring these things home, only for my mother to tell us, "GET THOSE THINGS OUT OF HERE NOW! Take them back to where you got them". Oh well! We tried. They were cute little things, too!

Memories of Consolidated school still are with me. Mr. Austin was principal then and Mr. Loewen was vice. Austin was a nice man but I had a fear of Mr. Loewen. As I got older, I found out from others that Loewen was a pretty decent guy, too. I went to Cubs at Consolidated for three years. Mrs. Cox ran the cub pack then and ran a pretty tight ship.

I have many more great memories of that old house during the three years that we lived there. Too numerous to mention all of them but I do want to thank Merritton Matters for bringing those memories back with the story on St Thomas Aquinas Church.



# Bill Wiley

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bill Wiley passed away. He was predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth “Betty“ Wiley (2006). Bill is survived by his son Bill Jr. (Iliana) Wiley and daughter Patricia (Sylvain) Vaillancourt, stepfather of Debra McPherson, Walter Lipscombe and Edward (Jane) Lipscombe. He is also survived by grandchildren Marc and Sophie Vaillancourt, Robin Lipscombe and Jordan and Braelin Lipscombe.

Bill was well-known in our community as a secondary-school geography teacher as well as principal of Merritton High School. He served for many years as Alderman for Merritton Ward. He was an active member for 28 years (and past president) of the Lions Club of Merritton, a member of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 138, Merritton, a member of the Merritton Community Group, and a member of the Niagara Military Institute. Over the years he received many accolades, such as the Service Appreciation Award in 1998, the Judge Brian Stevenson Award in 2008, and the Melvin Jones Award in 2010. He was a recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship Award from the Rotary Club of St. Catharines.

Bill was also well-known around the region as a whole through his work as Principal of Grantham High School, Deputy Mayor of St. Catharines, and through the various city committees he served on.

Bill Wiley was a founding member of our Merritton Community Group and served the group well over the past 10 years. He was a fount of information and an inspiration to all of us.



## New List of Possible Street Names

The late Bill Wiley often provided input on street names as part of his role in the St. Catharines Heritage Committee. One article he wrote for the Merritton Matters dealt with the renaming of Abbot Street West to recognize the contribution to Merritton by resident Bill Marshall who was a long time Merritton Ward Alderman and Regional Councillor. Bill Wiley noted that Marshall was a worthy recipient of a street named after him and even though Marshall served on the committee concerned with street renaming during amalgamation, he refused to have his name considered, as his personal integrity did not allow him to take advantage of his chairmanship of the committee. Bill Wiley noted that the eventual street naming is an acknowledgment of his service to us and, while overdue, has finally occurred.

Recently this committee announced that they were running out of names so they were going to expand their list. In the past, we’ve had parks named after some of our significant community individuals such as Trapper Leo and Pic Leeson. The list is a resource for developers looking to name a street after someone in a new subdivision. The outline for being on this list include citizens who contributed to: St. Catharines’ Settlement and Growth (e.g. pioneering settlers); cultural life; economic health; fame (e.g. authors such as Howard Engel who use the city as a setting in their works or musicians such as Neil Peart of RUSH); and well-being of the citizens. Citizens may have made a significant contribution as a volunteer to the community or are war heroes. Names of places (e.g. the Hostetter Farm in the north end was named “Pleasant Valley” in the early 1800s or “Glory Hill” in Merritton) are also possibilities.

The newly approved list does not include Bill Wiley’s name. One would hope that the reason for this is that his name sounds similar to street names that are already in existence. There is both a William and a Wiley Street.

We are pleased that Jack McNaughton is on the list. Jack was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, was a founder of the Merritton Athletic Association and helped finance the Merritton Community Centre. Prynce Nesbitt was also on the list. Prynce was a local artist and taught many generations of Merritton students to play the piano.

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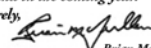
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*On behalf of St. Catharines City Council, I wish to extend health & happiness to all during the holiday season and in the coming year.*

Sincerely,  
  
Brian McMullan, Mayor

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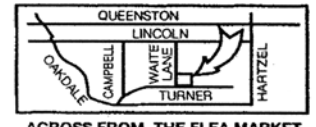
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