

# Newsletter

## SIR JOHN'S HOMESTEAD RATEPAYER ASSOCIATION

April 2026

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR NEWS.



### Message from the Sir John's Homestead Ratepayer Association Board

With lawn care flyers beginning to appear at our front doors, it's safe to say that winter is (hopefully) behind us. The arrival of spring brings a renewed sense of energy—and with it, the start of our 2026 SJHRA events.

We're pleased to share that **Earth Day** will be held on **May 9**, followed by **Gardening Day** on **May 23**. More details will be posted soon on our Facebook page and [website](#). We thank everyone in advance who can volunteer their time to help spruce up our neighbourhood—your efforts truly make a difference.

Staying connected with our members remains a top priority. We will continue to share updates through multiple channels, including our website, Facebook page, and quarterly newsletters (at minimum, four per year). If you need to reach the Board, please don't hesitate to contact us at [sjhraweb@gmail.com](mailto:sjhraweb@gmail.com).

In addition to highlighting key dates and events, we will keep you informed about developments that impact our community. This includes updates on new bylaws, changes to City services, Peel Regional Police community programs and crime statistics, as well as University of Toronto Mississauga initiatives such as student housing and infrastructure plans. We regularly engage with representatives from these organizations, both throughout the year and at our Annual General Meeting.

In this edition, we are pleased to feature an article from Heritage Mississauga, located at the Grange. It offers a fascinating “who knew?” perspective that may give you a fresh appreciation for the area around Dundas Street, Mississauga Road, and Erindale Park.

As mentioned in our December newsletter, we have been

#### Living Better, Together.

2 Snow Plow  
Damage

3 Earth Day

3 Gardening Day 

4 Historian Special  
Feature

following up with the City regarding local concerns, including snowplow damage to lawns and repairs needed along the Glen Erin Trail. The City has indicated that remedial work is scheduled to begin this spring, and we will continue to monitor progress and provide updates.

Thank you for your continued support. With over 100 member households, our Association remains strong because of the shared commitment we all have to our neighbourhood and community. — **The Board**



## Snow Plow Damage

With the snow and frost behind us, residents in Mississauga may begin to notice damage to their front lawns caused by the City’s sidewalk snowplows. Those who have experienced similar issues may find it helpful to understand the City’s reporting process, as well as some of the challenges that can arise.

Reporting damage to the City of Mississauga can sometimes present unexpected complications, particularly around public right-of-way determinations. For example, one homeowner who contacted the City was directed to submit a service request form along with supporting photo or video evidence. In this case, City staff advised that the municipality would not accept liability for lawn damage or potential impacts to irrigation systems. This is because a portion of many front lawns falls within the public right-of-

way—land owned by the City. Features such as sprinkler heads located in this area may be considered encroachments and could be subject to municipal bylaws.

The resident sought clarification on property boundaries and requested surveys to determine the exact division between private property and City-owned land. When challenges arose in obtaining this information, reaching out to the local ward councillor proved helpful. In this instance, Councillor Matt Mahoney assisted in arranging a property inspection and ensuring the property was added to the City’s sod repair list.

The City of Mississauga has also published guidance for residents on how to report sidewalk snowplow damage. Residents can follow the steps outlined below.



## How to Report Sod Damage to the City of Mississauga

To report damage caused by sidewalk snow plows, residents can use the following channels:

- **Call 311** (or 905-615-4311 from outside the City) and select the option for **damaged sod or boulevard repair**.
- **Online Request:** Visit [mississauga.ca](https://mississauga.ca) and search for “**Report Damaged Sod**” or use the Service Request portal.
- **Documentation:** Attach clear photos and/or videos of the damage when submitting the request.

Note: The City typically schedules sod repairs for spring or fall to ensure the new grass has the best chance to establish.

If issues persist through standard channels, contacting the local Councillor’s office may help facilitate a resolution.



Earth Day  
May 8, 2026



Gardening Day  
May 23, 2026

## Future Events

The Board is excited to share that we are exploring new ideas for future neighbourhood events and activities. Our goal is to create opportunities that bring our community together in fun, engaging, and meaningful ways.

In the coming weeks, we will be circulating a short survey to gather your input. Your feedback and ideas are important to us, and we encourage all members to participate. Please keep an eye out for the survey and help shape the future of our neighbourhood events!

A graphic on the left side of the box with the text "Come join us!" in large, colorful, stylized letters and "Together we can!" in a pink cursive font below it.

### Your Neighbourhood Needs You!

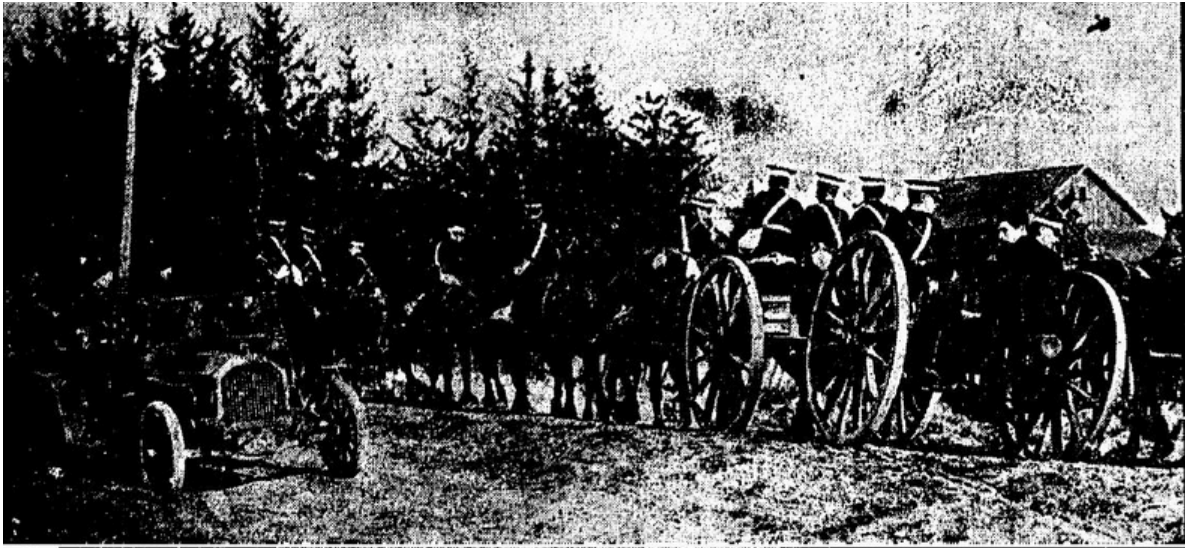
Love living in Sir John's Homestead? Help us keep it thriving! The SJHRA is recruiting new Board members to bring fresh ideas and energy to our community.

**The Essentials:**

- Low Time Commitment: Just ~30 hours a year (8 meetings + 4 events).
- No Experience Necessary: Whether you're a social media pro or just want to be a Director-at-Large, there's a seat for you.
- The Goal: Build on the legacy of our long-serving members and keep our neighbourhood vibrant.

**Get in Touch:** Email [sjhraweb@gmail.com](mailto:sjhraweb@gmail.com) or chat with a current Board member to learn more.

Let's work together to keep our community great!



The Globe & Mail | Nov 1, 1910

**THE NINTH FIELD BATTERY IN THANKSGIVING DAY MANOEUVRES.**

## The Day the Troops Took Over

By Matthew Wilkinson | Historian, Heritage Mississauga

It was Monday, October 31, 1910. And for over three hours a fierce engagement took place between two armies – one advancing eastward from Hamilton, the other, in defence of Toronto, advancing westward along Dundas Street, determined to hold the bridge over the Credit River. The armies met at Mississauga Road. The engagement involved over 4000 soldiers, with the action spread between Stavebank Road, Dundas Street, Clarkson Road and Lakeshore Road. The armies blockaded roads, forded the river, and crossed private fields and fences, all in an attempt to outflank the enemy. (There was no mention in the newspapers about it also being Hallowe'en.)

Sounds fanciful? Did two armies really clash over the Credit River Bridge on Dundas Street in Mississauga?

Well, it truly did happen ... sort of.

By 1909, after the Boer War but before the First World War, local militia units had grown much larger than in previous years. This necessitated larger venues for practical and tactical training. Annually a militia review was held in several of the large cities in Ontario. In 1910, this review was planned for October 31. Commanding officers of militia units in Hamilton and Toronto decided to organize a combined review and Toronto decided to organize a combined review and "maneuvers" – they just needed a large enough space to do it. For reason unknown, they determined that the varied terrain between Erindale and Port Credit along the

Credit River Valley provided an ideal place to train. I am not sure if they asked the locals first, mind you, although reportedly dozens of residents turTned up at St. Peter's Anglican Church to watch the spectacle from the hill.

The defending Red Force from Toronto was commanded by Colonel William Campbell Macdonald of the Queen's Own Rifles, while the invading Grey Force from Hamilton was led by Colonel William Alexander Logie of the 15th Infantry Brigade. Colonel Macdonald's objective was to hold the bridge over the Credit River.



Colonel William Alexander Logie



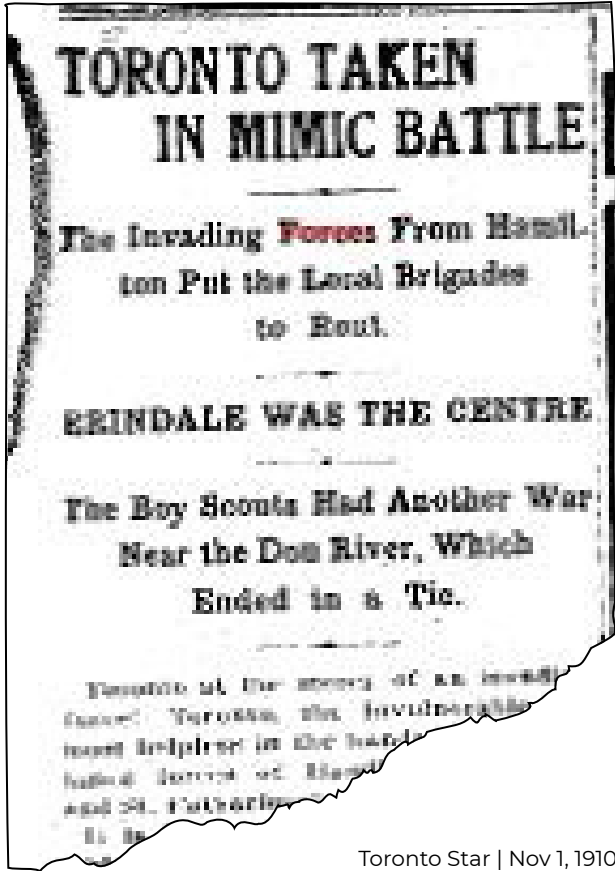
Colonel William Alexander Logie

He set up artillery on the west side of the bridge on Ross' Hill manned by the 48th Highlanders, while the main defence line consisted of a large detachment of the Queen's Own Rifles who presented a "magnificent appearance", and a battalion of 10th Grenadiers. It should be noted that while only "blank ammunition" was used, the noise of artillery and rifles was deafening at times.

The engagement began at 10 am. Cavalry for the Toronto Red Force were sent out to scout for their enemy, and they snaked their way down the Cedar Swamp Road (Mississauga Road), and across the Middle Road (QEW), and up the Town Line (Winston Churchill Boulevard). Shortly before 11 am, distant shots were heard by the troops guarding the Credit River Bridge at Erindale, believed to be coming from the Clarkson vicinity. The Queen's Own, as the advance guard of the Toronto Red Force, proceeded down Clarkson Road (Hammond Road/Robin Drive to Clarkson Road) to intercept the invaders from Hamilton. However, the invading Grey Force had other plans.

A weakly held picket by the Grey Force from Hamilton in the Clarkson area feigned resistance and gave way before the Red Force's Queen's Own, but not before stalling the advance of the Queen's Own. The Queen's Own then held the position near Clarkson Road, expecting a counterattack which never came. By the time the Queen's Own had taken up their position on near Clarkson Road and Lakeshore Road, unbeknownst to them, the main body of the Hamilton Grey Force had already passed them. The Grey Force had marched swiftly eastward along Lakeshore Road, crossing the Credit River at Port Credit, and proceeding northwards on Stavebank Road to Dundas Street.

Colonel Logie's plan for the invading Grey Force, realizing that the bridge at Erindale would be heavily protected, was to go around the bridge, make his way to Dundas Street, and attack the defending Red Force from the rear. The Red Force was surprised around noon with the booming of a field gun on the hill at Erindale (near Robinson Street) behind them.



Toronto Star | Nov 1, 1910

Colonel Macdonald of the Red Force, realizing too late what his opponent had done, tried to reorganize his troops to repel this unexpected attack from the rear. A hasty advance by the Red Force encountered a well-entrenched Grey Force that commanded the high ground to the east, and the Red Force was repelled back to the bridge. At 2 pm the pincers of Hamilton's Grey Force closed, and the Red Force defending the Dundas Street bridge over the Credit River was caught in Colonel Logie's trap. Facing an entrenched enemy to their east, the Red Force was surprised by an advancing Grey Force battalion coming up Mississauga Road. Trapped on the bridge, the Red Force now found itself having to defend its position on two fronts.

At 2:15 pm the "umpires" observing the action declared a ceasefire. Brigadier General W.H. Cotton, who directed and observed the execution of the maneuvers, announced the verdict the next day: the Grey Force from Hamilton claimed victory in the mock battle as they had successfully outflanked the Red Force, cutting off its lines of communication, supply, and escape.

At the end of the day, the tired troops made their way to the Cooksville Fairgrounds to partake in the festivities at the Fall Fair.

Strange but true.



## TORONTO AT MERCY OF THE INVADERS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

at Clarkson. Colonel Macdonald immediately disposed his forces, sending the Grenadiers and the Home Battalion Q. O. R. across the river to form the firing line, with a front of about two miles. The Aldershot Battalion Q. O. R. and the 48th Highlanders he kept in reserve in the village of Erindale.

### Made a Feint Attack.

Shortly before noon these two battalions came into first contact with the enemy, which contact, however, proved to be but a feint attack on the part of the Greys. With the object of deceiving the Reds Lieut.-Col. Logie had sent a composite battalion, composed of companies from each of the regiments under his command, straight up the Clarkson road toward Erindale, while his main body he sent along the Lake Shore road to Port Credit, where they were to cross the river and advance up the Stave Bank road towards Dundas street.

### Reds Were Deceived.

For a short time the Reds were deceived, thinking that the frontal attack was supported by the whole of the Greys' force. The sight of the varied uniforms of the different corps which were included in the composite battalion strengthened this impression. It was not long, however, before the Reds found that it was a comparatively weak force in front of them, and they took the aggressive. The battalion of Queen's Own and the Grenadiers succeeded in putting temporarily out of action several companies of the attackers.

### Accomplished Their Object.

Although driven back, however, his composite battalion, which was his flank guard of the main body, accomplished the object that Lieut.-Col. Logie had in mind. It occupied fully the attention of half of Colonel Macdonald's force, and in retiring drew them away from the objective and the rest of their force. In the meantime the Grey main body had crossed the river at Port Credit and was well up towards the Dundas road before Colonel Macdonald had any idea where the decisive attack was to come from.

### Was a Complete Surprise.

The squadron of the Body Guards had been sent earlier in the operations down the Stave Bank road towards Port Credit to reconnoitre, and met the Grey column shortly after they had crossed the river. Whether or not this cavalry force sent word back immediately to Red headquarters of the enemy's move, Colonel Macdonald did not hear of it until he sent a rider himself to find out. He found that the Body Guards were retiring gradually, hampering as much as possible Lieut.-Col. Logie's advance. So complete was the surprise the Grey commander had effected that his column had advanced nearly to the Dundas road, little more than two miles from Erindale, before the Reds fully realized the situation.

### To Meet the Attack.

Then Colonel Macdonald's caution retaining such a large portion of his force in reserve was found to be fully

justified. The 48th Highlanders and the Aldershot Battalion of the Q. O. R. were immediately despatched, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Mason, to meet this attack. The forces deployed, forming firing lines of between one and two miles in length south and east of Dundas street.

### At Close Quarters.

The fighting became very severe, and the issue was always in doubt. Nearly the whole of both sides were thrown into the firing line, and on each support came up that side seemed to have the advantage. A company of the Dufferin Rifles, which had been on the reserve, advanced on the left of the Grey firing line to within a mile of Erindale. They were spotted by a company of Highlanders, who immediately rushed to meet them. An umpire was on the spot, however, and put the company of Highlanders out of action for ten minutes, the Brantford men having taken up a strong position behind a fence. More Highlanders came up, and drove the Dufferin Rifles back. Then the Rifles were in their turn supported, and both lines advanced simultaneously on the same fence. They both reached the fence, and several shots were exchanged at very close range. Fortunately no one was hurt. What would have been the result is hard to say, but just at that time General Cotton brought the operations to a close, ordering the "cease fire" to be sounded.

### Couldn't Find the Enemy.

In the meantime the Grenadiers, under Lieut.-Col. Gooderham, and the rest of the Queen's Own under Major Rennie, had advanced down the Clarkson road nearly to Clarkson itself. They had gotten temporarily out of touch with their own headquarters, and had failed to find any enemy in what was supposed to be the enemy's country, with the exception of several companies of the composite Grey flank guard, who had escaped being put out of action. Under Lieut.-Col. E. C. Ashton, 38th Dufferin Rifles, these had ensconced themselves in a good position near to the Mississauga golf grounds, which, by the way, were out of bounds, and were "sitting tight." The Reds were somewhat at a loss to know what to do, and waited. Finally word came through to them to advance along the Gravel road, to try to effect a crossing of the river lower down, and attack the Grey main column in the rear. They had just started to do this when the end came.

### Conference Was Held.

Umpires, officers of the staff, officers commanding forces and units immediately repaired to the church yard in Erindale, where a conference was held, good moves and mistakes on the part of officers of both sides being pointed out by General Cotton. The men of the corps which had been engaged were formed up and marched to the stations of Erindale and Clarkson, where the Reds and Greys were to entrain respectively. The grand review and march past which had been customary in former years was dispensed with.

### Field Telegraph Used.

Good work was done by the 2nd Field Company, Canadian Engineers, under Capt. S. P. Biggs, which was attached to the Grey force. The field telegraph section and apparatus was taken out from Toronto by the same

The Globe & Mail, Page 8 | Nov 1, 1910