

The background of the entire page is a light blue sky with a subtle, mottled texture. Scattered throughout the sky are numerous white doves in various stages of flight. Some are shown from the side, wings spread wide, while others are seen from above or below, creating a sense of movement and depth. The doves are drawn with simple black outlines and some light shading on their wings and tails.

the mimico story

by Harvey Currell

The Mimico Story

by Harvey Currell

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THE MIMICO STORY

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David E. Hornell V.C. First Officer of the RCAF to win the Victoria Cross (posthumously) in World War II.

DEDICATION

To the men and women of Mimico who served King and Country in two world wars and Korea — in many instances giving their lives that the democratic way of life might survive.

1917 - 1967

1867 - 1967

Published on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary
of the Town of Mimico and the Centennial of Canada.

January 1st, 1967

FOREWORD

Throughout the Ages the course of man's endeavours has been one of endless struggle, often against seemingly insurmountable odds. Successive forms of social organization, from the primitive family group to the complex modern urban community, all bear witness to the unquenchable courage of the human spirit.

Man has never, for long, been content with mere comfort, with a modicum of what we refer to loosely as food, clothing and shelter. Instead, he has busied himself in adventure and in climbing slopes of progress towards better things.

Repeatedly, sometimes at great cost, he has had to conquer forest, wilderness and natural enemies in translating into factual accomplishment his vision and his hopes. His record of achievement in facing spiritual and physical challenge is awesome and inspiring.

At times we learn of great movements involving whole races of men. In less spectacular ways we are afforded opportunity to see — almost at first hand — the little acorns of effort that, in oak-like grandeur of fulfillment, beget the development of a modern community.

The history of our own Town, Mimico — vitally interwoven as it is with the burgeoning growth of both Lower and Upper Canada — is a fascinating one that holds interest alike for the descendants of pioneer families and for newcomers.

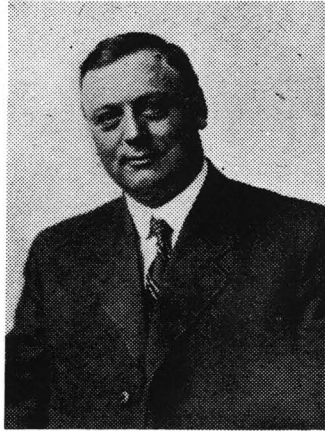
The trends of growth evidenced in it owe more than a little to the courage of the pioneers, the steadfastness of staunch farmers who wrested from a stubborn forest-clad land a livelihood, and the military prowess or political wisdom of others who helped to ensure survival and herald progress.

It is one of the happy faculties of human experience that memories of blood, sweat and tears — intertwined as they are in our heritage — lose something of their bitterness in the fulfillment of worthwhile aspirations. Many are the joys and wellsprings of satisfaction that accompany the founding of a home, the development of the sinews of good family life, or the initial steps in setting up a new community.

It is with great pleasure, therefore, that I commend to you the perusal of these pages in which are enshrined the memories, heartbeats and courage, as well as milestones of practical accomplishment, illustrative of the growth, from small beginnings, of our own municipality.

In these days of rapid change, when the impact of science and secularization influences increasingly every facet of the life of the individual and the group, it is always refreshing to discover, in the precious record of events of other days, an inspiration helpful to the task of to-day and the dream of to-morrow.

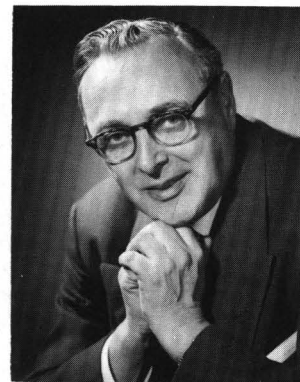
*Hugh M. Griggs,
Mayor.*



Robert Skelton
First Village Reeve — 1911



John J. Harrison
First Town Mayor — 1917



Hugh M. Griggs
Last Town Mayor — 1960-1966

**MIMICO
COUNCIL
1965-1966**



Cecil Johnson



Mrs. Gertrude Owen



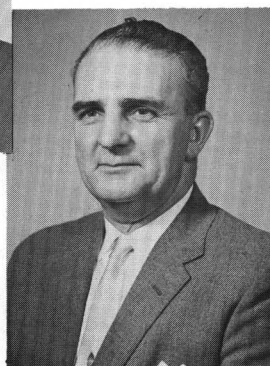
Gordon Rush



Mrs. Laura Goodwin



Robert McClintock



Andrew Ranachan

FORMER REEVES AND MAYORS

Caesar Coxhead
1915



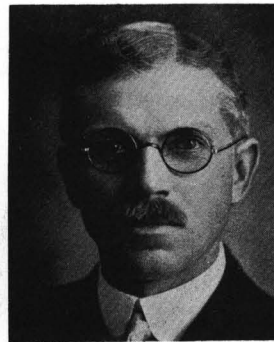
Louis J. West
1919 & 1920



John H. Doughty
1921-1925



Wm. E. S. Savage
1925-1926



W. A. Edwards
1927-1929
1955-1960



Robert Waites
1930-1932



Amos H. Waites
1936-1940
1943-1945
1947-1948



A. D. Norris
1934-1935
1941-1942
1946
1949-1952



(All Mayors served on P.U.C.)

INTRODUCTION

The Mimico Story

by HARVEY CURRELL

What is a town?

It is a place; a dot on the map, a piece of land within certain fixed boundaries, streets, houses, apartment buildings, stores, offices, factory buildings, parks and all the other apparatus of living.

But a town is more than these. Primarily, it is people — a mixed collection of all ages, sizes, characters and occupations who have chosen to live together in this place we call a town, to share certain services which it provides and, in turn, to assume certain obligations.

A town is also the past. All that has ever happened there has helped to make up the tradition, the customs, the atmosphere which today give the community a character of its own, make it just a little different from any other town anywhere.

Our history helps to mould us into what we are. We drive a certain route in our automobiles because a couple of hundred years ago, Indians wore a path which they found the easiest way between two rivers. We might tend to vote for representatives of certain politics because there is a tradition in our family or our community that this party has provided good government.

Yes, we are all to some degree influenced by the past. To understand fully the present character of our community we must attempt to understand its past, the forces and events that have shaped it.

This is history — the living record of people like ourselves who happen to have been born a few years, decades or centuries earlier.

The story of Mimico as it is today doesn't go back very far nor does it cover a very wide area. We are a comparatively modern municipality, but our past is intertwined with that of our neighbours just as our future is bound up with their's. Therefore, in this booklet of Mimico history, we'll often be ranging beyond the boundaries of our present town. We'll be talking of people and events which left their mark on the Toronto area, on the township of Etobicoke, and who thus indirectly affected Mimico.

SHAPE OF THE LAND

Mimico is a lakeshore town and Lake Ontario has always been an important factor in the community's life. In reality, it has been far more important than most of us realize, because the lake and its forerunner — a prehistoric body of water that geologists have called Lake Iroquois — actually laid down the soil on which Mimico now stands.

This was a comparatively recent event in the geologic time scale, having occurred a mere 10,000 to 20,000 years ago at the close of the last great ice age. To fully understand the geography of our region, however, we'll have to go farther back than that — much farther back, to the Precambrian era, one to two billion years ago before there was any sign of life on earth.

It was during this period that there was formed the very hard and very dense foundation rock upon which Mimico and, in fact, all southern Ontario now rests. Geologists call it the Precambrian rock. It underlies Mimico at a depth of about 1,200 feet, sloping down toward the southwest. In northern Ontario and most of northern Canada, this very old, very hard rock is at the surface. It forms the vast hardrock mantle that we call the Canadian or Precambrian shield.

Driving north from Mimico, one may see its first outcroppings at Waubaushene, Severn Bridge or Burleigh Falls.

After the Precambrian period, ages passed; the earth aged, but there are gaps in our knowledge of what actually occurred. Eventually there came a period in which salt seas covered all of southern Ontario. This is called the Palaeozoic, or period of very early life.

During it, the seas swarmed with organisms such as snails, clams, primitive crayfish and many others. Their remains were buried in layers of ooze and mud that accumulated on the sea floor. With time, these deposits hardened and formed sedimentary rocks, built up on the earlier and harder Precambrian layer. Animal remains in the sedimentary rocks are the fossils that can now be found in the lower Humber valley, in Mimico Creek Valley and many other places in southern Ontario.

Among the Palaeozoic formations were the limestone, sandstone and shale which make up the Niagara escarpment that runs through Ontario from Niagara Falls to the Bruce Peninsula.

The Palaeozoic Seas persisted here until somewhere between 250 to 500 million years ago. Then they withdrew, but there are again gaps in our knowledge of what happened. We do know that soils were formed, life developed on land, rain fell, rivers flowed and the slow but certain process of erosion began.

Water and weather cut away at the Palaeozoic rocks for many millions of years. The softer rocks were worn away. The ridge we know as the Niagara escarpment persisted because it has a top layer of hard limestone, called dolomite. Less durable rocks to the east and south of it, among them the sedimentary rocks covering what is now Mimico, were cut down under erosion's unceasing scourge. Centre of the present basin of Lake Ontario became the valley of a huge river flowing to the southwest.

Our present-day Mimico landscape was formed in a fairly recent geologic period called the Pleistocene, or ice age.

Several times in the last million years, great masses of ice have crept down from the north over half the North American Continent. When they retreated, they left new hills, valleys, plains, rivers and lakes. Life flourished between the ice invasions; sometimes climates grew warmer than they are now. The last ice sheets came as part of what we call the Wisconsin Glaciation.

From the weight of miles of snow and ice above and behind them, the great glaciers moved with a kind of flowing motion, reaching southern Ontario in several arms or lobes, each one following a different route. They always sought the lowest path, swerving to right or left around highlands or even twisting back toward the north if a slope led that way.

THE THREE GLACIER LOBES



Ice lands of glaciers created Caledon Hills.

Signs show that three glacier lobes invaded the Toronto region. The one that covered Mimico advanced from the northeast, along the basin of Lake Ontario from the St. Lawrence valley and then northwestward.

Picked up by the miles-thick ice sheets were billions of tons of rock. Most of the rocks were ground into a powder known as rock flour, frozen into the ice and carried along with it. By the time they had advanced as far as they were to go, the ice sheets were probably more than half made up of rock and soil debris from the country they had overrun.

The last glacier lobe that covered Mimico advanced from Lake Ontario as far north as the present Caledon Hills where it met another lobe advancing down from the northeast. Between them, they piled up the range of hills which now stretches eastward from Caledon to Rice Lake.

Great rivers, soupy with mud, pebbles, rocks and glacial rubbish, roared out of the ice sheets, spread out across the country to form huge temporary ponds and Lakes. As the Lake Ontario glacier lobe melted back, its meltwaters were dammed against the Caledon hills ridge it had helped form, to create a great shallow ponding between the hills and the retreating ice.

Rock flour from the meltwaters settled to the bottom of this pond to form clay. The result is what is now known as the Peel plain—a wide, level area across the southern ends of York, Peel and Halton counties.

But the site of present-day Mimico wasn't to emerge from the meltwaters until centuries after most of the Peel Plain was high and dry. Mimico's location remained covered by the waters of Lake Iroquois, a greatly-enlarged version of the present Lake Ontario.

Because the retreating ice continued to block the channel of what is now the St. Lawrence River, Lake Iroquois found an outlet to the south, near Syracuse and Rome, N. Y., down the valleys of the Mohawk and Hudson River to the Atlantic.

The Lake Iroquois stage is believed to have lasted from 1,000 to 2,000 years. We can still see the old Lake Iroquois shoreline as a low bluff just north of Dundas St. at Lambton Mills in Etobicoke. St. George's Anglican church is located on it.

After the ice dam across the St. Lawrence dwindled and disappeared, there came an invasion by the sea. The earth's crust had been pushed down by weight of the ice masses. As they melted, their waters raised the ocean level. At the end of the glacial period, salt water flooded up the St. Lawrence valley to make Lake Ontario a huge inlet of the Atlantic.

It was during this period that Atlantic salmon are believed to have found their way to the lake and its tributary streams. We'd be safe in assuming that somewhere about 5,000 years ago, salmon swam in salty water over the land where Mimico now lies.

Slow rise of the land, relieved of its ice burden, eventually ended the Champlain sea invasion. The St. Lawrence began to drain Lake Ontario, the water dropped to somewhere near its present level, the lakeshore plain emerged. Streams, including Mimico creek, began to cut through the raw clay, vegetation became established and the forest grew to the water's edge. The scene was set for human occupation.

INDIAN OCCUPATION

There is little doubt that humans were living on, or near, the site of what is now Mimico as early as 4,500 years ago, not so long after the end of the last ice age. Archaeologists have found their remains across southern Ontario. We have little detailed knowledge of these primitive people, however.

Earliest Indian occupants of whom we can speak with any real authority were members of what archaeologists call the Iroquoian culture. This large group included many tribes or nations that spoke similar languages, looked alike and had similar ways of life. Strange as it may seem to us, the Hurons who lived around Georgian Bay were one of the Iroquoian culture tribes. North of Lake Erie was another tribe we've called the Neutrals and in the Bruce Peninsula area there were the Petuns, or tobacco Indians. All were of the Iroquoian culture.

Most important of this group, though, were the Indians that the white man generally came to know as "the Iroquois." They were really the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Mohawk and Oneida tribes who formed themselves into a powerful federation called the Five Nations. Later the Tuscaroras joined and the name was changed to Six Nations.

From time to time, people of the Six Nations occupied land along the north shore of Lake Ontario. During the Early French regime, fierce wars broke out between them and the Hurons. These resulted in the Toronto region becoming an Indian No Man's Land where neither side could live safely.

By 1759, when Canada became British, the Hurons, Petuns and Neutrals had been practically wiped out by Six Nations war parties and the Six Nations themselves had withdrawn to the south of Lake Ontario.

Indians of an altogether different culture had drifted in and taken over the land for themselves. They were mostly Mississaugas and Ojibways of the Algonquin culture. The Algonquins, or Algonkians, were northern Indians who led a roving life.

Unlike the Iroquois culture people, they practised little agriculture, made their living almost entirely by hunting and fishing, lived in bark wigwams instead of the large longhouses typical of the Iroquois culture.

When real settlement of the Mimico and Toronto regions began under the British regime after the American revolution, the Mississaugas had been occupying the land 100 years, or more. They had given their names to rivers and streams and were acknowledged by the British as the rightful owners of the land.

Mimico, Etobicoke and other Indian names we still use in this area are Ojibway words.



Indian woman making baskets for farmers.

THE WHITE MAN'S STORY



Settlers called to the Colours.

History of the white man in our region begins in 1615 when Champlain sent one of his officers, Etienne Brule, with a party of Hurons to visit a tribe in what is now Pennsylvania. Brule became the first known white man to see the shore of Mimico. He came down from Lake Simcoe by the Holland River and the Humber. Then he and his party canoed along the Lake Ontario shore and around the head of the Lake to Niagara, so he undoubtedly had a good look at the site of our present town although it is doubtful that he landed here.

By 1632, other French traders, explorers and missionaries were using the Humber and paddling the water route past Mimico. Probably a few of them even camped here. Sulpician fathers from Montreal founded a temporary mission in 1669 at Ganatsekwyagon, an Indian village at the mouth of the Rouge River and for a time attempted to extend labors both east and west along the shores of Lake Ontario from there.

When Sieur de la Salle was granted the district around Kingston as a seignior in 1674, he began building small sailing ships to explore Lake Ontario and develop fur trade. Humber Bay offered a sheltered harbor for these and they called there regularly. Likewise, they probably sometimes dropped anchor at the mouth of Mimico Creek to trade with Indians who camped there.

First white settlement close to Mimico occurred in 1720 when the French Governor of Canada ordered small trading posts established at the Bay of Quinte, near the mouth of the Humber and at Niagara. The Humber post was built and operated for nine years, on the Humber, three miles up from the lake, then was closed in 1729.

Twenty-one years later, the Chevalier de Portneuf and five soldiers were sent to establish a new post. Portneuf chose a spot on the east bank of the Humber and there in May, 1750 erected "a small stockaded fort and a small house." He called it Fort Toronto.

That first summer's fur trade was so good that in September, 1750, a larger and stronger fort was begun farther east of the Humber and closer to the entrance of Toronto Bay. It was called Fort Rouille. To it came the first white woman known to have lived in this region, and the first horses. The woman was Madame du Choquet, wife of the trader in charge of the fort.

Also hacked out of the forest at this time was the first "Lake-shore Road." It was a rough track established to connect Fort Rouille with the smaller Fort Toronto.

There was already an Indian trail along the north shore of Lake Ontario, leading westward across the Humber through Mimico. The French used it to send letters by runner between Fort Frontenac and Niagara.

Fort Rouille stood about nine years. When word came in 1759 of the surrender of all Canada to the British, the French occupants burned the fort. When British soldiers arrived on October 27, 1759, they found only ruins.

The smaller Fort Toronto was probably left standing. Policy of the new British governors from 1759 until revolt of the American

colonies in 1775 was to leave the Mississauga Indians in undisturbed possession of this region and to discourage widespread trade with them. This was done with approval of the Indian leaders themselves, mainly to prevent sale of liquor to the Mississaugas.

Many illegal traders infiltrated into the area, anyway, visited the now half-ruined Fort Toronto and passed through Mimico. In 1770, a licence was issued by the British to St. Jean Rousseau and his son, both of Montreal, to trade in this area. The son, John Baptiste Rousseau, appears to have been the first permanent resident of our district. By 1787 he had a house and cherry orchard on the west bank of the Humber, very close to where the Queensway now runs.

SIMCOE AND THE LOYALISTS

Revolt of the American colonies and the war that won them independence from Great Britain brought great and lasting changes to Ontario, and in fact, all of Canada, although they came about only slowly at first.

The colonists were by no means unanimous in a desire to break away from Britain. Thousands of them fought on the loyalist side, had their property confiscated and were driven from their homes. Many others could have remained in the newborn United States but preferred to move to a new land where they could remain under the British crown and British Law.



The nerve of Lord Simcoe giving me this piece of wilderness.

The British government had an obligation to look after these people and undertook to discharge it by bringing them to Canada and providing them with land here. Large numbers settled in the maritime provinces and eastern Ontario but it became evident to Lord Dorchester, Governor-General of Canada in the 1780's, that many should also come to the western part of Lake Ontario. There was ample land for them here and the region was also strategically close to the Niagara frontier and should be occupied for defensive reasons.

Dorchester ordered a survey made of the various portage routes from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe and the Upper Great Lakes to find which one might be best improved. It was decided that the Humber route was not only the most direct but had the best anchorage and town sites at its south end, so negotiations began with the Mississauga Indians for purchase of land here.

In 1787, the Mississaugas signed a treaty at Carrying Place, on the Bay of Quinte, that sold to the British a block of land known as the Toronto Purchase. This extended along the lakeshore from the present west boundary of Scarboro township to the centre of the Etobicoke River at its mouth. Its sides were to be straight lines running north-northwest for 14 miles.

When Alexander Aitken tried to survey the western boundary in 1788, the Indian Chiefs would not let him cross the Etobicoke River. They said it made a better boundary than any surveyor's line. So the river was the boundary for about three miles from the lake and the "purchase line" started from a maple tree blazed on four sides just north of the present Dundas Highway at Summerville.

The Mississaugas were paid 1,000 British Pounds in goods and money for their land. Even before the purchase was arranged, American loyalists and many others were petitioning the government for land grants.

First burden of transforming the Ontario wilderness into a settled British province fell upon Colonel John Graves Simcoe, who had commanded the loyalist Queen's Rangers in the revolutionary war.

In 1791, the British parliament divided Canada into two provinces, Upper and Lower Canada. Simcoe was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada the same year. Before he left England, the present site of Toronto had been pointed out to him as the most likely place for an important military post and fort to

protect Upper Canada in a war which seemed likely with the United States.

17

Simcoe liked this plan. While living at Niagara, he ordered work begun on a settlement at Toronto. His early design was that this should just be a military post and that the capital of the new province should be inland on the river La Tranche, later the Thames, at what is now London.

The Queen's Rangers were already at work building a town on July 30 when Simcoe came with his family to live at the new location. He decided to call it York, in honour of Frederick, Duke of York, the second son of George III.

HOW MIMICO GOT ITS NAME

When Simcoe was appointed governor, he was allowed to form a new corps of Queen's Rangers. The second Queen's Rangers were a corps of "artificers" axemen, carpenters, masons, blacksmiths and other tradesmen. They were to build roads and public buildings in the new province and be settled on farms after their discharge.



Indians gave Mimico its name – the surveyors tried to spell it.

In 1795, Simcoe gave an order that was to lead to the eventual birth of the community that would come to be known as Mimico. He ordered land west of York surveyed to provide farms for the Queen's Rangers. It became the township of Etobicoke. The most desirable lots in it were those along the lake, closest to the settlement at York, in the area that is now Humber Bay and Mimico.

Land bordering the Humber, westward to the present town of Mimico, wasn't granted for settlement, however. It was designated as a King's Mill reserve and was intended to provide timber for a government sawmill and shipyard on the Humber. The reserve probably extended west to about Mimico Avenue.

Indians gave us Mimico's name but early surveyors were responsible for its present spelling.

The Indians had no written language. They had a word, though, for the area around the Mimico Creek mouth which meant "place of the wild pigeon." Various early travellers and surveyors heard them call the place by its Indian name and tried to spell it in English the way it sounded to them. Some weird and wonderful spellings resulted. Many of them were so different, you wouldn't know they were supposed to apply to the same place.

The first existing survey map of Etobicoke township, drawn in the 1790's, probably by a surveyor named Augustus Jones, has Mimico Creek marked but it's called "the Lamabineconce River." That's the way it evidently sounded to surveyor Jones and he should have been in a position to spell it a little more correctly than others because his wife was a Mississauga Indian girl.

Lamabineconce must have been too long or too difficult a word for general use, however, because it just didn't stick. Various other spellings and pronunciations appeared and disappeared over the years. In 1817, for instance, a Lieutenant Francis Hall, travelling from Burlington to York, wrote an account of the journey and called the river "the Macaco." Omimeca was another form often used. Gradually over the years, however, "Mimico" emerged as the most commonly accepted form and was officially recognized and adopted.



THE WILD PIGEON

The Indians had good reason to call Mimico "The Home of the Wild Pigeon." The mixed hardwood and evergreen forest bordering Mimico Creek was one of two favorite nesting places for the birds in the area surrounding Toronto. The other was at what is now Pine Orchard, in Whitchurch township east of Aurora.

Wild pigeons were one of nature's bounties to Indian and pioneer. Millions — some ornithologists say billions — of them would winter in southern hardwood forests of the United States. In spring, they'd migrate to Ontario in flocks so great they would darken the sky and take hours to pass. After arriving here, the mass flights would break up into separate flocks, still so big it's hard to imagine them. Great individual flocks would return to the same nesting places, year after year.

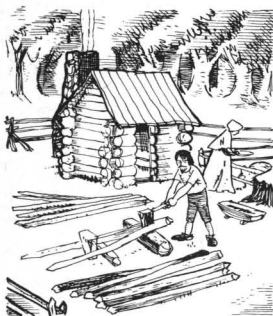
Sometimes a flock would occupy an area of woods a mile square. Every tree would have many nests. Branches often broke under the weight of many nestfuls of growing young birds. Like all birds, the wild pigeons had voracious appetites; their natural diet consisted chiefly of maple and elm seeds in the spring, berries and roots in summer, and oak and beech nuts in autumn. Mimico supplied an abundance of this food. On occasion, though, a great flock would swoop down in rippling waves on a settler's wheat field and within an hour or two destroy the fruit of a whole season's labor.

The settler would obtain partial revenge. He'd probably kill many hundreds of the thickly-massed birds and salt them down in barrels for the winter.

As settlement progressed, so many of the hapless birds were killed every season that their numbers became fewer, year after year, although the cutting of forests and resultant destruction of their natural environment contributed as much to their eventual extinction as hunting. In any case, the passenger or wild pigeon disappeared during the late 1800's, leaving North America poorer from loss of an entire species of native wildlife.

For many years, the pigeons were killed in mass fashion, being caught in nets, knocked down with long sticks or felled by the dozen with single blasts of birdshot from muzzle loading muskets. Wild pigeons were sold very cheaply on the Toronto farmers' market for the best part of a century.

FIRST FAMILIES



Early Settler's Cabin

First white people to hew permanent homes for themselves in what is now the town of Mimico were undoubtedly discharged soldiers of Simcoe's Queen's Rangers. With an apprehensive eye on the infant but flourishing United States to the south, Simcoe planned to have a sizeable number of discharged British regular soldiers on call for emergencies by settling them on free land close to his new garrison town of York.

What land was available between Fort York and the Humber was granted at an early date to officers and officials high in the governor's favour. From the Humber westward to Mimico was the King's mill reserve. Thus Queen's Rangers grants had to be located between what is now Mimico Avenue and Eighteenth Street on the lakefront or farther north in Etobicoke.

None could be west of Kipling because a large tract extending from there to the Etobicoke Creek had been granted to Lieutenant Colonel, the Honourable Samuel Bois Smith, who in 1795, was a major in command of the Queen's Rangers at Fort York. He had come to Canada with Simcoe in 1792, was given 1,530 acres extending north from the lake to what is now Bloor Street. His sturdily-built but often-altered house stood in Long Branch until 1955.

For names of those who got what must have been regarded as choice 200-acre lots along the lake at Mimico, we can refer to the first known survey map of the area. It was drawn in the 1790's, probably by Abraham Iredell or Augustus Jones, although it isn't signed.

Lots are marked with the names of the grantees. There is practically no information available about many of the people named. Perhaps they sold off the more valuable lakeshore lands to provide ready cash to help them get a start on their other locations.

From the limits of the King's Mill Reserve westward into Mimico and New Toronto we find the following names listed on the first map: Robert Gray, Richard Wilson, Sergeant R. Mealey, Captain Hooton.

Mealey and Hooton got their grants in the area that is now New Toronto so that leaves us with Richard Wilson and Robert Gray as our first Mimico inhabitants.

We know very little about them but they did establish homes here and raise families. Richard Wilson was still living on his land in 1805 because an assessment roll for the district in that year mentions him and his wife. It records that they had one son and two daughters, all under 16.

Robert Gray is not listed on the 1805 roll but an Andrew Gray and his wife are. Andrew is thought to have been the son of Robert.

Both families built log homes, small at first but probably enlarged as years passed and families increased. The Wilsons and Grays didn't stay in Mimico, however. We don't know why or when they moved. We do know that their farms passed into the hands of two other pioneer families that did stay and prosper here, contributing much to the early development of the community and the Toronto district. These were the Hendrys and the Van Everys. We shall discuss them later.

LIFE ON THE CLEARINGS

For those very first Mimico settlers, life must have been an unrelenting struggle to survive, but it must also have had its satisfactions. There was the knowledge, for instance, that they were probably the first known members of their particular families actually to own land in their own right. They were responsible to no landlords, and the results of their labours would benefit no absentee owners but could be enjoyed and handed down to their children.

Before there was anything to be enjoyed, however, there was a strong and stubborn enemy to be driven back and held at bay — the heavy forest that crowded right to Lake Ontario's edge.

Try to picture yourself as one of those Queen's Rangers veterans arriving at Mimico. You're still in uniform; your government-issue Brown Bess flintlock musket is slung on your shoulder but in your pocket crackles your discharge paper, written in the regimental clerk's precise hand. It states that you are hereby released from His Majesty's service but subject to immediate recall on the summons of the Honourable The Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada or such other officer as he may designate, in any exigency which may threaten the peace or security of His Majesty's province of Upper Canada.

Also carefully secured in your pocket is your location ticket from the governor's land office, giving you the right to occupy and improve all that particular lot and parcel of land designated as lot so and so, concession so and so, in the township of Etobicoke, being in area 200 acres, more or less.

If the weather is good, the lake calm and you had a few pence to spare, perhaps you came by Indian canoe or even by schooner from York. You have been landed on the narrow beach between what is now Mimico Avenue and the New Toronto boundary with your few belongings in a pile — an axe, a couple of iron pots, a logging chain, a few kitchen utensils and promise of an ox and a cow when the government can spare them.

More likely, though, you came on foot along the old lakeshore Indian trail, carrying your belongings on your back, crossing the Humber in some kind of home-made scow called a ferry, finding your own way across the Lamabineconce or Macaco or whatever they were calling Mimico Creek at that time.

This distance to your own land isn't great; in fact, you're lucky to be settling so near York, but it's far enough for your young wife, used to the roads and coaches of Britain.

BUILDING A HOME

First concern of any settler would be shelter for his family and himself. The first shelter or house would be of the crudest sort, intended to serve only a few months at the most. Usually it would be a kind of lean-to, built of poles or thin logs, perhaps open to a large outdoor fire pit at the front. Some would be enclosed and have a crude fireplace and chimney of clay, reinforced with sticks.

Little time was wasted on the first building. Likely it was thrown



Indian trail used by the French to send letters.

up in a day or two so the anxious settler could get at the real work of clearing land and at the same time providing pine, spruce or cedar logs for a more durable home in which to spend the coming winter.

The second home was almost invariably a sturdy log cabin. Its size would be determined by the help the settler had available to him. In earliest Mimico, close to York, there would undoubtedly have been a few neighbors at hand, so the Wilsons and Grays probably built moderately roomy log homes.

The settler and his family would spend many weeks and months cutting the logs. Length of the logs would depend on how many people were expected to help at the house-raising bee when the cabin would actually be built. If the settler and his wife knew they would have to do the work alone, they would prepare relatively short logs which they would be able to lift into place themselves. If they expected plenty of help, the logs could be longer and the house consequently larger.



Hewing to the line.

House-building bees were one of the bright spots of frontier life although they also often degenerated into drunken brawls lasting several days.

The most expert axemen would set to work at the beginning to square-hew the logs for the house. A chalk line would be made down one side of a big pine timber. The hewer would then proceed to cut one side of the log flat by "hewing to the line" with a broadaxe. The process would be repeated on all four sides until a roughly-square timber had been produced.

Next step would be to cut rough dovetails or interlocking joints where timbers fitted together to form corners of the house. While this work was going on, another group would be gathering stones, burning lime or preparing some other form of mortar, and going ahead with building of the fireplace.

When the house was actually up and roofed with split-cedar shingles, the cracks between the logs would be "chinked" or filled with thin cedar wedges and clay, some kind of crude floor would be prepared, and the family would be ready to move in. If they were lucky, they might have been able to secure a few panes of government-issue eight-by-ten-inch glass and thus have a couple of windows. If not, they'd have to depend on the open door or the fire for light.

A good example of a pioneer family's first home may be seen at the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Black Creek pioneer village. The Scadding cabin at the Canadian National Exhibition grounds is another authentic example. Our first Mimico families undoubtedly lived in cabins like these while they hacked at the forest to produce clearings that were to become farm fields, then eventually streets, subdivisions, parks and apartment sites.

There were two great and important factors in the lives of settlers at the time the site of modern Mimico was being hacked out of the forest. First of these was the forest itself, stretching dense and gloomy across the entire face of the land. Most new arrivals found it profoundly depressing. Settlers regarded it as a mortal enemy, to be destroyed by any means available.

Before a family could start to earn a living, the forest must be

destroyed. Clearing was an immediate concern and in the first few years the settler's prosperity depended on how quickly he could destroy the trees and plant a crop.

Second great factor was the scarcity of roads and difficulty of transportation. When a crop of wheat was raised in those first difficult years, the difficulties of getting it to a mill to be ground into flour were tremendous.

Mimico district was far better off in this respect than 95 per cent of the province. At its doorstep was Lake Ontario, a convenient water highway for a good part of the year. In the earliest days there were also two main Indian paths across the area. One of these ran along the lakeshore. The other was a few miles back where the rivers were shallower and easier to cross.

In 1794, Simcoe ordered a road to be surveyed close to the route of the inland path as part of Dundas Street, a military road which was to run across the province. From 1795 to 1798, parties of Queen's Rangers worked at clearing and improving Dundas Street as a wagon road and in building crude bridges.

The lakeshore trail through Mimico was also widely used by those travelling on foot. This would include our earliest Mimico families. In 1798 it was made a public road and improved to some extent but it had no bridge at the Humber so Dundas Street continued to be the main means of access to Mimico for years, particularly for anybody who had to haul wheat, flour or household effects.

Trails down from Dundas Street, to the lake probably were opened at an early date. Kipling Avenue must have been some sort of crude road by 1805, leading down to Colonel Smith's homestead at Long Branch. What is now Royal York Road was opened shortly after, although we have no definite date for it.

The earliest Lakeshore road probably followed closely the route of the present-day thoroughfare. It was a short distance back from the lake to avoid the points and bays of the shoreline until it reached the present line of Royal York Road. From there west it followed the base line of the Etobicoke survey in a straight line.

Mimico settlers had to clear the road allowance as part of their settlement duties and after a road was established, each had to perform a number of days statute labour on it per year to keep it up. Somewhere around 1802, a Richard Wilson began operating a ferry across the mouth of the Humber. The first bridge over the Humber at the mouth was built in 1809.

Settlement of lands close to the lake proceeded fairly quickly during the first decade of the 19th century but in the back of everyone's mind must have been the knowledge that on the south side of Lake Ontario there was growing an ambitious — and at that time unfriendly — young giant.

FLAMES OF WAR

War broke out between the United States and Britain in 1812 and its effect was immediate on our district. Settlers were called to the colours to serve in the militia, and hurriedly sent to the Niagara Frontier to meet the invaders.

On the lake, United States and British fleets evaded each other

for almost the entire war. In April, 1813, Mimico settlers could see a cloud of smoke hanging over York as American troops burned the government buildings after capturing the town.

Following the war, settlement speeded up. Historians generally divide southern Ontario's history into three periods — the frontier period, the backwoods period and the agricultural one. For the lakeshore district, the transition from frontier to backwoods followed close on the heels of the 1812-14 war. Within 10 years after the end of the war, the nucleus of a Mimico community was formed and Mimico began to acquire a definite identity.

GAMBLE'S MILL

Two events can be pinpointed as leading to the founding of the community — the building of John William Gamble's mill on the Mimico Creek and the establishment of the parish of Christ Church.

Mimico's founder was a native-born Canadian. He was John William Gamble, the oldest son of Dr. John Gamble, a distinguished Irishman who took his medical training at Edinburgh and moved to New York and then New Brunswick.

When Simcoe was appointed Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Gamble became assistant surgeon of the Queen's Rangers, first at Niagara and later at York.

He had nine daughters and four sons.

The Gambles undoubtedly would be considered members of the Family Compact, that group of wealthy and influential families who grouped themselves around successive Lieutenant Governors of Upper Canada. They largely kept power in their own hands and dispensed government offices and favours to friends and relatives.

Dr. Gamble's wife's sister was married to Col. Samuel Bois Smith. One of his daughters married Chief Justice Sir James B. Macaulay, another married Judge Hubbard.

John William, the son we are concerned with, was born at York, on July 5, 1798. In 1822, he married Mary Macaulay daughter of Dr. James Macaulay. The elder Gamble evidently got grants of land in Etobicoke but later moved to Montreal. His sons and daughters later returned, took up these lands, and added to them.

The young couple occupied a grant of land along the Mimico lake front beside the lots of discharged Queen's Rangers.

They built a house on a little wooded knoll on the east bank of Mimico Creek a short distance up from its mouth. The house has long since disappeared. Later, on the same site, stood the Kenney house. The Kenney house, after World War I became the home of the Mimico-Humber Bay Branch of the Canadian Legion. It was demolished in the late 1940's when Etobicoke township bulldozed the Creek valley to provide sites for industries.

Our John William Gamble shouldn't be confused with his younger brother, William, who bought a mill which had been built on the Humber by the Government at the present site of Lambton Mills, and still later, in 1848, built a large stone flour mill on the Humber. Ruins of the 1848 mill are still standing beside the Old Mill restaurant.

In 1823, John William Gamble built a dam and sawmill on



John William Gamble

the west side of Mimico Creek about where the CNR bridge now crosses.

His mill and home were both situated on or beside the land set aside as the Humber King's Mill reserve. Gamble may not have been able to get full title to the land immediately.

Indications are that he was given a lease with the understanding that he could buy when the reserve lands were released for sale.

He and members of his family did obtain full title to extensive lands in the Mimico area, including lake shore property where Gamble built a pier at the mouth of Mimico Creek.

Both the Gamble house and mill were just outside the boundaries of modern Mimico but they led to the founding of Christ Church parish.

Gamble's mill attracted workmen to cut and haul logs to it from the Humber woodlands, to run the sawmill and load the freshly-sawn lumber onto schooners in the little harbor at the mouth of Mimico Creek. The workmen, some of whom brought their families, threw up huts of rough-hewn planks for themselves near the creek, and so began Mimico.

They were a rough and lusty lot these Gamble lumberjacks. They had Sunday off, as a day of rest, but evidently spent most of it drinking and carousing. Although many comforts of civilized life were lacking, crude liquor was cheap and plentiful in any pioneer settlement.

It was an unbroken series of Sunday brawls that led to the founding of Mimico's first church.

Around the church eventually grew a settled community, that remained and prospered after Gamble's mill worker settlement had vanished.

Picture that first crude mill camp around the mouth of Mimico creek — the tang of fresh sawdust always in the air, piles of sawdust and stacks of boards everywhere, dumpy two-masted schooners moored as far up the creek as they could get, and straggling, westward back from the water's edge a ragged line of shacks and stables.

High on the creek's east bank, overlooking the scene, was Squire Gamble's house, spacious compared to the others, and with the added comforts that money and educated taste could provide. It was here, after a particularly riotous Sunday was enacted a scene that has found its way into practically every account of Mimico's early history.

Gamble's foreman, a New Englander, went to the house on this particular Sunday to state in no uncertain terms that the Sunday carousing was a disgrace and that there must be a church service of some kind to mark the Sabbath and give it a better tone.

Gamble agreed, but spoke of the difficulty of getting a clergyman to conduct services.

Then, is supposed to have ensued the following dialogue:

27

Foreman: "Say, boss, ain't you a 'Piscopalian'?"

Gamble: "Yes"

Foreman: "Ain't you got a Prayer Book?"

Gamble: "Yes"

Foreman: "Can't you read?"

Gamble: "Why, yes."

Foreman: "Well boss, next Sunday you going to read a service if I have to drag you out to do it."

Whether this story is actually correct or not we don't know. The fact is that John William Gamble did begin holding Anglican services, first in his own house, and later in an early schoolhouse.

Gamble remained in the Mimico district until the 1840's, and became the district's leading citizen. He donated land as a site for a church, conducted services when there was no minister, assisted in the services when there was, taught in the Sunday School and represented Etobicoke in the field of politics on the Home District Council for many years.

In the 1840's he sold his Mimico holdings and moved to Pine Grove, near Woodbridge. By that time forests close to the Mimico mill must have been nearly gone so that saw-milling was no longer a very profitable venture. It must also have become evident by then that Mimico Creek didn't afford a big enough dependable flow to make a permanent milling business feasible there.

Squire Gamble bought a flour mill on the Humber at Pine Grove, soon built beside it a woollen mill, glove factory and distillery. He became the first reeve of Vaughan township and held that office every year except one until 1859. He twice served as warden for the United Counties of Peel and York and was a member of the Legislative Assembly.

John William Gamble died at Pine Grove on December 12, 1873; at the age of 75. He was buried in the church yard of Christ Church, at Mimico.

In the present-day Christ Church, a stained glass window serves as a memorial to Mr. Gamble and his wife.



"You've got a prayer book."



We'll have more religion and less carousing in this camp or my name isn't Gamble!

CHURCH TO TOWNSHIP

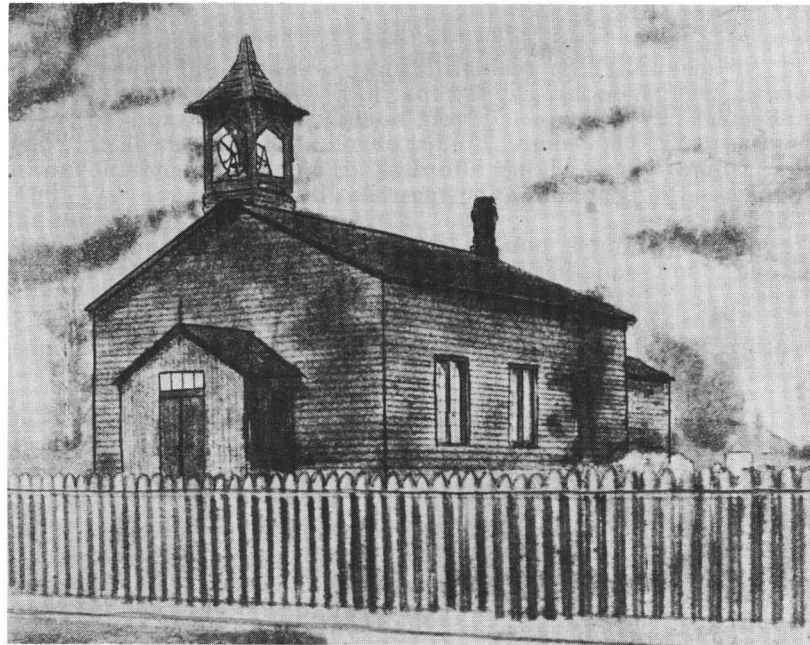
John William Gamble evidently began holding church services about 1823 or 1824 but it wasn't until 1827 that a parish was organized and a parish register began. The first services may have been held for Gamble's workers but they must have soon attracted settlers from the whole Etobicoke area until there were enough regular adherents to form a parish.

The first entries in the register record the baptisms in 1827 of four members of one family, Joseph Peeler, William Peeler, Mary Anne and Charles Peeler. Listed as sponsors were John and Margaret Peeler, probably their parents.

The first marriage isn't recorded until 1833. Ellen Talbot, a local girl, was married to Edward Bewston, of York, on April 9 of that year. The clergyman was Rev. Samuel J. L. Lockhart.

The first burial record, on March 17, 1834 was for a baby, William Hopkinson, 17 months old.

In the earliest years, Christ Church parish had no regular minister and no church. Among the clergymen who came to hold services in homes and perhaps a schoolhouse was John Strachan,



Christ Church, 1832

Archdeacon and later Bishop of Toronto. Strachan had a reputation as a man of strong character, partly due to the fact that he refused to flee York when the Americans captured it in 1813. Strachan stayed to confront the American officers and demand they restrain their troops from looting and burning.

Strachan became a leading member of the Family Compact, as indeed so did most of the other Anglican clergymen who held

services in Mimico in this period. Among them were William Boulton, master of York College, James Beaver D.D., H. Brent and Charles Dade, mathematics master at Upper Canada College.

First clergyman placed in charge of the little parish was a Rev. Dr. Thomas Phillips, master of the Grammar school at York; then from 1829 vice-principal of Upper Canada College, and chaplain to the Legislative Assembly.

His work at Christ Church would have been only a part time task in the beginning and probably provided practically no remuneration until some time after 1832. In that year, Sir John Colborne, Lieutenant Governor, set aside large tracts of Government-owned land as Clergy Reserves.

Under this arrangement, 44 Upper Canada parishes were assigned blocks of land, the idea being that farms on these would be rented and the rents used to build churches and rectories and pay salaries to the Anglican ministers of the parishes involved.

Only the Anglican church was at first thus favoured. The Clergy Reserve system meant, in effect, that the government was contributing to its support while other faiths were forced to depend on their own resources.

Christ Church parish, Mimico, was assigned a block of Clergy Reserve land out of the King's Mill Reserve, on the west bank of the Humber from the lake almost up to Dundas Street.

Dr. Phillips was then formally appointed rector of Christ Church and St. Phillips Church, Weston. He continued in certain of his other appointments, including the important one of chaplain to the Legislative Assembly.

He was noted as a staunch and prominent member of the Family Compact which in the 1830's incurred the bitter enmity of William Lyon MacKenzie and his radical reform party.

In 'Landmarks of Toronto', John Ross Robertson notes that MacKenzie, the Little Rebel, more than once attacked Dr. Phillips



View from foot of Church St. looking North – August, 1890.

in Legislative Assembly speeches with unsparing invective and biting sarcasm.

"Dr. Phillips was never backward in retorting, though, it must be confessed, he generally came off second best in these encounters", Robinson wrote.

In 1832, the Mimico congregation was able to build a church of its own on land donated by Squire Gamble. The present Christ Church is on the same site. The deed of land was actually dated 1833.

The first church was a small frame building with clapboard walls, and a small belfry.

Inside, it had square fenced-in pews. Each family would have its own pew for which it paid rent.

For many years, there was no brick chimney, just a stovepipe through the wall over one of the windows. The late Canon H. O. Tremayne wrote in a parish history that it was a common thing for the parson to stop during the service and call to George Dyer, the sexton, "George, the wind's changing, go out and turn the pipe."

Christ Church parish provided Etobicoke township with its first elementary form of local democratic government.

Real local power in early Upper Canada was held by officials appointed by the governor. These were magistrates, of the four judicial districts who met four times a year in what were called Quarter Sessions, not only to dispense justice but to administer district affairs.

Lack of elected local governments was one of the grievances that continually irritated MacKenzie and his supporters. Following the rebellion of 1837 this situation was finally corrected.

In 1841, the District Councils Act allowed ratepayers to elect district councils, and in 1849 the Baldwin Act provided for incorporation of townships and their administration by local councils elected by the people. Etobicoke township was established in 1850.

Before 1841, the only elected representation allowed ordinary citizens was through the annual Anglican parish vestry meeting.

At these meetings, the rector of the parish appointed a Rector's Warden and the church members elected a People's Warden to look after not only church affairs but also minor community matters. Also elected at such meetings were a number of other minor local officials.

An act passed in 1793 had provided that "In townships where there is a population of at least 30, a clerk shall be appointed who shall make a complete list of the inhabitants and make returns to the Quarter Sessions."

To be elected or appointed at the annual parish or town meeting were two assessors or taxers; one collector, two or more overseers of highways, a pound keeper and two wardens, one by the inhabitants and one by the minister of the church.

First such annual meeting for Christ Church parish for which there is a record was held on Jan. 1, 1834. Dr. Phillips presided.



**George (Cough Cough)
The wind has changed!
Turn the pipe!**

Those present as members were John William Gamble, Thomas Fisher, John Giles, Peter Van Every, Herod Noble, James Murray, Isaac Johnson, George Goldthorpe, William Hipwell and others.

George Goldthorpe was appointed Rector's Warden by Dr. Phillips and the congregation selected Peter Van Every, as People's Warden.

The two wardens were not only wardens or principal officers of the church but were also town or township wardens.

Services at the first Christ Church were held mainly on Sunday afternoons. Sometimes it was a "difficult matter to approach the church" because roads were so bad. Sometime about 1840, Dr. Phillips also began conducting services at what is now Islington and in 1844, St. George's church there was built as a mission of Christ Church.

In later years, Christ Church became the mother church of many more churches throughout Etobicoke and district.

Dr. Phillips, the first rector, died in 1840. He was succeeded by Rev. H. C. Cooper, who had been appointed his assistant in 1838.

REBELLION

By 1830, the population of Etobicoke reached 1016 and by the standards of these days the district was booming.

The entire southern half of the township was called Mimico and what community life there was centered around our present town of Mimico; where the only church was located.

There is little doubt that Mimico's sympathies were almost entirely Tory and Family Compact. In 1837 MacKenzie's abortive rebellion panicked Toronto officialdom and sent the province into a state of siege for months afterwards.

The actual rebellion was limited to the one small skirmish on Yonge Street, north of Toronto, but MacKenzie's subsequent escape to Navy Island in the Niagara river and later his flight to New York state led to fears that he and American sympathizers were about to invade Upper Canada.

Such fears were partly justified. One irregular force did actually invade Canada, crossing the St. Lawrence river at Brockville, to "liberate" the supposedly oppressed Canadians.

The would-be liberators were soundly defeated by local militia at the Battle of the Windmill, and killed, wounded, scattered or captured.

In the 1837 alarm, Mimico settlers undoubtedly were called up for militia duty along with other York district militiamen who spent many weary months on guard at the Niagara frontier.

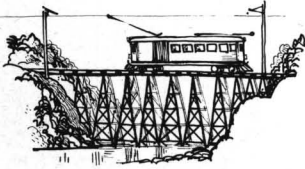
PROGRESS

Times were changing in Upper Canada by the late 1830's and 1840's.

The province, particularly the sections close to Toronto, had largely emerged from the backwoods period into the agricultural period.

Practically all of the arable land in Etobicoke township had been taken up and was being farmed by 1840.

What is now Mimico was occupied by good farms with solid houses. The name Mimico was still being used for a wide area stretching from the Humber west to Etobicoke creek and north to Dundas Street.



Radial cars over Humber Trestle Bridge.

There was a wooden trestle bridge, of sorts, across the Humber, and a trip to Toronto wasn't too great a journey, especially if you could afford to take William Weller's stagecoach which in 1835 started carrying passengers from Hamilton to Toronto along the Lake Shore road.

This was a period of stability and slow but steady progress. There was a church serving the district, and a tiny wooden school-house. The Lake Shore road had been planked — or given a wooden floor — about 1820. Eight years later the planks were so badly rotted the road was as rough as a corduroy one. In 1850 it was turned over to the Toronto Road Company, replanked and made into a toll road.

Church street, now Royal York Road, had been opened up to connect the Lake Shore Road with Dundas Street, and was in the 1840's a typical country road of that period — reasonably good in summer; a little smoother perhaps in winter when covered with packed and frozen snow, but apt to be very bad in spring and fall.

Houses were a little more comfortable than they had been 20 years earlier. Iron stoves were coming into use to replace open fireplaces, as the only means of heating. Sawn lumber was fairly cheap and people were building frame wooden houses instead of log ones. There were many small factories in the Toronto area turning out furniture. A farmer no longer had to make most of the things he needed.



1835

Following the MacKenzie rebellion, Upper and Lower Canada had been abolished as separate provinces in 1841 to form the United Province of Canada, with the capital being periodically moved from Toronto to Kingston to Montreal. During this period, what is now Ontario was called Canada West.

Many of the families that were to become a permanent influence in Mimico for the next 60 or more years were already well established here by the 1840's.

The name of Van Every, for instance, was already widely known. Van Everys had been in the New World since 1652 when members of the family came from Holland to settle at New York. They had spread across New York State and Pennsylvania by the time of the American Revolution. During the revolutionary war, in 1777, a Gregory Van Every and two sons deserted the U. S.

forces to join the loyal British Army. At least five Van Every men fought on the British side in Butler's Rangers and in 1782 had taken up residence in the Niagara area.

McGregory Van Every died there in 1786. His son Samuel continued to farm in Niagara township and in 1794, he and his wife had a son whom they named Peter. Samuel and his wife moved sometime after this to Beverley township, near Hamilton, and by 1816, young Peter had married a Toronto district girl named Agnes Barry.

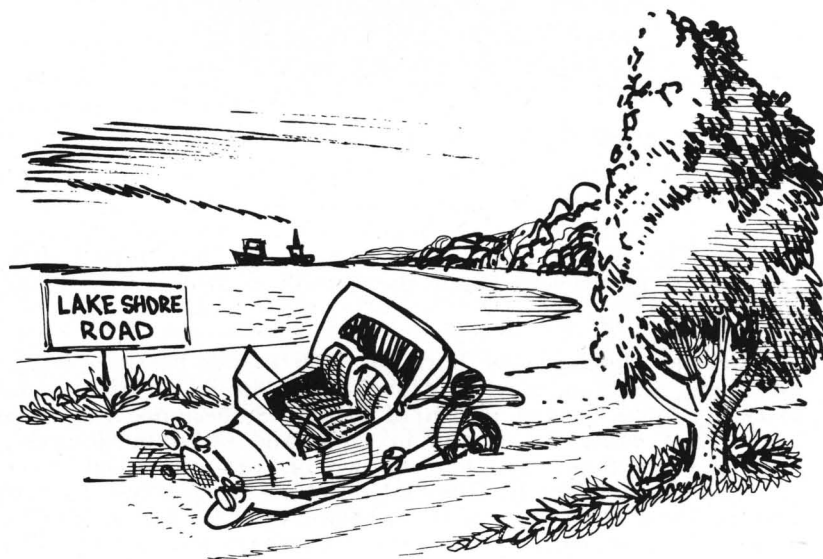
Agnes' father, gave the young couple a farm of their own as a wedding present. It was located in what is now Mimico, extending north from the lake to what is now the CNR line and west from Royal York Road, to the present boundary of New Toronto.

Peter and Agnes Van Every moved there in 1816, into a log house then standing on the property. They laboured at creating a productive farm, took an active part in community affairs and had eight sons and daughters: Margaret, Hannah, Thomas, Mary Jane, Sussanna, William, John and Agnes.

Around 1838, they built a handsome stone house on the north side of the Lake Shore Road.

One of the showplaces of the district for more than a century, it was probably Mimico's first split-level house with the sitting room higher than the kitchen. It had a handsome fanlight over the front door, a Rowanberry tree in front which Peter planted, and the best well in the district. Just to the south of it, on the Van Every farm, was a beautiful point of the lakeshore with a handsome grove of pine trees.

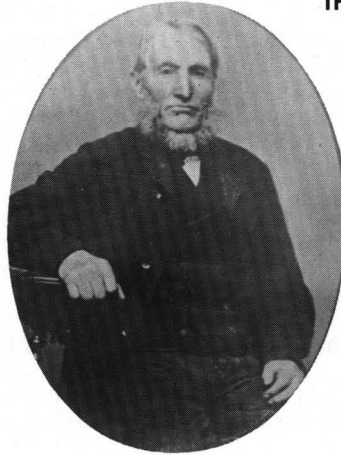
The house stood until the late 1950's. In its last years, it was a tea room and restaurant known as Crofton Villa. It was finally demolished to make way for apartment buildings.



Lake Shore Road in the early days.

EARLY FAMILIES

THE HENDRYS



George Hendry



Margaret Calder Hendry

IN MIMICO – 1849



THE SEVEN SONS OF GEORGE HENDRY

**James, Robert, Francis, George,
Donald, William and Andrew**

Another pioneer family who came to Mimico in the 1840's and stayed to see and shape the growth of the district were the Hendrys.

George Hendry was born in 1796 in the Parish of Nigg, Roseshire, Scotland, married Margaret Calder who was born in 1804 in Bonar Bridge Parish of Crotch, Sutherlandshire, Scotland. They came to Canada in 1831 and settled in Montreal. After 2 years they came to the town of York and rented one of Jesse Ketchems farms at Hogg's Hollow on Yonge Street. He was farming there at the time of the Rebellion of 1837. About 1844 he rented a 50 acre farm on what is now Broadview Avenue.

In 1849, they moved to Mimico, acquiring land that was later to become one of the town's most important residential sections.

George Hendry bought land on the east side of Church St., extending from the lake up to what is now Mimico Avenue and as far east as the present Edyth Avenue. The Lake Shore Road went through the property, and with the farm George Hendry acquired a big square-hewn pine log house. It had two storeys and seven rooms, stood on the north side of Lake Shore Road about where No. 348 is now located, between Royal York Road and Edyth Avenue.

George Hendry and his wife had seven sons, James, Robert, Francis, George, Donald, William, and Andrew. When the parents died, the land was divided among George, Francis and Robert who continued to farm it.

Francis inherited the land along the Lake Shore, including the house; Robert got the portion of land fronting on what is now Robert Street, (named for him) and George got the Church St. frontage.

Donald, Andrew and William Hendry became teachers. Donald taught school at Mimico for a time, played an active part in founding the congregation of Mimico Presbyterian Church and donated the site on which the first church stood.

William Hendry first taught at Clarkson, then at Queensville, then at Jesse Ketchum School, Toronto. He later became a supervising principal in the Toronto school system, then one of the early principals of Victoria Industrial School, Mimico, and finally returned to Jesse Ketchum school where he retired in 1914.

Francis, although he had elected to stay on the family farm, took an interest in education and served as a trustee of the Mimico School.

Robert Hendry was active in affairs of the early Methodist congregation which eventually was to become Wesley United Church. He donated land for the first Methodist parsonage, on the site where the Hogle Funeral Home now stands.

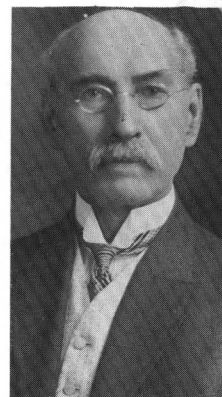
Andrew Hendry taught school in Mimico for five years. One of his pupils was Melissa Van Every, who lived on the farm across Church St. from the Hendry property.

Family history has it that the young teacher became captivated with Melissa and reversed a time-honoured custom. Instead of the pupil bringing an apple for the teacher, it was the teacher who brought apples from the Hendry orchard to his pupil.

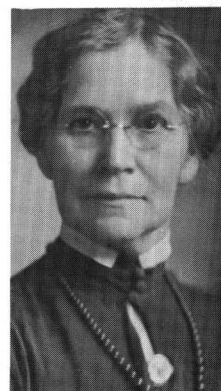
Melissa and Andrew were married in Christ Church, Mimico by Rev. H. C. Cooper, second rector of the church. Andrew went on to a distinguished teaching career. He taught in Ancaster for a year after leaving Mimico, then served as assistant principal of Winchester, Church St. and Ryerson public schools in Toronto. In 1883 he became principal of Winchester school, then principal of Parkdale and Alexander Muir schools until he retired in 1914.

The Hendry farmhouse on Lakeshore Road was left by Francis Hendry to his son, Ralph, who had been born in 1886 and grew up in the house.

Ralph lived there until 1922 when he tore the old homestead down and built another house on the spot.



Andrew Hendry
1842-1923



**Melissa Sarah
Van Every**
1856-1955
Married: 1875

THE MURRAYS



Mrs. Catherine Murray lived on Cavell Avenue at the head of Superior Avenue. The following are daughters of Mrs. Murray.

Mrs. Peter Griggs (Ellen) was deeded the property on the death of the mother. (not shown in picture)

Mrs. Walter Burgess (Johanna) mother of Nellie Burgess, for many years was librarian of Mimico, lived on Cavell Avenue to the west of her mother's property (middle back of picture).

Mrs. James Rogerson (Elspeth Wylie) lived to the east of her mother's property (front row right).

Mrs. William Van Every (Catharine) lived on the Van Every property on the Lakeshore Road (Front row — second from right).

Mrs. John Ledger (Mary Ann) lived in Buffalo (back row left).

Mrs. Jonathan Black (Elizabeth) lived in Buffalo (back row, right).

Mrs. Charles Fortier (Margaret) lived in Toronto (not shown).

Mrs. Scott (Emme) lived in Mimico (not shown).

Mrs. William Camp (Jane) lived in Montreal (front row, left).

Peter VanEvery, a grandson of McGregory VanEvery, was a registered United Empire Loyalist and who, with all but his youngest son, were Members of Butler's Rangers. He and his sons were given grants of land, three in Flambora West, two in the Niagara Peninsula and one, to Samuel, the father of Peter, in Beverley Township.



William VanEvery,
son of Peter and
Agnes VanEvery.



Catharine Murray, 21, wife
of William VanEvery

Peter was baptized in St. Mark's Church, Niagara in 1794. He lived in Beverley Township as a boy and as a youth of 18 he fought in the battle of Lundy's Lane. He came to Etobicoke Township shortly after, and settled on a farm, Concession 1 Lake Shore. This farm of about 100 acres reached from the Lakeshore almost to the present railway tracks on the west side of what is now the Royal York Road, living first in a log house, and about 1838 in a stone house he built a little to the east. This house was torn down about 1952 and a block of apartments replaced it.

In 1816 Peter married Agnes Barry who was born on George Street in the town of York, a daughter of Thomas Barry, the first town clerk of York, and one of the first merchants of the town.

Peter was one of the founders of Christ Church, Mimico and a church warden continuously for many years. All the vital statistics of his family are in the records of this church, and he and his wife are buried in the graveyard. He died in 1873 aged 80 and his wife in 1878 aged 83 leaving a family of four daughters and two sons.

Three oldest children of Wm. Van Every: Arthur Murray, William James, Melissa Sarah.



William Van Every, 2nd son of Peter and Agnes, was born in 1832 on the farm owned by his father on the west side of the present Royal York Road. He worked the farm for his father, the parents occupying part of the house.

He married Catharine Murray in 1853. She was the fifth of the nine daughters of James and Catharine Murray, also of Etobicoke Township. They left a family of seven sons and five daughters, all but one of whom were born on this farm. On the death of his mother in 1878, one of the provisions of the will was that the farm had to be sold. He then bought a farm on the Niagara Escarpment about four miles from the village of Jordan, where he lived until his death in 1898, his wife having died in 1897.

Sister of Catharine Murray Van Every was Ellen Murray Griggs, mother of Catharine Griggs and Mrs. Alice Kendall, who lived on Cavell Avenue for many years at the head of Superior Avenue. (They were distantly related to Mayor Hugh Griggs). Melissa Van Every married Andrew Hendry, father of four daughters and one son.

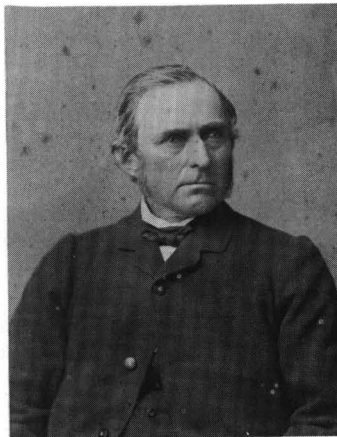
GEORGE R. GAULD FAMILY PORTRAIT — 1922



Back Row, standing: Godfrey Gauld, Janet Gauld (Mrs. Frank Fralick, Atlanta, Georgia), Ross Gauld (Dr. Ross Gauld, Washington), Mr. George R. Gauld (School named after him in Mimico), George W. G. Gauld (Legal Solicitor for Town of Mimico from 1929-1964), Rev. Gordon Gauld. Seated: Marion Gauld (Mrs. Andrew Taylor, Regina, Sask.), Mrs. George R. Gauld, Agnes Gauld (Mrs. Howard Nay, Pompano Beach, Florida).



Harriet Stock, wife of
Edward Stock.



Edward Stock

BOOM YEARS

We've now reached the 1850's in our Mimico story and a promising period it was, for Mimico and all of Ontario. The 1850 decade ushered in a time of boom and prosperity. The 1850's were happy and prosperous years for farm districts and towns alike.

The Crimean war raised the price of wheat to \$2.50 a bushel in Canada. A reciprocity treaty with the United States opened new markets for Canadian farm products. Railways were built to carry those products to the markets.

Building of the railroads had a most profound and lasting effect on the whole province and on the future history of Mimico, in particular. The railway line was built through Mimico in 1855. From that time on, the life of the town was to be modified by its association with the railroad.

Let's stop for a moment to consider what coming of the ribbons of steel meant to people of our province generally.

Railroads probably brought greater change to their ways of living and thinking than the introduction of the motor car and air travel has to us and our fathers.

Consider travel in Upper Canada, or Canada West, as it was then called, in the year 1850. It was slow and it was highly uncomfortable. For part of the year, ships did provide a smoother journey for those whose destinations lay along the lakes, but the stage coach, horseback, or shanks's mare, had to serve most people whose business demanded that they move from place to place.

A road journey from Kingston to Toronto for instance, would take the best part of a week. Indeed, it once took Dr. William (Tiger) Dunlop nearly three weeks to make that trip, after Parliament, then sitting at Kingston, prorogued. His progress can hardly be taken as a fair example, however. He was continually delayed by hospitality at the homes of friends along the way and actually took him four days to get through Port Hope.

But travel certainly was slow, even without the hazards of hospitality.

What a difference railways made! Even with the earliest wood-burning locomotives and poor roadbed, the trip from Kingston to York could be accomplished easily in less than a day.

The farmer at Barrie, could ship his produce off to an agent at Toronto, in the morning, with assurance it would reach there by night.

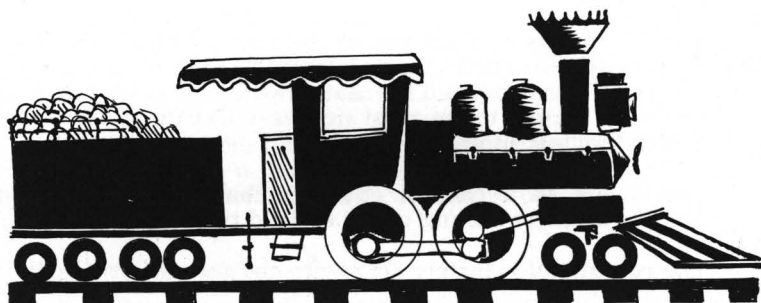
The railway building boom became contagious. Every town and every county wanted to have a railroad connection to the outside world; some municipalities voted to spend what were then considered large sums of tax money, to assist in railroad building.

Mimico wasn't in such a position. The first railway came through the district without any urging by local citizens, and it led to establishment of the first "subdivision" or real village community in what had been a scattered farming district.

Besides many local branches, two great mainline railways were planned to cross Ontario in the 1850's. One was the Grand Trunk, to run from Montreal to Lake Huron and the Detroit frontier by way of Toronto, Stratford and London.

The other was the Great Western, promoted by a group of Hamilton men and like the Grand Trunk, financed largely by British capital.

Behind plans for the Great Western was the realization that the shortest line from the important U. S. cities of Buffalo and Detroit runs through southern Ontario.



The Hamilton group's objective was to build a line from Niagara to Detroit, via Hamilton, and cash in on the heavy traffic between the two U. S. points.

By November 1853, the section of this line from Niagara Falls to Hamilton was completed. The portion to the Detroit frontier was finished by 1854 and an extension to Sarnia was opened in 1858.

The railway which was to run through Mimico was inspired by the Great Western plan.

Shortly before 1855, a company called the Hamilton and Toronto Railway Company was formed for the purpose of building a line that would connect Toronto with the Great Western at Hamilton.

There is some suggestion that this firm was actually organized and backed by the same Hamilton group that were behind the Great Western.

If this is so, it is not clear why a separate company was formed, instead of merely having the Great Western build a line to Toronto. There was quite bitter rivalry between the two cities at that time. Perhaps the Hamilton financiers feared their Hamilton stockholders would not take kindly to the notion of using company funds to build a line to rival Toronto.

In any case, another company was formed; it had a shortlived separate existence. Even before the line to Hamilton was completed, directors of the Hamilton and Toronto Railway Company recommended to their shareholders that they accept a takeover offer by the Great Western.

This was done. The line was completed and started operating under Great Western management which thought of it purely as a secondary feeder line to provide business for the G. W. main operation.

In 1882, due to pressure of competition from the CPR, the Great Western and Grand Trunk merged, as the Grand Trunk Railway. In 1923, the Grand Trunk became part of the CNR.

It is interesting to note that the original branch line from Toronto to Hamilton, through Mimico, has become a vital part of the CNR system, is one of the busiest sections of railway line in Canada, but is still referred to by railwaymen as "The Toronto Branch".

Building of the line started from the Hamilton end towards Toronto. On June 5, 1855, directors reported that "completion of the line will be delayed beyond the date mentioned at the last annual meeting owing mainly to the great sickness which prevailed throughout the province last summer."

This refers to a cholera epidemic that took a heavy toll in Toronto, particularly among newly arrived immigrants.

The report states further on — "to the east of Port Credit only one line of permanent track is laid but the work is being vigorously pushed forward."

The early woodburner locomotive that first puffed across the Mimico creek bridge and the Church St. level crossing carried enough fuel for only 50 miles and would stop to load wood at designated piles along the way. Sometimes passengers would help with the loading.

Many settlers who saw little money before railroads came, found welcome cash revenue from cutting and stacking cordwood for use as fuel by the railways.

The first Mimico station, built in 1855 or soon after, was a square plank building located on the north side of the tracks, about a block east of Church St., at the south end of what is now Windsor St., behind the Christ Church property.

From the area south of the tracks a footpath was beaten to it. The path later became a road and is still named Station Road. It doesn't lead to the station anymore. The depot was moved in later years to the south side of the tracks, still east of Church St., then still later back to the north side and west of Church.

The first bare building evidently became a centre of the social life for young people of the surrounding farm district. They'd gather there to watch the trains come through, chat with the station operator and sometimes even hold impromptu dances in the big bare waiting room.

The Great Western management presumably never knew it was playing host to these social functions.



Dancing in the railroad station.

The railway attracted more than loiterers and dancers. It led to what was intended to be the first commuters' housing development in the Toronto area.

Perceptive citizens soon realized that coming of the railroads meant that workmen no longer had to live within walking distance — two or three miles — from their place of work. The idea of selling lots in communities along the railways for workmen's villages was born.

Plans were made to locate one of the first of these at Mimico.

The Mimico project was evidently planned as an early experiment in social welfare, inspired by the Kingsley-Maurice movement in England.

Charles Kingsley was an Anglican priest who had a flair for writing novels and getting into controversies. Frederick D. Maurice was another young Church of England clergyman, who became Kingsley's close friend. Together, they founded what became known as the Christian Socialism movement.

Kingsley, Maurice and their followers in the Church of England were motivated by a burning desire to aid the poor, especially those living in the terrible city conditions portrayed by novelist Charles Dickens.

Maurice, a London clergyman, organized workmen's betterment societies, among them a tailors' co-operative. Kingsley supported him by writing pamphlets and books. Oddly enough, the Kingsley books that were to become most widely known and have lasting appeal as literature were not concerned with social conditions. They dealt instead with topics of whimsy and adventure. Among them are *Westward Ho* and *Hereward the Wake*.

Both men were often in hot water with more orthodox church authorities for their strange new beliefs. Maurice preached that the church must minister to the social as well as the spiritual brotherhood of man. This meant concern for the bodies as well as the souls of the poor, he contended. He refused to believe in an eternal hell.

POWERFUL PERSONALITIES

Imagine the ferment these two powerful personalities caused in mid-Victorian England! Among the influential followers they collected was Thomas Hughes who wrote *Tom Brown's School Days*; Charles Mansfield and J. M. Ludlow.

It was almost inevitable that the Christian socialism movement should be transplanted to the colonies and just as inevitable that its main centre should be in Toronto, already the most energetic and ambitious British city in Canada.

Christian socialism did take root in Toronto; from it the seeds of modern Mimico were sown.

Lot of the common labourer in the 1850's here, while primitive by present-day standards, was better than that of his counterpart in England.

But there was real hardship and distress among the thousands of penniless or almost penniless immigrants who arrived in the province every year. Expecting a Promised Land, too many of them found a welcome only from tricksters, land speculators and merchants intent on separating them speedily from what little wealth they did possess.

By 1849, some 280,000 poverty stricken, sick and despairing refugees from Irish potato famine and overpopulation, had found their way up the St. Lawrence to Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and in-between points.

One of every five died of cholera amid unspeakable conditions. There was no public relief system in Toronto. In 1847, citizens formed an Immigration Committee to help these unfortunates. The same year a city Board of Health was set up, not only to attempt some means of controlling the spread of cholera but also to provide some kind of shelter and medical assistance for the sick, and food for the hungry.

For those who managed to survive the journey to Toronto and gain a precarious foothold in the new land, conditions were far from ideal. Wherever a labouring man could rent a few yards of space, he would knock together a rough board shanty on posts, with the space below enclosed as a pig sty.

It was to better the lot of such families that the Toronto Christian Socialists proposed a model workman's village around the new railway station at Mimico.

Prominent Toronto Anglicans, among them Sir Lukin Robinson, lawyer and son of first Supreme Court Justice, Sir John Beverly Robinson, were involved in the plan.

The Mimico plan was not to be a free land grant scheme. Those who put money in evidently expected to kill two birds with one stone. They would be aiding the poor to establish themselves in decent living conditions while at the same time making a profit on their investments.

Farmland was purchased and subdivided into streets and lots. The lots were widely advertised for sale at reasonable prices and easy terms.

LAND SUBDIVIDED

Everyone was sure Mimico's immediate future was one of phenomenal growth and prosperity. A map compiled in 1856 by Charles Unwin, a surveyor, refers to our area as "The Town of Mimico" but fails to show the new streets and lots. An 1860 map, printed by the George C. Tremaine Publishing Company does show how the land had been subdivided. The area immediately south of the railway down Church St. for a block or so and along as far as Burlington Road was marked in black, as already built-up and occupied. The streets shown generally paralleled the railway. In later years when streets and houses actually were built this plan evidently was followed in the case of streets like Cavell and Manchester.

Shown on the Tremaine map were a Windsor Street, Hanover St., Coventry Street, Burlington Street and Park Street, all south of the railway.

North of the railway were Torrington Street, Portland Street and Sydenham Street, but nearly all the northern section was still farmland. A William Hupwell was shown as the owner of the farm on the west side of the railway immediately north of the railway.

The Tremaine map, like many commercially-published "atlases" and district maps of its time, was grossly over-optimistic.

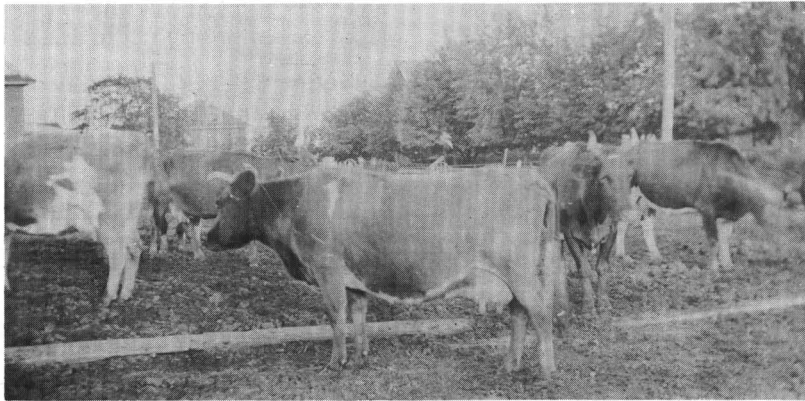
Landowners, in many cases, paid to have their properties and names listed on these maps in the most flattering terms to attract prospective buyers. No more than a tiny percentage of the lots shown as occupied on the 1860 map, had houses built on them.

In actual fact, the Mimico model village plan was a failure. Few lots were sold and fewer still were occupied.

There were probably two main reasons. First was collapse of the land speculation boom, followed by a severe depression at the end of the Crimean War.

The second, and more basic reason, was the fact that dreams for a commuter community at Mimico were premature. They came 50 years too soon.

Workmen employed in Toronto in the late 1850's were just not willing to travel by railway morning and night, to and from any place as remote as Mimico. And there just weren't enough jobs in the Mimico area, even on farms, to provide employment locally.



Cows at pasture – Elizabeth Street 1905.

So the new streets, if they were ever actually cut through, went back to weeds and pasture. Cows were the only occupants of the lots laid out for workmen's homes.

The surveyor's plans were carefully filed away, however, and almost half a century later did become the basis for many of the streets we know in Mimico today.

Some real growth even resulted for Mimico at the close of the 1850's. A few houses were built around the centre formed by Christ church and the railway station. The first step toward formation of a suburban community had been taken.

One immediate and concrete sign of progress was establishment of a Post Office, named Mimico by 1858. Also, about this time the

name Mimico came to mean particularly the area around the railway and not the whole district north as far as Dundas Street.

In 1858, residents around Dundas St. decided it was too confusing to continue having their community called Mimico.

They held a meeting on October 14 and decided on Islington, as a new name. Mrs. Elizabeth Wilson Smith, in whose husband's hotel the meeting was held, suggested Islington in memory of her birthplace in England.

From 1860 until the turn of the century, growth for Mimico was slow but steady and unspectacular.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

A major event of the 1860's was founding of a Methodist Church congregation in Mimico.

There had been Methodists in the district as far back as 1835 or earlier. Starting in 1823, a Methodist missionary, Rev. Thomas Demorest, and his assistant, Rawley Heyland, were riding the "Toronto Circuit". This was a 300-mile route, probably deriving its name from Toronto township. It extended from York to the west and north through Etobicoke, Toronto, Trafalgar, Erin and Caledon townships and back to York.

The missionaries would cover it, sometimes on foot and sometimes on horseback, stopping at pioneer homes, holding services and performing marriages.

In 1843, a frame roughcast Methodist Church for Etobicoke district was built at Islington, on the Dundas St. site where Etobicoke municipal offices were later located.

Mimico Methodists journeyed there for Sunday services until about 1858. In that year, Rev. Noble F. English, began holding regular services in the second Mimico schoolhouse which a few years before — the date is indefinite — had been built on the west side of Church St. across from the present John English School.

The congregation of Wesley Methodist Church was formed and in 1860 it bought for the sum of \$20 the lot where Mimico Municipal Offices now stand.

In 1864, with Rev. James Greener as minister, a small frame church was built there. Between 1889 and 1891, it was enlarged and at the same time a parsonage was built on land donated by Robert Hendry where the Hogle Funeral Home is now located.

The original church served the congregation until 1922 when it was remodelled and became the Mimico town hall. In that year the present church was built at Mimico Avenue and Station Road. It became Wesley United Church at time of the church union in 1925.

FENIAN RAIDS THREAT

During the 1860's there was excitement and much talk in Mimico, and in fact all Canada West, about two events — threat of the Fenian raids and discussions going on about possibility of uniting all the British colonies in North America into a new nation.



Minister on horse-back.

In 1858 a group of Irish immigrants in the U. S. had organized themselves into the Fenian Brotherhood with the avowed aim of doing everything in their power to help end British rule in Ireland. At first, their activity consisted only of supplying Irish rebels with money and arms but in 1865 they became more militant. An important faction proposed an immediate invasion of Canada which they were sure would be supported by Irish immigrants here.

Rumors flew through Canada West and there was real alarm in districts along the lake, such as Mimico.

In 1866, the Government called up 10,000 militia volunteers to meet the threat which materialized in June with an actual Fenian raid at Ridgeway, on Lake Erie, just west of Fort Erie. The raiders were repelled but nine men of the Queen's Own Rifles were killed and 30 wounded.

Great tension resulted among inhabitants of Lakeshore communities. Mimico district families organized their own home guard unit which marched up and down the Lakeshore road all through the summer nights of 1866. The password was Britannia.

THE 1870'S

Etobicoke had been organized as a self-governing township in 1850 with its own elected council. As one of the township's two main centres of population, Mimico played an important part in early affairs of the young municipality.

We have no way of determining exactly what Mimico's population was during the 1860's and 1870's but in 1870 the whole township had 600 voters listed.

An 1878 map, Miles Atlas of York County, gives an interesting picture of our community's progress up to that date.

Just west of the mouth of Mimico creek, Lamb's wharf is shown and next to it were narrow lakefront lots owned by a Mr. O'Brien, J. Kay, W. Irving, William Hewitt, W. Sparrow and C. Gregor.

North of the Hendry farm, a large lot was owned by Charles Gregor, probably the same man who owned a lakefront lot. South of the railway and east of Gregor's land, a sizeable tract was registered to an Anthony Bellamore. Much of the land north of the railway was owned by Edward Stock; but just north of the tracks and east and west of Church street a series of small house lots were shown but not indicated as having houses on them.

There is no thoroughfare shown on the 1878 map where Mimico Avenue is now located. That road was established some time later. There's an interesting story connected with its beginning. To relate it, we'll have to look into the history of the Stock family.

THE STOCK FAMILY

James Stock, his wife and five sons came to Etobicoke township in 1813 from Chorley, Lancashire, England. They acquired a large tract of land, stretching from what are now the Ontario reformatory grounds eastward to the present Royal York Road and down into the north part of Mimico.

Family tradition is that the family came by ship to York. When they set out for Etobicoke, the mother, father and four sons walked along the lakeshore to the Humber, crossed the river on a flimsy narrow bridge then followed the Lakeshore Road, little more than a footpath, to what is now Royal York Road, just a blazed trail then.

Meanwhile, another son, Edward, had gone with a York resident to take their heavy baggage and some household goods in an oxcart by a different route. This followed Dundas St. northwest out of Toronto, crossed the Humber at Lambton Mills and then took the blazed line of Royal York Road south. The journey took two days and one night.

The first Stock home was a log house built near the present reformatory site, but James Stock, the father, later moved closer to the nearest centre of civilization — Mimico. During his lifetime, he acquired a number of pieces of land in Mimico. One was a wedge-shaped farm lot on the west side of Royal York Road. It extended as far south as the present Dominion store.

In 1836, James Stock built a house here and called it Harwarden. James lived there until his death in 1860 and the house stood until 1938. It was located about where Sid's garage now stands.

Three of the Stock sons, Peter, John and Joseph, worked on building of the Grand Trunk railway to Stratford, got land in western Ontario and settled there.

The other two sons, Edward and James stayed in the Toronto area — Edward as a farmer at Mimico and James as a grocery and liquor merchant at Toronto's St. Lawrence market.

James left Harwarden, the land around it, and most of his other wide farm lands to Edward, the farmer.

Family legend is that when Edward inherited the wedge-shaped piece of land south of the railway, he used it to pasture a large herd of cattle.

There was no good supply of water on the land so Edward proposed to have a well dug and windmill installed. Investigation showed the cost would be high.

As an alternative, he went to see George Hendry, who owned the land east of Church St. (now Royal York Road). It proved to be cheaper to buy from the Hendrys a right-of-way to the lake than to dig a well.

Edward Stock therefore used to drive his cattle down through the Hendry farm to the lake night and morning for water and so started Mimico Avenue. Other people began to use the cowpath as a shortcut. It eventually became a public-right-of-way and was finally taken over as a road by Etobicoke township.

Edward Stock prospered and in 1886 built a large brick house on the east side of Church St., just north of the present Queen Elizabeth Way overpass. He named it Eden Court. Now it is the home of the local Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Let's try to picture Mimico life in the late 1870's and 1880's.

Our community was still a farming one, with its main economic activity dependent on the prosperous beef and dairy farms of people like the Hendrys and the Stocks. The farms, in turn, depended on a market provided for their produce in the growing city of Toronto.

The railway was a convenient and dependable link with the growing city but roads were still extremely poor and narrow. In fact, the Lakeshore road and Church Street were the only two main roads through the community. There were a great many horses and they provided the only local transportation aside from the citizens' own legs. Renting horses, trading horses, shoeing them, feeding them and raising them provided jobs for many people.

Social activity centered around the two churches, Wesley Methodist and Christ Anglican — and the schoolhouse on Church Street. Our forefathers at this period were great talkers and great debaters. Debates, spelling matches and rousing political meetings were among their principal diversions.

There were signs of impending change — hints of Mimico's future destiny, first as a summer resort, then later as a metropolitan suburb of the ever-growing city.



Mimico and Surrounding Area — 1878

THE FIRST COMMUTER

We don't know for sure who the first commuter was but chances are reasonable that he was John Kay — the same John Kay whose name is recorded on the 1878 map as owner of a lakeshore lot near Mimico creek.

John Kay was born in Edinburgh, and after his marriage emigrated to Canada, first to Montreal, and then to Toronto. Even Toronto of the 1870's was too big a city for his liking. He soon bought five acres of Lakeshore land at Mimico. If he couldn't live in the country all year round, at least he and his family could spend their summers here, he told his wife, Mary.

So the Kays built a summer cottage on the Lake. A son, William, was born there in 1877. John and Mary Kay liked Mimico, liked the quiet lakeside life and the friendly rural neighbours so much they decided to make it their year-round home.

An amazing piece of engineering was performed on the cottage. It was raised up to second story height, a first story was built underneath it and when the job was completed, the Kays had a 10-room house. A large stucco building, it stood until the late 1940's directly behind where the West Point Inn is now situated.

John Kay's son, William Forrester Kay, grew up in Mimico. At time of writing of this account he was living on Trueman Ave., in Etobicoke's Queensway. He died early in 1964. His recollections of boyhood in Mimico threw a good deal of light on the period before 1900 and are worth recording at some length.

When the elder Kay first bought his Mimico property, the lakeshore road ran very close to the water's edge; the Kay house was on the north side of the road. Spring storms early in the 1880's washed the road out and it was rebuilt further back from the lake — on the line of the present road — behind the Kay house.

William remembered Lamb's wharf at the bend of the road near Mimico creek, but could recall only one ship that ever called at Mimico regularly — a small excursion steamer that came only on weekends, on its way to Long Branch. It would bring people from Toronto who wanted to visit friends in Mimico or who just wanted to get out into the country.

Families would sometimes spend a day having a picnic on the beach. Much of the beach property then was owned by farmers or other local people but nobody seemed to object to public use of the beach and there were few fences.

Young William first went to a one-room brick school on Church St. on the site of the present day John English School. This was Mimico's third school, built in 1884.

The first school was a log building near Royal York Road and Lakeshore; the second a frame building on the west side of Royal York Road, opposite the present John English building. It was in use until 1884.

William Kay later attended secondary school in Toronto, going back and forth by train, every day. He recalled that the station was on the south side of the railway tracks behind the present site of the Windsor Hotel.

Walking up to the station every day was a bit of an adventure in those days. The route lay past open fields, and in spring, deep mudholes. William's daily route was up the present Burlington Road, then only a mud path, to Manchester St., and along Manchester to the station. Along the way, he'd pass only one house — the residence of Anthony Bellamore whose name we also observed on the 1878 map.

The route from the east lakeshore section up to the railway station was so muddy and rough that John Kay and a J. J. Kenney, manager of the Western Assurance Company, paid to have a wooden walk, one plank wide, built up Burlington Road and along to the station. Poking wasp nests from under it came to be a favourite summer sport for Mimico boys.

The J. J. Kenney, who shared cost of the sidewalk, was another early commuter between Mimico and Toronto. He owned the property on the east side of Mimico creek where Squire Gamble's house had stood. He built a brick house there.

As we mentioned earlier, it was occupied by the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 212 until the 1940's — the same branch that now occupies the old Edward Stock house.

There was a frame house at the corner of Stanley Avenue and Station Road where the public library is now located and people named Malloney lived there. Streets had been laid out near the railway tracks, perhaps the same ones intended for the workmen's village 30 years before, but they were just mudpaths.

Next to the Kays on the lake, to the west, was the house of George Gray, then the home of Charles Hewitt. William Kay remembered few houses along the lakeshore in the 1880's and they were widely separated. Big lakeshore estates didn't come until later. The lakeshore road itself was just a sandy track about 15 to 20 feet wide during William's boyhood.

He vividly recalled the old wooden Mimico Creek bridge and one year when it was washed away in spring floods. He was 10 or 12 at the time. His brother, Jim, and a boy named Art Stell, a nephew of George Gray, were standing on the west end of the bridge and jumped off just as it started to move downstream under pressure of flood waters and ice.

The way William Kay described it to me, Mimico must have been a pleasant place to grow up in during the 1880's and early 1890's. I could picture it as he talked; the blue clean lake stretching into the distance, far out on it the sails of schooners bound for Toronto with loads of Credit valley stone; the few frame cottages along the shore with wide fields between them; the big elms, maples, willows and pine trees at the edge of the sandy beach.

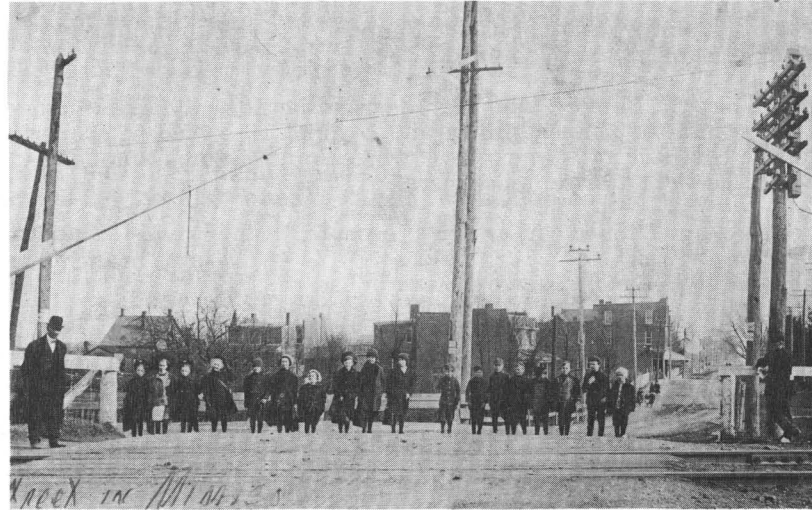
There were two or three stores on Church Street in the vicinity of the school, the two churches and the post office.

LEVEL CROSSING

For the first 30 years or so after the railway was built, Church St. was an unprotected level crossing. As the district increased in population and traffic, a watchman was placed on duty there during the daylight hours to hold up a sign to warn people when a train was coming. William Kay remembered that the first watchman was

a railway employee who'd been injured in an accident. He had one eye and one leg and often didn't get out to the road with his warning sign until the train was at the crossing. The only accident William recalled, though, was one in which a cow belonging to Edward Stock wandered onto the crossing and was killed.

A horse and buggy was the most important status symbol a Mimico family could possess in the 1880's. His family owned one, William Kay recalled, and went to considerable trouble so all the family could drive to church in the carriage on Sundays.



Level crossing on Church Street – 1911

The elder Kay needed the horse and carriage during the week to get around Toronto, on his insurance business. He'd drive it from Mimico into the city every Monday morning, leave it at a Toronto livery stable every week night and travel back and forth by train during the week.

Friday nights were different. The horse had to be driven all the way home to Mimico and given a day of rest on Saturday to be ready to take the family to Christ church on Sunday.

Winters were severe when he was a boy, and people were venture-some, William Kay said. He recalled one winter particularly, (his 10th year) when Lake Ontario froze solidly to almost a mile from shore and many people on Sundays skated from Toronto to Hamilton and back. They were so far out on the ice they looked no bigger than bottles from the Kay windows.

Misses Edith and Hazel Hendry, whose father was Andrew Hendry and mother was Melissa Van Every, told other interesting stories of Mimico life before the turn of the century — of the Mississauga Indian woman who would come through the district once a year to make willow baskets for the farmers; of the travelling tinker or pot mender, who toured the area with his wagon which had scores of pots hanging from it to make a clatter that announced his coming.

Many stories also revolved around Fred Smith and his family. Mr. Smith was an agent for a land company and in the 1880's bought the handsome Van Every house at Lake Shore Road and Church St. and occupied it for many years.

And so the 1880's and 1890's passed, each year bringing more people to Mimico, a few more houses and another short step in the gradual transition from scattered farming district to suburban community.

One evidence of Mimico's growth was building of a Presbyterian church in 1890. Up to this time, Mimico Presbyterians had to journey to Knox church, Toronto, for worship.

Early in 1889, Etobicoke and Mimico Presbyterians began discussing possibility of forming a congregation. They held a public meeting, on Tuesday, May 2, 1889, in Wesley Methodist Church, which had been loaned to them for the occasion. Among those present were D. J. McKennon, G. Gray, Donald Hendry, R. Macdonald, J. Douglas, a Mrs. McKinnon and a Mrs. Stell.

On Tuesday May 9, Toronto Presbytery authorized formation of a congregation and work began on raising funds for a church. Building started in August 1890 at the corner of Mimico Avenue and Church St., and after many delays the church was completed and dedicated on Sunday, May 10, 1891.

For the first period after its formation, the congregation was served by students from Knox college. The first pastor was Rev. T. M. Logie. He was followed by E. A. Harrison.

About the same time, Christ Church was having growing pains. In 1889, the Anglican congregation felt building of a new church could no longer be delayed. A committee canvassed members for support and building started almost immediately.

First services were held in the new brick building on Sunday, June 9, 1889. The new church cost a little over \$5,000. The old building was moved back on the lot to serve as a Sunday School. The 1889 church stood until 1955, when it was wrecked to make way for the present structure.



Foot of Mimico Avenue — 1890

LAKESHORE STREET CAR

It was in the early 1890's that a development occurred which finally and irrevocably fixed Mimico's future destiny as a residential suburb of Toronto. This was the formation in Toronto of a concern which styled itself The Toronto and Mimico Electric Railway and Light Company.

Its purpose was building of an electric radial or streetcar line along the Lake Shore Road. It came at a time when the imagination of all southern Ontario was fired with the wonderful possibilities of electricity and of electric railways. In 1892, first electric streetcar was used in Toronto and by 1894 the last horsecar had disappeared. Within the next two decades electric "radial" lines were built to radiate out from Toronto in all directions to provide a fast, economical transport service to communities which were not served by railways or did not have railway service fast or frequent enough to make possible their growth as suburbs.



Lakeshore Road and Long Branch Car

Most of the radial lines ran for 20 years or more and failed — not because they did not provide the service promised but because their founders hadn't reckoned on the automobile as competitor.

The Lake Shore radial service started from Sunnyside to the Humber in 1892 and in 1893 had been extended on a trestle bridge over the Humber to Mimico creek, at Salisbury Avenue, now Park Lawn Road.

Later the same year it reached Superior Avenue and in 1894 was extended to what is now the Ontario Hospital at New Toronto. It wasn't until July 1, 1895 that service was begun to Long Branch. On November 1, 1904, the company was taken over by the Toronto and York Railway Company and after long litigation with the Eastwood family at Long Branch, the line was finally extended in 1906 to Port Credit.

Through Mimico, the first tracks ran on the north side of Lake Shore Road with switches at what are now Park Lawn Road,

Allen Avenue and Royal York Road. First cars started at 6:10 in the morning and were supposed to provide service every 20 minutes during the day and every half hour in the evening. Fares were infinitesimal compared to present ones. Residents of Mimico, Humber Bay, New Toronto and Long Branch could buy commuter cards that provided 50 trips for \$2.00. Later the cards were abolished and anyone could buy books of 30 tickets for \$1.10.

First cars on the run were double deck open ones with a winding stairway to the upper floor. In 1899, new double deck cars that could carry 52 passengers on the main floor and 46 on the upper deck were put into service. For its earliest business, the radial line depended more on sightseeing and summer resort traffic along the lake to the early resort at Long Branch than it did on commuters.

An agreement between County of York and the Toronto and Mimico Electric Railway and Light Company, Limited, dated Dec. 23, 1890, gives an idea of the doubtful and cautious view some citizens took of the electric railway.

Section 11 of the agreement reads:

"In case the electric motors or cars used by the company, their successors or assigns in operating the said road while passing along the said railway or tramway shall cause alarm to any horse travelling or being upon the said roadway with vehicles or otherwise, the motors or cars of the company shall, if necessary, be stopped to enable the horses so alarmed to pass and the servants of the said company shall assist the person or persons riding or driving or in charge of the horse or horses that may be alarmed as aforesaid so as to prevent accident or injury to the person or persons, horse or horses, vehicles or other property of person travelling, using or upon said roadway. So far as safely can be done without causing alarm or injury to horses or vehicles upon the said roadway, the speed of the cars may not exceed at any time 12 miles per hour."

From the time radial service started, pace of growth quickened in Mimico. Now, for the first time, it became really feasible and reasonably convenient to live in Mimico and work in Toronto which was expanding at a phenomenal rate.

For the first time in 50 years, Toronto businessmen became interested in Mimico and sale of building lots increased, although there was by no means a boom in local land.

Evidence of Mimico's growth was the fact that the "new" school, built in 1884, was hopelessly overcrowded in only nine years. In 1893 it was torn down and a new three-room brick building erected to take its place on the same location.

In 1912, the new building was reconstructed to make six classrooms instead of three; in 1915, four more classrooms were added and the school grounds enlarged.

Again in 1922, ten more rooms were added and an extra new school built in north Mimico. A final four rooms were added to the original John English School in 1932. The building stood until 1956. Eight rooms were built along Elizabeth St. in 1954 and the balance in 1956.

To new families and old, the electric railway service meant new convenience. The Hendrys for one, were determined to share this.



Meeting the radial car at night.

Mrs. Francis Hendry went to the radial company, argued with the directors and had a stop established at the Hendry gate.

Cows and horses pastured close to the carline and for a good many years there were still only two houses on the east side of Church St. for a long distance up from Lakeshore Road. There were no street lights of any kind all through the 1890's and early 1900's. If a family expected guests to arrive after dark via the radial line, someone would go down to the car stop to meet them with a lantern.

THE LAKESHORE ESTATES

Mimico's fine lakefront, with its clear waters, long unobstructed beach and stately shade trees had begun to look attractive to Toronto businessmen as far back as the late 1870's when John Kay established a summer home here for his family.

By the 1890's, with streetcar service a reality, the lakeshore appeared even more desirable to a few wealthy Toronto families as a retreat from city life. So began the era of luxurious lakeshore estates.

First really pretentious establishment of this kind dates back to 1890. In that year, a prosperous Toronto patent attorney and engineer named Fred Barnard Featherstonhaugh bought the beautiful point of white pine and silver birch trees that had originally been part of the Van Every farm at the foot of Church St.

Mr. Featherstonhaugh decided country life was for him. He built an imposing stone structure almost big enough to be called a castle, which he named Lynne Lodge. For many years, it and its turreted stone guest house named The Towers were the most imposing buildings along the lake, west of Toronto. The scene of many colourful receptions and grand parties, Lynne Lodge was also the scene of tragedies and misfortunes which seemed to follow the footsteps of its owners.

The estate was nicknamed Thunderhead by Mimico residents who never ceased to be amazed at the consistency with which lightning struck a number of large trees on the property. There is a legend that before the turn of the century and building of the lodge, soldiers who camped on the site barely escaped with their lives when a fire swept through the little forest.

After the lodge was built it was claimed that the giant trees were responsible for attracting lightning bolts which caused several serious fires.

Following Mr. Featherstonhaugh's death, the property was sold. It was operated as a restaurant for some years after World War II, then sold again to a new owner who held it for several years until 1957. After 70 years, Lynne Lodge fell beneath the wrecker's hammer to make way for apartment buildings.

Other big estates were established during the 1890's and the first two decades of the 20th century, most of them first as summer homes and later as year-round residences. They occupied lakefront land from the easterly limits of Mimico as far west as Church St.

Among the most widely known were those owned by the late Col. Harry McGee, James Franceschini, the Miles, Loblaw, German and McGuinness families.

We haven't space to go into details of most of the big estates that were to dominate the lakeshore for nearly 50 years but let's take a look at some of the biggest, though necessarily not the oldest.

MILES PARK

First we'll consider Miles park, a name and place that was to become familiar to everybody in Mimico and many thousands of Toronto people as well.

Established as a country home in 1912, Miles park was the property of Arthur William Miles, a Toronto undertaker. Mr. Miles had been born in Toronto in 1873. At the age of 9 he had the honour of being appointed a page boy in the old Ontario parliament buildings. He subsequently attended the University of Toronto, then went to South Africa where he worked as an engineer in gold mines. On his return to Toronto he became a funeral director — a highly successful one, who conducted the funerals of many notable Canadians. He introduced the first motor hearse used in Ontario.



Mule ride

A public-spirited man, Arthur Miles enjoyed his Mimico estate, and during the years decided he'd like to let other people enjoy it, too. He began building private zoological gardens to which the public was admitted.

By 1930, the zoo had become fairly large and widely known. Crowds of local and city people came every year to see the elephant that was Mr. Miles' pride and joy, admire the peacock, laugh at the monkeys and view the many other animals. Children could ride on Mr. Miles' pet mules, play on the slides, swings and other playground equipment, hold picnics and generally enjoy themselves.

But Mimico had been growing steadily around the Miles estate. The park eventually was surrounded by houses instead of open fields. Owners of the houses began to complain that a residential suburb wasn't the proper place for a full-scale zoo and the inevitable odours that arose from it.

In 1930, as a result of complaints, Mimico council passed a by-law forbidding the keeping of animals in town. Mr. Miles protested that the by-law was unfair and aimed strictly at his estate which provided enjoyment for visitors. He invited council members to see Miles park for themselves. They did, and Arthur Miles told a newspaper reporter afterwards: "They were quite interested in the elephant and I was only sorry they hadn't come sooner so they could see it going in for a swim."

By 1936, Mr. Miles himself agreed that the Mimico lakefront was no longer the best place for a zoo. He sold Miles' park and bought a farm at Erindale to which his beloved animals were moved. Fire destroyed some of the Erindale farm buildings in 1943, killing many of the animals including the popular and kindly old elephant. Mr. Miles re-stocked the farm and it remained open to the public until the founder's death in 1956.

KILCOOLEY

A second widely-known Mimico estate was Kilcooley, the summer home of Col. Harry McGee, for many years senior vice-president of the T. Eaton Company Limited.

Born in Kilcooley, county Tipperary, Ireland, in 1861, young Harry McGee went to the town of Wicklow at the age of 17 and for four years served an apprenticeship in a general store. In 1882, at the age of 21, he came to Canada, worked for seven months in a store at Midland, Ontario, until inflammatory rheumatism forced him to quit and go to Toronto for treatment.

There he got a job in a store called the Golden Griffin, operated by the firm of Petley and Petley, on King St., opposite St. Lawrence market. Despite its imposing name, The Golden Griffin didn't appear to shrewd young McGee to be going anywhere. After five months he left and went to see Timothy Eaton, who was opening a new store at 190 Yonge St. Impressed by the young man's assurance that he would do anything from selling goods to cleaning chimneys and that Eaton's didn't need to pay him until he proved he was worth it, Timothy Eaton hired him.

From then until his retirement in 1937, Harry McGee played an important part in the T. Eaton company's growth. During the same period, he earned the affection of Eaton employees. In 1928, they presented him with a Rolls Royce in honour of his completion of 45 years with the store. Five years later, 15,000 Eaton employees filled Maple Leaf Gardens to mark his 50 years of service.

In Mimico, the estate where the McGee family spent their summers, occupied nearly a block of lakefront land near the east end of town. Its white picket fence on the south side of Lake Shore Road was just east of the foot of Superior Avenue. Just after the McGees bought the property in 1909, Pat McIlroy and Tom Donnelly of Etobicoke were hired to transplant fair-size birch, maple and elm trees from Etobicoke farms to Kilcooley.

They moved the trees in winter, one at a time, on large sleighs pulled by teams of horses.

Col. McGee died in 1939. His family retained Kilcooley for a few years. During the 1940's it was sold and the main house became a restaurant known as Kilcooley Gardens.

Many a Mimico and district couple held their wedding receptions there and were photographed in the spacious grounds during the late 1940's and early 1950's. Eventually this attractive property was sold as a lakefront apartment site.

MYRTLE VILLA

Another large Mimico estate that was later to become the focus of much public attention was established about 1906 by A. B. Ormsby manufacturer of metal door and window frames. The Ormsbys first acquired the property as a summer home and later built a large year-round residence there. They often played hosts there to groups from Wesley United Church and there are still a good many people living in Mimico today who can recall attending Young Peoples' Society parties at the Ormsby estate.

When A. B. Ormsby retired in 1925, and moved to California, his large lakefront property was purchased for a reported \$150,000 by James Franceschini who'd come to Canada in 1905 at the age of 15, without a cent in his pockets.

After working at labouring jobs on construction sites, James Franceschini went into business for himself as a contractor with

phenomenal results. He obtained contracts to build many of Ontario's first paved highways following World War I. His Dufferin Construction Company was among the first firms in Canada to use trucks and power equipment on road building jobs. In the years after James Franceschini bought the Ormsby estate, he was reported to have spent \$150,000 on new buildings including an indoor show-ring and stables for his prize horses.

James Franceschini sought to avoid public attention but many times during his spectacular career, his name made news. Once was during the 1930's when a gang of extortioners threatened to kidnap his daughter and fired a shot through the window of his Mimico home.

Again in 1940, during World War II, Franceschini was in the headlines. He was interned as an enemy alien in June of that year after his native Italy joined Hitler in the war against the Allies.

Neither wealth, eminence, influential friends nor the fact he had been naturalized as a British subject could prevent his arrest. Franceschini was reported to have been on friendly terms with Mussolini, fascist dictator of Italy.

He emphatically denied any disloyalty to Canada. After a year in a prison camp, the wealthy contractor was transferred to hospital and a short time later unconditionally released. Full vindication came for Franceschini when Mr. Justice Hyndman was appointed to conduct an inquiry into his internment. The judge reported that he was convinced Franceschini was loyal to Canada and would not act in any way to prejudice Canada's safety.

The Mackenzie King government faced a storm of criticism over the affair, was accused of having wrongfully imprisoned an innocent man. Failure of the government to release the Hyndman report until many months after it was written was another cause of criticism.

Mr. Franceschini lived quietly after the war. He died on Sept. 16, 1960, at his country home at Mont Tremblant, Quebec.

He had sold Myrtle Villa, his Mimico estate in 1950 to Longo Construction Company. There were five acres of grounds, a main house, and five other houses, a duplex, stable with indoor track and swimming pool.

Myrtle Villa became the site of an extensive apartment development.

A DATE WITH DESTINY

In an earlier chapter, we saw how building of the Toronto-Hamilton railway put Mimico on the map in 1855, led to our first housing subdivision plan and established a real community.

Fifty-one years later, a railway project was again to change Mimico's destiny.

The Grand Trunk railway had by 1906 absorbed most of its smaller competitors to gain a strong position alongside the CPR as a dominant Canadian Railway empire.

As Canada grew, so did the importance of the railways. Around the turn of the 20th century, they had practically no competition. The automobile had not yet developed to the point where it could seriously threaten the railways' passenger traffic. The trucking industry had not yet been born. Freight that wasn't moved by railroad or ship had to go by horse and wagon.

And there was more freight to be moved every year as immigration continued to fill some of Canada's empty spaces. Villages, towns, cities and industries were all growing. The future looked rosy for the railroads. Particularly heavy through Ontario was the movement of coal, practically the only domestic fuel at that time.

Because of its mainline connection with the Niagara Falls frontier, the Grand Trunk was in a position to seize a major portion of the heavy coal traffic from the Pennsylvania coalfields to Ontario homes and factories.

Toronto became the major coal distribution centre for much of southern Ontario. Long trains of coal cars would roll into the city to be broken up and sorted for distribution over a wide area.

By 1906, the Grand Trunk Railways found that its small East Toronto freight yard, built in the 19th century to serve 19th century needs, was in no position to handle the freight demands of 20th century boomtown Toronto. Much of the East Toronto or Danforth yard was on leased land and there was little satisfactory space for expansion.

It became obvious that a new yard should be built in a strategic location that would allow plenty of room for future growth.

Mimico was destined to become that location. To officials of the G.T.R. it had the following advantages:

It was located just west of Toronto, the direction from which the heavy coal traffic originated.

It was close enough to the city to serve as a marshalling and distributing point for city traffic.

It had plenty of flat land along the existing Grand Trunk line. Most of the needed land was relatively cheap farmland.

And so, in 1906, news was released that the Grand Trunk was establishing a new major freight yard and terminal at Mimico.

Only a small part of the yard was actually to be located within the boundaries of what was later to become the town of Mimico. From



The Bailey House overlooking Lakeshore Rd. West of Mimico Creek once served as Branch 217 Legion. The first owner was Sir Henry Pallett who built Casa Loma.



The VanEvery house at Lakeshore Road and Royal York Road was built in 1838. Home of Peter VanEvery and his son, William, until 1879, when the farm was sold. The house was demolished in 1953.



Mimico Beach in the 1920's.



Home of Edward Stock, Church Street, north of Queen Elizabeth Way. Now Branch 217 Legion Hall.



John Kay home, 32 Victor Avenue, in 1900.

the Church St. level crossing, the yard was to extend westward to Kipling Ave., now 18th Street in New Toronto. At its widest part, it was built to supply 14 westbound and 15 eastbound tracks. In 1910, as traffic continued to increase the yard was enlarged by adding eight more tracks — four westbound and four eastbound.

A large part of the yard property is now within the boundaries of New Toronto, and part in Etobicoke, but to the railways, to railway employees and general public, it has always been known as Mimico yard and the name persists.

Building of the railway terminal, in effect, brought a major industry to Mimico — that of railroading. Since 1855, our tiny community had been growing up within sound of the train whistles but Mimico life had been only casually concerned with the railroad. It was accepted as a convenience, but little more.

All that was to change. For the next 50 years, and more, railroading was to be the staple topic of conversation around a large percentage of Mimico dinner tables. Mimico youngsters were to absorb railroad lore and railroad terms almost with the air they breathed; they were to attend schools supported largely by taxes paid out of railway pay cheques; churches supported by donations from railway salaries.

Many were to follow the examples of fathers, uncles or older brothers and make railroading their own careers. Many executives and senior employees of the CNR today can name Mimico as their birthplace and the old Grand Trunk Mimico yard as a kind of unofficial godfather.

From 1906, onwards, the railway did more than entwine itself into the life of the community. It actually built a new community of railway families and those who came to provide housing, goods and services to them.



Bird's Eye View of C.N.R. Yards, Mimico — 1906

The flood of railroad families began as a trickle in 1906. Relatively few of the hundreds of employees needed to run the new terminal moved here immediately. There just weren't enough houses for them. Most continued to live in the east-central part of Toronto

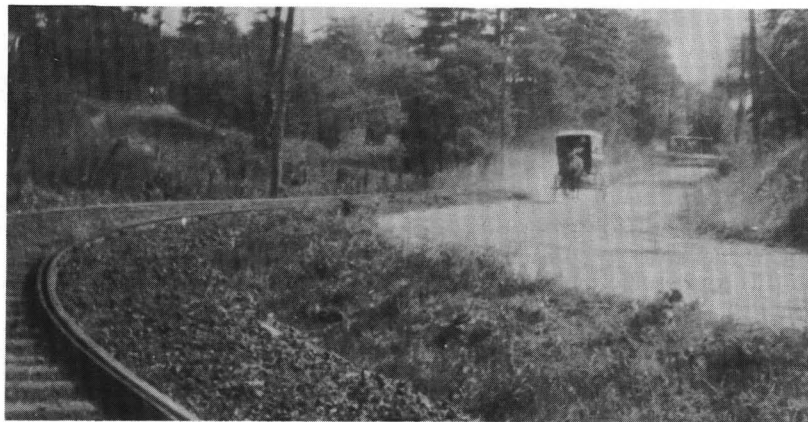


**Mrs. Alex Johnson,
mother of Councillor
Cecil Johnson**

and commuted to Mimico on the special daily train, which the Grand Trunk ran for that purpose. Day shift work hours in the yard were from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. The yard employees' special, often just locomotive, one ancient coach and a van, would stop to pick up railroaders at convenient spots from east Toronto to Parkdale early every morning, six days a week, and again to let them off at night.

But this arrangement wasn't entirely satisfactory either to the railway management or the employees. As 1906 merged into 1907, land developers and builders became increasingly active in Mimico and New Toronto.

Old subdivision plans dating back to that early model village plan of 1855 were dug out, and dusted off. Surveyors re-established street allowances that had long since gone back to pasture. New streets and new housing lots were laid out, cellar excavations dug and bricks and lumber hauled in by straining teams of horses over dirt roads that soon became churned into quagmires of mud or deserts of dust. As Mimico grew, so did the neighbouring community of New Toronto. Between 1906 and 1914 both were transformed from rural to urban communities. There were still plenty of open fields left by 1914 but they were shrinking every year before the tide of new homes for railroaders.



Lakeshore Road in the early 1900's.



Earla (Johnson) Devins — 1908 — Stanley Avenue.

THE RAILROADERS

Since the railway yard and the men who ran it have been so important in Mimico's last half-century, we'll take some time to go into detail about them and their work. Railroaders have been called the Aristocracy of Labour. Their unions have been strong, stable and respected.

Railroaders themselves have been among the most stable and well respected sections of Canada's population. They've enjoyed relatively high and secure wage scales. The nature of their work has demanded that railway employees be dependable, punctual and responsible men of good judgement and even temperament.

Another characteristic which appears to mark the railwayman is his ability to plan and manage his personal finances. Perhaps the fact that railway salary cheques came only twice per month, instead of every week, has had something to do with this. Railway families have been forced to learn to budget and stretch their salaries to cover periods of 14 and 15 days.

In any case, the railway employees who came to Mimico with the CNR yard quickly proved that they were the type who bought or built homes, who were interested in contributing to the community in many ways, and who were ready to assume positions of responsibility and leadership in community life.

Mimico's real growth as a community dates from their arrival. They have never ceased to influence and encourage our community institutions.

Railway work has always been demanding, strenuous, varied and interesting.

When I asked CNR officials in Toronto for information about early days of the Mimico yard, they sent me to see W. R. Henderson, of 22nd St., New Toronto, who came to Mimico yard in 1910 as a switch tender, then in six months became a yardman. He moved up the ranks to become night yardmaster, a job he held for 25 years. At time of his retirement, he was a CNR freight conductor.

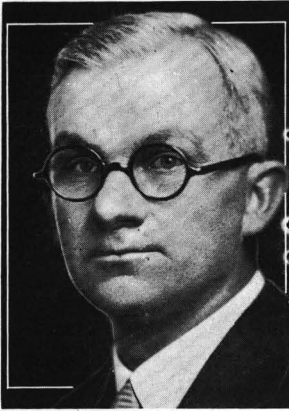
Since Mr. Henderson's service at Mimico yard spanned two World Wars, the CNR suggested we use his recollections to tell the story of the yard's development.

For four years after he started work at the yard, Mr. Henderson continued to live in Toronto and rode the morning and evening railway worker's special. He moved to the Lakeshore in 1914, the same year the first telephone service was started here.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

Before days of the telephone, the railways used call boys to summon train crews when needed for unscheduled work. After the telephone came, the railway had a rule that all operating employees must live within two miles of the yard or have a phone.

Four of the early call boys at Mimico were the Wood brothers, Jack, Len, Charles and Bob. The first telephone exchange was located in Wilson's drug store at New Toronto. It had only 48 lines to begin at first. The telephone company had wanted to obtain 50



**Dr. John R. Serson—Dean
of High School Board —
Chairman many years.**

subscribers before starting service but had to be content with 48. Dr. John R. Serson, a beloved Mimico physician, had telephone number One.

Most of the other 47 phones were in the homes of railway employees. In its first years, the telephone service operated only in the daytime.

The Mimico CNR terminal was planned as the home of three separate but interlocking railway departments.

There was the motive power department which operated the roundhouse and looked after the servicing and operations of all steam locomotives running out of Mimico terminal. This department had jurisdiction over all locomotive crews, enginemen and firemen.

Nichol McNichol was the first Mimico locomotive foreman. Another early foreman in this department was G. H. Storts.

Second department at Mimico was the Car department which looked after inspection and repair of the vast fleet of freight cars which moved in and out of Mimico to points all over Canada and the U.S.A. First car foreman here was James Harlock, who brought his family from East Toronto to live on Drummond Avenue, Mimico, in the first years of Mimico yard.

He had five sons — three of them became railwaymen.

Third department at Mimico was the Yard or Traffic department which actually operated the maze of tracks and switches, handled the storing, sorting and movement of freight in and out of the yard.

Under jurisdiction of the yardmaster were all yard workers as well as conductors, brakemen and switchmen.

One of the earliest Mimico yardmasters was Harry Saucer who held that position from 1908 to 1909. Yardmaster from 1909 to 1912 was R. H. Crew.

First Mimico yard office was a frame building beside the main-line tracks at the top of the present day Sixth St. In 1913, it was loaded onto a flat car, moved about 300 yards east and deposited on the south side of the mainline. About 10 years after that, a brick yard office was built beside it. This served until the present big brick office was built about 1950.

TOUGH WORK

Railroading was tough work in the early days of Mimico yard. All switching was done by hand and all locomotives were fired by hand. On some trips, the fireman on the biggest type of freight locomotive would shovel 14 or 15 tons of coal. By 1906, the old hand-operated link and pin couplers had just about disappeared and this was a blessing to railwaymen. Many of them had fingers missing to testify to the dangers involved in using the old-time couplers. The new automatic coupler was considered a benefit long overdue.

World War I put Canada's young nationhood to a bitter test. It also brought a four year period of crisis and testing to the country's railway systems. From the beginning, hundreds of railway workers

flocked to enlist, leaving the yards critically short of experienced workers at a time when they were forced to handle larger traffic loads than had every been anticipated.

At Mimico, some railway workers were even taken out of the army and brought back to handle the vital war traffic. There were very long shifts under heavy pressure for everyone as the sinews of war moved through Mimico yard.

Those were the days of the 500 class locomotives, considered big in those days but puny in power compared to today's diesels.

Mr. Henderson provided an apt comparison of the two types. He recalled that in 1914 a steam locomotive would take sometimes 20 minutes to pull a train of 40 coal cars across the 30th street crossing as it laboured up a long grade from the west. In 1966, a train of the same length pulled by diesels, goes past so quickly a watcher doesn't have time to count the cars.

Bitter winter weather was a curse to the railroader then as it is now, but many of the recent effective ways to cope with it were lacking in Mimico Yard's early period.

Trains sometimes had to wait four to eight hours to get into the war-jammed yard. In zero weather, grease in the freight car journal boxes would freeze solid. When clearance finally was given for the weary crews to move the trains in, it was frequently found impossible to budge them. The train locomotive just couldn't break the iron grip of frozen grease on scores of cars.

FOUR ENGINES

Extra engines would have to be sent out to push. Sometimes, it would take as many as four of them to ram a train into the yard.

The same type of black grease was used winter and summer with cotton waste in journal boxes until improved greases for winter use were invented. After that, lubrication in journal boxes would be changed winter and summer.

Now, roller bearings have provided another great advance in car design. Sixty per cent or more of freight cars have them and the rest are being rapidly switched to this type of bearing.

Within a short time after World War I, the Grand Trunk Railway was merged with others to become the Canadian National Railway System.

All during the 1920's and 1930's both the railway yard and Mimico had ups and downs as the community first went through its period of biggest growth in the 20's and, like the rest of Canada, suffered depression and stagnation in the 30's.

Another great test for railwaymen and equipment came with the start of World War II in 1939. Once again, there were long shifts, little time off, improvisations and repairs for six war years as Mimico yard was forced again to handle record peak traffic at a time when manpower and equipment were at their lowest supply.

Which war was the toughest from a railwayman's point of view? Those who worked through both at Mimico, agree World War I was the worst because equipment then was more primitive, less reliable and required more muscle power to make it operate.

Just at the close of the 1940's Mimico yard underwent another great expansion and renovation, making it 2.70 miles in length from Royal York Road to Brown's line and giving it 100 miles of track, including 90 different tracks for receiving, classification and repair.

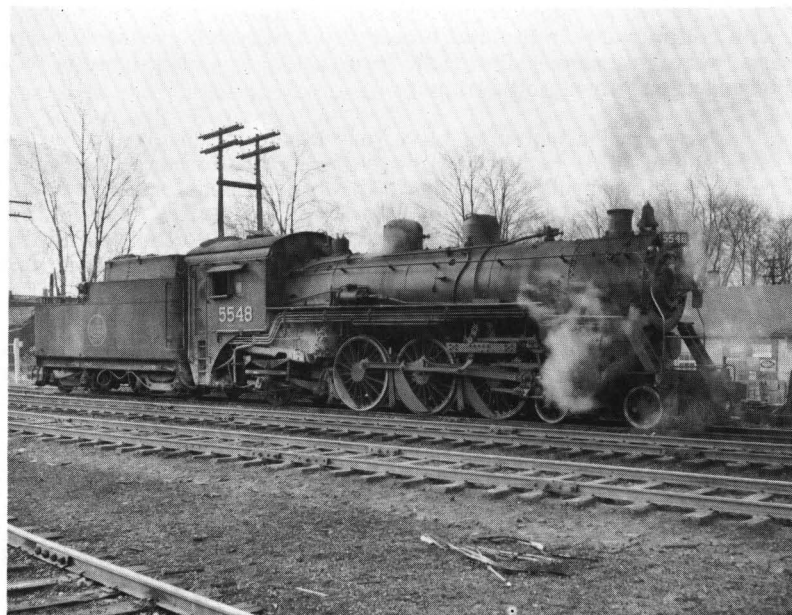
In 1963, the yard had a capacity of 4500 cars, handled some 4200 cars per day, with an average of 125 trains per day moving in and out. The entire yard is now floodlit at night; modern control towers and 120 intercom sets have made the yardmaster's life an easier and more efficient one. He can now talk to any worker in the yard within a few minutes by calling on the loudspeaker system that reaches every corner. Similarly, any yardman or train crew member can get immediate instructions by walking a few steps to one of the 120 intercom stations and pushing a button. In the old days, he'd have had to walk up to 500 yards to a phone.

The old roundhouse has gone, and so have the locomotive coaling facilities since the railroad's shift to diesel power in the 1950's.

Other changes, too, are in the offing for the Mimico CNR yard.

In 1965, Mimico ceased to be the main freight terminal serving the Toronto area. Just completed is the new Toronto Terminal project in Vaughan township to the north of the city, with a new freight line stretching east and west from it to by-pass the congested downtown area.

With this project completed, most freight trains in and out of Toronto area are marshalled and made up in the new yard. Mimico will still have an important part to play however in distributing freight cars to the hundreds of industries in east, central and west Metropolitan Toronto.



The right to local control over local affairs has been zealously sought and strongly guarded by villages, cities and towns in the Anglo-Saxon world for more than five centuries.

In both the United States and Canada, infant communities have sought a measure of political independence almost as soon as they began to emerge from the log cabin stage.

Mimico waited a little longer. It was not until 1904, when between 200 and 300 citizens had made permanent homes here, that a few leading citizens began to talk seriously of gaining a measure of municipal autonomy.

Until then, for municipal purposes, Mimico had merely been a part of Etobicoke township. The township was still almost entirely an agricultural area. Its councillors were apt to be farmers, elected chiefly by other farmers, hence their main concern was to provide the services required for a farm area.

But the beginnings of urban communities, among them Mimico, were beginning to appear down along the lakeshore and they soon began to make their wants known in the Etobicoke council chambers at Islington.

Urban dwellers and farm dwellers need and demand widely different kinds of local services. Mimico property owners were beginning to feel that in return for the tax dollars they paid to Etobicoke, they should be getting some sidewalks, good hard roads, perhaps a waterworks system and a few of the other conveniences enjoyed by the citizens of nearby Toronto.

On the other hand, Etobicoke councillors rightly felt that they couldn't justifiably tax farmers to provide urban services they did not need or want.

The inevitable result was a parting of the ways. In January 1905, Mimico citizens petitioned York county council for permission to become a police village. This intermediate stage of municipal organization, peculiar to Ontario, would allow the small community a degree of independence but at the same time would retain it as part of the township, subject to the general supervision of township council.

The Mimico petition was granted. Under the terms of by-law No. 933, passed by York County Council on Jan. 27, 1905, Mimico was created a police village, empowered to elect three trustees who would levy local taxes for local services only.

Actual collection of the taxes would be carried out by the Etobicoke township administration. In effect, the new set-up meant that Mimico citizens would continue paying basic township taxes the same as rural property owners, but now had the privilege of taxing themselves extra for luxuries they felt they could afford.

The police village move came just in time. As we have seen, 1906 brought building of the Mimico railway yard and a wave of record growth to the community. For six years, Mimico retained police village status, growing all the time and continuing to provide plenty of problems for the township councillors of Etobicoke, still charged with general supervision over the police village's affairs.

Let us leaf through the minutes of Etobicoke council for 1909, a typical year during the Mimico police village period. We'll find a few items that will give us some idea of what was going on in Mimico that year.

On March 1, 1909, we read that Etobicoke council received a communication from C. Price-Green, inspecting trustee of the police village of Mimico, about appointment of a pathmaster for the village and also a letter from H. Stathan re moving of fences on the road allowance of Robert St., Mimico, also the grading of same.

ELECTRIC LIGHT

The minutes don't record whether the pathmaster — a local roads foreman — was ever appointed, but they do show that some Mimico citizens were interested in getting electric power to light their homes. At this meeting, the township clerk was instructed to write the Stark Telephone, Light and Power Company, (later the Erindale Power Company) requesting a conference at an early date about supplying electric light to residents on the south side of the Lake Shore Road.

On April 5, 1909, L. J. West requested council to proceed with construction of a cement sidewalk on Station Road, and H. O. Tremayne and others asked the township to expropriate property for a street allowance connecting Pidgeon Ave., now Stanley Ave., and Station Road with Superior Ave.

At this meeting, it was also resolved "that a special meeting of this council be held at the Windsor Hotel, Mimico, to consider the application of the trustees of the police Village of Mimico to have some company install electric lights on the streets of the village and that the clerk notify the Stark Telephone, Light and Power Company of the date of the meeting . . ."

Competition between various independent power companies was keen at this time. The publicly-owned Ontario Hydro Commission had been formed in 1906 and it distributed power to municipalities in 1909.

The independent Erindale Power Co., which succeeded the Stark Company, did subsequently begin supplying power to Mimico homes in 1910, from a power plant on the Credit River at Erindale.

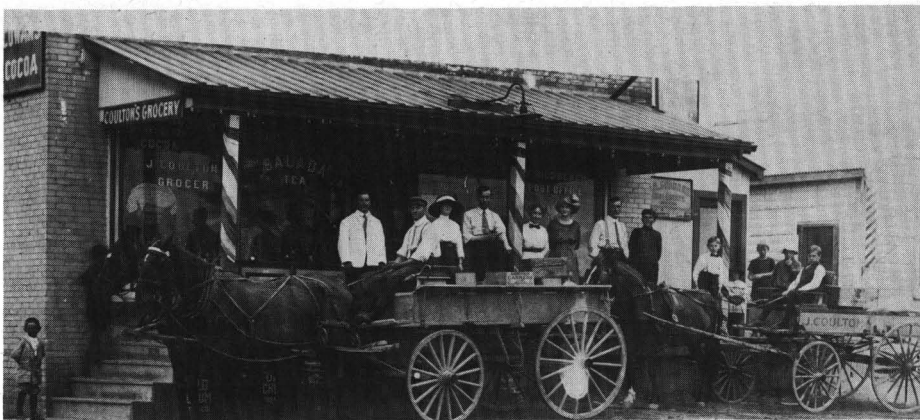
In 1909, the much-debated sidewalk on Station Road was built, despite protests of some citizens, and Mimico trustees and Etobicoke council renewed attempts to force the Grand Trunk Railway to provide crossing gates or a subway for the Church St. crossing in Mimico.

Also debated was possibility of building a sewage disposal plant for Mimico. This was delayed as being too costly

A few other items relating to Mimico from the Etobicoke council minutes of 1909 are as follows:

"That the treasurer be and he is hereby instructed to pay the cost of rebuilding a culvert on Main St., within the Police Village of Mimico, such work being rendered necessary by the neglect of the Police Village Trustees and that Township protect itself by agreement with the Police Trustees that they grade and gravel that portion of





Coulton's Grocery Store and Mimico Beach Post Office. Early 1900's.



Bluffs of Mimico Beach in early 1900's.



Lakeshore Road and Superior Avenue — 1915.



Johnson milk delivery – 1904



Alex Johnson with "Prince" and "Nettie"



Bathing – Foot of Superior – 1917.



Washing feet at first Mimico Waterworks – pump on Superior Avenue – 1917.

Burlington St., bounding the village, which comes within the jurisdiction of the Township."

"That the Clerk be and he is hereby instructed to notify Mr. R. West that the Council are informed that his employees are taking sand from the road allowance at the Mimico bridge on the Lake Shore Road, and that he is required to forthwith desist."

CONCRETE SIDEWALKS

"That the Township Engineer be and he is hereby authorized and instructed to proceed with the construction of a concrete sidewalk on the south side of Birmingham St., between 5th and 6th Sts., New Toronto, and also the sidewalk on the north side of Southhampton Street, (later Cavell Ave.) in the Village of Mimico."

"That the tender of Walter Buckhurst for laying concrete sidewalk on Southhampton St., Mimico, for the price of four cents per square foot of walk, be and the same is hereby accepted . . ." "That that petition of Caesar Coxhead and eight others asking that a cement sidewalk be built on the east side of Superior Ave., Mimico, from Southhampton Street southerly to the south corner of lot 209, as a local improvement to be assessed upon the property fronting thereon at so much per foot frontage, be and the same is hereby received."

"A by-law to provide that fifty per centum of all sums collected and received by the Treasurer of the Township of Etobicoke for liquor licences issued for premises situated in the Police Village of Mimico or penalties imposed for offences committed in the said Police Village under "The Liquor License Act", and also penalties imposed for infractions of the township by-law respecting riding bicycles on sidewalks, where the offence is committed within the said police village, be placed to the credit of the said police village in the books of the Township Treasurer and be available for the purposes of the said police village."

Mimico's population had grown to about 800 by 1910 and many of her adult citizens had begun to believe that the community deserved something more than police village status.

It was plain to see that Mimico was destined to have a fine future, they declared; but the community's best prospects could never be realized while it remained tied to the apron strings of agricultural Etobicoke township.

A movement to cut those strings got underway. A series of rate-payers' meetings was held; the consensus of opinion at the meetings was that Mimico should seek municipal independence as a fully incorporated village.

York County Council was petitioned for village status. At that time, county councils had power to create incorporated villages; this power has since been removed from them and is now vested only in the Ontario Municipal Board.

Under terms of York County by-law 1041, passed June 11, 1910, Mimico was authorized to become an autonomous village on Jan. 1, 1911, to be completely separated from Etobicoke township and to elect a reeve and four councillors to manage its affairs.

THE FIRST REEVE

The first nomination meeting was held in the public school on Dec. 26, 1910. Nominated for the office of reeve were two men, Robert Skelton, the Grand Trunk Railway station agent at Mimico and Russell Warner, a former reeve of Etobicoke township.

Nominated for the four council seats were 12 men but four withdrew, leaving only eight names on the council ballot.

The election took place on the first Monday of January, 1911. Elected as our first reeve was Robert Skelton. The four councillors elected were Austin Werden, the Mimico postmaster; John J. Harrison, George E. Bryer and Dr. W. W. Woods.

Reeve Skelton had been born in Ontario, at the Village of Drayton. He came to Mimico in 1909 as station agent, served as reeve for the years 1911, 1912, and 1913. He became manager of one of Mimico's first industries, the Ontario Sewer Pipe Company, which had a plant on Burlington Rd., and retired from municipal life on Dec. 31, 1913. He died suddenly in June, 1914.

One of the village council's first duties in January, 1911, was to appoint a clerk-treasurer and an assessor.



Jay Barnum
First Assessor — 1911



Andrew Dods
First Clerk — 1911

Andrew Dods was named clerk-treasurer and Jay Barnum assessor.

The treasurer's report for 1911 indicates that the position of clerk-treasurer was only a part-time job. Andrew Dods' salary for the year amounted to only \$100, but he was given a \$100 bonus. The assessor received \$100 per year and an extra \$90 for preparing the voters' list.

Total salaries and allowances for the whole of 1911 amounted to only \$553.63

In all, the village spent \$6,692.17 that first year and collected \$9,834.76, leaving a surplus in the bank at the end of the year of \$3,142.59

The treasurer's report notes among expenses the sum of \$1 paid to John Walker for "burying a dog."

The young village had two main concerns in those first years — providing good roads and sidewalks and obtaining street lights.

Building of the roads and sidewalks was accomplished with little trouble by letting contracts to the lowest bidder but provision of street lights was by no means so easy because of competition between the Erindale Power Company and the recently-formed and publicly-owned Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

ELECTRIC POWER

In a bid to obtain Mimico's business, the Erindale Power Company got permission in the spring of 1911 to install half a dozen street lights in Mimico for exhibition purposes.

In July, the company sent Mimico council a proposed contract which would call for the company to install 50 street lights, 300 feet apart. There were to be 13 lights on Lake Shore Road, 14 on Church St., 3 on Mimico Ave., 1 on Pidgeon Ave., 2 on Station Road, 5 on Southampton St., 1 on Queen's Avenue, 2 on Superior Avenue, 2 on Victor Avenue, 2 on Albert Avenue, 1 on Burlington Road, 1 on Main Street, 2 on Newcastle Street and 1 on Buckingham Street.

The contract would also have given the Erindale Power Company exclusive use of streets for lines to supply electric power to private homes.

The contract was never signed, probably due to two events in 1911.

The first was a tragedy that deeply shocked village residents. A little girl, Violet Harlock, daughter of Grand Trunk car foreman, James Harlock, was killed when she came into contact with an Erindale Power Company high voltage wire which had fallen onto a Mimico Street.

In a letter to Mimico council, the Ontario Hydro Commission expressed sympathy over the accident and assured Mimico that if it accepted Ontario Hydro power, the type of lines and poles it would construct would be "of the very safest construction."

BECK AT MIMICO

The second reason probably was that Hon. (later Sir) Adam Beck, the founder of Ontario Hydro, came to Mimico to address a citizens' meeting on the advantages of throwing in their lot with the publicly-owned system.

He spoke at John English School to such good effect, on the theme "The Gifts of Nature are for the People", that when a plebiscite was held on the hydro question on Sept. 16, 1911, 97 citizens voted in favour of obtaining power from Ontario Hydro and only 40 against.

On a second question; "are you in favour of a by-law to raise \$7,500 by issue and sale of municipal debentures to install a distribution plant for electric power?" — the vote was 90 for and only 45 against.



Sir Adam Beck

Mimico accordingly became part of the Ontario Hydro family and formed a local hydro commission which bought power from Ontario Hydro and distributed it to homes. Over a period of about 5 years, street lights were installed throughout the whole village.

It is interesting to note that the bill from Ontario Hydro for all power delivered to Mimico in October, 1912, was only \$128.08. For December, 1961, the cost of power distributed by Mimico Public Utilities Commission amounted to about \$31,000. Mimico PUC now has 591 street lights and 26 miles of lines.

EDWIN ELAND

For facts on the history of Mimico from 1912 to 1935, we are indebted to Edwin Eland who came to Canada from Yorkshire in 1902 and settled in the Lakeshore area. He was elected a Mimico school trustee in 1912, was a Mimico councillor in 1913 and again in 1917 and 1918, becoming deputy reeve in 1919. One of his most important contributions to our area was founding of the first local newspaper, The Advertiser.



Edwin Eland

Edwin Eland launched it in 1917 and it has been published continuously ever since. Mr. Eland became Mimico building inspector a short time later. He held the post for many years. He died in 1961. In 1935, he compiled a history of Mimico dealing with civic affairs from the time of incorporation up to the middle 1930's.

Mimico has been fortunate through the years in obtaining the services of many fine public spirited citizens to serve as both elected and appointed representatives on councils, boards and commissions. This is not intended to be a political history so we shall not attempt to name them during our narrative. Names of all our mayors and council members will be found listed, however, in another section of this book.

MIMICO LIBRARY

An important event in 1912 was the decision to build a Mimico library. A small group of citizens, including Charles Price-Green, Douglas Davidson, then a justice of the peace and later to become a magistrate, Andrew Orr and Mrs. A. B. Ormsby met at the Ormsby estate on Lake Shore Road to discuss formation of some kind of recreation project for the village. The result of several such meetings was the decision to establish a public library.

A grant for erection of a library building was obtained from the Carnegie foundation which had been set up in the United States by Andrew Carnegie, the steel manufacturing king.

Mimico citizens approved formation of a library board in an election day plebiscite in January, 1913, and the village council donated a site on the corner of Station Road and Stanley Ave. The present building was erected and it served the community well for many years, but plans are now underway for a more spacious and modern building.

Mimico council held its meetings in the board room of the new library for a number of years until a town hall was obtained in 1922. First chairman of Mimico library board was Charles Price-Green and the first librarian appointed was Miss May Street.

WATER SUPPLY

Mimico's population had continued to increase rapidly until in 1913 it became evident that individual wells could no longer provide a sanitary and sufficient water supply.



Church Street (now Royal York Road) north from CNR showing Grobba's Greenhouses — 1910.

Carl Grobba had established a large florist business in north Mimico and had gone to the expense of installing a private waterworks system to pump water for his greenhouses from Lake Ontario. Mimico councillors made arrangements with him to extend his system so that homes along its route could be supplied with water from it. Many families took advantage of this arrangement and water was piped into a number of homes on Superior Avenue, Queen's Avenue, Stanley Avenue and other streets from the Grobba system.

Also during 1913 there was much discussion about need for a municipal sewage system. Councillor Caesar Coxhead was chairman of a committee authorized by council to secure an option on land just east of the village and north of Lake Shore Road for a sewage disposal plant. The option was secured but Mimico citizens evidently weren't yet ready to spend the large sum required for a sewerage system so the option was not taken up.

Later, land was bought north of the railway tracks and east of Grand Avenue and a sewage disposal plant was built here. New Toronto joined Mimico in 1915 using this plant and it and an incinerator were for many years administered by the joint Mimico-New Toronto sewage Commission. Also in 1915, Mimico made arrangements to obtain its water supply from New Toronto which had built a large waterworks system. This co-operative sewage and water arrangement by the two neighbouring communities was carried on until Metropolitan Toronto took over these services in 1953.

THE LAKESHORE ROAD

Along with Lake Ontario and the railway, the Lake Shore road has been a vital link between Mimico and the outside world. Before World War I, however, it was a very imperfect link.

Soon after the turn of the century, Sir John Eaton, of Toronto's T. Eaton Company Ltd., had driven across New York state in an automobile and crossed over to Ontario at the Niagara frontier. Driving on New York state's paved roads had been an enjoyable experience but the trip from Niagara to Toronto was quite another matter.

It took Sir John a whole day to get from St. Catharines to Niagara. Between Hamilton and Toronto he had to leave his car stuck in sand.

Sir John's complaints were heard in no uncertain terms at Queen's Park when he finally did reach Toronto. They were echoed by hundreds of other automobile owners. A trip by auto outside Toronto city limits in those days was a harrowing adventure even though manufacture and sale of cars in Canada was already becoming big business.

Even up to 1915 it was quicker and cheaper to travel from Toronto to Hamilton by horse or railway than by automobile, although the Lake Shore road was one of the most important in Ontario.

The road had experienced a varied history. It was first cut through the bush between 1798 and 1804, but because there were few settlers to use and maintain it, it was constantly in a horrible state of disrepair.

In 1820, the road was planked, or given a wooden floor, across Etobicoke Township. This was a wonderful improvement while it lasted. Imagine the pleasure that settlers must have felt at being able to drive or even walk along a smooth wooden surface where formerly there had been nothing but a jolting, rutted track.

Because lumber was so cheap and sawmills so plentiful, plank roads became all the rage in the 1820's and 30's, but alas! the improvement they brought was a short-lived one.

By 1827, the planks had rotted and collapsed so completely that the Lake Shore road at Port Credit was mistaken for a corduroy road — one on which logs had been placed crosswise to bridge the worst mudholes. A visitor to the Credit in 1827 wrote that the road was "formed of the trunks of trees laid crosswise without any coating of earth or stones . . . more abominably jolty than anything a European imagination can conceive."

In 1850, the Lake Shore road along with other main roads of the Toronto district was sold by the government to a private company to be operated as a toll road. A major public scandal, with charges of fraud and trickery, arose over the sale, but the purchasing company got little lasting benefit from the deal because competition from railways made toll roads unprofitable.

Under various managements, the Lake Shore road remained a toll road until the 1890's when it was turned over to York County Council, along with other arterial routes.

It retained status as a County road until 1914 when complaints about its sad condition became so loud and widespread that the Ontario government created the Toronto-Hamilton highway commission. This pioneer body eventually formed the nucleus of the present Ontario Department of Highways.

With Mimico and other municipalities along the route contributing one-third of the cost, the new commission virtually rebuilt the Lake Shore road from Toronto to Hamilton, and paved it to create Ontario's first highway designed for motor traffic.

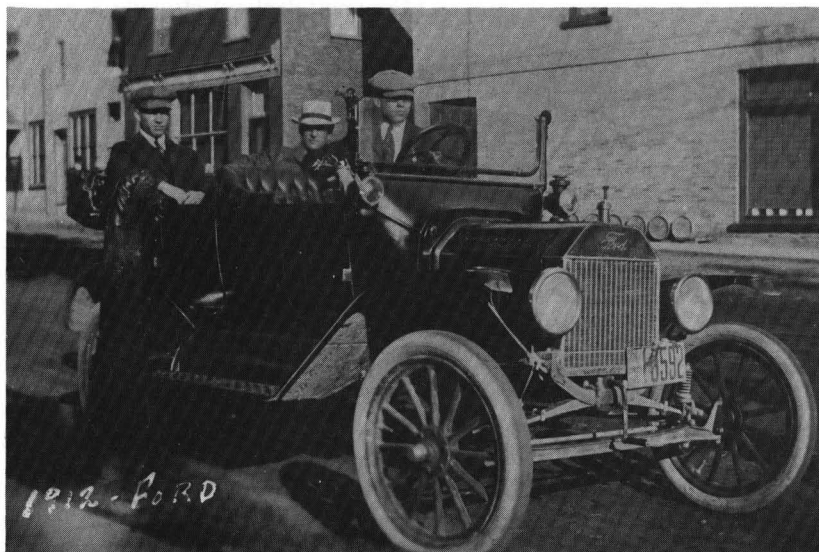
The project was finished in 1916 amid predictions from some citizens that it would ruin land values along the route.

Exactly the opposite proved to be true, of course.

The new paved road, 35 miles long and 18 feet wide was officially opened in October, 1916, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Humber bridge. It now became possible to drive from Toronto to Hamilton in the incredibly short time of two hours.

Automobile sales jumped in both Toronto and Hamilton. From an average of 25 cars a day just after the opening, traffic on the road soon jumped to 500 cars a day. Cars with U.S. license plates began to appear and the foundations of today's Lake Shore road motel and restaurant trade were soon established.

In 1927, the road was widened through Mimico to its present width of 86 feet.



1912 Ford photographed on Mimico Avenue
Shown in the car are Ollie Gordon, J. H. Doughty
and Russ Henderson.

MIMICO AND WORLD WAR I

By 1914, Canada had practically forgotten what war was. For 100 years there had been no real war fought on Canadian soil and extremely few Canadians had been involved in overseas wars. True, a sizeable contingent of volunteers or career soldiers had fought in the South African war, but they had represented an extremely small percentage of Canada's total population.

Mimico men, however, were soon to know the horrors of world war, and Mimico families were to become acquainted with the anxiety and grief that were to be Canada's lot for the next four years.

A very large part of Mimico's population was made up of natives of the British Isles, most of them not too long removed from their native soil.

The ties of homeland and Empire were strong. Soon after war broke out, scores of young Mimico men had hurried to enlist. After brief training periods in quickly-erected army camps like Camp Borden or Valcartier, they were hurried overseas and in the fighting before the end of 1914.

First Mimico victim of World War 1 was Albert Riddlesworth, of Manitoba Street.

Throughout the war, a steady stream of Mimico boys joined the colors as soon as they were old enough to enlist. Many were killed, many more wounded or disabled.

The names of those who died in the war are inscribed on bronze tablets at the entrance of Mimico Memorial Park on Hillside Avenue.

This park was donated to the town following the war by the Union Jack Chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, one of the many women's groups that worked throughout the war to send comforts to soldiers overseas while assisting their families at home.



**35 years Postmaster,
assessed all Etobicoke and
Mimico travelling on foot
before 1911.**

William H. Holdenby

A TOWN IS BORN — 1917

Despite the war, or perhaps because of it, Mimico's growth continued at a rapid rate from 1914 to 1918, so much so that by 1917 the village had grown large enough to apply for status as a town.

This was granted by the Ontario government and the Town of Mimico was created in May of 1917. A special election was held in that month to elect a mayor, reeve, deputy reeve and three councillors.

Mimico's first mayor, elected by acclamation, was John J. Harrison who had been reeve of the village in 1914 and 1916 and had served as a councillor in 1913.

For sake of convenience, we'll list the important events of Mimico's history from 1914 by years.

1914 — Village Clerk Arthur Jackson retired and John Alfred Telfer succeeded him. Robert Waites appointed Sanitary Inspector and Robert Waites and W. J. Myers appointed constables and truant officers.

1915 — The small creek that now flows underground under Stanley Avenue and Superior Avenue was straightened and channelled to allow improvement of Stanley Avenue. Land east of Church Street and north of the railway tracks was bought from E. Chippendale for \$2,000 as a municipal yard and stables. A milk control by-law was passed.

Mimico arranged to purchase its first full-scale water supply from neighbouring New Toronto. This was a first step toward formation of the joint sewerage commission which later was formed to provide a sewage disposal plant that was shared by the two towns until formation of Metropolitan Toronto in 1953.

The Lake Shore Red Cross branch collected nearly \$2,000 for war work and Mimico Council made a grant of \$500 for this purpose. Part of the \$2,500 was used to buy a motor ambulance for use in France.

Thomas Lowes was appointed town engineer.

A Civic Improvement Society was given \$80 by council for the purpose of planting shade trees on Mimico streets.

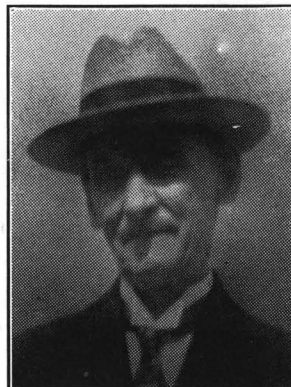
1916 — The first proposal for amalgamation of Lakeshore municipalities was made and approved by Mimico voters. On Jan. 1 they voted 401 to 61 in favour of merger with New Toronto. On the same date, New Toronto voters rejected the amalgamation proposal so the union never took place.

The Grand Trunk railway station, opposite the Windsor Hotel, was demolished and a new station erected on the north side of the tracks west of Church Street (Now Royal York Road).

A Mimico incinerator was built, first used only by Mimico and later also by New Toronto when it came under management of the joint sewerage commission.

Name of Southampton St. on petition of the residents, was changed to Cavell Avenue, in memory of nurse Edith Cavell, shot by the Germans as a spy.

Councils of Mimico and New Toronto, at a joint meeting, voted in favour of widening Lake Shore Road to 86 feet, but this wasn't actually done until 1927.



John Alfred Telfer
Clerk — 1914-21
Treasurer — 1921-25

1917 — Citizens voted on election day, Jan. 1, against a proposal to buy land for a public park. Citizens did vote in favour of extending hydro-electric service.

Contract was let for construction of sewers and water mains but contractor failed to complete the contract so the work was finished under direction of town engineer Tom Lowes.

In May, 1917, Mimico became a town. Atelection held to name mayor and council, citizens again rejected a proposal for a public park.

Mimico signed agreement with the Toronto-Hamilton highway commission for paving of Lake Shore road through the town and this work was carried out.

Great house building took place, mainly on land that had been the Hendry farm. The Crescents, a series of attractive streets including Lake Crescent, Eastbourne and Dartmouth crescents, were laid out and houses were built on them.

Council appointed a committee of three to study formation of a fire brigade.

First district newspaper, The Advertiser, began publication.

1918 — Mimico's first Public Utilities Commission was elected. First elected commissioners were Andrew Dods and C. C. Hele.

Volunteer Fire brigade was formed. Discussion took place as to whether a horse-drawn or motorized fire pumper should be bought. Finally, Mayor Harrison and two councillors were authorized to buy a one-ton Chevrolet truck chassis with fire pump and equipment at cost of \$2,725.

First building by-law was passed in October, 1918. Edwin Eland appointed building inspector.

Because of a fuel shortage due to wartime demand, C. C. Hele was appointed a Fuel controller to ration out coal supplies.

Dr. Forbes Godfrey became Medical Officer of Health in place of Dr. C. Ricker who had held the position since 1911. (See section on a later page about Dr. Godfrey).

E. Chippendale was appointed fence viewer. Alfred Burnett was appointed to take charge of new pumping station at foot of Superior Avenue.



MIMICO VOLUNTEER FIREMEN AND POLICE — 1930

Vic Barlow, Ernest (Mike) Coxhead, Fire Chief Hugh Doherty, William Spindler, Leonard J. Maude, Police Chief Fred Herman, William Doyle, Thomas Espey, Frank Walker, J. Doughty, John Doherty, Bud Giles, Harold Warner and Art Coxhead.

PEACETIME AND GROWTH — 1918

November 11 saw the end of World War I amid great rejoicing. Mimico immediately began plans to welcome home and honour its servicemen. Council commissioned John Massie, of Summerhill Road to prepare an illuminated Roll of Honour containing names of all Mimico men who served in the war. It was to be hung in the public library.

Plans were also made for a grand public reception and Welcome Home ceremony for the many servicemen who were expected to arrive back in Mimico on Jan. 1 or 2, 1919.

1919 — The public reception was never held. Tragedy intervened. David Johnston, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Johnston, of Station Road, was killed in a railway accident between Toronto and Montreal on New Year's day, 1919, while he and other Mimico boys were on the way home.

John Harrison retired as Mayor and Louis J. West succeeded him.

Plans were begun for building a fire hall of Superior Avenue.

House building accelerated in Mimico with many fine houses being built on Lake Shore road and the crescents.

Sewers and watermains were laid through the entire community.

Proposals were made that a subway be constructed under the railway tracks at top of Burlington Street but citizens defeated this plan in a public vote.

Stanley Jones became Mimico's first full-time uniformed police officer.

1920 — A census this year showed Mimico's population had grown to 4,000. Louis J. West returned as mayor.

1921 — John H. Doughty was elected mayor and continued to serve for five years. W. A. Edwards was elected a Councillor to begin a long and active career in Mimico politics.

Citizens on election day approved purchase of land for a new school in north Mimico and expenditures of funds for extension to John English School. The school subsequently built on Melrose Avenue, in North Mimico, was named after George R. Gauld, a School trustee, father of Mimico town solicitor, George W. G. Gauld.

Electors also finally approved purchase of land for a park. Land was bought for the present Memorial Park between Central and George Streets, part of the purchase price being donated by the Union Jack chapter, I.O.D.E.

Also on April 13, Mimico Horticultural Society was formed and dedicated to beautification of the community.

Among its first acts was the sending of a letter to Walter Burgess thanking him for his efforts in planting shade trees on Mimico streets over the previous 20 years.

1922 — Hillside Avenue was opened from Lake Shore road to Church Street, (now Royal York Road) and the name of Dean Street was changed to Hillside Avenue since it was practically an extension of that street east of Church Street to Dwight Avenue.

FIRST TOWN HALL

Mimico this year acquired its first town hall. Up to now, council had been meeting in the board room of the public library. In 1922 the Public Utilities Commission bought the old wooden Methodist church, which had been standing on Church Street north of Mimico Avenue since 1864. Congregation of Wesley Methodist Church no longer needed it since a new church was built this year at Mimico Avenue and Station Road.

The old church was renovated and converted to a P.U.C. and municipal office building. The P.U.C. actually held ownership and rented space to council for municipal purposes. First Council meeting was held there towards the end of 1922.

1923 — W. A. Edwards became deputy reeve. John Doughty still Mayor. Land as a site for Mimico High School was bought. A high school board was appointed by Council. Its members were Dr. John R. Serson, Dr. W. J. Woods and George Sayce. First principal of the high school was E. H. Glenn.

More land was purchased for an extension to Memorial Park.

R. W. Groome was appointed chief of police.

Cyril Telfer resigned as Clerk and Treasurer. Mayor John Doughty was voted a salary of \$250 by council. He announced he was donating the money to charity.

1924 — Mimico High School was built and began operation this year. Mimico floated a \$100,000 debenture issue to pay for the building.

Reeve W. A. Edwards drew attention to inequities in education costs between various Ontario municipalities.

1925 — Council voted the sum of \$50. as a reward to Albert E. Kneller, of Portland Street, who risked his life to save Hilda Langridge from drowning in a water-filled shale pit in North Mimico. Mr. Kneller also received a Royal Humane Society Medal, a Carnegie medal and the Canadian National Meritorious Certificate for his deed.

The same year, Council also granted \$50. to the Toronto Life Saving Crew (later the Toronto Harbour Police) for the rescue of a Mrs. Cork of Lake Shore Road, her daughter and a friend Kathleen Conroy, who had drifted helplessly on Lake Ontario for 24 hours.

Serving as a councillor this year was Ralph Hendry, who had been born on the Hendry farm in Mimico.

An extensive program of road paving and sidewalk building was carried out.

1925 also saw the end of a great building boom which has seen erection of several hundred houses in Mimico as well as building of Wesley United Church, Mimico Baptist Church and St. Leo's Catholic Church.

House and store building in Mimico in 1925 was valued at more than \$600,000.

METROPOLITAN TALK

In 1926, after five years as mayor, John Doughty retired. He later returned to Mimico politics as a councillor.

William S. Savage was elected mayor. W. A. (Gus) Edwards became reeve. Citizens honoured retiring Mayor Doughty with a

presentation dinner. During this year, Reeve Edwards argued in favour of organization of a Toronto metropolitan form of administration, particularly for schools. This question had first been raised in 1914 by Toronto City Council. In 1926, other members of Mimico Council did not share the foresight shown by Reeve Edwards and instructed the reeve and deputy reeve to oppose any move toward formation of Metropolitan government if the question came up for discussion at York County Council. Under the County system, the reeve and deputy reeve served as Mimico representatives on County Council.

Mr. Edwards, a CNR locomotive engineer who had been born at Bridgeburg, Ontario and came to Mimico in 1915, was to occupy a prominent position in Mimico town affairs for many years. He refused to swerve from his belief that continued growth of the Toronto suburbs would force some form of united city and suburban administration. So insistent was Mr. Edwards on this point over a period of more than 30 years that he earned the nickname "Metropolitan Gus".

Eventually the tag came to be something of a title of honour for the years proved "Metropolitan Gus" Edwards to be correct. It was not until the 1950's however, that other municipal representatives in the Toronto area were forced to accept the truth of what Gus Edwards had foreseen in 1926 and earlier. In later pages we shall discuss Mimico's part in formation of the Metropolitan Toronto federation.

In 1926, Belvedere Boulevard was renamed Miles Road. 1926 was a record building year for Mimico.

1927 — Gus Edwards was elected mayor, defeating Robert Ainsworth. A contemporary wrote of him: "Gus has a lot to say but it must be admitted there is a lot in what he says."

Outstanding event of 1927 was widening of Lakeshore Road to 86 feet and changing of the street railway track gauge to conform with that of Toronto. The Lakeshore line was operated by the Ontario Hydro for the City of Toronto but it was recognized that it was to be taken over by the Toronto Transportation Commission.

Central Avenue, in front of Mimico High School, was closed to vehicle traffic to allow extension of the school grounds, despite protests of some property owners. Mimico Council spent \$500 for a Community Celebration to mark Canada's 60th year of confederation.

Gas mains were laid throughout Mimico by Consumers Gas Company of Toronto.

1928 — Mayor Edwards was re-elected. The T.T.C. took over the Lakeshore Road street car line and began a service that allowed continuous travel from downtown Toronto to Long Branch without a change of cars. This service was later to be discontinued and passengers forced to change from city cars to Long Branch cars at Sunnyside and still later was re-instituted.

1929 — Gus Edwards again mayor. Mail delivery service started to Mimico homes. Mimico fire hall and police station were built on Superior Avenue.

An industrial Commission was appointed to attempt to obtain industrial assessment for the Town.

1930 — Robert Waites was elected mayor. Dr. Warren Snyder was appointed Medical Officer of Health to replace Dr. Forbes Godfrey, who resigned. The town clerk was appointed relief officer instead of the chief of police. A grant of \$150 was made to Mimico Lacrosse Association and \$300 to the committee in charge of arrangements for a Shriners convention in Toronto. Andrew Crowe, widely-known Mimico builder who had built the fire hall and police station was this year killed by a falling wall.

Question of building a subway under the CNR tracks at top of Burlington Road was again considered and defeated by a vote of the people.

Unemployment became a serious problem with the onset of the great depression of the 1930's. To help provide employment Mimico and New Toronto began an extension to the Union Sewage Disposal Plant. Reeve Robert Ainsworth of Mimico and Reeve W. E. Macdonald of New Toronto went to London, England, to attempt to sell bonds to pay for this project.

1931 — Robert Waites re-elected mayor; another depression year with provision of welfare aid being the most pressing problem facing the town.

MIMICO'S CABINET MINISTER

In 1932, Dr. Forbes Godfrey, one of Mimico's most widely-known citizens and the town's only citizen to attain the rank of cabinet minister in the Ontario Government, died on January 6, at the age of 65. Dr. Godfrey came to Mimico just after the



Dr. Forbes Godfrey
M.P.P. — 1907-1932
Cabinet Minister — 1923-1930
M.O.H - Mimico — 1911-1931

turn of the century when the community was about to begin its period of great growth, and stayed here to influence the course of community life in many ways — as a doctor, as a member of the Ontario Legislature, as a medical officer of the railway and as a good citizen. Forbes Godfrey was born not far from Mimico in York Township, the son of Rev. Robert Godfrey, Methodist minister, and Mrs. Mary Godfrey. The family moved to Owen Sound shortly after Forbes' birth and he grew up there, attending the local elementary schools and Owen Sound Collegiate.

Forbes studied medicine at the University of Toronto where he gained his MD degree and the General Proficiency medal. He went on to Glasgow and Edinburgh for postgraduate work. On his return to Canada he began practice and was attracted to Mimico as a community with great promise both as a place to live and work. He soon became known as a skillful, conscientious and energetic family doctor. His practice soon extended far beyond the boundaries of Mimico into Etobicoke, New Toronto and the Long Branch area.

In 1907 Dr. Godfrey entered provincial politics. His chief aim, he told his supporters, was to seek legislation to aid preventive medicine. He was elected in a 1907 by-election to fill the York West seat left vacant by the death of J. St. John.

Immediately after his entry into the Ontario legislature, Dr. Godfrey made his presence felt by demanding that the Ontario government take the lead in combating tuberculosis which then took a heavy toll of Ontario citizens, chiefly young people, every year.

His investigations and presentation of the facts to the Legislature led to appointment of a government commission to formulate an Ontario-wide program of prevention and cure. As a result, a system of government-supported tuberculosis hospitals was set up.

Dr. Godfrey was a champion of inoculation for prevention of infectious diseases, at a time when many citizens and even a few doctors were inclined to be dubious of it. He and a few other Canadian doctors demanded and eventually obtained a program for inoculation of Canadian soldiers during World War I.

In politics, Dr. Forbes Godfrey was a Conservative. When G. Howard Ferguson was elected Conservative premier of Ontario in 1923, Ferguson invited Dr. Godfrey to enter his cabinet. The outspoken Mimico physician thus became Ontario's first Minister of Health.

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

He organized the new department from the ground up and immediately demanded and got laws that forced mine owners to provide protection for employees against silicosis. He sponsored industrial health programs, agitated for control of the newly-discovered insulin as a public trust, organized public health clinics for remote regions of Ontario and free inoculation and vaccination programs for Ontario school children.

The doctor's big home and office at 26 Albert Avenue, Mimico, became a busy place. His only daughter, Constance, married Dr. Warren Snyder, another popular physician, and the two doctors practised in partnership.

Dr. Godfrey resigned from the cabinet in September, 1930, after a disagreement with Premier Ferguson. He had been in poor health for some years with pernicious anaemia, a disease for which no cure was known at that time. He remained an MPP until his death in 1932. Before the 1930's had closed, a relatively simple and effective method of controlling pernicious anaemia had been developed, partly as a result of research programs that Dr. Godfrey had urged and supported.

Mimico schools closed the day of his funeral, and Mimico citizens crowded Christ Church and the streets around it to pay tribute to the Mimico doctor who never hesitated to fight for what he thought his native province needed.

1933 — A. D. (Archie) Norris became Mayor of Mimico. Mimico's population this year climbed close to the 8,000 mark.

1936 — In July of this year a serious fire that threatened to spread throughout the whole of north Mimico destroyed Carl Grobba's floral industry and greenhouses on the east side of Royal York Road, (then Church St.,) north of the CNR. Surrounding fire departments sent help to fight the blaze. Sparks from the fire landed on the roofs of homes as far south as Queen's Ave. Mr. Grobba re-built his establishment in the years following.

1937 — Christ Church celebrated its 110th anniversary. Although slowed by the Great Depression, Mimico's growth as a fine residential suburb continued through the 1930's and by the end of the decade, population was close to 9,000.



Picture of Fred Herman, the Police Chief of the Town of Mimico from 1927 to 1956 and his successor Wm. Doyle who served from 1956 to 1958.

WORLD WAR II AND DAVID HORNELL, V.C.

On a hillside in the little town of Lerwick, in Scotland's Shetland islands, lie the remains of 28 young Canadians who died serving Canada and democracy in World War II.

One of the graves is that of a Mimico citizen whose name deserves to be known and honoured by every Canadian. He was David E. Hornell, a boy who grew up in Mimico, attended her schools, supported her churches and like so many other young Mimico men and women, put personal hopes and ambitions aside between 1939 and 1945 to defend his homeland.

For David Hornell, defending Canada meant leaving a promising business career to join the RCAF at the age of 31, training as a pilot and eventually dying of exposure after 21 hours in icy Arctic waters after a battle with a submarine. He was posthumously awarded the British Commonwealth's highest award for valor — The Victoria Cross.

In honouring the memory of David Hornell, we honour the memory of all the other Mimico men who died in World War II and honour those who served and fortunately returned to continue their contribution of good citizenship to Mimico and to Canada.

David Hornell was born on January 26, 1910 the son of Harry and Emily Hornell. His birthplace was the Hornell home on Toronto island. His father had recently founded his own firm, Hornell Fashion Waist Co. Ltd. A year and a half after David's birth, a sister Emily was born. Their mother died a few days later and Harry Hornell sold the island house and returned to live on Granville St., Toronto.

David and his sister were raised by their Aunt, Miss Lizzie Hornell. During early childhood, David was given the nickname "Bud" which was to follow him as an affectionate label for the rest of his life. Family history records that his sister, Emily, bestowed it when as a tiny girl, she tried to pronounce "brother" and came out with something that sounded like "Buddy".

In 1913, the Hornell family moved to Mimico when Harry Hornell and his sister, Agnes, bought one of the fine big homes that by then were occupying most of the Mimico shoreline. The house at 477 Lakeshore Road had been built earlier by a Colonel Fraser Hunter. Harry Hornell married a second time in 1916. The following year his sister, Agnes, married Walter Keens. Mr. Keens bought Mr. Hornell's share of the house and it was divided into a duplex with the Keens living on the ground floor and the Hornells occupying the upper two floors.

Between 1913 and 1916, two more Hornell children, Mary and William, were born in the Mimico house. They were stepsister and stepbrother to David and Emily. David attended John English Public School and Mimico High School, playing on the high school football team and winning honours for track and field. He was also a keen swimmer and a member of Toronto's West End YMCA. Originally Presbyterians, the Hornells transferred to Wesley United Church at the time of church union and David became an active Sunday School leader, finally becoming superintendent of the Wesley Sunday School.



David E. Hornell, V.C.

Dave Hornell also became a member of other youth groups, among them the Knights of the Round Table, or KRT, a movement founded by W. Earle Gordon of Etobicoke.

FIRST CLASS HONOURS

On his graduation from Mimico High School with nine first class honours and the Fred Werden Scholarship, David went to work for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. On his father's death in 1935, he became president of Hornell Fashion Waist Co.

On January 7, 1941 David decided that despite family and business responsibilities he could keep out of World War II no longer. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, trained at St. Hubert, Que., where he received his wings and a posting to Officers Training School at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Then followed a period as an RCAF test pilot at the Boeing Aircraft plant in Vancouver, B.C. then a posting to Coal Harbour, on the northwest coast of Vancouver island.

While serving here on anti-submarine patrol with the RCAF coastal command, Dave married Genevieve Knoeker, of Drayton, Ontario.

At this point, David felt he'd never be posted overseas. It was generally accepted that the air war in Europe and the South Pacific was a war for very young men. David and his bride settled down to a fairly routine life at Coal Harbour. Dave planned and built a cottage for them there.

But by the Autumn of 1943, the U-boat danger to allied shipping in the north Atlantic had become very grave.

There was an urgent need for capable and mature officers with experience in Anti-submarine patrol. Flight Lieutenant David Hornell found himself unexpectedly and swiftly posted first to Iceland and then to Lerwick in the Shetland islands.

David was given command of a twin-engine Amphibian Aircraft.

It was on his 60th operational mission, with more than 600 hours of combat flying on his record, that Flight Lieutenant Hornell began his last battle.

The story is best told by the official citation in which it was announced that King George VI had bestowed the Victoria Cross on David Hornell.

The official account read as follows:

"Flight Lieutenant Hornell was captain and first pilot of a twin-engined amphibian aircraft engaged on an anti-submarine patrol in northern waters. The patrol had lasted for some hours when a fully-surfaced U-boat was sighted travelling at high speed on the port beam. Flight Lieutenant Hornell at once turned to the attack.

The U-boat altered course. The aircraft had been seen and there could be no surprise. The U-boat opened up with anti-aircraft fire which became increasingly fierce and accurate.

At a range of 1,200 yards, the front guns of the aircraft replied; then its starboard gun jammed, leaving only one gun effective. Hits were obtained on and around the conning tower of the U-boat, but the aircraft was itself hit, two large holes appearing in the starboard wing.

Ignoring the enemy's fire, Flight Lieutenant Hornell carefully manoeuvred for the attack. Oil was pouring from his starboard engine which was by this time, on fire, as was the starboard wing; and the petrol tanks were endangered. Meanwhile, the aircraft was hit again and again by the U-boat's guns. Holed in many places, it was vibrating violently and very difficult to control.

Nevertheless, the captain decided to press home his attack, knowing that with every moment the chances of escape for him and his gallant crew would grow more slender. He brought his aircraft down very low and released his depth charges in a perfect straddle. The bows of the U-boat were lifted out of the water; it sank and the crew were seen in the sea.

Flight Lieutenant Hornell contrived, by super-human efforts at the controls, to gain a little height. The fire in the starboard wing had grown more intense and the vibration had increased. Then the burning engine fell off. The plight of aircraft and crew was now desperate. With the utmost coolness the captain took his aircraft into wind and, despite the manifold dangers, brought it safely down on the heavy swell. Badly damaged and blazing furiously the aircraft rapidly settled.

After ordeal by fire came ordeal by water. There was only one serviceable dinghy and this could not hold all the crew. So they took turns in the water, holding on to the sides. Once, the dinghy capsized in the rough seas and was righted only with great difficulty. Two of the crew succumbed to exposure.

An airborne lifeboat was dropped to them but fell some 500 yards down wind. The men struggled vainly to reach it and Flight Lieutenant Hornell, who throughout had encouraged them by his cheerfulness and inspiring leadership proposed to swim to it, though he was nearly exhausted. He was with difficulty restrained. The survivors were finally rescued after they had been in the water for twenty-one hours. By this time Flight Lieutenant Hornell was blinded and completely exhausted. He died shortly after being picked up.

Flight Lieutenant Hornell had completed sixty operational missions, involving 600 hours flying. He well knew the danger and difficulties attending attacks on submarines. By pressing home a skilful and successful attack against fierce opposition, with his aircraft in a precarious condition, and by fortifying and encouraging his comrades in the subsequent ordeal, this officer displayed valour and devotion to duty of the highest order."

In July of 1944, Mimico held a memorial service for David Hornell. A special platform had been built in front of Mimico High School for the occasion and members of the Hornell family were present as guests of honour.

Further honours were paid to the memory of Mimico's V.C. winner by York County Council.

Following World War II, the Mimico branch of the Canadian Legion built a new clubhouse just west of Royal York road and south of the CNR in Mimico and named it the David Hornell hall. Unfortunately, the building burned a few months after being completed and the Legion did not rebuild on the same site but later acquired the old Stock house on Royal York Road at the Queen Elizabeth Way as its headquarters.

When a third public school was finally built in the east section of Mimico, it was named the David Hornell school. Also, following the war, the story of David Hornell's heroic record was printed in an Ontario Public School reader.

On Nov. 12, 1944, David's wife, his sister and his aunt went to Ottawa where Mrs. Hornell formally received David's Victoria Cross from the Governor General of Canada. In 1956, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, invited all V.C. winners or their next-of-kin to a reunion in London, England. The Canadian government assisted in organizing the trip for those honoured and paid part of the expenses. David's wife, now Mrs. Carl Horthey, and his sister Emily, now Mrs. Douglas Coombs, attended.

O' Sacrifice

IN MEMORY OF FLIGHT LIEUTENANT
DAVID ERNEST HORNELL, V. C.

And all who made the supreme sacrifice

BY ROBERT McCLINTOCK

*Now, in our time, some men will still remember
A day, long, long ago in cool November,
A soldier laid beneath a hallowed stone;
His epitaph, "To all but God unknown"
The first great war, and then the second came,
And countless thousands died, unknown to fame;
But some shone out among the brave who fell,
And one such came from our town — Dave Hornell.*

*In school, he far outreached the common pace.
In church on Sunday he sought God's blessed grace,
And seeking knowledge gathered honours bright;
No shadow touched his path to dim the light.
His feet were firmly set on Life's long way,
Youth, like the dawning of a bright new day,
Knew then no past regrets, no future fears,
Only the promise of the golden years.*

*Again war burst from some demented brain
And hurled the world from peace to war again,
Bringing the searing winds of rage and hate,
All laws of God and man to desecrate.
Into that maelstrom, spawned in blackest Hell
Our young men went — and fought, and thousands fell.
Long years, slow time, will never dim their story,
Who brought their country everlasting glory.*

*That cold, grim battle with a frenzied foe —
The story's often told, who reads may know —
Through rain of shell, his starboard wing aflame,
He held, and brought his bomber back again,
To sweep through fire, one engine lost,
His mission accomplished — who can count the cost?
The shattered bomber sank beneath the waves,
Where countless other heroes found their graves.*

*Ordeal beyond despair, a few brave men
Tossed in a cruel sea, and when
The baleful daylight faded, then the night
Clinging for twenty hours in hopeless plight,
Their brave young captain cheered them, bade them hold,
And some were rescued from the fearful cold.
He still kept on, holding up their hearts
But fate plays many strange and cruel parts
Some were drowned and others survived;
He who had fortified the living, died.*

*Lord God, what can we say? For who will dare
To fathom depths of decadence and despair,
In this sick world of dumb and stricken men,
Who turn their faces from their God again,*

*And in this age, when God has opened wide
The dams of knowledge in a swelling tide,
And showed to man the world's most secret place;
Gave him to touch the stars and search the realms of space.*

*So man, now holding great and awful powers,
Could bring at last mankind's most glorious hours,
And build another Eden on this Earth,
To flower as when the Lord first gave us birth;
To satisfy, fulfill all mankind's every need
And banish from our hearts all hate and greed;
And give to all, the blessed gift to see
And hear God's truth — and by His truth be free.*

*Now as we gather, may we all recall
Heroic deeds, beyond grim duty's call,
And in this day make firm and sure resolve,
From his great sacrifice some truth evolve;
Some sense of duty, sense of God's great power
To justify His death in this, Decision's hour.
Now sing our hymns, our thousand voices raise,
No vacuous prayers or empty mouthing praise;
But in God's name and man's most inmost soul,
Ask for His truth, that truth to make us whole.*

*God of our fathers, hear us as we pray
For strength to do Thy will in this dark day.
Cleanse Thou our hearts, lift up our eyes to see
That by our faith all mankind can be free.
May we remember, each hour in every year,
The voices of our Dead in every ear,
Hold to the Faith, unfaltering watch to keep,
So in that quiet before the dawn, they sleep
'Till the great trumpets' call will bid them rise,
O' victory o'er the grave — O' Sacrifice.*

This poem was written at request of Hugh Griggs, Mimico Mayor, for the Memorial Service, November 11, 1961.

Following the events in London, Mrs. Coombs flew to the Shetland Island to visit her brother's grave at the Town of Lerwick where she found that the people of Lerwick, and particularly ladies of the Order of the Eastern Star, had pledged themselves to care for the graves of David and the 27 other young Canadians who found their last resting places there.

Mimico had other war heroes and scores of citizens who faithfully served in the defence of Canada. In the King's New Years' honour list on January 1, 1945 the following were awarded the British Empire Medal for unselfish service during World War II:

Lieut. Kathleen Alice Lake, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps;
Staff Sgt. James Hughes, Royal Canadian Corps of Signals;
Flight Sgt. Damon Stannah, RCAF;
Flight Sgt. George Alexander, RCAF;
Flight Sgt. John W. Watts, RCAF;
Acting Petty Officer William M. Thompson, Royal Canadian Navy.



H.M.C.S. MIMICO

A Royal Canadian Navy ship carried the name of Mimico through the latter years of World War II. HMCS Mimico was one of 16 warships built in the United Kingdom in exchange for 16 Algerine Minesweepers built in Canada. She was a revised Flower class corvette, commissioned in Britain on Feb. 8, 1944.

She began escort duties in the English Channel in May, and on June 6, D-Day, she escorted fuelling craft to the Normandy beachhead where Allied armies were pouring ashore to break Hitler's hold on Europe.

HMCS Mimico continued on similar invasion support duties into July when she was assigned to Operation Pluto, the laying of fuel pipelines beneath the channel from England to France. These duties continued on through the summer and fall.

On Nov. 26, 1944 she assisted in escorting the first convoy of coasters to Antwerp. From that time on her war duties consisted of convoying ships from England to Belgium and Holland.

With the end of the war, HMCS Mimico made her first and final trip to Canada. Her crew members were paid off in May 1945, at Sydney, N.S., and she was turned over to War Assets Corporation in July at Sorel, Que., for disposal.

The Corporation of the Town of Mimico

Mimico, Ont. April 30th 1946

Subject Title

Moved by

Hugh Briggs

Seconded by

W. McEwen

So that the war history of H.M.C.S. "Mimico" will become a part of the permanent records of this Municipality, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clerk be instructed to incorporate the following information supplied by the Department of National Defence, Naval Service, Ottawa, on April 16th, 1946, over the signature of "William Strange, Commander (SB) RCN (R), Director of Naval Information" with regard to the said H.M.C.S. "Mimico" in the Minutes of this Meeting -

H.M.C.S. "MIMICO" was one of 16 warships built in the United Kingdom in exchange for 16 Algerine minesweepers built in Canada. She was a Revised Flower Class corvette, commissioned in the U.K. on 8th February 1944. She began escort duties in the English Channel in May and on 6th June, "D-Day", she escorted fuelling craft to the Normandy beach-head. "MIMICO" continued on similar invasion duties on into July when she was assigned to Operation Pluto, which involved the laying of fuel lines beneath the Channel from England to France. Her Channel duties continued on through the summer and fall and on 26th November, 1944, she assisted in escorting the first convoy of coasters to Antwerp. From that time on her war duties consisted in convoying ships from England to Belgium and Holland.

With the end of the war "MIMICO" made her first and final trip to Canada. She was paid off in May at Sydney, N.S., and turned over to the War Assets Corporation in July for disposal at Sorel, Que.

Barrett
W. D. Harris
Mayor

MIMICO CHAPTER, IMPERIAL ORDER DAUGHTERS OF THE EMPIRE

With the motto "Purpose and Constancy merits success" the Mimico Chapter of the I.O.D.E. was organized in January, 1937.

Within a few months the 47 charter members became interested in a varied community programme and the Chapter has played an important part in community activities ever since.

With money raised by social functions the Chapter took a keen and practical interest in education and the proper equipping of Mimico park playgrounds.

Donations were given to finance purchase of books for the schools, a piano was purchased for the John English School and continuing scholarships were established in Mimico High School.

In 1939 when the Second World War was declared the 68 Chapter members rallied to the challenge and worked arduously supplying articles to be sent to soldiers. They adopted the ship H.M.C.S. "MIMICO".

In 1941 the chapter "adopted" a public school in northern Ontario and supplied it with additional educational equipment. In 1958 a second northern Ontario school was adopted when the first one was closed.

The first I.O.D.E. group in Mimico was formed during the First World War under the name of Union Jack Chapter. This Chapter was disbanded after World War I.

It was responsible for the Town being supplied with Memorial Park, Hillside Avenue, at the entrance of which are installed plaques of those who served in World War I.

Those who served included; Mrs. Zoe Free, Mrs. Margaret Robertson, Mrs. Forbes Godfrey, Mrs. Edward Hutchins and a number of others.

REGENTS OF THE MIMICO CHAPTER INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

1937-1939 Mrs. W. Warren
1940-1943 Mrs. A. H. Waites
1945-1947 Mrs. J. L. Maude
1948 Mrs. N. S. Gowdy
1949-1951 Mrs. H. M. Griggs
1952-1956 Mrs. W. E. Luke
1957 Mrs. J. L. Maude
1958-1960 Mrs. D. G. McCraw
1961-1962 Mrs. I. W. Rattle
1963-1964 Mrs. J. M. Rumball
1965-1966 Mrs. R. T. Rigby

L. Andrews
H. F. Archer
R. Arkey

G. E. Bailey
F. Banks
J. D. Banks
Sam Barclay
C. Barlow
R. Barlow
S. Barlow
W. Barlow
A. T. Barton
C. Batstone
H. Batstone
L. Beaton
G. Beatty
F. P. Behan
F. Bickmore
D. Birrell
W. Birrell
E. D. Blair
J. H. Blair
C. H. Blake
L. Blake
T. Boulton
F. Bozzard
G. A. Brandow
J. E. Breakspear
J. Brennan
R. Bridges
A. Brown
E. Brown
P. Brown
T. W. Burns
F. Burns
F. A. Bush
S. Butler

A. Campbell
F. Campbell
Sister Sarah Cannon
A. Carr
G. M. Chisholm
W. Clarke
R. Cleeton
W. Clements
J. Cochrane
S. Cochrane
W. Cochrane
H. B. Cooke
B. Cooper
J. Coulton
J. Coulton Jr.
P. V. Coulton
Chas. Courte
E. Coxhead

W. G. Darby
B. Davidson
C. Derbyshire
A. Donaldson
J. Donelly
L. Doncille
Ed. Dougherty
H. Dougherty
J. Dougherty
T. Dougherty

T. Dougherty
S. Douglas
C. Durnan
Sister Gertrude Edgar
G. Edgar
R. Elliott
S. Elliott

G. S. Farquharson
E. Farrington
J. Farrington
G. H. Ferrie
L. J. Ferrie
V. Ferrier
J. Flowers
A. Free
Wm. J. Free
J. Fuller

Alex. Gair
Arch. Gair
W. Gammage
J. Garrett
G. Gauld
J. C. Gauld
S. Gauld
W. H. Gauld
G. Gibb
M. Giles
S. Gillman
B. A. Gordon
R. Gordon
C. L. Greene
J. Greenhalgh
M. T. Griffiths

E. Hack
W. Hacken
B. Hadley
A. E. Harlock
N. Harlock
W. Harlock
W. T. Harper
J. E. Harrison
J. R. Harrison
W. H. Hawkes
C. Heather
W. Heather
A. Henderson
R. Hendry
W. Hendry
H. Herod
J. Herod
Wm. Herod
F. Hickey
J. Higgins
S. Hines
A. Hockney
Arthur Hockney
Wm. C. Hockney
Sgt. Major A. Hogg
Arthur Hogg
E. Hogg
G. C. Holdenby
W. Holland
W. T. Hosking
Wm. Howland
C. Hughes

T. Hunt
J. Hunter
W. Hutchins

H. Jackson
J. Jackson
John Jackson
A. James
F. Jarvis
L. Jarvis
J. Jepson
W. Jepson
Cecil Johnson
Chas. Johnson
S. S. Johnson
D. Johnston
G. Johnston
W. Johnston
Warden Johnston
Will Johnston
William Johnston
Wm. Jones

R. Kirkham
T. Kirkham
Wm. Kirkham
E. Knox
Harold Knox
Hugh Knox
J. H. Knox

H. Lambert
W. Lambert
H. Lanchbury
P. Lanchbury
E. Lee
J. T. Lee
A. W. Leed
A. Lewis
C. Lewis
E. M. Link
C. Lomas
G. Lomas
J. Lomas
L. J. Lomas
E. Lovring
J. Lubbock

G. G. Mackay
W. M. Mackay
R. W. Maher
W. Mason
T. J. McAllister
P. McGlynn
R. McGregor
W. McKinnon
J. McKinstry
C. McRae
J. McRae
C. W. Miller
J. Milne
F. Mitchell
W. Mitchell
F. E. Morgan
J. H. Morgan
W. E. Munson

J. Neil, Jr.
J. Neil, Sr.
J. M. Niven

E. O'Donnell
J. J. O'Donnell
Jas. O'Donnell
John O'Donnell
E. Ogden

G. Palmer
H. Paterson
D. Patterson
A. Pemberton
J. Pettitt
A. Pike
W. J. Porter
R. Price
D. W. Redding
F. L. Rich
T. Richardson
A. Riddlesworth
E. Riding
H. E. Riding
R. Robinson
H. Rose
C. W. Rush
L. Ryder

A. Screiton
F. Shadwell
J. H. Shawcross
G. W. Shirley
H. H. Simmons
G. Slingsby
E. Smith
G. Smith
R. Smith
W. Smith
S. Snider
R. Snider
W. Snider
A. D. Steal
W. Stevens
J. Stevenson
E. Stirk
W. Stock
C. L. V. Stoot
E. Stoot
W. Stratton

C. J. Telfer
H. Telford
N. Telford
J. Thomas
A. Thomson
D. Thorley
R. Thorley
J. O. Thornborough
G. J. Timpson
G. S. Timpson
W. Todd
J. Thomlinson
C. J. Trafford
R. Trafford
W. Trafford
W. J. Trafford

C. Turley
H. Y. Turner
S. T. Turner
S. Tyrell
L. L. Tyson

H. Valentine
G. Vaughan
L. Vint
R. Vint

S. Walker
S. Waller

F. E. Walsh
K. K. Warner
J. Watt
W. Weaver
F. A. Werden
W. J. West
F. Williams

R. Williams
F. H. Wilson
J. Wood
L. Wood
J. C. Wooley
J. S. Wooley



WORLD WAR II – 1939-45

S. R. Ainsworth
Chas. Akehurst
W. G. Alexander
J. Allan
R. Allen
R. V. Anderson
W. G. Anderson
H. C. Archambault
F. Ardito
N. Ardito
H. Armstrong
R. J. Armstrong
F. Arnston
F. A. Arnston
I. J. Arnston
J. M. Atkinson
Wm. G. Atkinson
J. G. Austin
J. W. Aymer

W. S. Baggott
H. Baker
A. Bamford
E. C. Bancroft
R. C. Bancroft

R. E. Baldwin
J. A. Barker
J. F. Barker
P. L. Barker
Wm. Barlow
W. T. Barnes
H. D. Bartman
K. Bartman
H. Bayman
Corp. Beange
J. Beaton
Marg. Beaton
G. F. Beere
W. K. Beesley
J. L. Bell
C. R. Bennett
J. Berry
A. Birmingham
E. Biscaro
A. Black
P. Blocksidge
G. Blymer
G. Blythe
H. Bodman
J. K. Boland

W. Boland
A. Boldtar
J. C. Bond
W. D. Bond
J. W. Book
F. Bottrell
J. Boyd
S. Boydell
N. R. Brady
S. Brander
E. Breakspear
F. C. Breen
J. P. Brisbois
Mary Brisbois
S. M. Brisbois
W. J. Brisbois
G. W. Brockway
A. J. Brooks
M. A. Brooks
W. Brown
J. D. Browning
J. W. Browning
C. W. Bryer
A. G. Burling
C. A. Burns

C. E. Burns
J. E. Burns
H. Burrows
J. Bush
H. Buss

H. T. Cale
Marg. Cale
D. M. Campbell
E. Campbell
J. Campbell
J. M. Campbell
P. Campbell
W. T. Campbell
G. Cansdale
H. G. Cansdale
J. H. Carco
A. Carson
J. C. Carter
S. F. Cassey
A. Castle
D. C. Chadwick
J. W. Chadwick
L. G. Chambers
A. M. Christie

J. S. Clark	G. Duddin	T. Hennessey	S. Kanzora
T. Clark	J. E. Duignan	G. W. Herod	J. F. Kerr
H. A. Clarke	J. Dunn	R. A. Herman	M. Kerr
W. E. Clarke	Cpl. Dunsworth	H. Hewlett	K. R. Kettlewell
T. Clyde		N. Higgins	Sgt. G. King
J. Coates	Wm. Eaton	E. Hill	W. Kingston
John Coates	E. Edge	L. F. Hilton	W. A. Kirk
K. Coates	F. Eland	W. A. Hockney	T. Kneiller
S. Coates	W. C. Ellis	E. Hodgson	H. Knox
T. Coates	F. Elvins	R. Hodgson	K. Knox
	G. Emond	Sgt. Major A. Hogg	J. Kusiar
J. Cochrane	J. Emond	A. Hogg	W. Kusiar
W. H. Cockcroft	J. K. Ewen	R. W. Hogg	
C. G. Colbary	L. Ewles	N. H. Hooper	B. Lancaster
F. Colbary		J. Hope	C. W. Landale
H. L. Colbeck	H. J. Farr	D. E. Hornell	C. Launchbury
C. A. Coleman	Wm. Farr	H. A. Hornell	F. H. Lawson
N. Collation	E. Farrington	W. H. Hornell	A. J. Lemon
G. Cooke	G. Falkner	A. Horniblow	W. J. Leslie
J. H. Coe	J. Ferbrache	F. Horniblow	A. M. Lewis
J. L. Coe	J. Ferrier	A. C. Horsfield	W. G. Lewis
B. J. Cook	Miss J. Fordyce	G. C. Hoskins	N. Lightfoot
C. P. Cook	L. Fountain	J. Hossack	O/S Lindsay
J. A. Cook	J. R. Fram	K. Hossack	H. K. Linecar
H. R. Conn		R. Hossack	E. Loftus
R. Conn	J. L. Gair	E. W. Hough	L. J. Lomas
J. S. Cornell	Wm. L. Gair	W. C. Howell	D. J. Longworth
N. P. Cornell	D. Gallagher	L. W. Hunt	C. D. Lowe
J. W. Courier	L. Gallagher	N. G. Hunt	K. Lubbeck
J. Cox	P. Gallagher	H. Hughes	A. J. Lucas
R. E. Cox	F. Gard	J. H. Hughes	T. J. Lucas
E. Coxhead	R. Gard	J. W. Hughes	
Wm. Crawley	C. Garrett	D. Humphreys	T. MacDonald
K. J. Creary	L. G. George	R. R. Humphreys	P. MacKie
D. D. Crow	H. Gill	A. Huntingford	J. T. Magenau
J. Crowe	F. G. Good	A. W. Hutchins	M. Mahoney
R. Crowe	R. W. Goodacre		P. Marcella
A. P. Cryer	M. Goodfellow	K. W. Ingram	W. Mason
R. Cummings	J. Gordon	K. Ireland	A. McAdam
C. H. Cunningham	H. E. Grainger	Rita Ireland	S. McAdam
H. Currell	E. J. Gravelle	A. Irwin	J. J. McClosky
	A. W. Gray	A. J. Irwin	P. McClosky
A. R. Daggs	T. W. Gray	R. A. Irwin	J. McDermott
A. Dandridge	G. J. Green		G. M. McGee
J. W. Davidson	M. Greenan	C. Jackson	J. B. McGee
A. Davis	M. Greenwood	L. Jackson	E. McGill
E. J. Davis	J. Grey	A. Jenson	J. A. McGregor
J. Davis	P. O. Guguet	G. A. Jenson	A. E. McHugh
W. F. Davis	L. G. Guy	S. Jenson	J. B. McIlroy Jr.
M. Dawson		J. Jepson	D. R. McInnis
F. Dear	W. Hacking	J. Johnson	J. W. McInnis
P. DeLuca	J. N. Hagan	L. Johnson	J. McKay
R. Dientremont	J. R. Hahn	W. Johnson	J. McKee
B. DePippo	F. Halsten	D. Johnston	H. A. McLean
P. J. DePippo	J. Hamblin	H. Johnston	R. W. McLeay
A. Derbyshire	S. F. Hamblin	M. E. Johnston	W. J. McMillan
J. R. Derbyshire	J. Hamilton	W. J. Johnston	A. McNab
R. H. Digby	T. Hamilton	D. R. Jones	W. McPherson
D. H. Disney	H. Harbridge	G. Jones	F. Mechan
N. J. Disney	L. Hardbridge	S. C. Jones	A. W. Medlar
M. J. Donovan	J. W. Hare		A. Melville
W. J. N. Donovan	J. E. Harrison	M. Kane	R. W. Melville
J. E. Dougherty	G. Harte	J. Kay	B. Meyers
D. T. Doughty	S. P. O. Hazeltar	E. J. Kelmar	D. B. Michie
A. W. Dowdell	D. K. Hazard	D. Kemp	C. W. Millar
J. J. Doyle	A. Heath	J. T. Kempson	D. F. Miller
W. Drechsler	J. F. C. Heather	E. Kendall	Esther Miller
G. L. Drechsler	A. Henderson	A. Kennedy	B. Millions
Miss K. Drexler	C. Henry	A. O. Kennedy	H. E. Mocon

D. Moher
J. R. Moher
J. R. Montgomery
Y. Montgomery
H. Moon
T. M. Moon
G. W. Morgan
P. H. Morgan
P. Morgan
I. Morrow
G. Munroe

J. Norris

V. G. O'Brecht
C. B. O'Donnell
C. E. O'Donnell
J. H. O'Neill
R. Owen

E. W. Pace
G. S. Palin
A. Palleschi
R. Parteno
G. Patterson
J. M. Paterson
S. E. Peacock
N. Pearce
C. Pearson
G. S. Peirson
T. B. Pidgeon
D. Pike
Sgt. Pinkney
M. C. Pollard
R. Pollard
N. Polmateer
R. A. Porter
D. C. Potts
D. Prentice
Ed Price
W. Prior
L. Pritchard
J. C. Pryce
G. J. Pudden

Wm. Ramsay
J. Rascon
I. E. Ravenscroft
N. G. Ravenscroft
D. Redford
H. Redmonds
A. Rimmer
J. Rimmer
D. M. Robertson
J. Robertson
Wm. A. Robertson
D. Rogerson
Murray Rogerson
D. W. Rose
W. Rose
R. Roy
E. Rule
L. Rule
C. W. Rush
W. G. Russel
J. Russell

H. C. Schofield
J. Scudamore
S. Scudamore

S. F. Scudamore
W. Scuddamore
G. Searcy
R. Sears
R. E. Shackleton
J. E. Sharp
R. A. Sharp
W. D. Shaw
A. Shedden
G. T. Shepherd
P. T. Shepherd
G. Sheridan
W. Simms
R. Skinner
I. H. Sloane
A. R. Smith
D. Smith
D. M. Smith
E. H. Smith
L. R. Smith
Mel Smith
Eric Smitheram
W. C. Snow
W. E. Snow
W. J. Sobon
A. Spencer
H. A. Stainton
J. Stevenson
W. C. Stewart
D. Stimers
G. Stimers
H. Stinson
J. E. Stock
A. W. Strang
R. Swance
V. Swanton
W. Swarts
L. G. Sweet

Wm. Tate
G. R. Telford
R. Teldord
H. Thomas
R. C. Thomas
G. Thornton
C. E. Timpson
G. J. Timpson
G. S. Timpson
W. F. Timpson
J. A. Todd
T. G. Todd
H. Totty
S. Totty
W. E. Townsend
L. J. Tracy
C. E. Trafford
C. J. Trafford
J. Trafford
J. W. Trimble
D. Tucker
W. A. Tucker
Eleanor Turner
J. Turner
L. H. Turner

E. J. Underhill
L. H. Underhill
R. F. Vaughan
L. Vickery
P. Vincent

J. Wade
C. P. Wain
A. H. Waites
S. Walker
H. W. Wallace
J. W. Wallace
P. L. Wallace
C. S. Ward
D. S. Wark
K. L. Warren
E. Watson
W. A. Watson
W. H. Watson
Flying Officer Watts
F. Watt
J. E. Watts
T. M. Webster
G. Webster
C. A. West
G. T. West
J. H. West
R. C. Wheatley
A. S. White
G. A. White
B. Whiteley
S. J. Whittaker
C. Wild
J. R. Wilkinson
A. H. Williams
G. W. Williams

J. A. Willson
F. H. Wilson
J. G. Wilson
R. M. Wilson
F. Winduss
G. Wise
Gertrude Wishart
R. Wison
D. Wood
L. Wood
J. R. Wood
T. Wood
J. L. Woods
H. Wyseman
A. D. Atkinson
Harry Baker
Joanne Brooks Baranik
Chester Brooks
Ernest Brooks
Thomas Brooks
Eric Bryer
G. F. Buckley
Kenneth Clayton
J. W. Cooper
Archie Dixon
Kenneth Dixon
R. J. Finlay
Thomas Richard James
Dr. David McKee
Steve Pesklevy
Dorothy Roper
William Whiteley



MIMICO THINKS BIG

Following World War II, Mimico entered its period of greatest expansion — one that is still going on.

During the long years of the war, house building had virtually come to a standstill in the Toronto area but population of the Metro area had increased by thousands of people who came to work in war industries.

At the war's end, young servicemen returned home by the thousands to marry and begin raising families. In addition to this, extra thousands of Canadians from other parts of the country were attracted by the obvious fact that the Toronto area was becoming a dynamic industrial centre where interesting and profitable employment was to be found. They were followed by many thousands of immigrants from Britain and Europe.

The great depression which many had feared would follow the war did not materialize. Instead, there developed an unprecedented wave of prosperity and business expansion. The result was a housing shortage the like of which Ontario had never seen before.

To help alleviate the housing situation and provide homes for returning veterans, many municipal councils went into the housing business, Mimico council among them. During the late 1940's the town leased the spacious old Loblaw house, located on the lakeshore, and divided it into apartments which were rented to those unable to find homes elsewhere.

The housing shortage resulted in a new wave of building in Mimico, particularly in the area to the north of the CNR and within a short space of years practically every available lot inside the town limits was built upon.

To assist war veterans in establishing homes for themselves, Mimico council sold town-owned vacant lots to them at low prices. Many of the lots thus sold had been seized for unpaid taxes during the depression of the 1930's.

A tremendous wave of expansion began in all of the 12 suburbs immediately adjacent to the City of Toronto.

It became obvious soon after the war to a few far-seeing individuals, among them the members of Mimico town council, that tremendous opportunities, as well as tremendous problems, would develop as a result of the growth triggered by the war's end.

It also became obvious that many of the problems would be common to all the suburbs and to the city of Toronto, and that co-operative action would be necessary to meet them. It would have been unwise and impractical, for instance, for each of the 13 Toronto area municipalities to operate its own sewage disposal plant and outlet as well as its own waterworks intake without regard to the location of similar facilities built by its neighbours.

Similarly, no municipality could plan its arterial roads without taking into consideration the road plans of its neighbours. There were also financial problems that required joint action by municipalities of the whole Toronto area. Communities like Mimico had become the homes of thousands of citizens who lived and raised

their families there but worked elsewhere, mostly in the City of Toronto.

As workers and executives in Toronto's offices, factories and institutions, they contributed to the city's prosperity while demanding few personal services from it.

The services — such as schools for their growing families, police and fire protection for their homes, water and sewage services and roads and sidewalks, had to be provided and financed by the municipalities where they lived.

But these municipalities, particularly if they were almost entirely residential, as was Mimico, didn't enjoy tax revenues from the businesses and industries which employed their citizens. Instead, they had to depend entirely on funds raised from taxes on homes. The tax burden on homeowners was already heavy and threatened to become disastrous if populations and demands for new services increased.

The problem was not a new one but was brought into focus by the wave of growth which followed the war.

Many years earlier, a few Mimico citizens had seen the need for some form of unified organization of Toronto and its 12 immediate suburbs to provide essential services common to all. During the 1920's and 1930's, W. A. (Gus) Edwards, as a council member, had argued the need for a "metropolitan area."

He argued it so strongly, in fact, that his nickname "Metropolitan Gus" became a mark of distinction and a tribute to his foresight and courage.

During the 1920's and 30's, however, Toronto wasn't interested in any change that would result in the suburbs sharing its tax resources and opposed moves towards amalgamation or unification.

By 1947, Mimico town council had decided that the time for delay was over and that the longer a common solution was delayed, the worse the individual and collective problems of both the city and suburbs would become. Councillors therefore took the bull by the horns and made a move that eventually was to lead to formation of the Metropolitan Toronto government.

In 1946, the Ontario government had passed legislation which provided that special areas, made up of any number of municipalities, could be formed for the joint administration of education, fire and police protection, planning, highways, sewers, sewage disposal, garbage disposal, public health, including hospitals, welfare, parks or any public utilities.

Administration of the joint or shared services in such areas was to be administered by a special board for each area, the members of which were to be elected by the citizens of the area without special regard to municipal boundaries.

On Feb. 4, 1947, Mimico council passed a by-law applying to the Ontario Municipal Board for creation of such an area made up of Toronto and its 12 immediate suburbs for administration of practically all the major municipal services.

Specifically, Mimico asked that the City of Toronto, New Toronto, Mimico, Long Branch, Weston, Swansea, Forest Hill,

Leaside, York Township, East York and the urban sections of Etobicoke, North York and Scarboro should be created into a special area for the joint administration of education, fire and police protection, administration of justice, health and welfare, planning, sewage disposal, public utilities, transportation and main highways.

The Mimico application would have left the individual municipalities in existence and left with them the power to administer their own local affairs while vesting a new super body with the power to plan and provide major services common to all.

This principle of "local control over local affairs" was later to become recognized by the Ontario Government and embodied in the legislation which was finally to set up the Metropolitan Toronto system of government.

Mimico's proposal was the push that started the snowball rolling. Other municipalities followed with their plans for partial unification and the City of Toronto soon applied to the Ontario Municipal Board for amalgamation of all 12 suburbs and the city into one big city. The Toronto move, if successful, would have dissolved the Town of Mimico along with the other 11 suburbs.

It was not until June 19, 1950 after a great deal of argument, Press discussion, legal manouvering and research that the Ontario Municipal Board commenced public hearings that were to extend over a year. After hearing submissions from the city, all of the 12 suburbs and a number of other interested parties, the Ontario Municipal Board then took nearly another year to consider the evidence and arrive at a decision.

On Jan. 20, 1953, the board issued its findings in what has become known as the Cumming Report, named for Lorne R. Cumming, Q.C., the OMB chairman who conducted the hearings.

In brief, the board recommended that the Ontario government set up an entirely new form of local government to handle the problems of the booming Toronto area. In a new concept calling for co-operation instead of rivalry, the board suggested a federation of municipalities.

Toronto and each of the 12 suburbs were to retain their respective identities, but each was to surrender part of its jurisdiction for the common good. Main services were to be administered by a new super municipal council on which the City of Toronto was to have representation equal to that of the 12 combined suburbs. The Mayor or Reeve of each of the 12 suburbs was to be a member of the Metropolitan Council and the city was to have 12 representatives.

With some changes, the Ontario government adopted the Cumming report and made it law in the historic Bill 80.

And so the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto was born. It embodied many of the ideas and principles advocated for years by Mimico representatives. Since its formation in 1953, the Metro Toronto system has seen a growth greater than any ever experienced in a Canadian urban area.

Mimico has shared in that growth. The town's population in 1945 was 8,785; in 1951 it was 10,410, by 1961 had climbed to 11,503 and in 1964 was 18,245.

MIMICO CHURCHES

We have read in an earlier section how first Anglican Church services were held in Mimico by John William Gamble about 1823 or 1824 and how an Anglican parish was organized in 1827.

Because the history of Christ Church in its earliest years is so closely interwoven with that of the community, we dealt with the first part of Christ Church's story in the general part of this narrative. We also briefly discussed founding of several other churches in Mimico. In order to give more detail of more recent developments among Mimico Churches, however, we shall now devote a section to each of the older ones.

CHRIST CHURCH, ANGLICAN

We'll continue the history of Christ Church with the appointment of the second rector, Rev. H. C. Cooper in 1840.

In 1856, after building of the railroad, Weston was finally separated from the Christ Church parish and created a separate parish. Mr. Cooper retained charge of Christ Church and the Mission of St. George's Church, Islington.

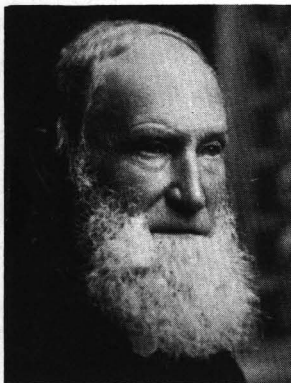
Records of the church mention purchase of a cabinet organ for Christ Church in 1875 at a cost of \$100. The same year there is also a note of the death of the last surviving member of the original vestry, Mr. Herod Noble. In 1875, the Hon. Vice Chancellor Blake was elected to represent Christ Church in the Synod. Total collections of the Church for 1875 were \$118.61.

Lots at the rear of the church property, now fronting on Windsor Street, had been presented to the church in 1857 by Sir Lukin Robinson, to form part of the burial ground. In 1877, a chancel was added to the first church building at a cost of \$100.

In 1877, Mr. Cooper died and the Bishop of Toronto appointed as Rector of the parish Rev. Francis Tremayne, who in 1878 began conducting two services each Sunday, morning and evening. Students from Trinity College, Toronto, used to come to Mimico to assist.

First rectory was established in 1879 when the congregation bought a house and lot on Church St. The Mimico Rector up to this time had lived at Lambton Mills. Rev. Francis Tremayne moved down to the rectory and thus became the first rector to live in Mimico.

The original rectory served until the present one was built and dedicated on December 1, 1924.



Rev. Francis Tremayne
1877 - 1919

As we have noted earlier, the congregation had outgrown its original church by 1889, and it was decided to build a new one after a canvass of the congregation for support. Plans were submitted by the young firm of Gibson and Simpson and they obtained the contract. Opening services for the new church were held Sunday, June 9, 1889, with Rev. J. P. Lewis, Rector of Grace Church, Toronto, and Rev. E. Loucks, of Picton, as preachers.

The new church had cost a little more than \$5,000 to build; of this sum, \$3,000 was raised almost at once. The balance of \$2,000 was raised by October, 1902, and at that time Right Rev. Dr. Sweatman, Bishop of Toronto, consecrated the church.

Growth of the parish had made appointment of an assistant minister necessary and in 1888 Rev. H. H. Johnson was appointed curate with special responsibility for St. George's Church, Islington, which was still part of Mimico parish. In 1889, Rev. H. O. Tremayne, son of the Mimico rector, was appointed curate for St. George's at request of the people. In 1892 St. George's was made a separate parish and Rev. H. O. Tremayne was appointed rector. His father had made the separate parish possible by allotting a portion of his income to it.

Sometime during the 1890's Rev. Francis Tremayne also built a mission church at Humber Bay at his own expense, subsequently selling it to the congregation at less than it had cost him. In 1920 St. James, Humber Bay, was also constituted a separate parish.

Services were begun in New Toronto in 1906 in a local hall. The church of St. Margaret's, New Toronto, was built in 1911 as a mission church of Mimico and in 1920 this also became the church of a separate parish with Rev. A. S. Madill as rector.

Also about the same time, Rev. J. R. Martins began services in Long Branch and this soon also became a separate parish under care of the Rev. H. P. Charters.

Although the territory covered by the Mimico parish had been steadily reduced, it was still large enough to call for establishment of two other missions by Christ Church in the 1920's. One was on the present Queensway, then Queen St., where services were begun in a community hall. This mission later became St. Elizabeth's Queensway. The other mission was established in a building erected on Horner Ave., erected largely through efforts of H. E. Rudge, who acted as lay reader in charge until 1926. This became the Church of the Atonement.

Rev. Canon Francis Tremayne continued to serve congregations until his death on January 24, 1919, a total of 67 years. He had served continuously since being ordained as deacon in 1852. Taking his BA at Trinity College, Toronto, in 1860 and his MA in 1877 he was ordained priest in 1853 by Bishop Strachan.

In 1853, he was a travelling missionary in the Wellington district and from 1854 to 1873 served churches at Milton, Hornby, Omagh and Palermo. In 1873 he was appointed rector of Newmarket where he remained until coming to the Mimico parish in 1877. Francis Tremayne served his church under three British sovereigns and four bishops of the Toronto diocese. At the time of his death he was a canon of St. Alban's Cathedral, Toronto.

His son, Rev. H. O. Tremayne, had been born at Milton while his father was rector there, and had been educated at Trinity College School, Port Hope and Trinity College, Toronto, graduating with a BA in 1886 and an MA two years later. His first parish was at Shannonville where he was a curate. He came to Islington as curate in 1889 and became rector, as we have seen, when St. George's was made a separate parish.

He came to Christ Church, Mimico, in 1907 as assistant rector and took charge as rector on death of his father. It is to H. O. Tremayne that we are largely indebted for information on Christ Church's earliest days. He compiled a parish history in 1927 when the church celebrated its 100th anniversary.



Rev. H. O. Tremayne
1919 - 1934

Loved by his congregation and devoted to his parish, Rev. H. O. Tremayne served until 1934 when he died and was laid to rest in the cemetery of Christ Church. A stained glass window in the church was dedicated to his memory.

Next rector was Rev. Thomas J. Dew, a native of Bradford, Ontario, who served 19 years until his retirement in 1954, when he became assistant rector at All Saints Church, Kingsway.

Appointed rector of Christ Church on retirement of Mr. Dew was Rev. J. Douglas Paterson.

About this time, it was felt by the congregation that a new church was a necessity. Foundations of the building erected in 1889 were decaying, and it was far too small for the growing congregation.

The present church was opened and dedicated in 1955.

In its long history, Christ Church has been the mother parish of 16 Anglican churches and has had only six rectors. These have been Rev. Thos. Phillips, Rev. H. C. Cooper, Rev. Francis Tremayne, Rev. H. O. Tremayne and Rev. Thos. J. Dew, Rev. J. D. Paterson and Rev. H. G. Blake.

WESLEY UNITED CHURCH

Second oldest congregation in Mimico is that of Wesley United Church, successor to Wesley Methodist Church. We have noted in an earlier section of this booklet that first Methodist services in Mimico were held by Rev. Noble F. English, who ministered to this area from 1858 to 1861 in the second Mimico schoolhouse.

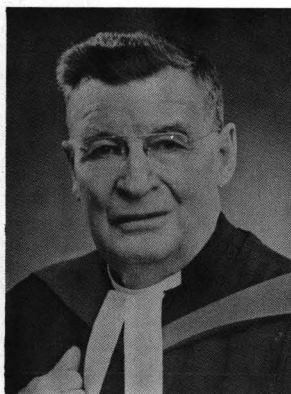
In 1860, the Wesley congregation bought for \$200. the lot where Mimico's municipal offices now stand, and in 1864 built a small frame church there with Rev. James Greener as pastor.

Between 1889 and 1891, under ministry of the second full-time pastor, Rev. James Pearen, the original church was enlarged and a parsonage was built on land donated by Robert Hendry on Mimico Avenue.

The original Church served for 58 years until building of the present church in 1922 and 1923. The Mimico Public Utilities Commission bought the old building in 1922 and altered it to serve as a PUC and municipal office building. Town business was conducted there and Mimico councils met in the old church building until Mimico built its present PUC building in 1948.

Even after that date, the old building continued to serve a useful purpose. It became the Home Economics annex of John English School and served this purpose until the present John English school was built in 1956. At that time, the old church building was finally demolished.

It was in June, 1922, that building of the present Wesley United Church was started. The corner stone was laid on Sept. 23, 1922 by Mrs. A. Ogden and first services were conducted on Sunday, April 1, 1923. Cost of that 1922-23 church was just over \$70,000. The late Chester Ferrier, father of Dr. Gordon Ferrier, was chairman of finance. The late Dr. H. R. Conn, father of Dr. A. W. Conn, was treasurer of the Finance Committee and Manley Chisholm was secretary. W. H. Rumball was chairman of the building committee



Rev. Wm. Fingland

and the late Mr. Horwood, father of Eric Horwood, was architect. Minister at that time was the late Rev. J. O. Johnston, who lived in what was then the parsonage and is now part of the Hogle Funeral Home.

On Tuesday, April 3, there was a great banquet to celebrate completion of the church with speeches by Mayor Jack Doughty and others, under chairmanship of Chester Ferrier.

Church union came in 1925 and Wesley Methodist Church became Wesley United Church. Consecration services, when the building was paid for, were held Sunday, May 15, 1927.

In 1955, an important addition was made to the church to give the building its present form.

MIMICO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mimico Presbyterian Church had its first definite beginning on May 2, 1889 on which date a small group of people met in the town to consider the possibility of having Presbyterian Church Services.

One of those present at the meeting was a local farmer by the name of Donald Hendry, who offered a lot at the corner of his farm on which to build a church. Thus encouraged, the group made application to the Presbytery of Toronto for permission to hold services and receive pulpit supply. The application was successful and a student missionary came out from Toronto every Sunday to conduct worship.

Work was commenced on a church building on the property donated, at the corner of what is now Royal York Road and Mimico Avenue. This building was completed in April 1891.

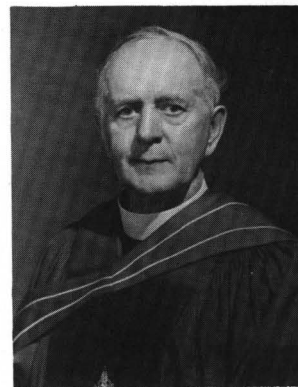
Robertson's Landmarks of Toronto says that it was "an unpretentious frame rough cast building" with driving sheds to shelter the farmers' horses at the rear of the church itself. A photograph of this Church shows that it was a small square building of one storey, facing Royal York Road though set well back, with a long wooden sidewalk leading to the street. It seated about 150 people on chairs and was heated by a stove whose pipes ran over the heads of the congregation.

The first minister to be inducted to the care of Mimico Presbyterian Church was the Rev. Alex MacMillan, a young gentle, highly-cultured Scot, newly arrived in Canada from Edinburgh. The date was December 20, 1892.

The first elders of the church were Messrs. George R. Gauld, Donald Hendry, R. Forbes, T. Hassard and J. Slater; while the managers were G. Gray, R. McDonald, D. McKinnon, J. Cummings and Donald Hendry.

In the year 1908 extensive renovations were carried out. The building was raised and a basement added. The church itself was enlarged and bricked over, and the main entrance changed from Royal York Road to Mimico Avenue. At the time this was probably the most pretentious church building in the entire Lakeshore area.

During this period, the Rev. Alexander MacMillan was fulfilling his second pastorate in Mimico. In 1914 he left the charge



Rev. Alex MacMillan

to become head of the Presbyterian Church's Department of Church Worship and was subsequently responsible for the hymn books used by the United, Baptist and Presbyterian Churches. He died recently at the age of 96.

After the first world war, the minister was the Rev. William Fingland. Due to the increase in population at the time and the energies of the minister, the church's work prospered, particularly amongst the young people. In 1924, the Sunday School numbered 400 members and plans were under way to erect a Sunday School building additional to the church. But the movement known as "church union" came along, and the congregation was divided. Part of the membership of Mimico Presbyterian Church went to worship with the Methodist congregation in their fine new church at the corner of Mimico Avenue and Station Road, while the rest, known as "the continuing Presbyterians", withdrew and worshipped for some time in a hall on Royal York Road. The church building was left without any congregation for many months.

Finally, negotiations resulted in the purchase by "the continuing Presbyterians" of the church building, and they moved back to the church they had left. They continued to worship in it for the next 30 years. In the spring of 1958, work was started on a new church building, beside the old, and this was completed early in 1959. This building with its type of architecture unique in the Lakeshore area, is to be seen at the corner of Royal York Road and Mimico Avenue. The old church is used as an auditorium and for youth activities.

MIMICO BAPTIST CHURCH

The first service of what was to become Mimico Baptist Church was held on Sunday, January 25, 1920, in the Orange Hall on Mimico Avenue.

The preacher was the Rev. H. B. Coumans who was greeted by eight people gathered for the occasion. Two months later a Sunday School was organized, again with eight members. In April, 1921, the Mission was officially recognized as a regular Baptist Church and at the annual meeting of the Toronto Association of Baptist Churches was received into the fellowship of the denomination.

At the close of 1921 plans for a building were drawn up and a lot secured, and these developments led to a fund-raising campaign in 1922 under the direction of Dr. Divine. The cornerstone of the new building was laid by Mr. James Ryrie of Toronto on October 14, 1922. By this time the Sunday School had grown to 107 members.

Opening services in the new building were held Sunday, March 11th, 1923, under the leadership of Rev. Alexander Thomson, the pastor at that time. The first pastor to serve the church was the Rev. H. Batstone, who later served as a missionary in China.

The church continued to grow and in 1941 a Casavant pipe organ was installed and dedicated. The Hon. Albert Matthews, then Lieutenant-Governor, and Mrs. Matthews took part in the services. By August, 1947, the installation of new pews was completed. The last mortgage on the church property was burned on February 23rd, 1949.

In 1956 a Reunion Weekend was held to which all former members and friends who had moved away were invited, at least

as many as could be contacted. Many memories were shared and the earlier days of the church relived during these gatherings.

Among those to whom special tribute has been paid by the church are the late Mr. and Mrs. Horace Lanchbury. They were faithful and sacrificial workers in the church since its inception, which was due to their vision and devotion. They have been honoured as the founders of the church and as its most faithful workers.

ST. LEO'S CHURCH

The parishoners of St. Leo's Catholic Church can look back with pride over the past 65 years to the time when the nearest Catholic churches were St. Patrick's at Dixie, still standing at Dundas and Dixie Road, and Holy Family in Parkdale.

Previous to the erection of the first section of the old St. Leo's Church in 1903, built to accommodate 150 persons, the catholics of Mimico and vicinity would assemble for Sunday mass in the residence of the Stock family on Royal York Road, just north of the Queen Elizabeth Highway, and which is now occupied by the Canadian Legion.

Following the erection of the old St. Leo's Church on land donated by the late Mr. Edward Stock, and built on the site of the present parish centre, and owing to the fact that there was no resident priest in Mimico, the new church was served by Fathers Coyle and Gibbons who were stationed at Dixie.

This arrangement was continued until 1909 when Father George Doherty was appointed as the first resident paster of St. Leo's. Following a rapid increase in parishoners, it became necessary in 1912 to enlarge the church to accommodate double the existing capacity. Father Doherty continued as pastor until 1929. It was in 1926 that the original section of St. Leo's School was built, comprising of six classrooms and an auditorium.

The new pastor to follow Father Doherty in 1929 was Father E. M. Brennan, who at that time was a curate at Barrie. It was during Father Brennan's pastorate that the country suffered the bitter years of depression. Still the parish of St. Leo's valiantly supported their school to the extent of providing by voluntary contributions approximately one half of the revenue required to provide for its continuous operation. It was only by considerable help and goodwill of our non-catholic fellow citizens that this was possible, and we take this opportunity to again thank them. Father Brennan remained as pastor of St. Leo's until April 1936 when he was called by Archbishop McGuigan to become President of St. Augustine's Seminary at Scarborough. The pastor who followed was Father J. F. Corrigan, and it was during his residence in Mimico that the necessity of a larger church became evident. In August 1946 Father Corrigan was transferred to the Faculty of St. Augustine's Seminary. Thus Mimico was honoured twice in succession by having two of it's pastors promoted to important positions in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The next and present incumbent at St. Leo's was the Rev. Dr. L. A. Markle, and our new pastor was soon active. The new church of St. Leo's was started and the opening took place in October of 1953, truly a momentous tribute to the loyalty and sacrifice of our pastor, his curates and the parishoners.

May we conclude by saying with a great feeling of pride, that it is an honour to have been a small part of the Town of Mimico during these years which culminate with the celebration of a Golden Jubilee, and by expressing our deep appreciation of the many pleasant contacts our Catholic members of the community and the town folk and clergy of all other denominations, the splendid co-operation of elected members of all town Councils and Public Utilities Commissions and also municipal office staff, and hope that the years to come will continue on the same harmonious plane.

Percy Faulkner,
Chairman

MIMICO SALVATION ARMY

by Brigadier P.B. Fader, Officer in Command

The Salvation Army was commenced in Mimico by a number of faithful Salvationists from Lisgar Street in Toronto 50 years ago, later in the same year that the Village of Mimico assumed town status.

First meetings were held in a store on Mimico Ave. with Capt. Robert McLean of Territorial Headquarters Toronto conducting the meetings from Nov. 25th, 1917, until Dec. 23rd, 1918.

In December, 1918 the first Commissioned Officer, Captain Florence Sibbick arrived and the outpost was made officially a Corps.

A military hut brought from Niagara Falls was erected on Mimico Ave., near Mimico High School and was used for a number of years.

The first Census Board consisted of: Corps Sergeant Major A. Ginger; Corps Secretary J. Tanner; Treasurer Mrs. C. King; Band Master G. Baker and Young People's Sergeant Major M. Langridge. Two of the first soldiers and still attending are Mr. and Mrs. A. Baker.

Soon it became apparent that a new place of worship had to be built. In August, 1930, a new Citadel was erected. During this time many Sections of the Corps were inaugurated.

When the land on which the Citadel stood was needed for the extension of Mimico High School it was imperative to find another site. The land obtained was directly across the street from the former building.

The present Citadel was opened in 1961 by Commissioner Wycliffe Booth, grandson of the founder of the Salvation Army.

Mimico Corps can be proud of members who have become Officers on the Canadian field and as missionaries in other lands.



Citadel served
from 1930 to 1961.



SIR ERNEST MacMILLAN

In the preceding historical material on Mimico Presbyterian Church, Rev. M. E. Burch, present minister, noted that the first minister inducted for the church was Rev. Alexander MacMillan. He came to Mimico in 1892, stayed until 1895 and later returned to Mimico for a second term as pastor from around 1906 or 1907 to 1914.

During Dr. MacMillan's first term at Mimico, a son was born who was to win world-wide fame as a musician and conductor and whose name was to become synonymous with the cause of good music in Canada. He earned a knighthood and eight doctorates during a long and brilliant career.

Young Ernest MacMillan was born in the Mimico Presbyterian manse on August 18, 1893 but stayed here only until 1895, when his father became minister of a Toronto church. When the MacMillans returned to Mimico after the turn of the century, Ernest attended school here for a time, but most of his elementary and secondary education was obtained at Rosedale public school and Jarvis Collegiate, Toronto.

His father had a keen interest in church music and Ernest once commented that he was "brought up on a diet of hymns". He could read music before he could read words and by the time he received his first formal music lesson at the age of 8, he was already playing the organ for a trio of boys, who played and sang at country churches. Beverley Baxter, later a British M.P. sang alto in the trio.

Ernest made such swift progress in study of music that he gave his first organ recital at Massey Hall at the age of 10.

He went to Edinburgh at the age of 13 to enroll in the Edinburgh College of Music. He was told he was too young to be formally enrolled. He attended lectures anyway, passed the examinations and became the youngest person ever to become an associate of the Royal College of Organists.

When World War I broke out, the young musician was in Germany where he had gone for further study. He was interned by the German government and during his period in a prison camp organized and conducted an orchestra of 40 fellow prisoners, at the same time studying for a Doctor of Music degree from Oxford. He won the degree and, in later years, warm recognition from the German government. In 1957, The West German regime awarded him the coveted Richard Strauss medal.

At the end of World War I, on release from the internment camp, Ernest MacMillan returned to Canada where he became organist and choirmaster of Timothy Eaton Church, Toronto. In 1920, he joined the staff of the University of Toronto as lecturer in music; in 1926 becoming principal of the Toronto Conservatory of Music and a year later dean of the faculty of music at the University of Toronto.

He resigned as principal of the Conservatory in 1942 to devote more time to concert work as conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, but remained as dean until 1952.

In 1935, he became Sir Ernest MacMillan and continued to conduct all over the world.

Sir Ernest retired as conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra in 1956 and was given a golden baton by members of the orchestra. He celebrated his 70th birthday in August, 1963.

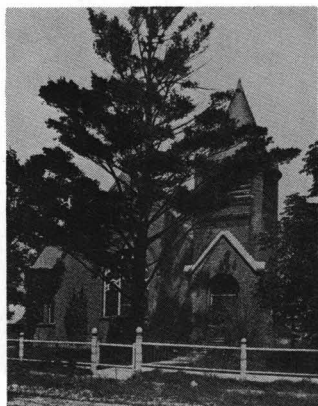
Dr. Alexander MacMillan, his father, died on March 5, 1962, at the age of 96, after a long and distinguished career in the service of the Presbyterian and later the United Church of Canada.



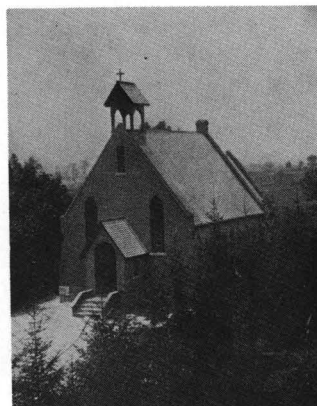
First Presbyterian Church – 1891.



First was Methodist Church, then Town Hall and eventually Home Economics building.



Early Christ Anglican Church, Mimico.



Original St. Leo's Roman Catholic Church, Mimico.

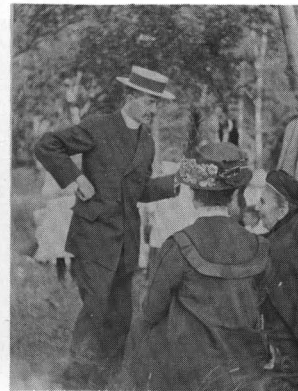


Ladies Aid – A number of the Members of the Presbyterian Ladies Aid about 1914.

Included in the picture were Mrs. G. W. Gauld, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Malcomson, Mrs. Werden, Mrs. Jewel, Miss Werden, Mrs. Hendry, Mrs. MacMillan (wife of Rev. Alex MacMillan), Mrs. E. H. French, Mrs. Rowland Brady, Miss Brown, Mrs. Burt, Mrs. Archie Herod, Mrs. Robert Herod.



Mimico Baptist Adult Class at Picnic in High Park, 1924



Rev. Alex. MacMillan at Presbyterian picnic, 1914.



St. Leo's second Confirmation Class.



Presbyterian Church Party at the home of G. W. Gauld, 1916.

Included in the picture were: Chester Ferrier Sr., Miss Brown, Chester Ferrier Jr., Mary Hunter, G. W. G. Gauld, Agnes Gauld, Janet Marion Gauld, W. H. Hawke, Organist, Reg Everett, Irene and Amy Ferrier, Bryce Davidson.

A number of them were members of the choir at the time.



This photo was taken at Catholic Church Picnic 50 years ago.

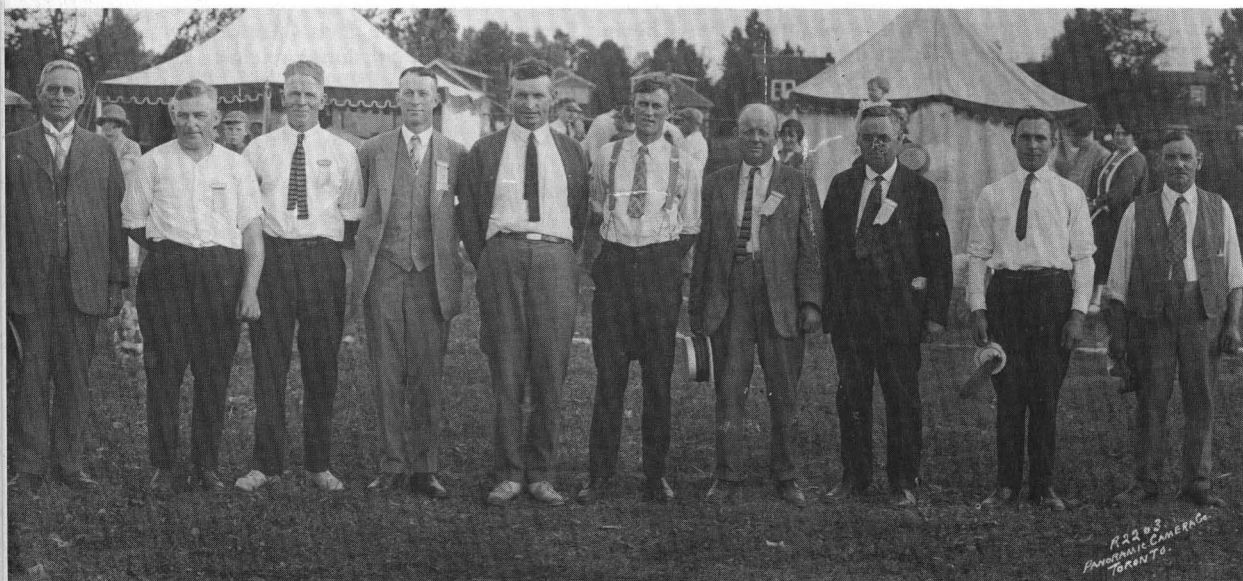
Included in it are: Fred Mitchell, Charlie Ring, Tom Carey, Bill McElroy, John Coyne, Jack McGillion, Dr. W. J. Woods, Dick Kelly, Prim Kennedy, Jack McElroy, Jim Stock.

OFFICERS OF THE MIMICO BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 25, 1926



Jack Muir, Amos H. Waites, Walter Perry, C. Marks, Joe Glascott, Gordon Edgar, Jack Doughty, Ex-Mayor, W.E.S. Savage, Ex-Mayor, Robert Croome (Chief of Police).



Douglas Davidson (Magistrate), Harold Warner, Thomas Wright, M. J. Atkinson, Archie Herod, T. Newton, W. J. MacClintock, George R. Coombs, Louis Spencer, Jowett Coulton.

EDUCATION IN MIMICO

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The Township of Etobicoke was divided into eight school sections in 1850 and Mimico was included in School Section No. 1, which took in the area between the Humber River and Etobicoke Creek and almost as far north as Dundas Street.

First school building for S.S. 1 was a log building located in Mimico, probably on the south side of Lakeshore Road at the foot of what is now Royal York Road.

The second school was a frame building on the west side of what is now Royal York Road, opposite what is now Mimico Avenue. It served until 1884.

Mimico's third school building was brick, of one room, and was erected in 1884 on the north east corner of Mimico Avenue and Royal York Road, the site of the present John English School. Walter Burgess, a school trustee at that time, presented a clock for the handsome new building.

But Mimico's population had increased so much by 1888 that it was necessary to divide the brick school's one large room into two classrooms. At the same time a new school was built in Humber Bay to accommodate pupils from the area east of Mimico.

By 1893, it was obvious to school trustees that the building erected only nine years before was entirely inadequate. It was demolished and a new three-room brick school built on the same site.

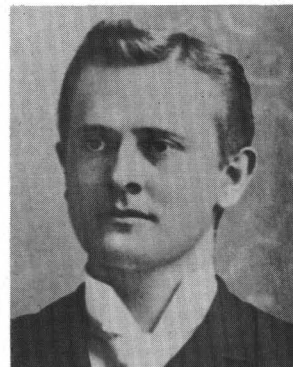
This building sufficed for 19 years in its original form. In 1912, a major reconstruction job was done on it to provide six classrooms instead of the original three. In 1915, four more rooms were added and the school grounds enlarged.

By 1922, more accommodation was needed for the continually increased enrollment and also for continuation school classes in which the first grades of high school were being taught, so 10 classrooms were added to John English school.

At the same time, the George R. Gauld school was built on Melrose Avenue, in north Mimico, for pupils of that district.

St. Leo's Separate school was built in 1926, and 160 pupils were transferred to it from the public schools. By 1932, however, the two public schools were again overcrowded and four more rooms were added to John English School and two more to the George R. Gauld School.

The old John English school continued to serve until 1956 when it was finally torn down to make way for the present modern school. A third public school for Mimico was built in the eastern section of the town in 1961 and was named the David Hornell School.



John English



**G. R. Coombs,
Public School Super-
vising Principal, 1924;
Councillor — 1943-44.**



**Ross English, Assistant
High School Principal,
son of John English.**

MIMICO HIGH SCHOOL

Shortly after World War 1 it was decided that the rapidly growing Town of Mimico should no longer depend upon Parkdale Collegiate for its secondary education.

In September, 1921, the Mimico Continuation School opened, using part of the John English Public School Building.

Mr. E. H. Glenn, a veteran of the war, was the principal of the combined Public and Continuation School.

In 1923 a High School Board was created, and the original eight rooms of the present Mimico High School were built.

In September, 1924, Mr. Glenn took over the new project, which began with a staff of five teachers and one hundred and forty students. The original staff consisted of Mr. Glenn, Mr. Brian McCool, Miss Frances Franklin, Miss Edna Wright and Miss Kennedy.

In September, 1925, as the school was growing, two additional staff members were needed. Mr. McCool went to Harbord Collegiate, and Miss Janet Skelton, Miss Robson and Mr. W. Stewart Vaughan were added.

The school weathered the depression, and survived the war years. Over nine hundred students and ex-students served in the forces. A number did not return.

Towards the latter end of the war, the health of the revered principal, Mr. Glenn, began to fail. At the end of the 1946 session his untimely death came as a shock.

He was succeeded by the assistant principal, W. S. Vaughan, who continued until his retirement in June, 1960.

The last ten years of the school history have been somewhat eventful.

Prior to the building wave, following the war — the attendance grew to almost nine hundred. This had to be handled by a "staggered system".

In the early 1950's New Toronto opened a new secondary school, and Etobicoke built both Royal York and Alderwood Collegiates. Four schools then shared the population that had all belonged to Mimico. The attendance dropped to the five hundred mark.

In 1957 an addition was built on the school. This was filled, by the time it was opened. By 1962 an additional eight roomed addition was completed.

Mr. C. E. Burns was made principal in 1960. He is the third man to hold the position.

ST. LEO'S SCHOOL

As mentioned earlier, St. Leo's Separate School was built in 1926 on the Werden property, Stanley Street. It opened with four



E. H. Glenn



W. S. Vaughan



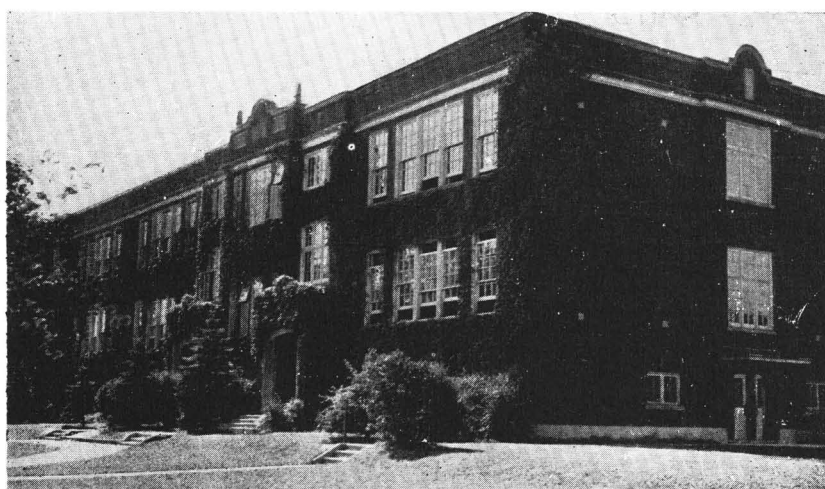
C. E. Burns

rooms and an enrolment of approximately one hundred and sixty pupils. The original School Board members were Reverend Father G. E. Doherty, now retired in Miami Beach, Florida; Messrs. Clarence Coe, J. Witmer, T. Renton, L. G. Stock and Dr. W. J. Woods.

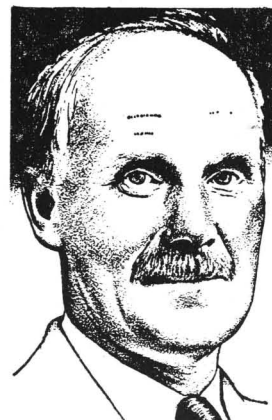
Due to enlarged enrolment a four room addition was built in 1956 followed by a six room addition in 1960. Enrolment in 1961 was approximately seven hundred pupils. Board Members were Reverend Doctor L. A. Markle, Messrs. Roy Parteno (Chairman), Daniel S. McLaughlin, F. A. Kelley, Martin Clancy, Eugene Doyle, and Mrs. R. D. Follis was Secretary-Treasurer.



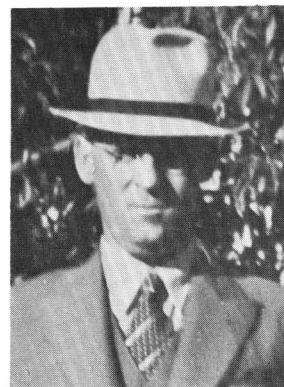
John English School – 1914



Original Mimico High School – 1923



Charles King – Popular Caretaker for 44 years.



Wm. H. McBride – Teacher, Principal – 1921 - 43.



Mrs. Duncan McFadyen – First Lady Trustee – 1930.



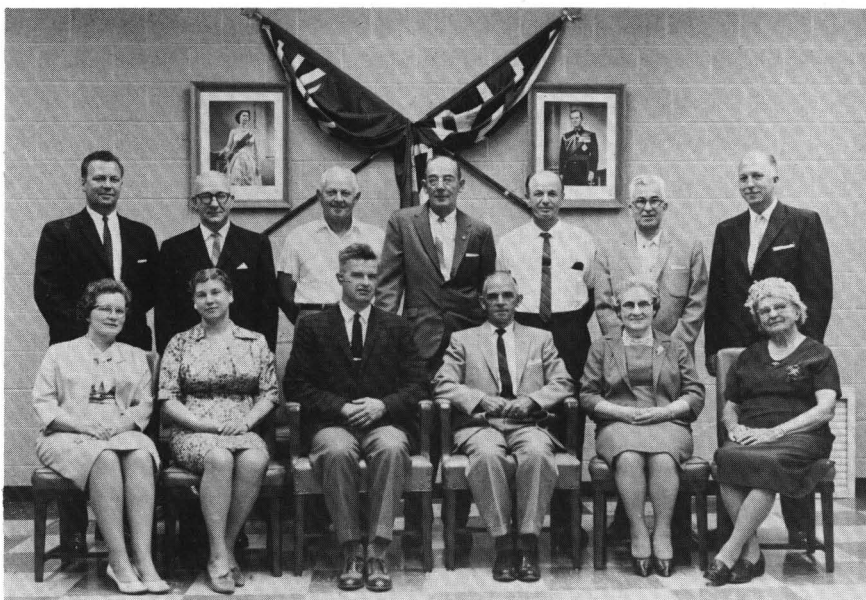
FIRST MIMICO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD – 1911

Left to right: Dr. William J. Woods, Mr. Donald Hendry, Mr. G. W. Holdenby, Mr. John Kay, Mr. George R. Gauld, Mr. Thomas Sumner, Mr. James Free.





The High School Team ready to play New Toronto. Taken in Memorial Park.
 Back Row: Hazel (Barnum) Spence; Ina Sarson; Mrs. Walker (then Miss Wright); Grace (Woods) Malone; Margaret (Barnum) Purvis; Grace (Holdenby) Good; Jean (Holdenby) Jamieson.
 Front Row: Ada Brisbois; Connie (Hughes) Bell; Katharine Dodds.
 Extreme Front: Kathleen Hague (Step-daughter of Dorothy Hague, Reeve of Swansea, who taught then as Miss Wells.)



LAKESHORE BOARD OF EDUCATION – 1964

Front Row (left to right): Mrs. N. Pownall, Mimico; Mrs. P. W. Tennant, Mimico; Mr. H. R. Lucas, Vice-Chairman, Long Branch; Mr. J. Lancaster, Chairman, Mimico; Mrs. S. Harte, Mimico; Mrs. A. G. Crewson, Long Branch.
 Back Row (left to right): Mr. J. F. Tummon, Bus. Admin.; Mr. C. F. Hons, Long Branch; Mr. A. H. Morrison, New Toronto; Mr. J. J. Fraser, New Toronto; Mr. W. C. Farrow, New Toronto; Mr. A. Langley, Long Branch; Mr. A. G. Gillespie, Bus. Director & Supt. of Public Schools.
 Absent: Mrs. M. Hennessey, Metropolitan Separate School Board Appointee, New Toronto; and Mr. H. Trickett, New Toronto.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Before 1856, the primitive Mimico school was probably managed as a parish school under jurisdiction of Christ Church. First trustees for Public school section No. 1 of Etobicoke appear to have been named in 1862.

Following are some of the trustees who served in the early years:

1862 John Clark and George White
 1864 F. Hendry's name first appears
 1865 Walter Burgess who presented the clock, mentioned previously
 1868 James Hendry
 1869 Patrick Wood, father of Dr. W. J. Wood
 1877 Edward Stock
 1890 Ronald Hendry who taught the school for a few months
 1895 Austin Werden
 1896 Fred Smith and Herbert Heather
 1901 Robert Skelton
 1906 J. V. McAree and Douglas Davidson

The names on the first Board of Trustees when Mimico became a Police Village in 1907 were John Kay, James Gormally and Robert Skelton.

The first Board of Trustees after Mimico became a Village in 1911 was composed of John Kay, George R. Gauld, Harry Foreman, James Gormally, Donald Hendry and Edwin Eland.

When Mimico became a Town in 1917 Dr. W. J. Woods, Mr. J. Kay, Mr. G. Holdenby, Mr. D. Hendry, Mr. G. R. Gauld, and Mr. Thomas Sumner were on the Public School Board.

A Board of Education was established in 1940 and was composed of Dr. Gordon J. Ferrier, Dr. A. E. Stewart, Mr. D. Roy Suley, Mr. Lewis K. Redman, Mrs. Elizabeth G. Pownall, Mrs. Ruth Miller, Mr. Edward J. Hutchins, Mr. J. Leonard Maude, Mr. Barry Stevenson, Mr. Walter Bailey, and Mr. Philip J. McCabe.

Men who were recognized everywhere in the Province by their fellow-trustees and administrators as outstanding authorities on school matters and were elected by them to the highest offices of their organizations are Mr. John Kay — 1907 to 1932 (secretary-treasurer 1911-1921) and his son Mr. J. Bruce Kay — 1922 to 1945 secretary-treasurer and 1945 to 1948 a trustee. When the Lakeshore District Board of Education was formed on January 1, 1951 and for the period 1945 to 1956, Mr. Edward J. Hutchins was Business Administrator of the Board. He was a trustee from 1933 to 1945, also.

Since January 1, 1951, the operation of the Mimico schools has been co-ordinated with the operation of Long Branch and New Toronto schools, under the Lakeshore District Board of Education. It consists of thirteen members, twelve of whom are elected (four from each of the three municipalities) and one appointed by the Metropolitan Separate School Board.

For 1964, Mr. John Lancaster, Mimico, was chairman, Mr. Howard Lucas, Long Branch, vice-chairman, Mr. A. Grant Gillespie, Business Director and Superintendent of Public Schools, and Mr. Jack F. Tummon, Business Administrator.

Mimico pays 34% of the education costs in the Lakeshore District and Long Branch 21% and New Toronto 45%. Our school costs, as follows, are among the lowest in Metropolitan Toronto.

Cost per pupil — Public Schools	\$1.89 per day
— Arts & Science	3.17 per day
— Science, Tech. & Trades	3.54 per day
— Business & Commerce	4.75 per day

The advisory Vocational Committee of the Board consists of six trustees; and three representatives from industry and three from labour as follows:

Trustees — Mrs. Anna G. Crewson, Mrs. Sarah Harte, Mr. John Lancaster, Mr. James J. Fraser, Mrs. Mary Hennessey, Mrs. Nora Pownall
 Industry and Labour — Mr. Lloyd Blewett, Mr. Walter Davis, Mr. Edward F. Drennan, Mr. Chas. W. Haslett, Mr. Joseph Hunter, Mr. R.S. Tanner.

The Canadian Vocational Training Programme 5, of which Mr. Reginald Reynolds is Co-ordinator, is under the jurisdiction of this committee. Admission to the courses is arranged by the National Selective Service and at the close of the regular school day, the unemployed enter the school gates to be re-trained in the business or technical field to meet the job placement requirements of the area.

Some of the past chairmen of the Lakeshore District Board of Education and the former Mimico Boards are:

1951-1963 CHAIRMEN LAKESHORE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

1963 — Mr. Angus H. Morrison, New Toronto
 1962 — Mrs. Nora Pownall, Mimico
 1961 — Mr. Charles F. Hons, Long Branch
 1960 — Mr. W. Clare Farrow, New Toronto
 1959 — Mr. D. Thomas Reid, Long Branch (Jan. - Mar.)
 Mr. W. Clare Farrow, New Toronto (April - Dec.)
 1958 — Mr. Wm. B. Byers, Mimico
 1957 — Mr. Keith F. Hartman, New Toronto
 1956 — Mr. John C. Van Esterik, Mimico
 1955 — Mr. John C. Van Esterik, Mimico
 1954 — Mr. Graham Metcalfe, Long Branch
 1953 — Mr. Angus H. Morrison, New Toronto
 1952 — Mr. John D. W. Cumberland, Mimico
 1951 — Mr. Donald R. Russell, New Toronto

1940-1950 BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE TOWN OF MIMICO — CHAIRMEN

1950 — Mr. John D. W. Cumberland
 1949 — Mrs. Ruth Miller
 1948 — Mrs. Ruth Miller
 1947 — Rev. Thomas J. Dew
 1946 — Rev. Thomas J. Dew
 1945 — Mr. Edward J. Hutchins (Jan. - Feb.)
 Rev. Thomas J. Dew (Mar. - Dec.)
 1944 — Mr. Edward J. Hutchins
 1943 — Dr. A. E. Stewart

1942 — Dr. A. E. Stewart
 1941 — Dr. Gordon J. Ferrier
 1940 — Dr. Gordon J. Ferrier

1923-1939 MIMICO HIGH SCHOOL BOARD — CHAIRMEN

1939 — Dr. Gordon J. Ferrier
 1938 — Mr. Lewis K. Redman
 1937 — Mr. Lewis K. Redman
 1936 — Mr. Percy Pleasants
 1935 — Mr. Andrew Dods
 1934 — Dr. Wm. J. Woods
 1933 — Dr. John R. Serson
 1932 — Mr. Percy Pleasants
 1931 — Dr. Ingram
 1930 — Dr. Wm. J. Woods
 1926 — Mr. Percy Pleasants
 1925 — Mr. John Kay
 1924 — Mr. Douglas Davidson
 1923 — Mr. Douglas Davidson

1911-1939 MIMICO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD — CHAIRMEN

1939 — Mr. Steve Hamblin
 1938 — Dr. Hartley R. Conn
 1937 — Dr. Gordon J. Ferrier
 1936 — Mr. Edward J. Hutchins
 1935 — Dr. A. E. Stewart
 1934 — Dr. Hartley R. Conn
 1933 — Dr. Gordon J. Ferrier
 1932 — Mrs. E. L. McFadyen
 1931 — Mr. M. O. Inglis
 1930 — Dr. Gordon J. Ferrier
 1929 — Dr. Hartley R. Conn
 1928 — Rev. Wm. Fingland
 1927 — Mr. John Kay
 1926 — Mr. Douglas Davidson
 1925 — Dr. Wm. J. Woods
 1924 — Mr. George Sayce
 1923 — Mr. John Kay
 1922 — Mr. George R. Gauld
 1921 — Mr. Thomas Sumner
 1920 — Dr. Wm. J. Woods
 1919 — Mr. George R. Gauld
 1918 — Mr. Thomas Sumner
 1917 — Dr. Wm. J. Woods
 1916 — Mr. G. Holdenby
 1915 — Mr. G. Holdenby
 1914 — Mr. George R. Gauld
 1913 — Dr. Wm. J. Woods
 1912 — Mr. Harry Foreman
 1911 — Mr. Jas. Gormally

The two attendance Officers under the Mimico school system have been Mr. Joseph Stirk 1922 - 1941 and Mr. Roy Spence 1941 to 1963.

The ten principals who have served in Mimico are:

1897 - 1921
 Mr. John W. English — John English School

1921 - 1946

Mr. Everett H. Glenn — Mimico Continuation School and Mimico High School

1924 - 1942

Mr. Geo. R. Coombs — Supervising Principal of John English and George R. Gauld Schools.

1922 - 1942

Mr. Wm. H. McBride — George R. Gauld School

1942-1943

Mr. Wm. H. McBride — John English School

1942 - 1960

Mr. Arthur E. Tranah — George R. Gauld School

1943 - to present

Mr. Kenneth Thorburn — John English School

1960 - to present

Mr. Alan H. McDonald — George R. Gauld School

1961 - to present

Mr. Douglas S. Clark — David Hornell School

1946 - 1960

Mr. W. Stewart Vaughan — Mimico High School

1960 - to present

Mr. Charles E. Burns — Mimico High School

LIST OF SURVIVING CITIZENS WHO HAVE LIVED CONTINUOUSLY IN THE TOWN FOR FIFTY YEARS OR MORE

Mrs. Sarah Armstrong
Dorothy Atkinson
Harriet Atkinson
Jack Atkinson
Mrs. Eileen Banks
Ellen Beatty
James Beatty
Wm. Thomas Bickmore
Effie Boulter
Jesse Breakspear
Mrs. Jesse Breakspear
James Browning
Lorne Brydson
Mrs. Newman Bryer
Mrs. Eva Burn
Mr. Bert Bush
Mrs. Bert Bush
R.O. Carter
Mrs. R. O. Carter
Miss Muriel Code
Mrs. Douglas Coombs
Mrs. L. Coxhead
Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Crooks
Mr. Andrew Crowe
Mr. George Crowe
Mr. Jas. Crowe
Mr. Wm. Crowe
Mrs. E. Davis
Fred Deluca
Mrs. Jennie Deluca
Christopher Derbyshire
Daisy Dods
Ian Donaldson
Catherine Donaldson
Walter Philip Donville
Elsie Doughty
Mrs. J. H. Doughty
Mrs. Thomas Dunnett
W. A. Edwards
Mrs. W. A. Edwards

Frank Eland
Mr. Herbert Eland
L. J. Ferris
Mrs. Caroline Ferrier
Dr. Gordon Ferrier
Miss Isobel Finch
Mrs. L. Flowers
Mrs. E. Fulton
Miss Ruth Fulton
Norman Gair
Mrs. Zaida B. Gibbard
R. J. Hamilton
Dolly Harrison
Mrs. James Hartley
Charles Haslett
Russell Henderson
Mrs. Louisa Hewson
Leonard Hodsdon
Leonard Kenneth Hodsdon
Roy Douglas Hodsdon
Harold Holloway
Miss R. M. Holloway
Albert Horniblow
Alfred Horniblow
Frank Horniblow
Eric Horwood
Cecil Johnson
Ernie Johnson
Bruce Kay
Mrs. C. Kennedy
Richard Kettlewell
Mrs. Richard Kettlewell
Mrs. E. J. Knox
Mrs. Mary Knox
Arthur Littleton
Mrs. Mary Longway
Mrs. Grace Malone
Mrs. Margaret McCoomb
Mrs. Thomas McGill

Mr. & Mrs. J. J. McElroy
Mrs. A. W. Miles
Herbert Moore
Mrs. Edith Newton
Mr. A. D. Norris
Mrs. A. D. Norris
Mrs. J. C. O'Donnell
Mrs. George Parkinson
Mornam Paulk
C. E. Ring
Mrs. L. Rose
Mrs. Charles Rush
Mrs. C. H. Shirley
Mrs. Mabel Singleton
Miss Ella Smith
Mrs. Garfield (Hazel) Spence
Mr. Blair Stock
Walter Thornborough
Mrs. Alice Townsend
Mrs. A. Tredget
Lionel Tredgett
Mr. Norm Underhill
Mrs. Alma Underhill
Alex Waites
Mrs. Edith Watts
Steve Watts
George Whittaker
Mrs. George Whittaker
Mr. Fred Williams
Mr. Richard Williams
Arthur Wood
Ernest Wood
Isabelle Wood
Kathleen Wood
Marie Wood
Nora Wood
Helen Woods
Jack Woods



MIMICO PUBLIC LIBRARY

(Material supplied by Mrs. Marguerite Baldwin, Librarian)

Prior to 1915 and the erection of Mimico Public Library, the land where it and some half dozen houses now stand was occupied by a pretty white cottage, picket-fenced, and with an attractive garden and orchard. The site was chosen for the library, as it was in the centre of the then village.

The outer town limits of Mimico were still unpopulated; open fields prevailed in many places. To the north and running under a bridge at Station Road was "Minnie Creek," probably a contraction of the word "minnow".

The creek was a source of delight for many children on they way to school or to the Library, and many a damp library book was returned with the excuse: "It fell in the Creek." This tiny waterway is now under sidewalk and culvert in most places; few citizens of 1965 realize that they are walking directly over the creek in places on Stanley and Superior Avenues.

In 1915 Station Road actually took you to the Station, which was then situated across the tracks of the then Grand Trunk Railway, directly opposite the Windsor Hotel.

Stanley Avenue west of Station Road and east to Superior was called Pidgeon Avenue after a family of early settlers, for whom a memorial window could be found in the chancel of Old Christ Church. Cavell Avenue, to the north, was then named Southampton Street, but after World War I it was renamed in honour of that famous heroine, Nurse Edith Cavell.

In 1915 a group of former citizens interested in the welfare of the village (Mr. Charles Price-Green, Mr. Douglas Davidson, Mr. Andrew Orr and Mrs. Ormsby) wanted to provide a place of recreation for the young people of the area. After several meetings they decided to establish a Public Library.

The Andrew Carnegie Trust provided the building (which was one of the last established by the Trust); the municipality provided the land and agreed to maintain the building. One mill of the tax dollar was the minimum set aside for library purposes, and Mr. Price-Green became the first chairman of the Library Board set up to administer the new building.

The checking desk was placed at the extreme east end of the room, in the centre and facing the door. Shelves extended along the south wall and around into the present workroom. Later, shelves were added along the north wall as the book collection continued to grow. Soon, a children's section was begun on the north side of the library. Later, this space was doubled and took in more of the main room.

The room where years later the Library Board would hold its meetings, was originally occupied by the Village and Hydro offices. The large main room currently being used by the Children's Department, served then for public meetings and lectures. Many well-known speakers came to Mimico in those days, several under I.O.D.E. sponsorship.

In later years the lecture room was turned over on Saturday afternoons to the Children's library, and films were shown to young members. Attendance was excellent; your library card guaranteed admission. Often cards were secretly passed back to friends who were not members; the Children's Library was not fooled, but never was anyone denied admission.

The programme, which lasted about an hour, consisted of educational films, with cartoons and short comedies added for variety. On one Saturday afternoon an added attraction was a gentleman who imitated bird calls. More than once he was interrupted by 'cat-calls' from some of the little rascals who preferred Laurel and Hardy.

For many years the library was the only one for miles around. Residents from other areas were encouraged to use the library facilities for a small yearly fee. And many non-residents did come and became regular borrowers — a great credit to them, since transportation was not readily available.

In 1930 the Children's section was relocated in part of the basement lecture room, and the services of a full-time Children's librarian were required. Within a few years, it was necessary to occupy all of this space. Saturday morning story hours were instituted and well attended.

In the 1930's there was a depression for Mimico Public Library, salaries were reduced, and there was little money for books. The



E. J. Everett,
25 years Chairman
Mimico Library Board

staff worked ceaselessly however, and circulation hit an all time high. Occasionally gentlemen "riding the rails" would drop in between trains to read . . . and to get warm. Many dozed off from exhaustion but at no time were they rowdy or objectionable.

The 1940's brought a lessening in the pressure of work. Gradually we saw the unemployed leave; some would return in uniform; some would say "Good-bye"; some we would never see again.

The prosperity of the 40's made it possible for essential repairs and improvements to be undertaken. The endless mending of books lessened somewhat when we were able to purchase replacements for those which had worn out.

Further changes came with the 50's. With the rise of many apartments, a more transient population arrived, and providing service for these new citizens greatly increased the clerical work of the Library.

For forty years the Library was fortunate in having a most dedicated employee in the person of Mr. Fred Danter, who was our custodian until his retirement in 1962. Mr. Danter was an expert cabinet-maker, and over the years the library benefitted greatly from his experience. The present custodian, Mr. George Lewis, is admirably carrying on the Danter tradition.

In the years from 1956-63, the book collection was tripled and the book circulation increased over 100 per cent. The grounds were landscaped, and a program of modernization was undertaken. Fluorescent lighting, air conditioning, new flooring and furnishings were added, and the best use was made of the available space. But by 1960 it had become evident that expansion would be inevitable if a high standard of service was to be maintained.

In the years from 1915, Mimico Public Library had come a long way. But then, so indeed had the progress of human thought.

MIMICO CENTENNIAL LIBRARY

Marking Canada's Centennial and the Town's fiftieth anniversary, the last Mimico Council with Hugh M. Griggs as Mayor in cooperation with Mimico's last Library Board under the chairmanship of Maurice Cooke created Mimico Centennial Library at Station Road and Stanley Avenue.

Planned by Banz-Brook-Carruthers-Grierson-Shaw Architects, 477 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto, the new \$291,400 library building on its former site plus \$78,000 worth of adjacent land, has won the praise of hundreds of patrons for its comfort, warmth and efficiency.

Its functional areas on the ground floor include: adult room, boys and girls room, work room and librarian's offices.

The mezzanine has the young people's area and a reference section.

The lower floor contains: auditorium with 240 comfortable seats and stage; board room closed stacks and work room and washrooms and staff lounge.

The sloping floor in the auditorium makes for efficient viewing of films, music and modest stage presentations. It is accessible from the main and parking lot entrances.

The book capacity is 48,800 volumes on open stacks and 16,000 volumes on closed stacks.

Mrs. Marguerite Baldwin has been chief librarian for years, giving an excellent service with a small but efficient staff.

As the Town's centennial project with grants of \$37,000 from Federal and Provincial Governments, the library was opened officially on November 20th, 1966, with the corner-stone being laid by Mayor Hugh M. Griggs in the presence of many provincial and municipal officials.

Planning of the Mimico Centennial Library was a co-operative effort of Mimico Town Council and Library Board with the special committee comprised of the Board Chairman Maurice Cooke and Library Board members James Grossett and Miss Muriel Code and Councillors Robert McClintock and Mrs. Gertrude Owen and Mayor Hugh M. Griggs. Councillor, Mrs. Owen was committee chairman.

Members of Council and Board, who co-operated are shown on pages 7 and 130.

Thomas Rattle, town treasurer, and Murray Maccabe, town clerk, served as library board secretary-treasurer, during the erection of the library.

See list of Mimico Library Board Members on page 142.



Mrs. James (Zoe) Free, 94.
First lady member of Mimico
Library Board.



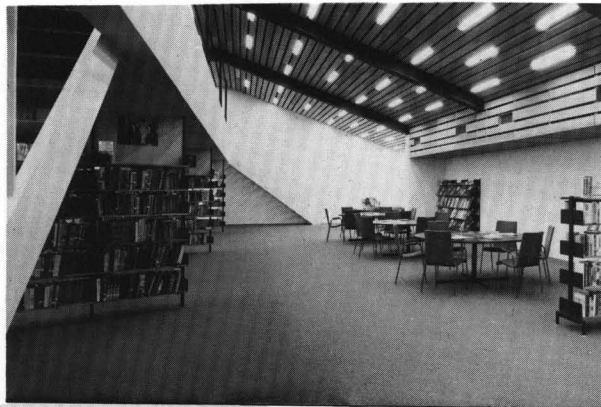
Ada E. Coulton French.
Mimico Librarian for many
years.



MIMICO LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS – 1964-66

Standing: Thomas Hickman, James Horwood, Thomas Rattle, secretary, Mrs. Marguerite Baldwin, librarian, James Grosset, Douglas Coombs, Charles E. Burns.

Seated: Mayor Hugh Griggs, Miss Mary McIntyre, Maurice Cooke, chairman, Miss Muriel Code, Robert McClintock.



Interior view.



Mimico Centennial Library, exterior view.

MAYORS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 1911-1966

YEAR REEVE or MAYOR

1911	Reeve Robert H. Skelton
1912	Reeve Robert H. Skelton
1913	Reeve Robert H. Skelton
1914	Reeve John J. Harrison
1915	Reeve Caesar Coxhead
1916	Reeve John J. Harrison Deputy Reeve Jowett Coulton
1917	Reeve John J. Harrison Deputy Reeve Jowett Coulton
1918	Mayor John J. Harrison Reeve George E. Bryer Deputy Reeve George Stubbs Sr.
1919	Mayor Louis J. West Reeve Jowett Coulton Deputy Reeve George E. Bryer
1920	Mayor Louis J. West Reeve George E. Bryer Deputy Reeve Charles E. Ring
1921	Mayor John H. Doughty Reeve George E. Bryer Deputy Reeve Alexander Johnson
1922	Mayor John H. Doughty Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve Alexander Johnson
1923	Mayor John H. Doughty Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve W. Arthur Edwards
1924	Mayor John H. Doughty Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve W. Arthur Edwards

COUNCIL MEMBERS

George E. Bryer
John J. Harrison
Austin Werden
Dr. William J. Woods

Caesar Coxhead
James Free
John J. Harrison
Austin Werden

Caesar Coshead
James Free
John J. Harrison
Edwin Eland

Henry Finch
James Harlock
Harvey B. Stewart
Alexander Johnson

George E. Bryer
Jowett Coulton
Henry Finch
Alexander Johnson

George E. Bryer
Martin A. Collett
Archibald D. Norris

George E. Bryer
Martin A. Collett
Archibald D. Norris

Alexander Johnson
Edwin Eland
James Harlock

James Harlock
Thomas Wixon
Charles E. Ring

Albert J. Beynon
Francis Cook
Thomas Wixon

Robert Ainsworth
W. Arthur Edwards
William J. McClintock

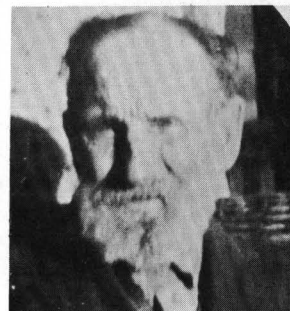
Frank Larkin
John T. Anderson
William Clark

Donald Brown
James Ford
James Davidson

Donald Brown
Harold W. Moyer
Joseph Murphy



George Bryer



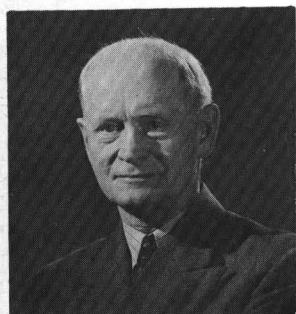
Alex Johnson



Jowett Coulton



Charles Ring

**Robert Ainsworth****Roland Brady****William J. Swanton****Walter Buchanan**

1925	Mayor John H. Doughty Reeve W. Arthur Edwards Deputy Reeve William E. S. Savage	William H. Rumball Ralph Hendry Joseph Murphy
1926	Mayor William E. S. Savage Reeve W. Arthur Edwards Deputy Reeve Joseph Murphy	Ralph Hendry John MacKenzie Amos H. Waites
1927	Mayor W. Arthur Edwards Reeve Joseph Murphy Deputy Reeve Amos H. Waites	Patrick J. Donovan Tom Wright John H. Doughty
1928	Mayor W. Arthur Edwards Reeve Joseph Murphy Deputy Reeve Amos H. Waites	John H. Doughty Patrick J. Donovan Tom Wright
1929	Mayor W. Arthur Edwards Reeve Robert Waites Deputy Reeve Robert Ainsworth	J. H. Doughty Alex Halliwell J. Leonard Maude
1930	Mayor Robert Waites Reeve Joseph Murphy Deputy Reeve Robert Ainsworth	J. Leonard Maude Stephen Jones Patrick Shannon
1931	Mayor Robert Waites Reeve Amos H. Waites Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude 2nd Deputy Reeve Jowett Coulton	Roland B. Brady William Swanton Archibald D. Norris
1932	Mayor Robert Waites Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude	Roland B. Brady William Swanton Archibald D. Norris
1933	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve Amos H. Waites Deputy Reeve W. Arthur Edwards	Jowett Coulton Roland B. Brady Walter Buchanan
1934	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve Amos H. Waites Deputy Reeve W. Arthur Edwards	Jowett Coulton Roland B. Brady Walter Buchanan
1935	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve Amos H. Waites Deputy Reeve W. Arthur Edwards	Jowett Coulton Roland B. Brady Walter Buchanan
1936	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve W. Arthur Edwards Deputy Reeve Roland B. Brady	J. Leonard Maude Walter Buchanan Jowett Coulton
1937	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve Walter Buchanan	J. Leonard Maude John P. O'Donnell A. Reginald Barclay
1938	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude	A. Reginald Barclay Jowett Coulton Roland B. Brady
1939	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude	A. Reginald Barclay Roland B. Brady E. Wilfrid Skirrow
1940	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve Roland B. Brady	Stephen Hamblin Hugh M. Griggs E. Wilfrid Skirrow
1941	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve Roland B. Brady	Stephen Hamblin Hugh M. Griggs E. Wilfrid Skirrow

1942	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve Robert Ainsworth Deputy Reeve Hugh M. Griggs
1943	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Archibald D. Norris Deputy Reeve Hugh M. Griggs
1944	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Archibald D. Norris Deputy Reeve Hugh M. Griggs
1945	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Archibald D. Norris Deputy Reeve Hugh M. Griggs
1946	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve Hugh M. Griggs Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude
1947	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Hugh M. Griggs Deputy Reeve Robert McClintock
1948	Mayor Amos H. Waites Reeve Hugh M. Griggs Deputy Reeve Robert McClintock
1949	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve Hugh M. Griggs Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude
1950	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve Hugh M. Griggs Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude
1950-52	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve W. Arthur Edwards Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude
1953-54	Mayor Archibald D. Norris Reeve W. Arthur Edwards Deputy Reeve Mrs. Gertrude V. Owen
1955-56	Mayor W. Arthur Edwards
1957-58	Mayor W. Arthur Edwards
1959-60	Mayor W. Arthur Edwards
1961-62	Mayor Hugh M. Griggs

Stephen Hamblin
J. Leonard Maude
E. Wilfrid Skirrow

W. Arthur Edwards
Stephen Hamblin
George R. Coombs

W. Arthur Edwards
George R. Coombs
J. Leonard Maude

J. Leonard Maude
W. Arthur Edwards
A. Reginald Barclay

George R. Coombs
Harold W. McFadden
Robert McClintock

Sidney F. Chamberlain
A. Reginald Barclay
John P. O'Donnell

Sidney F. Chamberlain
A. Reginald Barclay
John P. O'Donnell

Damon Stannah
Sidney F. Chamberlain
Roderick LeRoux

Damon Stannah
Sidney F. Chamberlain
Roderick LeRoux

Damon Stannah
Sidney F. Chamberlain
Roderick LeRoux

William E. Tyner
Sidney F. Chamberlain
G. Frank Pownall

Hugh M. Griggs
Mrs. Gertrude V. Owen
Sidney F. Chamberlain
Alex Halliwell
G. Frank Pownall

Hugh M. Griggs
Alex Halliwell
Sidney F. Chamberlain
G. Frank Pownall
Cecil N. Johnson

Sidney F. Chamberlain
G. Frank Pownall
Cecil N. Johnson
D. Murray Smith
Alex Halliwell

Cecil N. Johnson
L. James Ferrie
Alex Halliwell
D. Murray Smith
Mrs. Laura Goodwin



E. W. Skirrow



Stephen Hamblin

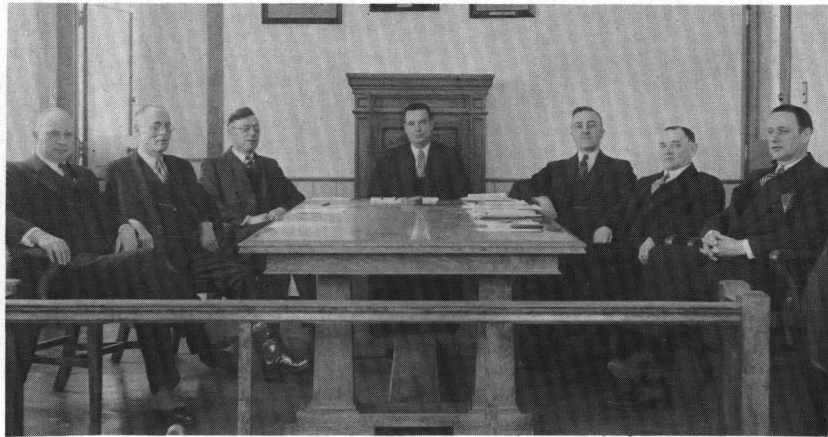


J. Leonard Maude



W. E. Tyner

Mimico Council – 1938



Left to right: Reginald Barclay; Roland Brady; Reeve Robert Ainsworth; Mayor Amos H. Waites; Deputy Reeve J. Leonard Maude; Jowett Coulton and James L. Ferrie, Clerk.

Mimico Council – 1943

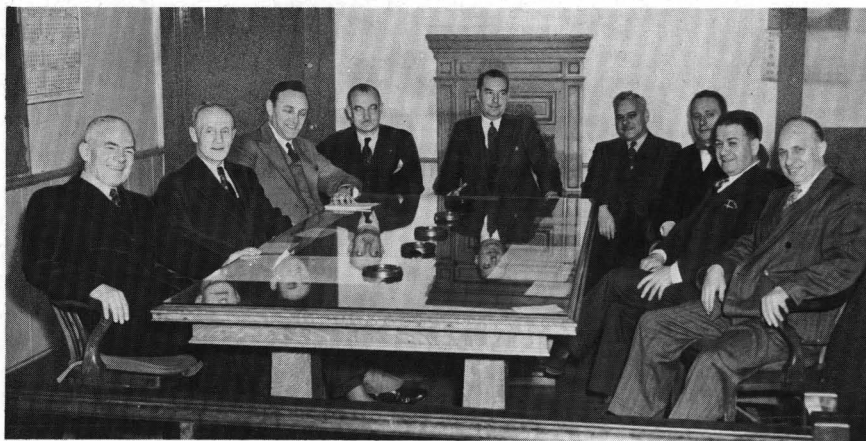


Left to right: Stephen G. Hamblin, Councillor; George R. Coombs, Councillor; Archie D. Norris, Reeve; W. B. Redfern, Engineer; Amos H. Waites, Mayor; James L. Ferrie, Town Clerk and Treasurer; Hugh M. Griggs, Deputy Reeve; William A. Edwards, Councillor.

Mimico Council – 1946

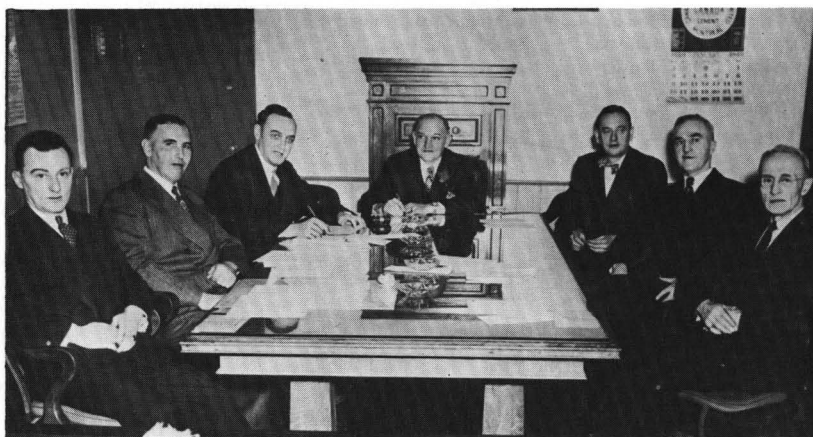


Left to right: Councillor George R. Coombs; Councillor Robert McClintock; Reeve Hugh Griggs; Frank Pownall; Mayor A. D. Norris; James L. Ferrie, Clerk; Deputy Reeve J. L. Maude and Councillor Harold W. McFadden.



Mimico Council – 1947

Left to Right: Councillor J. P. O'Donnell; Councillor Sidney Chamberlain; Reeve Hugh Griggs; G. W. G. Gauld, Solicitor; Mayor Amos H. Waites; E. A. Jarrett, auditor; L. James Ferrie, Clerk-Treasurer; Deputy Reeve Robert McClintock; and Councillor Reginald Barclay.



Mimico Council – 1949

Left to right: Roderick LeRoux; Damon Stannah; Reeve Hugh M. Griggs; Mayor A. D. Norris; James L. Ferrie, Clerk; Deputy Reeve J. L. Maude; and Sydney S. Chamberlain.



Mimico Council – 1956

Standing: Alex Halliwell and Frank Pownall; seated – Sydney F. Chamberlain; Hugh Griggs, Mayor; W. A. Edwards; James L. Ferrie, Clerk; and Mrs. Gertrude Owen.



**Michael McBride,
Councillor 1963-64**

1963-64

Mayor Hugh M. Griggs

Cecil N. Johnson
Mrs. Laura Goodwin
Mrs. Gertrude V. Owen
Robert McClintock
Andrew S. Ranachan
Michael J. McBride

1965-66

Mayor Hugh M. Griggs

Cecil N. Johnson
Mrs. Gertrude V. Owen
Gordon C. Rush
Mrs. Laura Goodwin
Robert McClintock
Andrew S. Ranachan

NOTE:

1. The original Council consisting of the following persons resigned as a whole January 27, 1914.

Reeve	John J. Harrison
Councillors	Herbert Heather
	Louis J. West
	William H. Clark
	Jowett Coulton

2. Mimico incorporated as a Town and at nomination meeting held May 19, 1917 the following were elected by acclamation.

Mayor	John J. Harrison
Reeve	George E. Bryer
Deputy Reeve	George Stubbs Sr.
Councillors	Edwin Eland
	Alexander Johnson
	James Harlock

3. Original Council was as follows:

Mayor	Louis J. West
Reeve	Jowett Coulton
Deputy Reeve	Edwin Eland
Councillors	James Harlock
	Thomas Wixon

At Election on February 15, 1919 Deputy Reeve George E. Bryer was elected to replace Edwin Eland. Mr. Charles E. Ring was elected Councillor.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS

1910

Dr. Godfrey; Mr. Skelton; Mr. Gormaly

1911

G. R. Gauld; H. Foreman; J. A. Gormaly (Chr.); D. Hendry; E. Eland; J. Kay

1912

W. A. Telfer; Dr. W. Woods; J. Kay; D. Hendry; G. R. Gauld; H. Foreman (Chr.)

1913

G. R. Gauld; J. Kay; G. Holdenby; Dr. Woods (Chr.); W. A. Telfer; D. Hendry

1914

D. Hendry; Dr. Woods; W. A. Telfer; G. R. Gauld (Chr.); G. Holdenby; J. Kay

1915

J. Kay; G. Holdenby (Chr.); G. R. Gauld; W. A. Telfer; Dr. Woods; D. Hendry

1916

Dr. Woods; Thos. Sumner; D. Hendry; G. Holdenby (Chr.); J. Kay; G. R. Gauld

1917

Dr. Woods (Chr.); J. Kay; G. Holdenby; D. Hendry; G. R. Gauld; Thos. Sumner

1918

Dr. W. J. Woods; D. Hendry; T. Sumner (Chr.); J. Kay; G. R. Gauld; G. Holdenby

1919

G. R. Gauld (Chr.); G. Holdenby; J. Kay; T. Sumner; D. Hendry; Dr. Woods

1920

Dr. Woods (Chr.); Thos. Sumner; D. Hendry; J. Kay; G. R. Gauld; G. Holdenby

1921

Dr. Serson; J. Kay; G. R. Gauld; G. Holdenby; Dr. Woods; Thos. Sumner (Chr.)

1922

G. R. Gauld (Chr.); J. Kay; T. Sumner; G. Holdenby; Dr. Woods; Dr. Serson
(G. Holdenby retired and G. Sayce took his place for remainder of year. J. B. Kay became Secretary-Treasurer in 1922)

1923

G. R. Gauld; Dr. Serson; G. Sayce; T. Sumner; J. Kay (Chr.); Dr. Woods

1924

G. Sayce (Chr.); Dr. Serson; G. R. Gauld; Thos. Sumner; J. Kay; Dr. Woods

1925

Dr. Woods (Chr.); G. Sayce; Dr. Ferrier; J. Kay; G. R. Gauld; T. Sumner

1926

Dr. H. R. Conn; D. Davidson (Chr.); J. Kay; Dr. Ferrier; T. McClement; G. Sayce

1927

D. Davidson; J. Kay (Chr.); T. McClement; W. Fingland; Dr. Conn; Dr. Ferrier

1928

J. Kay; T. McClement; D. Davidson; W. Fingland (Chr.); Dr. Conn; Dr. Ferrier

1929

J. Kay; Wm. Fingland; M. O. Inglis; Dr. Conn (Chr.); Dr. Ferrier; D. Davidson

1930

Dr. Ferrier (Chr.); M. O. Inglis; Mrs. McFadyen; Dr. Conn; J. Kay; Wm. Fingland

1931

M. O. Inglis (Chr.); Mrs. McFadyen; J. Kay; Wm. Fingland; Dr. Ferrier; Dr. Conn

1932

Mrs. McFadyen (Chr.); Dr. Ferrier; J. Kay; M. O. Inglis; Dr. Conn; Dr. Serson

1933

Dr. Conn; Dr. Ferrier (Chr.); Mrs. McFadyen; Mrs. Serson; Dr. A. Stewart; E. J. Hutchins

1934

Dr. Conn (Chr.); Dr. Ferrier; Mrs. McFadyen; Mrs. Serson; Dr. Stewart; E. J. Hutchins

1935

Dr. Stewart (Chr.); Dr. Conn; Dr. Ferrier; Mrs. McFadyen; Mrs. Serson; E. J. Hutchins

1936

E. J. Hutchins (Chr.); Mrs. Serson; Dr. Stewart; Dr. Conn; Dr. Ferrier; S. Hamblin

1937

Dr. Conn; Dr. Ferrier (Chr.); S. Hamblin; Mrs. McFadyen; Dr. Stewart; E. J. Hutchins

1938

Dr. Conn (Chr.); S. Hamblin; Mrs. McFadyen; Dr. Stewart; Dr. Ferrier; E. J. Hutchins

1939

S. Hamblin (Chr.); Dr. A. E. Stewart (V-Chr.); J. Kay (Sec-Treas.); Mrs. E. L. McFadyen; Dr. H. R. Conn; Dr. G. J. Ferrier; D. R. Suley

HIGH SCHOOL BOARD – TRUSTEES**1923**

J. Kay; G. Sayce; Dr. Woods; T. Sumner; D. Davidson (Chr.); Dr. Serson

1924

J. Kay; D. Davidson (Chr.); G. Sayce; Dr. Woods; Dr. Serson; T. Sumner; P. Pleasants

1925

J. Kay (Chr.); G. Sayce; D. Davidson; P. Pleasants; Dr. Woods; T. Sumner; Dr. Serson

1926

J. Kay; P. Pleasants (Chr.); G. Sayce; T. Sumner; Dr. Serson; Dr. Woods; D. Davidson

1927**1928****1929****1930**

Dr. Woods (Chr.); Dr. Serson; J. Kay; D. Davidson; Price; P. Pleasants; Dr. Ferrier

1931

Dr. Woods; Dr. Ingram (Chr.); P. Pleasants; J. Kay; D. Davidson; Dr. Serson; Dr. Ferrier

1932

P. Pleasants (Chr.); Dr. Serson; Dr. Ferrier; J. Kay; Dr. Snyder; Dr. Woods; Dr. Ingram

1933

Dr. Ferrier; J. Kay; Dr. Serson (Chr.); Dr. Snyder; P. Pleasants; A. Dods; Dr. Woods

1934

Dr. Ferrier; J. Kay; Dr. Serson; Dr. Snyder; P. Pleasants; A. Dods; Dr. Woods (Chr.)

1935

Dr. Ferrier; J. Kay; Dr. Ingram; Dr. Serson; Dr. Woods; P. Pleasants; A. Dods (Chr.)

1936

Dr. Ferrier; Dr. Serson; Dr. Ingram; E. Horwood; Dr. Woods; L. K. Redman; P. Pleasants (Chr.)

1937

Dr. Woods; P. Pleasants; Dr. Ingram; E. C. Horwood; Dr. Serson; Dr. Ferrier; L. Redman (Chr.)

1938

L. Redman (Chr.); W. Bailey; W. Swanton; Dr. Ferrier; Dr. Ingram; Dr. Woods; E. C. Horwood

1939

Dr. G. J. Ferrier; Dr. W. J. Woods; W. Bailey; L. K. Redman (Chr.) W. J. Swanton (V-Chr.); J. B. Kay (Sec-Treas.)

MIMICO BOARD OF EDUCATION**1940**

Dr. Ferrier (Chr.); Dr. Stewart (V-Chr.); Mr. Suley; Mr. Redman; Mrs. Pownall; Mrs. Miller; Mr. Hutchins; and High School Affairs only – Mr. Maude; Mr. B. Stevenson; Mr. W. Bailey; Mr. P. McCabe.

1941

Dr. Ferrier (Chr.); Dr. Stewart; Mrs. Miller; Mrs. Pownall; Mr. Hutchins; Mr. Suley; Mr. Redman; and High School Affairs only – Mr. Bailey; Mr. Maude; Mr. Stevenson; Mr. McCabe.

1942-1943

Dr. Stewart (Chr.); Mr. Hutchins; Dr. Ferrier; Mrs. E. Pownall; Mrs. R. Miller; Mr. Suley; Rev. Dew; and High School Affairs only – Mr. Redman; Mr. Stevenson; Mr. Bailey; Mr. McCabe.

1944

Mr. Hutchins (Chr.); Dr. Stewart; Dr. Ferrier; Mrs. Pownall; Mrs. Miller; Mr. Suley; Rev. Dew; and High School Affairs only – Mr. Redman; Mr. Stevenson; Mr. Bailey; Mr. McCabe.

1945

Rev. Dew (Chr.); Mrs. Pownall; Dr. G. Ferrier; Mrs. Miller; Dr. Stewart; Mr. Johnston; Mr. Kay; and High School Affairs only – Mr. Redman; Mr. Bailey; Mr. Wright; Mr. McCabe.

1946

Rev. T. J. Dew (Chr.); Mrs. Pownall (V-Chr.); Mr. B. Johnston; Mr. J. B. Kay; Dr. G. J. Ferrier; Mrs. L. Ainsworth; Mrs. R. Miller; and High School Affairs only – Mr. L. K. Redman; Mr. L. Blewett; Mr. W. Bailey; Mr. P. J. McCabe.

1947

Rev. T. J. Dew (Chr.); Mr. J. B. Kay (V-Chr.); Mrs. L. Ainsworth; Dr. G. J. Ferrier; Mrs. R. Miller; Mr. J. D. W. Cumberland; Mrs. M. Warren; and High School Affairs only – Mr. L. Blewett; Mr. W. Bailey; Mr. L. K. Redman; Mr. P. J. McCabe.

1948

Mrs. R. Miller (Chr.); Mr. J. B. Kay (V-Chr.); Mrs. L. Ainsworth; Rev. T. J. Dew; Dr. G. Ferrier; Mrs. M. Warren; Mr. J. D. W. Cumberland; and High School Affairs only – Mr. W. Bailey; Mr. L. K. Redman; Mr. L. Blewett; Mrs. C. Dunn.

1949

Mrs. R. Miller (Chr.); Mr. J. D. W. Cumberland (V-Chr.); Mrs. L. Ainsworth; Rev. T. J. Dew; Dr. H. N. Elliott; Mrs. E. Pownall; Mr. G. P. Wright; and High School Affairs only – Mr. W. Bailey; Mr. L. Blewett; Mrs. C. Dunn; Mr. L. K. Redman.

1950

Mrs. R. Miller; Mr. G. Wright; Mrs. L. Ainsworth; Rev. T. Dew; Dr. H. Elliott; Mr. J. D. W. Cumberland (Chr.); Mrs. E. Pownall (V-Chr.); and High School Affairs only – Mr. L. Blewett; Mrs. C. Dunn; Mr. W. Bailey.

DIRECTORY LAKESHORE DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

1951

D. R. Russell (Chr.); W. Davis, G. Kusiar, A. Morrison – New Toronto; Dr. A. E. Noble (V-Chr.); Mrs. M. Evans, Mrs. K. Lewis, Dr. R. T. Simpson – Long Branch; J. D. W. Cumberland, Rev. T. J. Dew, Mrs. R. Miller, Mrs. E. Pownall, G. P. Wright – Mimico; Dodds – Sep. Sch. App.; J. W. T. Rolston – County App.; E. J. Hutchins – Bus. Adm.; W. T. Shaw – Sec. Treas.; A. G. Gillespie – Supt. Public Schools.

1952

A. Morrison (V-Chr.); W. Davis, E. A. Jarvis, G. Kusiar – New Toronto; Mrs. A. Crewson, Mrs. M. Evans, G. Metcalfe, G. Penhale – Long Branch; J. D. W. Cumberland (Chr.); Rev. T. J. Dew, Mrs. R. Miller, Mrs. E. Pownall, G. P. Wright – Mimico; J. B. Marshman – Sep. Sch. App.; J. W. F. Rolston – County App.; E. J. Hutchins – Bus. Adm.; W. T. Shaw – Sec. Treas.; A. G. Gillespie – Supt. of Public Schools.

1953

A. Morrison (Chr.); W. Davis, K. F. Hartman, G. Kusiar – New Toronto; G. Metcalfe (V-Chr.); P. M. Conaghan, Mrs. A. Crewson, G. A. Penhale – Long Branch; Rev. T. J. Dew, G. Dutton, Mrs. K. Harvey, G. W. Hastings, Mrs. R. Miller, J. C. Van Esterick (replaced Mrs. Harvey) – Mimico; L. Blewett – County App.; E. J. Hutchins – Bus. Adm.; W. T. Shaw – Sec. Treas.; A. G. Gillespie – Supt. of Public Schools.

1954

W. Davis, K. F. Hartman, G. Kusiar, A. Morrison – New Toronto; G. Metcalfe (Chr.); Mrs. A. Crewson, G. A. Penhale – Long Branch; Mrs. R. Miller (V-Chr.); Rev. T. J. Dew, G. Dutton, G. W. Hastings, J. C. Van Esterik – Mimico; F. Honan – Sep. Sch. App.; E. J. Hutchins – Bus. Adm.; W. T. Shaw – Sec. Treas.; A. G. Gillespie – Supt. Public Schools.

1955

G. Kusiar (V-Chr.); W. Davis, H. W. Jarrett, G. Kusiar, A. Morrison – New Toronto; Mrs. A. Crewson, A. Langley, G. Metcalfe, G. A. Penhale – Long Branch; J. C. Van Esterik (Chr.); Wm. B. Byers, Dr. H. N. Elliott, W. E. Elliott, Mrs. S. Harte – Mimico; F. Honan – Sep. Sch. App.; E. J. Hutchins – Bus. Admin.; W. T. Shaw – Sec. Treas.; A. G. Gillespie – Supt. of Public Schools.

1956

W. Davis, C. Farrow, K. F. Hartman, A. Morrison — New Toronto; G. A. Penhale (V-Chr.), Mrs. A. Crewson, A. Langley, Rev. A. E. Rawlinson — Long Branch; J. C. Van Esterik (Chr.), W. B. Byers, Dr. H. N. Elliott, W. E. Elliott, Mrs. S. Harte — Mimico; E. J. Hutchins — Bus. Admin.; W. T. Shaw — Sec.-Treas.; A. G. Gillespie — Supt. of Public Schools and Bus. Director.

1957

K. F. Hartman (Chr.), C. Farrow, A. Morrison, S. E. Neill — New Toronto; C. F. Hons, A. Langley, T. Reid — Long Branch; W. B. Byers (V-Chr.), Mrs. S. Harte, J. C. Mason, Mrs. N. Pownall, J. C. Van Esterik (Metro. Rep.) — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Sep. Sch. App.; J. F. Tummon — Asst. Bus. Admin.; W. T. Shaw — Bus. Admin.; A. G. Gillespie — Bus. Director & Supt. Public Schools.

1958

C. Farrow, K. F. Hartman, A. Morrison, S. E. Neill — New Toronto; C. F. Hons (V-Chr.), Mrs. A. Crewson, A. Langley, D. T. Reid — Long Branch; W. B. Byers (Chr.), Mrs. S. Harte, J. C. Mason, Mrs. N. Pownall, J. C. Van Esterik (Metro. Rep.) — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Sep. Sch. App.; K. C. Pirrier — Supt. Bldgs.; J. F. Tummon — Assist. Bus. Admin.; W. T. Shaw — Bus. Admin.; A. G. Gillespie — Bus. Director and Supt. of Public Schools.

1959

W. C. Farrow (V-Chr. until Mar. 24, then Chr.), K. F. Hartman, A. Morrison, S. E. Neill — New Toronto; D. T. Reid (Chr. — resigned Mar. 24), M. Breen (V-Chr. as of Mar. 24), Mrs. A. Crewson, C. F. Hons, A. Langley — Long Branch; W. B. Byers, Mrs. S. Harte, Mrs. N. Pownall, J. C. Van Esterik (Metro. Rep.) — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Sep. Sch. App.; W. J. B. Keith — Supt. of Bldgs.; J. F. Tummon — Assist. Bus. Admin.; W. T. Shaw — Bus. Admin. & Sec.; A. G. Gillespie — Bus. Director & Supt. Public Schools.

1960

W. C. Farrow (Chr. & Metro. Rep.), K. F. Hartman, A. Morrison, S. E. Neill — New Toronto; C. F. Hons (V-Chr.), M. Breen, Mrs. A. Crewson, A. Langley — Long Branch; W. B. Byers, Mrs. S. Harte, Mrs. N. Pownall, J. C. Van Esterik — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Metro. Sep. Scho. App.; W. J. B. Keith — Supt. of Bldgs.; J. F. Tummon — Bus. Admin.; A. G. Gillespie — Bus. Director & Supt. Public Schools.

1961

W. C. Farrow (Met. Rep.), J. J. Fraser, A. H. Morrison — New Toronto; C. F. Hons (Chr.), H. C. Adams, Mrs. A. G. Crewson, A. Langley — Long Branch; Mrs. N. Pownall (V-Chr.), W. B. Byers, Mrs. S. Harte, K. F. Hartman, J. Lancaster — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Met. Sep. Sch. App.; W. J. B. Keith — Supt. of Bldgs.; J. F. Tummon — Bus. Admin.; A. G. Gillespie — Bus. Director & Supt. of Public Schools.

1962

A. H. Morrison (V-Chr.), W. C. Farrow, J. J. Fraser, K. F. Hartman — New Toronto; H. C. Adams, Mrs. A. G. Crewson, C. F. Hons, A. Langley — Long Branch; Mrs. N. Pownall (Chr.), W. B. Byers, Mrs. S. Harte, J. Lancaster — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Met. Sep. Sch. App.; W. J. B. Keith — Supt. of Bldgs.; J. F. Tummon — Bus. Admin.; A. G. Gillespie — Bus. Director & Supt. Public Schools.

1963

A. H. Morrison (Chr.), W. C. Farrow, J. J. Fraser, H. Trickett — New Toronto; Mrs. A. G. Crewson (V-Chr.), C. F. Hons, A. Langley, H. R. Lucas — Long Branch; Mrs. S. Harte, J. Lancaster, Mrs. N. Pownall, Mrs. P. W. Tennant — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Met. Sep. Sch. App.; W. J. B. Keith — Supt. of Bldgs.; J. F. Tummon — Bus. Admin.; A. G. Gillespie — Bus. Director & Supt. of Public Schools.

1964

W. C. Farrow, J. J. Fraser, A. H. Morrison, H. Trickett — New Toronto; H. R. Lucas (V-Chr.), Mrs. A. G. Crewson, C. F. Hons, A. Langley — Long Branch; J. Lancaster (Chr.), Mrs. S. Harte, Mrs. N. Pownall, Mrs. P. W. Tennant — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Met. Sep. Sch. App.; W. J. B. Keith — Supt. Bldgs.; J. F. Tummon — Bus. Admin.; A. G. Gillespie — Bus. Director & Supt. of Public Schools.

1965

W. C. Farrow, J. J. Fraser (V-Chr.), A. H. Morrison, H. Trickett — New Toronto; Mrs. A. G. Crewson, M.A., K. L. Ball, A. Langley, H. R. Lucas, B.A.Sc., P. Eng (Chr.) — Long Branch; Mrs. S. Harte, J. Lancaster, Mrs. N. Pownall, B.Sc.N., Mrs. P. W. Tennant — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Metro Separate School Board appointee; A. G. Gillespie, B.A., B.Paed. — Business Director and Superintendent of Public Schools; J. F. Tummon — Business Administrator; W. J. B. Keith — Supt. Bldg.

1966

W. C. Farrow, J. J. Fraser (Chr.), A. H. Morrison, H. Trickett — New Toronto; K. L. Ball, Mrs. A. G. Crewson, M.A., A. Langley, H. R. Lucas, P. Eng — Long Branch; Mrs. S. Harte, J. Lancaster, Mrs. N. Pownall, B.Sc.N., Mrs. P. W. Tennant (V-Chr.) — Mimico; Mrs. M. Hennessey — Metro Separate School Board appointee; A. G. Gillespie, B.A., B.Paed. — Business Director and Superintendent of Public Schools; J. F. Tummon — Business Administrator; W. J. B. Keith — Superintendent of Buildings.

SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

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A few facts pertaining to St. Leo's School and Mimico Separate School Board could be of interest:

That it became necessary to make the following additions to the school -

- 2 extra rooms were opened in 1952
- 4 extra rooms were opened in 1956
- 6 extra rooms were opened in 1960
- 6 extra rooms were opened in 1964
- 1 Library Classroom was opened in 1966

This made a total of 25 classrooms at present, accommodating approximately 800 pupils, and increasing the teaching staff from the original four to the present 27.

The first Separate School Board in Mimico was elected in 1926. It was comprised of:

- Dr. W. J. Woods, Chairman
- Rev. Geo. Doherty
- Mr. T. Renton
- Mr. C. M. Coe
- Mr. J. Witmer
- Mr. L. J. Stock, Acting Secretary-Treasurer

The present Board 40 years later, elected in 1964, is comprised of:

- Mr. Percy Faulkner, Chairman
- Rev. Dr. L. A. Markle
- Mrs. J. Drexler
- Mr. A. Burnett
- Mr. J. Haunts
- Mr. D. Ledbury
- Mr. F. Honan
- Mr. J. Pattison
- Mrs. H. Zurawski, Secretary-Treasurer

It is with many pleasant memories that we recall the names of now deceased former members of the Board:

- Rev. Father Geo. Doherty
- Dr. W. J. Woods
- Mr. C. M. Coe
- Mr. J. J. Coyne
- Mr. A. Law
- Mr. T. Renton
- Mr. P. McGlynn
- Mr. P. Parteno
- Mr. L. J. McGuinness

Also the members and former members who have given a considerable length of service to the duties of Trustee:

- Rev. Dr. L. A. Markle — 20 years
- Mr. T. Renton — 13 years
- Mr. E. Pellettier — 20 years
- Mr. P. Faulkner — 22 years

MIMICO LIBRARY BOARDS

By Thomas W. Rattle, Retired Secretary

The minutes of February 1935 reveal that Mr. E. J. Everett was appointed chairman for the fourteenth year. January 1948 he was in his 86th year.

If the minutes of the Library Board were available prior to the year 1935 they would most likely reveal that the following were members prior to that year:

Price Green, E. J. Everett, A. D. Norris, William J. Swanton, Sidney H. Crighton, George Coombs, Zoe Free, P. J. McCabe, Miss Josephine Woods and J. H. Mulholland. A. D. Norris believes that Price Green was a member from the beginning of operations of the Library.

The minutes of February 12, 1946 contain mention of the resignation of Mr. E. H. Glenn as Secretary-Treasurer. Thomas W. Rattle was authorized to take over his duties and continued until March 31, 1965.

On May 2nd, 1949 E. J. Everett resigned from the chairmanship and Board and George H. Owen took his place. Miss Mary MacIntyre became Chairlady on November 6, 1951 and continued until December 1, 1953. On January 5, 1954 Maurice Cooke became Chairman and has continued until the present.

The minutes 1935 to 1965 contain mention of the following members:

Mr. E. J. Everett	1935 to 1949
Mr. William J. Swanton	1935 to 1947
Mr. Sidney H. Crighton	1935 to 1948
Mrs. Zoe Free	1935 to 1943
Miss Josephine Woods	1935 to 1941
Mr. J. J. Mulholland	1935 to 1944
Mr. A. D. Norris	1935, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1949-1954
Mr. George Coombs	1935 to 1937, 1947 to 1950
Mr. Douglas Coombs	1952 to 1965
Mrs. Cyril Telfer	1937 to 1948
Mr. Chester Ferrier	1937 to 1945
Mr. Amos H. Waites	1936 to 1940, 1943 to 1945
Miss Mary MacIntyre	1942 to 1965
Miss Murial Code	1944 to 1965
Mr. George H. Owen	1948 to 1951, 1955 to 1956
Mrs. D. J. O'Donoghue	1945 to 1958
Mr. Kenneth Thorburn	1946 to 1948
Mr. Thomas Hickman	1949 to 1965
Mr. Harvey Currell	1950 to 1953
Mr. Robert McClintock	1947 to 1948, 1963 to 1965
Rev. J. D. Patterson	1954 to 1959
Mr. John D. W. Cumberland	1953 to 1954
Mr. James Grosset	1950 to 1965
Mr. Maurice Cooke	1948 to 1965
Mr. James Horwood	1961 to 1964
Mr. Charles E. Burns	1959 to 1965
Mr. Rod Heather	1959 to 1960

Mr. William A. Edwards	1957 to 1960
Mr. Hugh M. Griggs	1961 to 1963
Mrs. Kenneth Inglis	1964 to 1965

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Members of the Library staff between 1915-1965 Adult Department: Miss May Street, Miss Stock, Mrs. J. Lee, Miss Nellie Burgess, Miss Ada Coulton (Mrs. E. E. French), Mrs. Phyllis Wood, B.A., B.L.S., Mrs. Marguerite Baldwin, B.A., B.L.S.

Children's Department: Mrs. J. Tradgett, Miss Dorothy Crighton (Mrs. S. Evans) B.A., Mrs. H. Lepni, Mrs. A. Stewart and Mrs. O. Browning, B.S., B.L.S. Caretaker: Fred Danter from 1921-1961.

MIMICO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Ever since 1923 many Mimico citizens, Members of the Mimico Horticultural Society have accomplished a great deal in encouraging beautification of the Town of Mimico.

For this the Municipality is ever grateful.

Past Presidents and the years they have served are as follows:

Martin A. Collett	1923-1927	A. E. Lamb	1949-1950
W. E. Savage	1928-1929	Ernest Jones	1951-1953
Thos. Roberts	1930-1932	T. E. Hickman	1954-1957
E. J. A. Kennedy	1933-1934	J. Malcolmson	1958-1959
A. W. Gray	1935-1936	G. Debling	1960-1961
Rev. Thos. J. Dew	1937-1944	John W. Ould	1962-1963
E. W. Skirrow	1945-1948	Ernest Jones	1963-1964
		Reg. Meyers	1965-1966



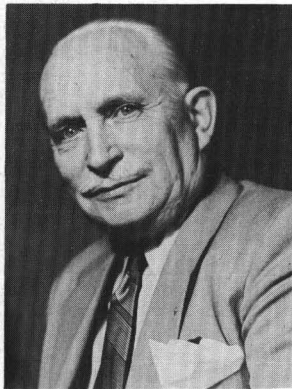
From one class at Wesley United — 1943 has come three doctors and seven engineers.

Back Row: Bruce Kirby, Engineers Frank Jannaway, Lloyd McIntyre, Frank Eland and Donald Jannaway; Dr. Fred Goad, Alvin Doyle, William French. Middle Row: Kenneth Chamberlain, Morris Humphries, Hugh Griggs (class leader), Dr. Alan Conn, Engineers Ralph McIntyre and Robert McCombe, Russell Newton.

Front Row: Robert Rush, Engineer Clifford Eland, Dr. George Buckley, Stafford McKee.

MIMICO RECREATION COMMISSION

by Ronald H. Standen



**Clarence M. Coe,
Second Chairman
of Mimico Recreation
Commission – 1947**

It was in 1946 that the idea of a Recreation Program for Mimico young citizens was first developed by a group of keenly interested townspeople. Many individual groups were already operating recreational activities, but it was felt that co-ordination and co-operation of these groups, could and would make for an overall operation that would embrace more participants and ultimately more activities.

The first get-together in the summer of that year, culminated in a September meeting when sixty-three representatives from schools, churches, YW and YMCA, Boys' Club, Needlework Groups, Stamp collectors, and many others, including Sports, met to discuss the idea of an over-all Recreation Organization. Under chairmanship of Reeve Hugh Griggs who was the prime mover, a Recreation Council and Board of Directors were set up.

Frequent subsequent meetings embracing representatives of the various groups and many volunteer workers, furthered the idea.

The Ontario Department of Education, through the Community Programs Division, were called in for guidance, and the development along the lines outlined by the department took shape.

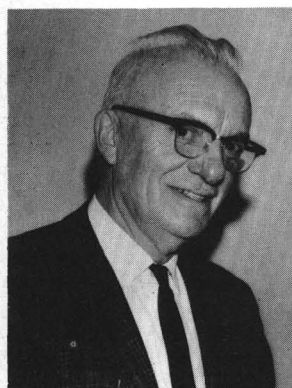
It was in 1947 that the first operating of summer playground program at Memorial Park and George R. Gauld School grounds got under way, with Harry Kerrison as supervisor. The vacation School idea for the Churches was also proceeded with.

During the winter months much activity in Girls' Needlecraft, Boys' Manual Training, Police Boys' Club, Mrs. Lily Ainsworth's Boys' Club, YMCA groups and skating and hockey, as well as other activities were endorsed and supported.

In 1948, with Bill Korz and Winnie Easton on the playgrounds, the venture began to pay off. A big field day on the High School grounds, a carnival and street dance at Memorial Park and a Tag Day, all contributed to the growing venture.

Again in 1949, with J. Gillevette and Jack Neilson in charge, the program was repeated and so successfully that a full time, year round director was deemed necessary. Again the Community Programmes Branch came into the picture, and a director was sought. It was in September of this year that the Rotary Youth Centre, established by the Mimico-New Toronto Rotary Club, was completed and opened.

In May of 1950, Mr. Robert Secord was engaged as Director of Recreation. The Rotary Youth Centre became the focus for a diversified program, and boys and girls and community groups had a place to meet and activate. Coronation Park was completed, and Memorial Park equipped, and Mr. Secord was able to introduce his comprehensive program. Municipal recreation in Mimico had arrived.



**Ronald Standen, Mimico
Recreation Director.
1951-66.**

Town Council gave its blessing to the project by passing the necessary by-law setting up a recreation commission under the Education Act in February of 1951. Under this initial by-law the Commission has since operated.



Mimico Parks and Recreation Commission, 1966

Standing left to right: Mr. Mark Rumball; Mr. Norman Gair; Mr. Ronald H. Standen (Director); Mr. Roy N. Jones; Mr. Wilbert Ellis.

Seated left to right: Mrs. Garfield Spence (Treasurer); Mr. Archibald D. Norris (Chairman); Mr. Thomas G. Wells (Vice-Chairman); Mr. Garfield Spence. (not shown are Councillors Cecil Johnson and Gordon Rush.)

Since then there have been various services added to Mimicoans. Girls came in for gymnastics and physical fitness, junior crafts were consolidated and enlarged, adult crafts were introduced, Boys' gymnastics and gym sports developed, a senior citizens club was formed, ballet and tap dancing and majorettes became an activity, junior drama was started, ladies physical fitness groups were commenced and Teen Town and Keen Teens flourished.

Playground activities became increasingly diversified, and many other activities came under the auspices of the Recreation Commission. Adult euchres, Coin Club, Scottish dancers, stamp club, Horticultural Society, sports groups, to mention a few, have been aided in their community efforts.

In 1958 the Town Council saw fit to combine Parks with Recreation, and the Commission became known as the Parks and Recreation Commission, with maintenance, improvement and conduct of parks facilities and programmes coming under its jurisdiction. Lighting at Coronation Park for night softball became a fact, and planting of trees became part of the program.

ARTIFICIAL ICE RINK

In 1960, a plebiscite gave the town the go-ahead for an Artificial Rink. This was opened in 1962 and is filling a big role in the winter activities.

Interesting it is to note the names of the good people of Mimico who have had a hand, in the starting, and in the ensuing years from 1946 to the present. Space permits mentioning too few, but many, many volunteers did and still do, give of their time, interest and skills. Their name is legion. Our thanks indeed to all who put shoulders to the wheel and kept it moving.

In the sequence of the Official Committees — as records show — in all fifty-four citizens have served on the Recreation Commission over the past twenty years. Then, add the many who attended organizational, promotional and program committees and meetings, and those who volunteered services and other support, and Mimico Recreation was and is a truly community effort.

OFFICIALS 1946-1966

In addition to all those volunteers and representatives, the following citizens acted in official capacity in the years designated:

- 1946-47 Founding Committee — Hugh Griggs, Clarence Coo, Richard Slee, E. J. Hutchins, William Monery, J. Pearson, J. M. Lawlor, A. Stinson, A. McMullen, J. A. Brown, R. LeRoux, Rev. H. Stainton, A. E. Lamb, W. Brown, J. Cumberland, Mrs. Lily Ainsworth, Mrs. Sarah Harte, M. McNab, Rev. Burch, Garf Spence.
- 1948 Operating Committee: Hugh Griggs, Clarence Coo, J. M. Lawlor, Rod LeRoux, A. E. Lamb, Mrs. Ainsworth, Rev. Burch, Garf Spence, S. Bull, W. Goodwin, W. Leslie, Geo. Duddin.
- 1949 Hugh Griggs, C. Coo, R. LeRoux, A. E. Lamb, Mrs. Ainsworth, M. Moher, J. M. Lawlor.
- 1950 C. Coo, J. M. Lawlor, R. LeRoux, Mrs. Ainsworth, Rev. Burch, G. Spence, Mrs. G. Spence, H. Smith, D. Foreman.
- 1951 Recreation Commission: J. M. Lawlor, R. LeRoux, Mrs. Ainsworth, G. Spence, Mrs. Spence, H. Smith, D. Foreman, S. Tillet.
- 1952 J. A. Brown, R. LeRoux, Mrs. Ainsworth, G. Spence, Mrs. Spence, J. L. Maude, W. Todd, I. Donaldson.
- 1953 Hugh Griggs, R. LeRoux, Mrs. Ainsworth, G. Spence, Mrs. Spence, J. Lee, Mrs. D. C. Owen, W. Tyner.
- 1954 Hugh Griggs, R. LeRoux, Mrs. Ainsworth, Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Owen, William Tyner.
- 1955 Hugh Griggs, Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Owen, W. Tyner, F. Pownall, Mrs. H. Rath, Norman Green, A. D. Norris, Bruce Murchison.
- 1956 Mrs. Ivy Rath, Mrs. Hazel Spence, Mrs. Owen, W. Tyner, F. Pownall, N. Green, A. D. Norris, B. Murchison.
- 1957 Hugh Griggs, Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Rath, W. Tyner, F. Pownall, N. Green, A. D. Norris, B. Murchison.
- 1958 W. Tyner, Mrs. Spence, F. Pownall, Mrs. Rath, N. Green, A. D. Norris, B. Murchison.

- 1959 W. Tyner, Mrs. Spence, F. Pownall, Mrs. Rath, A. D. Norris, C. N. Johnson, A. Allbons
 1960 Mrs. Rath, Mrs. Spence, W. Tyner, F. Pownall, A. D. Norris, C. N. Johnson, A. Allbons.
 1961 Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Rath, W. Tyner, F. Pownall, A. D. Norris, C. N. Johnson, A. Allbons, Mrs. L. Goodwin.
 1962 A. D. Norris, Mrs. Spence, W. Tyner, F. Pownall, Mrs. Rath, C. N. Johnson, A. Allbons, Mrs. Goodwin (R. N. Jones, Norman Gair, Wilfred Ellis added as Rink Board)
 1963 A. D. Norris, Mrs. Spence, C. N. Johnson, Mrs. Goodwin, R. N. Jones, N. Gair, W. Ellis, T. G. Wells, M. Rumball.
 1964 A. D. Norris, Mrs. Spence, Mr. Spence, C. N. Johnson, Mrs. Goodwin, R. N. Jones, N. Gair, W. Ellis, T. G. Wells, M. Rumball.
 1965 A. D. Norris, Hazel Spence, Garf Spence, C. N. Johnson, G. Rush, R. N. Jones, N. Gair, W. Ellis, T. G. Wells, M. Rumball.
 1966 Continuing the same as 1965.

Chairmen:

Hugh Griggs, 1946-1949-1953-1954
 C. Coe, 1947
 J. M. Lawlor, 1951
 R. LeRoux, 1948
 G. Spence, 1950
 J. L. Maude, 1952
 W. Tyner, 1955-1956
 Mrs. Ivy Rath, 1957-58-59-60-61
 A. D. Norris, 1962-63,64,65,1966

Secretaries:

Mrs. Ruth Sims, 1946-47-48
 Mrs. Courtney, 1949
 Norma McKinnon, 1950
 Robert Secord, 1950
 R. H. Standen, 1951-1966

Treasurers:

E. J. Hutchins, 1946-1950
 Mrs. G. Spence 1950-1966



MIMICO LACROSSE CLUB, DOMINION CHAMPIONS 1932 – MANN CUP WINNERS
 Back Row: R. S. English, Secretary; W. Gair, President; Tommy Scott, Sandy Riding, J. A. McDonald, Coach; A. Harris, Treasurer. Middle Row: R. Kettlewell, W. D. McCallum, K. Kingdon, Bill Brown, M. Murphy, J. Wilde, H. Houghton, Scotty Taylor, J. Campkin. First Row: Ed. McLean, W. Carruthers, Joe Murphy, Tooke Harrison, Duke Harrison, Lorne Brydson, Norman Gair, Geo. Good.

HYDRO IN MIMICO

The Municipality of Mimico is one of the first in Ontario to be served by electric power.

It first obtained power from the Erindale Power Company Limited but later switched to the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission.

The Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission came into being on May 14, 1906, by act of Legislature.

The Act provided for the appointment by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, of a commission consisting of three persons, two of whom might be members of the executive council, such commission to be a body corporate, under the name of The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario.

This bill, introduced into the House by Adam Beck, was a personal triumph for the hard-hitting member from London.

The first commission was appointed by the Whitney Government on June 7, 1906. To this first commission was named the Honourable Adam Beck as chairman, and the Honourable J. S. Hendrie and Cecil B. Smith as commissioners. Adam Beck continued as chairman until his death.

The first municipality to receive power from Ontario Hydro on a cost contract basis was Berlin, now Kitchener. This historic event occurred on September 29, 1910.

Mimico became a member of the Hydro family of municipalities in 1911 with the signing for 50 horsepower for the street lighting and domestic needs of the village.

Prior to that time Hon. Adam Beck, who was then chairman of The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, visited Mimico on several occasions to address citizens and ratepayers on the question of Hydro.

On September 16, 1911 a vote of the ratepayers was taken on the question of obtaining power from the commission. The result was a 99-40 vote in favour of Hydro. On the by-law to raise the necessary funds to commence the construction work, 90 voted in favour and 45 against.

Power was first delivered in the month of May, 1912, and the power bill rendered the municipality by the H.E.P.C. amounted to \$34.58. (June, 1966 Power Bill \$32,445.35). In 1912 there were 150 customers and in 1966 — 7,050.

The first commission in Mimico comprised Jack Harrison, mayor; Carl Hele, and Andrew Dods, clerk of the municipality.

The initial construction work in the municipality involved an expenditure of \$7,500.

It is interesting to note on March 11th, 1912 a by-law was passed by Mimico Village Council. It was introduced by councillor Caesar Coxhead, who later served as a commissioner for more



**Carroll C. Hele,
First Hydro Commissioner
— 1911.**

than 25 years. The by-law created the Hydro-Electric Power Commission for Mimico and stipulated that the Commission was to consist of three members with each to serve three years after expiration of the first term. One Commissioner was to retire each year.

The Hydro Commission served the municipality until 1918 when it was replaced by Public Utilities Commission under authority of by-law No. 223.

Its duties were also expanded to include the distribution of water.

Some of the history of both the Hydro and Public Utilities Commission can be realised by review of a number of items picked from a publication under the name of Electrical News between the years 1891 and 1900:

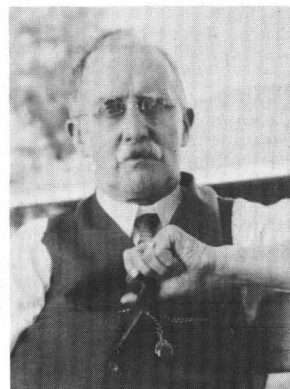
A Bill has passed the Legislature enlarging the powers of the Mimico Electric Railway and Light Company — *May, 1891*

The Electric railway between Mimico and Parkdale is being pushed rapidly. The iron bridge across the Humber is nearly completed and the tracks and wires are up as far as Mimico creek. It will be running before long. — *September 1892*

Sometime ago, the Township of Etobicoke passed a by-law granting a bonus of \$20,000 to aid the construction of a Toronto and Mimico Electric railway. The by-law under which the bonus was granted provided for the completion of the road by the 31st of October 1891. The road was not completed by that date, consequently the object of the by-law was lost by default. It is said however, that the promoters of the railway are rather pleased than otherwise at the way things turned out as an appeal had been taken from the decision of the court sustaining the by-law, by parties opposed to the payment of the bonus. Under present circumstances the company would escape the cost incident to the appeal amounting to \$759 and will shortly submit the by-law again expecting to succeed in having it passed. — *December 1892*

The City Council of Toronto is seeking legislation from the Ontario Government to compel the Toronto Street Railway Company to place vestibules on their cars. The council would also ask power from the Legislature to enforce the terms of the franchise granted by the County of York to the Toronto and Mimico Electric Railway. This road is now within the city limits, and a dispute has arisen between the city engineer and the company regarding the maintenance of the roadway between and at either side of the track. There is also involved the question of the rights of the city council to representation on the Board of Directors of the company.
— *March, 1894*

It is reported to be the intention of the Toronto Railway Company to extend their Mimico Line to Burlington, and there make connection with a branch of the Hamilton Radial Electric Railway, thus providing through electric transit between Toronto and Hamilton. It is said to be the intention to equip the line for passengers and freight traffic, and the case of the former, to give a half-hour service with a speed of 20 miles an hour, at about half



Herbert Coulton, a member of the PUC for many years.



Albert Bowles served from 1921 - 1965.

the price charged by the T.T.R. The opinion expressed in some quarters of the C.P.R. Company is at the back of this project, with the object of obtaining, free of charge, right-of-way between Hamilton and Toronto. — *June, 1894*

The Toronto Railway Company expresses its intention to extend their Mimico Line westward to Oakville, and possibly through to Hamilton. Residents along the route of the proposed extension are rated for a meeting to ascertain what amount of financial support could be secured for the project. — *July, 1894*

The Hamilton Radial Electric Railway Company will make application to the Ontario Legislature for an Act extending the time for the completion of its road and authorize the extension of one of its branches from Mimico to the City of Toronto and another from Brantford to Woodstock. — *February, 1896*

It is understood that the Mimico Electric Railway has decided to extend its railway to the Long Branch Ranges, work to be commenced in the new year. — *December, 1898*

The Toronto Railway Company will ask the York County Council for the right to extend from Mimico and Lakeshore Road to the Lorne Park Rifle Butts. The Company proposes asking Peel County for the right to extend to Oakville. — *June 1900*

Herbert Bush, who served on the Commission almost continuously from 1911 until his retirement in 1960 recalls a number of interesting facts:

Dollar-way, a narrow piece of cement roadway from Sunnyside, Toronto terminating at Symons Street, Mimico was completed in 1910.

The first Provincial highway in Canada was completed in 1918 just west of Burlington Street in Mimico. The first intercity highway in America between Hamilton and Toronto, built on a piece-meal basis had its connecting link in Mimico where a celebration was held. Before Mimico changed in 1918 from a Hydro to a Public Utilities Commission, Ontario Hydro changed from 60 to 25 cycles and back again to 60 cycles in 1950.

Among those who served on the Commission over the years were: Andrew Dods, Carl Hele, Caesar Coxhead, Herbert Coulton, John J. Harrison, James Edmond, John J. Doughty, Amos H. Waites, W. A. Edwards, Robert Waites, A. D. Norris, Alex Halliwell, Hedley Harrison, Herbert Bush and Hugh Griggs.

CHARLIE

Charlie — the horse with hydro sense. Herbert Bush for 43 years an employee of Mimico Public Utilities Commission, delights in recalling some of his experiences —one intelligent horse he stoutly maintains had hydro sense.

"Charlie contributed a lot of work and knew his job. He pulled a wagon and knew when to stop. He could be harnessed by Harry Humphries at the stable on Burlington Road and sent alone to Portland and Royal York Road where I met him. If I was delayed



William Shirley, 1926-1951 — Water Works.



Oscar Lawson, retired Waterworks Superintendent. Served from 1925 - 1960.

in a home too long at quitting time, he would leave and go to the stable on his own. He was a union horse.

"I used him when erecting 400 lb. transformers. He would pull them up on a rope attached to the top of the pole and remain steady while I fastened the transformer. We used to string wire with him also and he seemed to know about the right tension and when to hold still while I fastened the wire.

"Charlie also knew how to relax. He would lie down when he got too tired and we had to unharness him to get him up.

"One of the most unusual incidents I recall happened when the whistles blew on November 11, 1918 signalling the end of World War 1.

"I headed Charlie to the barns at full gallop but part of the harness broke and he fell into a narrow ditch on Newcastle Street landing on his back with his four legs in the air.

"With the help of the men from Jimmy Free's lumber yard we eventually got him out and sent him to the stable while we left to go to the celebrations at the Toronto City Hall.

"The next morning he looked like a grey horse covered with about two inches of mud. It must have taken us a week to get him cleaned up.

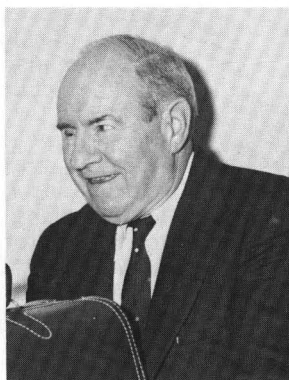
"Charlie did not finish up as a lineman because trucks took over his duties. Rather than have him hitched to a scrap wagon to end his days he was humanly dispatched to the Horse Heaven, which he so richly deserved."



**Herbet Bush, a PUC
Employee from 1912-
1960, Commissioner
1962-1966.**



**Bruce Michie
Secretary-Business
Manager, 1946-66**



**James Edmond,
Commissioner for 28
years.**

NAMES AND PEOPLE

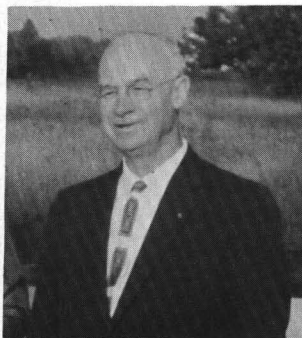


Chester Ferrier
1896 - 1949



John Bruce Kay

Born in Mimico in 1897, served as Secretary-Treasurer of Public and High School Boards and of Board of Education from 1922 to 1945 and then as a member of the Board of Education from 1945-48.



George Gauld,
Town Solicitor for
40 years.

We have noted in earlier pages how Mimico's name was applied in early times to an area far beyond the limits of the present town.

This continued in some cases until comparatively recent years.

Two widely-known institutions which became identified with our town's name for many years although they were situated outside its actual boundaries are the Ontario Hospital and Victoria Industrial School.

Victoria Industrial School established in the late years of the 19th century, was one of the first institutions in Ontario dedicated to the education and guidance, rather than just the punishment, of boys who got into trouble with the law. The school operated until 1936.

Boys were committed to the school by the courts and here many of them received the first kindly but firm guidance that many had ever known. They were taught trades by expert craftsmen and a very high proportion of them had cause in later years to thank the school staff for the fact that they had become useful and happy citizens.

Dr. Gordon J. Ferrier, one of Mimico's beloved and respected physicians recalled for this history how closely the personnel of both the Ontario Hospital and Victoria Industrial School identified themselves with the life of Mimico.

Dr. Ferrier's father, the late Chester Ferrier, was appointed superintendent of the industrial school in 1896, and until the time of his death in 1949 was a citizen of Mimico and was a member of Wesley Methodist and later Wesley United Church. During most of this time he was a member of the church's official board.

The boys from Victoria Industrial School used to attend Mimico churches in a body every Sunday.

George R. Gauld, deputy superintendent of the school for many years was also prominent as a member of the congregation and session of Mimico Presbyterian Church. Other members of the school staff were also members of Mimico churches and community groups and their children attended the Mimico schools.

George W. G. Gauld, son of George R. Gauld, grew up in Mimico, graduated from her schools, served as a fighter pilot in World War I, and went on to study law at Osgoode Hall. In addition to practising law in Toronto, he served for 40 years as Mimico's town solicitor. He saw Mimico grow from hamlet to police village, from police village to incorporated village, from village to town and from town to metropolitan suburb. Mimico citizens were saddened by Mr. Gauld's death in October, 1964.

A short time before his death, when asked for some of his recollections of early Mimico, Mr. G. W. G. Gauld wrote the following:

"It is my personal feeling that the story of the early days of Mimico is very largely the story of individuals, and when I think of the last 50 years in the town, I think not so much of the "common" the "creeks", the early buildings and our "Muddy York" roads

but I think of the individuals who served and gave strength to this area.

"I think of such ones as the first reeve of the village, Bob Skelton, who died in his comparatively youthful years and who was buried exactly fifty years before June 12th, 1964, the day on which his wife was recently buried. He was very active, not only as reeve but was active in community affairs even before Mimico was a village. He and Doctor Forbes Godfrey and Jim Gormely were all prominent in this part of the Township and were the trustees of old School Section Number 1, Mimico, of which Mimico was a part only — at least until around 1920.

"Dr. Godfrey was also a very outstanding figure in the town. He succeeded the Hon. St. John as the Provincial Member for West York and was later a Cabinet Minister. Until Dr. John Serson came to Mimico he was the only doctor in the area and was certainly involved in bringing into the world most of the children of this area, of the early 1900's.

"Dr. Serson was also a very prominent citizen. He was well known in the whole area, and was an outstanding surgeon much beloved and admired by most people in this part of the country. He served on school boards for many years.

"The Kay family have also played an important part in Mimico's life. John Kay was a leading figure in the town and who was a long-time member of the public school board of which he was secretary for many years. He was an original member of the high school board and subsequently sat on this board for many years.

"Jack Doughty was another one, very active and prominent for many years. He was mayor for five years which in those days was a noteworthy achievement.

"Of course, we all know of Jim Ferrie's long and valued service to the town.

"There are, of course, many others who rendered services no doubt almost as great and perhaps equally as great as those I have referred to."

Amos H. Waites was first elected as a Councillor in 1926. This was the commencement of a long period of Municipal service totalling thirty years, ten of which was served as Mayor (said to be longer than any other elected representative).

Through his efforts the Beach Club House was secured and several parks and playgrounds were provided for use of both adults and children.

MIMICO OFFICIALS

The following have served as Municipal Clerks and Treasurers and other officials of Mimico:

January	1911	Village	Clerk & Treasurer	Andrew Dods
January	1913	Village	Clerk & Treasurer	Arthur Jackson
February	1914	Village	Clerk & Treasurer	John A. Telfer
March	1922	Town	Clerk & Treasurer	Cyril J. Telfer



**Harry Foreman, Clerk
in 1920's and 1930's.**



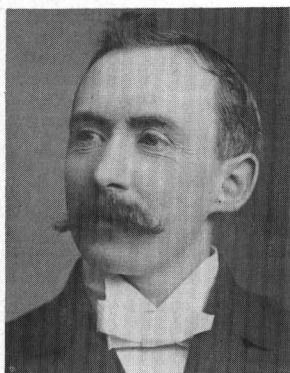
**L. James Ferrie
37 years.**



Murray K. Maccabe

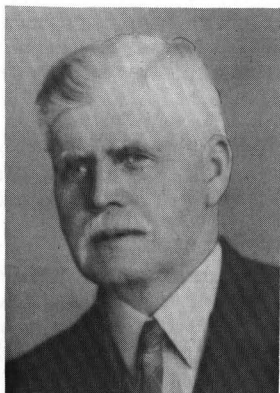


Thomas Rattle, 1932-65



James Gormlay, Mimico public school trustee on first Mimico Village Board, 1907.

December 1923	Town	Clerk & Treasurer	Harry B. Foreman
February 1933	Town	Clerk & Treasurer	L. James Ferrie
October 1960	Town	Clerk	Murray K. Maccabe
October 1960	Town	Treasurer	Thomas W. Rattle



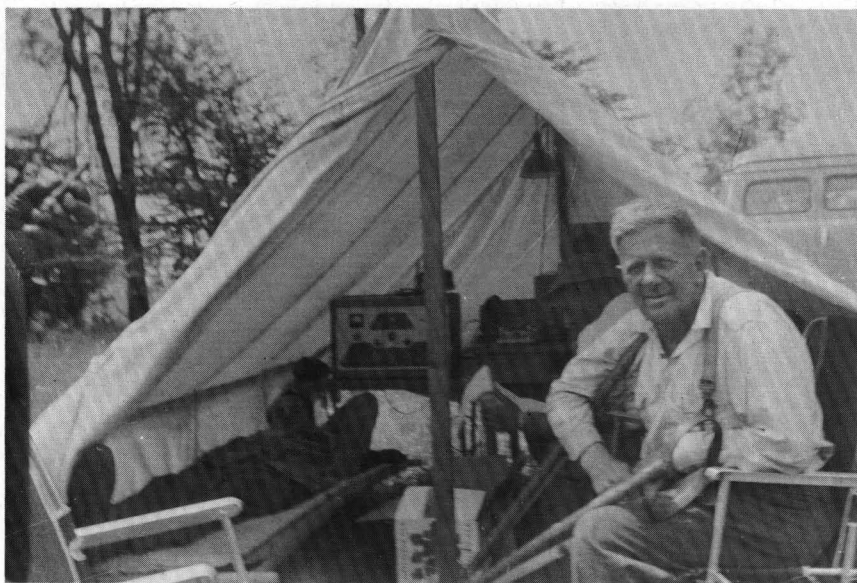
Archie Donaldson, Early Works Superintendent.



James Euctace, Works Superintendent followed Mr. Donaldson, 1942.



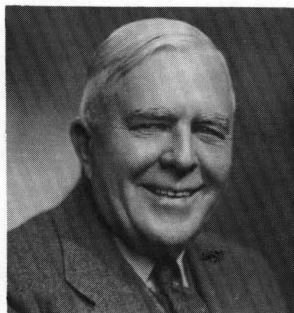
Honouring Amos H. Waites after 30 years public service, 10 years as Mayor are: Front Row: Rev. James Telford, Hugh Griggs, Dan McLaughlin, Amos H. Waites, W. A. Edwards and Rev. Louis Markle, D.D. Back Row: Edward A. Jarrett, George W. Gauld, Charles Ring, Alex Halliwell, James Edmond and Robert McClintock.



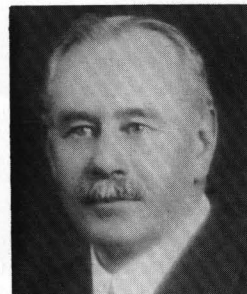
Lew Lomas, Mimico Avenue, veteran amateur radio enthusiast – stormy watchdog at Mimico Council sessions.



Dr. Warren Snyder,
Mimico M.O.H. in the
1930's.



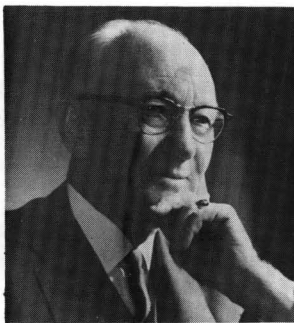
J. Vernon McAree
Famous Globe Columnist.



John Kay – 1867-1935.
served as school trustee
from 1907 to 1935.



Douglas Davidson, J.P.
Justice of the Peace in
1905, Police Magistrate
1916 to 1935. First Re-
turning Officer for
Mimico, 1911. Father of
Mrs. George G. Gauld.



W. Earle Gordon
Youth Leader.



John Kay – 1844-1908,
came to Mimico from
Scotland in 1870 and
built home where West-
point Restaurant is now
located. He swam in
Lake Ontario daily, sum-
mer and winter – so old
timers say.



MIMICO CIVIL DEFENCE – 1941-42

Left to Right, Front Row

Lawrence Bartman, Charles Bailey, Norman Johnston, Bob McClintock, Art Lant, Bob Heddon, Wm. McBride, Fred Herman, Stanley Johnson, Wilf Skirrow, Earl Mighton, —, Wm. Hurrie, Robert Hughes.

Left to Right, Second Row

Wm. Moss, Alf Chambers, Bill Hacking, —, Albert Pemberton, Len Warburton, Arthur Carr, —, Thomas Brookes, Bert Brok, Ernest Kirby, Alex McIntosh, Thomas Coates, —, Frank Pownall.

Left to Right, Third Row

—, Alf Bowles, Robert Woods, —, Len Hoidge, Bert Ireland, George Proctor, Stewart Chalmers, —, —, Herbert Moorehouse, Jimmy Kent, Andie Meek, Lou Grainger, John Robertson.

Left to Right, Fourth Row

—, Ralph Swance, —, Jack Hahn, Ernie Monery, Jack Hurley, —, Jack Barratt, —, —, Jim Thomas, Alan Waites, Hugh Griggs, Herb Eland, John Bradford, Douglas Shaw.

Left to Right, Fifth Row

Amos Waites, Alex Burns, Jack Lubbock, Bill Perry, Fred Rae, Steven Hamblin, Bert King, Percy McKenzie, Thomas Rattle, Victor Barlow, George Hunt, J. Schoones, Ray Ainsworth, H. Crooks, Robert Burns, Jimmy Burns.

MIMICO SOCCER

by James Edmond

Mimico Beach Football Club was instituted in January, 1924 and is now one of the oldest clubs operating in Canada.

The first Officers of the Club were patrons — Dr. Forbes Godfrey and Andy Dods, Tom Lowes, Dr. J. R. Serson and J. H. Doughty.

The first President was Tom Dunnet and the team secretary was Billy Derbyshire. The manager was Andy Gray. The following were members of the Committee: Jimmy Edmond, Albert Finch, Ted Derbyshire, Percy Raymond, Mike Byrne and Jack Hamilton.

The Club played its home games in Memorial Park and the first game was versus Neilson, the ice cream firm on Gladstone Avenue. The result was a draw, two goals each. The Club was in the T.D. League 2nd Division.



Mimico Football Club — 1923.

In the first year of the Club we were fortunate in having nine players of the Mimico Team: namely, Tom Herdman, Jimmy Allan, Jack Dobson, George Dicks, Harry Gordon, Bob McKee, Sidney Thompson, John Robertson, John Marshall, Tom Bowman, Jimmie Lowe, Bill Telfer.

The team joined the senior City League in 1925 and after losing the 1st game to T.T.C. went through the season without another loss in 21 games.

The Club played in the Connaught Cup Series and lost 1-0 to Montreal after losing only one goal in the early rounds. Several outstanding players were Members of the Club including: John Hutchinson, Bill Bodrug, Len and Tommy Bookes, Len Brick, Jim Ridley, Jack McKenzie and Ian Reid of the present team.

The present team contains seven men graduates from the Oakville Atom League. The oldest Club was the Ulster and Toronto Scottish.



Mimico Beach Soccer Team – 1930's



Baseball Team of Mimico – Champions 1913

Back Row: Harold Kennedy, Roy Snider, Norm Harlock, Dave Johnson, Ed Harlock, Ernie Johnson.

Front Row: Walter Harlock, Pete Johnson, Josh Lubbock (Coach), Cliff McCrae, Bruce Harlock.

Lacrosse is the oldest known game played on the continent of North America. The Norsemen brought the game to Canada over 800 years ago and taught the Canadian Indian how to play.

About 1837 the white man began playing lacrosse in Canada, and in 1867 Dr. W.G. Beers, a dentist, reorganized the game and wrote a set of standard rules. As the years passed many villages, towns and cities fostered a lacrosse team.

Lacrosse has been the major sport in our town of Mimico since before the turn of the century.

Our teams have competed in Dominion Championships as far distant as Vancouver and New Westminster. Our town has possibly received more publicity through lacrosse teams than any other way.

In the early days the game of field lacrosse was played in a field at the corner of Wesley and Portland Streets. In the year 1919 the club played its games on a field at the corner of Mimico Avenue and Lakeshore Road.

The town council with the assistance of the I.O.D.E. constructed Memorial Park on Hillside Avenue in 1923 and lacrosse was played there until the year 1936.

Box lacrosse had replaced the field game in Canada in 1931. The lacrosse club built an outdoor box on Drummond Street and the game has been played there continuously since then.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

The senior club won the Mann Cup, emblematic of the Dominion Championship in 1932 and again in 1942 when they were known as the Mimico-Brampton Combines. In 1943 and 1947 they were Eastern Canada Champions.

The junior club won the Minto Cup, emblematic of the Dominion Championship in 1938 and 1951. In 1941 and 1946 they were Eastern Canada Champions.

The minor teams won their share of provincial championships also.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF MIMICO LACROSSE CLUBS:

Jack Harrison 1919-1922; Charles King 1928; Bill Gair 1929-1932.

Fred Sandford, Dr. J.W. Ingram, Carl Schindler, Bill Dedrick, Bill Shaw, Jack Lubbock and Sam Tillett have served as presidents.

OFFICIALS WHO SERVED ON PROVINCIAL AND DOMINION LACROSSE BODIES:

Ontario Lacrosse Association - Jack McDonald, president, 1940-1
 Fred Sandford, president 1947-8
 Charles Rowan, president, 1943-4-5
 Jack Lubbock as executive and vice-president.

Canadian Lacrosse Association - Jack McDonald as president
 Fred Sandford as executive member
 Charles Rowan (life member) as executive member

FAMILIES CONNECTED WITH MIMICO LACROSSE CLUBS

Mimico lacrosse clubs have had many brother acts during the years.

Between 1900 and 1914 there were five Kay brothers, four Davy brothers, three Cochranes and two Northcotes.

Between 1919 and 1925 there were five Harrisons — Art, Ted, Toots, Charlie and Jack. Pete and Ernie Johnson were also playing.

Between 1925 and 1950 there were three Harrisons — Fred (Frip), Bill (Duke) and Bob. Also the four Gair brothers — Norman, Gordon, Lloyd (Toad) and Jack. There were three Murphy boys, Maurice, Joe and John. Arch and Ken Dixon also starred from 1940 to 1950. The Haney brothers, Mervyn and Ed. played for Mimico teams in 1930's.

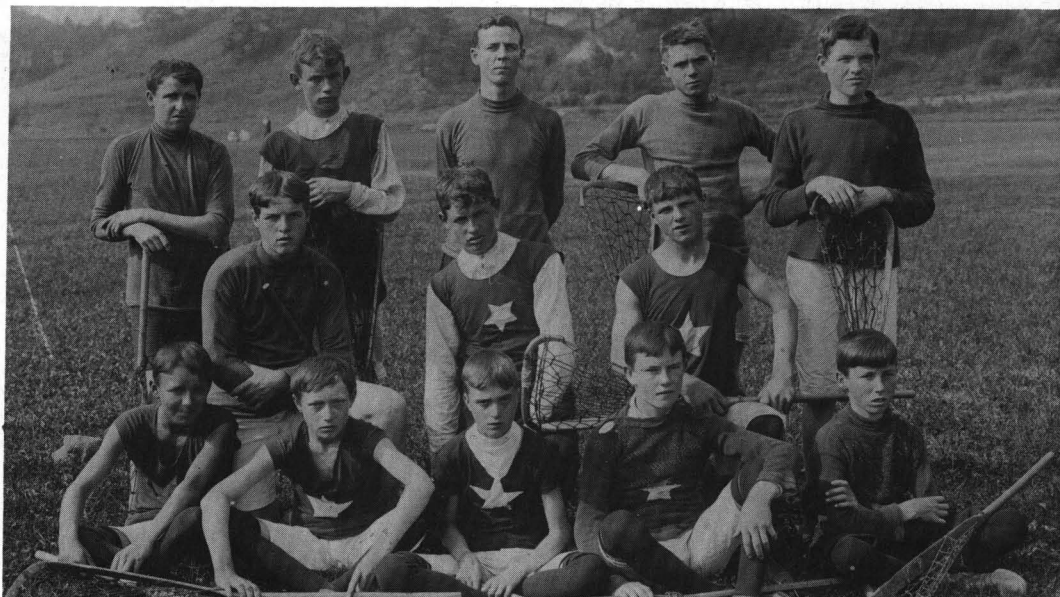
Dr. J. W. Ingram has the record for service to Mimico Lacrosse Clubs. He started to follow the lacrosse teams in 1919 after he started his dentistry practice in New Toronto. He served in various capacities — executive and later as the president. He served continuously to 1955.

The minor teams won their share of provincial championships. Old residents will recall such names as Fred Maloney, Archie Herod, Dan Stubbs, Jim Kay, the Bean brothers, Bruno McCrea, Alf Taylor, Prim Kennedy, Charlie Donelly, and Jack Harrison. These fellows all played lacrosse in Mimico before the first war.

Others will recall such names as Carson Cooper, Dave Thomas (Indian), Roy Simpson, Pete Johnson, Irvin Bailey, Jack McDonald, Toots Harrison, Bill Page, Jack Cudmore, George Boydell, Sting Holdenby, Ruddy Symes, Ross Gauld, Russell Waites, Suds Sutherland, Harold Morris. The above played in Mimico between 1920-1925.

In the 1930's there were names such as Jack Campkin, Tommy Scott, Spud Murphy, Fat Young, Hugh Haughton, Sandy Riding, Don McCallum, the Harrisons, the Gairs, Ken Kingdon, Eddie McLean, Fred Hatton, Al McLean, Ross Gimblett, Alfie Wolfe, Lorne Brydson.

In the 1940's there were Archie Dixon, Bern Pritchard, Scoop Hayes, Ray Mortimore, Don McPhail, Jim McKay, Norm Cassidy, Scotty Milne.



Champions, Juvenile Lacrosse Team, Mimico.

Back Row: Chas. Donnelly, Bill Davies, S. Cambell (Coach), Bill Herod, Chuck Northcote.

Second Row: Gimp, Arch Herod, Art Harrison.

Front Row: Ernie Johnson, J.P. O'Donnell, Roy Vint, Sid Davies, Roy Snider.

MIMICO-BRAMPTON COMBINES LACROSSE CLUB EASTERN CANADA CHAMPIONS – 1943



Left to right: 4th row: Dr. J. W. Ingram, F. G. Heary, Dr. M. Hall, F. J. Sandford, Dr. W. W. Barlett, Geoff. Hipkin, Pete Ella, Carl Schindler, J. Dalzell, R. A. Grainger, S. Tillet, D. E. Johnston.

3rd row: "Mush" Thompson, "Fripp" Harrison, Jim Mullis, Ross Gimblett, Bill Isaacs, H. Graham, Bob McAllister.

2nd row: Bert Large, "Scoop" Hayes, Bill Brunskill, "Chuck" Davidson (Coach), Bill Bryans, George Masters, Ken Dixon.

1st row: "Bill" Mullis, "Moe" Thompson, H. Rock, N. Worthy, "Bill" Arthurs.



MIMICO MOUNTIES, ONTARIO AND MINTO CUP CHAMPIONS, 1951

Front Row: Dary Davis, Rock Batley, Bill Riley, Bert Baragar, Joe Tomchishen, Bill Lubbock.
 Second Row: Don Meeke, Jim McIntyre, Ross Kelly, Bud Hudson, Bill McLean, Jack Lubbock.
 (Coach). Back Row: Fred Sandford (Manager), Lew Nichols, Fraser Rock, Jim McNeil, Jake
 Venner, Jack Mitchell, Fred Sandford Jr., Ron Baragar.



Mimico Juvenile "A" O.L.A. Champions, 1949.

MIMICO APPLICATION

The Town of Mimico in 1947 applied to the Ontario Municipal Board for an order creating an interurban administration area composed of the 13 Municipalities in the Metropolitan Area to provide metropolitan services. This was an application for the correlation of (7) specific services of an overall nature.

The Motion passed by Mimico Council which really started action leading to the establishment of the Metropolitan Form of Government read as follows:

"WHEREAS by provision of Section 23-B of the Municipal Act, the Ontario Municipal Board may upon the application of a municipality, create an area comprising one or more municipalities or parts thereof, for the joint administration of certain municipal services;

AND WHEREAS this Council of the Town of Mimico believes the creation of such an area is the logical solution to end prejudices and inconsistencies retarding progress and preventing proceeding with contemplated construction of necessary services, thereby jeopardizing the health and welfare of the people of the area as a whole; it is obvious certain municipalities are determined they will not willingly consent to being coerced into authorizing contemplated expenditures with the existing set up of administration;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Council of the Corporation of the Town of Mimico do hereby instruct the solicitor to prepare a By-law to make application to The Ontario Municipal Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 23-B of The Municipal Act as enacted by Section 5, Chapter 60, Statutes of Ontario 1946, for an order for the creation of an area consisting of the following municipalities —

The City of Toronto;

The Towns of New Toronto, Leaside, Mimico and Weston;

The Villages of Forest Hill, Long Branch and Swansea;

The Townships of York and East York;

The Urban Sections of the Townships of Etobicoke, North York and Scarboro.

for joint administration of the following services:-

Education;

Fire and Police Protection;

Administration of Justice;

Health and Welfare;

Planning;

Sewage Disposal;

Public Utilities, including transportation and main highways.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the By-law be forwarded to the Honourable G. H. Dunbar, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and to each municipality involved, giving notice and requesting their endorsement thereof."

Carried.



The above is a picture of the Committee which spent two years preparing a 90-page brief supporting the Mimico Application.

Seated: Miss Maisie Lyndon, Committee Secretary; Mr. W. A. Edwards, former Reeve and Mayor; Miss Edith Torgis, Committee Secretary.

Standing: Mr. E. A. Jarrett, Mimico Auditor; Mr. Amos H. Waites, 1947 Mayor; Mr. G. W. G. Gauld, Mimico Solicitor.

Mr. Jarrett and Mr. Gauld served the Municipality in the respective capacities for about 40 years. Mr. Jarrett is still auditor.

THE FUTURE

The space of little more than a century has seen the growth of Mimico from a lonely country hamlet to become a crowded and busy part of one of the most rapidly expanding city areas of the world. Pace of change in the past 15 years has been almost chaotic.

Mimico started into the 1950's as a community of single-family homes. It is now, part-way through the 1960's, one of the most densely populated apartment areas on the continent.

A deciding influence in promoting the change has been our Lake Ontario shoreline, the same amenity which made this area a favourite settlement with Governor Simcoe's discharged soldiers in the 1790's.

Land along the lake or near the lake has become a precious commodity.

Not so many years ago, an average Toronto family could own a lakefront summer cottage in Mimico and spend the summer here with little extra expense. Later, the lakefront became the location for estates of wealthy individuals.

Now, our lakefront has become too valuable for any one individual or any one family to enjoy exclusively. Mimico's growth has become vertical as high-rise apartment buildings tower up on the lots where first cottages and then stately homes once stood.

A window with a view of the lake has become something to be prized and convenient access to the shore is an advantage eagerly sought.

And so Mimico citizens and the citizens of Metropolitan Toronto generally have come to realize that their lakefront, like their river valleys and ravines, is probably the Toronto area's most precious asset.

Ensuring wise use of the lakeshore to provide maximum benefit to the maximum number of people will undoubtedly be one of the heavy responsibilities that will fall on our municipal government, whatever its form, in the years ahead.

Mimico has changed within the last decade, its appearance and its shape, but not its spirit. Still alive and active is the keen sense of community interest and involvement that has prompted growth of Mimico from its earliest days.

New citizens from many parts of the world have added to and enriched that community feeling. The old families and the new have joined hands to create a bigger, stronger and more dynamic Mimico.

Perhaps a careful look at the path we've followed so far will help to point the best way for the future.

The Municipality of Mimico, a Police Village in 1905 and a Town from 1917, is reverting to Etobicoke Township on January 1st, 1967.

Just as the Story of Mimico went to press, the new Bill 81, amending the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act of 1954 was passed by the Ontario Legislature.

By this Bill the Municipalities of Mimico, New Toronto and Long Branch are consolidated with the Township of Etobicoke to become the new Borough of Etobicoke under the amended Act.

By Bill 81 Toronto and its twelve neighbouring Suburban Municipalities are consolidated into the City of Toronto and the Boroughs of Etobicoke, East York, North York, Scarborough and York.

It is anticipated that Mimico, New Toronto and Long Branch will become Ward 5 of Etobicoke and be entitled to be represented in the new Borough by two Aldermen.

It is also predicted that the present Etobicoke Board of Control comprised of a Reeve and two Controllers will be expanded to include a Mayor and four Controllers, elected at large.

Mimico Commissions and Boards will be co-ordinated with those of Etobicoke and the Lakeshore District Board of Education, which has served Mimico, New Toronto and Long Branch for a number of years, will be united with the Etobicoke Board.

What the future holds for Mimico in its new setting will depend to no small degree on the leadership provided by the men and women elected to administer the expanded Borough.

APPRECIATIONS

Acknowledgments and Bibliography

Warmest thanks is extended to the many present and former residents of Mimico who assisted in preparation of this volume with information and advice. Appreciation is also due to historians and librarians who assisted.

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The Story of Mimico, by the late Edwin Eland
 Parish History of Christ Church, by the late Rev. H. O. Tremayne
 The Settlement of York County, by John Mitchell
 Where the Alders Grow, by H. Currell
 History of Etobicoke, by Robert Given

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 The Valley of the Humber by K. Lizars

— Author —



Mimico Post Office, 1911
 Sketch by Leonard Cooper, from snapshot supplied by Mrs. W. J. Brisbois.
 — Stanley Ave. and Royal York Road, across from St. Leo's Church.

EDITOR'S THANK YOU!

As Editor and Picture Co-ordinator for the Mimico History, I wish to express the Municipality's appreciation for the excellent co-operation of a number of citizens.

Many residents with a knowledge of the Town's background have generously loaned a number of photographs and snapshots, which we have used to illustrate this first extensive History of the Municipality of Mimico as well as supplying a great deal of information.

The following are among those who have co-operated so whole heartedly:

Mrs. Earla (Johnson) Devins
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Mrs. Ross Jamieson
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Mrs. J. H. Doughty
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Rev. M. E. Burch

Mrs. Ross Jamieson
Sir Ernest MacMillan
Mrs. George W. Gauld
Ross Bonnar
Mrs. C. M. Coe
Mr. C. E. Burns
Mrs. Lewis Lomas
Pryce Morgan
Miss Amy Ferrier
W. A. Edwards
Mrs. Ray Wheatley
Gertrude Everett
Ann Doherty

Mrs. Carroll C. Hele
Mrs. Helen Beatty
Miss Hazel Hendry
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Mrs. L. J. Ferrie
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Mrs. James Free
Ian Donaldson
Helen Woods
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and a number of other citizens.



Harvey Currell

THE AUTHOR

Harvey Currell is a native Torontonians who married a Mimico girl and lived a good part of his adult life in Mimico. He served as a member of Mimico Public Library Board and for many years covered the Lakeshore municipalities and Etobicoke as a reporter for The Telegram before becoming suburban editor of that newspaper.

As suburban editor, Mr. Currell took charge of news coverage of the booming Metro area during its period of most turbulent expansion and during inauguration of the Metro system. At present, he is assistant city editor of The Telegram.

Mr. Currell is author of several books on the Toronto region and the province of Ontario. Where The Alders Grow, a history of the Etobicoke river watershed, written for the former Etobicoke-Mimico Conservation Authority, was used as a textbook in Etobicoke elementary schools. A more recent book by the same author is Thirty Trips Around Ontario, published by The Telegram.

For eight years, Mr. Currell has written a weekly Ontario travel column for that newspaper and is considered an authority on the province's local history, geography and geology.



Swan