

# Door's open Clarington

by Charles Taws

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CLARINGTON MUSEUMS  
AND ARCHIVES  
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It's that time of year again! On Saturday June 8th, 2013 from 10:00am to 4:00pm, for the fourth year in a row, Clarington is hosting Doors Open! Doors Open began in France in 1984 and 16 years later Toronto held the first

Doors Open event in North America. Since 2002 the Ontario Heritage Trust has promoted Doors Open throughout Ontario. Doors Open is a fun way to learn more about your neighbourhood, discover local history, meet new friends and see some places that you would not normally be allowed to see. For 2013 Clarington Doors Open is highlighting the villages of Enniskillen, Haydon and Tyrone. There are thirteen sites that include everything from historic private homes and beautiful gardens to an historic mill and winery. Village and cemetery tours are also featured. For more information go to [www.doorsopenclarington.com](http://www.doorsopenclarington.com)



This house was once owned by John McLeod who ran a successful store and foundry in Enniskillen. It was later the home and office of Dr. William Hillier. It was here in the 1860's that he operated on young J.A. Osborne with no anesthetic. In 1958 Dr. Hillier issued a circular stating he would no longer treat patients on credit. He found it difficult to get the money owed to him for his services. Therefore charges to be paid up front were \$1.00 within the village and \$2.00 without. The scale goes up a dollar for each mile away from the village. For Doors Open artist Eric Bowman will be displaying his work and historical herbal remedies will be displayed and sold.

One of the things I like best about Doors Open is that it opens your eyes to things you may have passed many times before but failed to notice. They are usually things that highlight some aspect of our local history. For instance when driving through Enniskillen you may have noticed the colourful mural on the old barn which features the McLaughlin Carriage Company which became General Motors in Oshawa. Why is it there? Well, long before they moved to Oshawa the McLaughlins lived in Tyrone and Enniskillen and their carriage company really had its start here in Clarington. That wooden barn is the only remaining building from their first factory (not only is it on Doors Open, but so is the house of the artist who painted the mural and the McLaughlin's old home as well). In fact, Enniskillen also had a large industrial complex that made agricultural implements. It was owned by John McLeod and then Richard Sylvester, known as the Squire, who moved it to Lindsay (the Sylvester house is on Doors Open). Another place is the Haydon Hall (also part of Doors Open). All who have attended an event there can tell it was once a school house, but did you know it is now the oldest surviving school structure in Clarington? Let's not forget Tyrone. We all know about its historic mill that dates back to 1846, but a lesser known but no less interesting attraction is the Foundation Garden behind the United Church (both are on Doors Open).

When visiting these sites try to imagine yourself back in pioneer times when these buildings were new. We're fortunate to have the recollections of J.A. Osborne who grew up in the area in the 1860's. He provides us with a child's view of growing up in Enniskillen, Haydon and Tyrone when horse and wagons were the main means of transportation, all their news came from the newspaper or gossip and you



Quite a few private historic homes are on Doors Open this year. This one, lovingly preserved by Russ and Pat Gordon, is located in the village of Haydon. It was built in the 1860's and was for many years the home of the Slemon family. Russ is the talented artist who painted the McLaughlin Carriage Company mural in Enniskillen. For Doors Open this site features garden and studio tours as well as live music.

could pretty well buy all you needed in the village where you lived. Mr. Osborne lived on a farm near Haydon and his father was a school teacher in Tyrone. His family attended church in Tyrone and this was the scene of one of Mr. Osborne's earliest memories. The service had started and everyone had stood and began to sing the first hymn. He noticed his parents sharing a hymn book but as he didn't see another and the minister, who was at the front of the church, had no one to share his he confidently strolled up to the front and motioned to the minister to share his hymn book. He obliged and Mr. Osborne sang a tune of his own making much to the delight of the congregation but to the annoyance of his parents. His father reminded him of what he'd get back home if he didn't behave. He was good the rest of the service although he still felt he had the right to sing along. Another incident at church centred around the girl his Mother had hired to help her in the kitchen. Her name was Sarah Jane and she had asked to take him to church one Sunday. His mother warned her of his precocious ways, but she felt confident that she could keep him in check and besides she felt he really wasn't a bad boy after all. However, unknown to her Mr. Osborne had seen her several times in the kitchen with a young man from a neighbouring farm. When they got to church the young man came in and Mr. Osborne innocently stood on the seat of the pew and yelled excitedly "There's your beau Sarah Jane, there's your beau." Needless to say she never took him to church again.

Sometime later while playing in the farm yard he got too close to a colt. He tickled its hind legs with a switch and



There are lots to do in Tyrone for Doors Open. Besides a number of historic sites, there is the self-guided village walking tour and the beautiful foundation gardens to take in. At the nearby Bethesda Cemetery, at 2:00pm, Kim Vaneyk will be conducting a guided tour. This hall was built around 1880 and renovated in 1926. It has been home to several Orange Lodges as well as the local Sons of England lodge. For doors open there will be historic displays and a tasty Irish stew lunch will be available for purchase.

the next thing he knew he was on his mother's lap while she wiped away the blood streaming from his head. The horse had kicked him unconscious and he was found lying on the ground covered in blood. His father carried him to Dr. Hillier's in Enniskillen (the doctor's house is on Doors Open) where he was examined. The next thing he knew four men were holding him down while he kicked and screamed as the doctor cleaned the wound and sewed it up. There was no anesthetic in those days.

Mr. Osborne first attended school in Enniskillen where his father was the teacher. Feeling he had special privileges he broke some of the rules by whispering in class and playing tricks on some of his classmates. His father asked him to go to the village saddler for a leather strap to "punish the pupils who broke the rules." He was happy to be selected for this important duty but not so happy, and surprised, on his return when his father selected him as the first one to use it on. As he commented, "Like my experience with the horse, this was an object lesson not repeated". He later attended school in Haydon. This is not the school house that is there now, but its wooden precursor. I should also mention here that Haydon was still known by its original name, Charlesville, at that time. It was named for Charles Bates who built a mill and began the village in the 1840's. It didn't become Haydon until the late 1870's. While walking to school one morning they passed the property of Charles Mallory who had a fine apple orchard. The boys ganged together and told Mr. Osborne that as he was the smallest and youngest he must go into the orchard and steal some apples. At this he refused but said he would get them another way. He walked straight up the driveway towards the house intending to ask Mr. Mallory for apples. A big dog scared him and he began to cry. Mr. Mallory heard his dog barking came to the boy who told him his story. For refusing to steal he gave him an armful of apples. He even sent a big bag of apples to his mother!

Mr. Osborne remembered swimming in the creek in sum-



The Archibald's purchased the property in 1967. Historically it has been home to the Gibbard and Hoar families, both long time residents in the area. You're probably thinking "I can go to Archibald's anytime", but for Doors Open guest artists will be on hand and you'll be able to go behind the scenes to see how the fruit wine is made. Behind the scene tours will also be available at the Tyrone Mill.

mer and sledding down steep hills in the winter. One particularly sweet memory of his was sucking on West Indian sugar cane stalks in the back of Hutcheson's store in Enniskillen. So, when you visit the Doors Open sites this year think of Mr. Osborne and what his life was like over 100 years ago. Many things were so different back then, but many things are also still the same.

## At The Museum

June is the opening of our newest exhibit entitled "Children at Play" at the Sarah Jane Williams Heritage Centre. It features the most popular and beloved toys from the past 120 years. Clarington Museums has the most extensive doll collection owned by a museum in Canada as well as the best Canadian doll collection in the world! This exhibit features many dolls as well as games and toys. Children of all ages will be sure to see something that will bring back fond memories. We encourage visitors to bring pictures of themselves with their favourite toy. Check out the museum's website [www.claringtonmuseums.com](http://www.claringtonmuseums.com) for more information or call us at 905-623-2734. The Heritage Centre is located at 62 Temperance Street in Bowmanville. We're open from 11:00am to 4:00pm Tuesday to Sunday. Summer is fast approaching watch for details on changes to the popular afternoon teas.

# Al Strike a natural at “giving back”



by Jim Abernethy, Publisher

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Last week, Clarington lost a pillar of our community with the passing of Arthur Alan Harvey Strike.

I will always remember Al Strike as a good person, a genuine community minded volunteer who never flinched when confronted with a challenge or obstacle standing in the way of achieving “the goal”.

He was a natural at “giving back to community” by giving with passion and dedication his time, knowledge and experience.

For many of us, he was and continues to be, our inspiration to carry on the tradition of working to make Clarington a better place to live. For this he will always be remembered as a community leader and community builder.

But his true legacy is his wonderful family and the many good friends that remain.

The balance of this editorial is a reprint of his obituary, a dedication to a man that was loved and admired by all who had the good fortune of knowing him.

ARTHUR ALAN HARVEY STRIKE

March 25, 1928 – May 23, 2013

Husband, father, grandfather, business professional and community leader Arthur Alan Harvey Strike (also known as Al, Silver Fox, Gramy, Poppa) passed away at age 85 on Thursday May 23, 2013.

The week before his departure, Al sat on the front porch at the cottage on Lake Manitou in Algonquin Park, Ontario. To Al, this place was heaven on earth.

Al graduated from the University of Toronto in 1950 and Osgoode Hall in 1953. After his graduation, Al practiced law with his father Ross, in Bowmanville, retiring in 2002

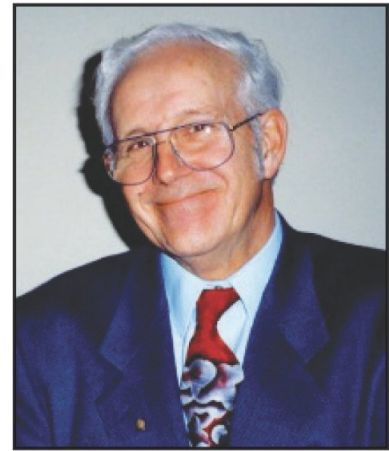
and leaving the practice to his sons.

Al was a community leader. He was President of the Northumberland-Durham Board of Education, Past President and Member of the Rotary Club of Bowmanville, a founding member of the Bowmanville Business Improvement Area, Board of Governor of Durham College and fundraiser for the University of

Ontario Institute of Technology and Valleys2000; Member of the Ontario Trillium Provincial Review Team of Durham; Member of the Board of Directors for Community Care, Editor of the Durham Law Association Newsletter, fundraiser for community projects including Skate 88 and Splash; recipient of the Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship Award of Distinction, Ontario Senior of the Year for 2005, Queen’s Jubilee Medal 2012, Chairman Emeritus of the Bowmanville Wounder’s World Backyard Hockey Championship and Chief-Ice-Maker for the Ice Palace at 8 Beech Avenue for over 50 years.

Al leaves behind the love of his life and best friend Anna of 62 years, and sons and their families; Ron and wife Allison Fellowes and grandchildren Ross and Meredith, Bob and his wife Alison and grandsons Jackson and Sam, Dan and his wife Cindy and grand-daughters Hannah and Hillary, his beloved grand-dogs, Bailey, Ameilo and Maggie, and countless friends and people whom he touched with his kindness.

He was a great man and leaves behind an everlasting legacy for our community.



AL STRIKE

# There Are Many Ways A Business Can Manage Cash



by Peter Hobb

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Last issue I wrote about businesses reviewing their business model. Once you feel you have the right business model there are a number of operational aspects that need to be looked after to maximize profits. One of these is cash management. If you can't pay your bills, no matter how profitable you are, you will crash and burn.

There are many tactics that can improve cash flow. Some of these are short term and one-off measures. However to avoid a cash crisis you must have the right Valuable Formulae and you must operate the business sensibly. You can only squeeze the lemon once, but if you work on growing a healthy lemon tree there is a sustainable availability of lemon juice, hence the need for the right strategy and operations.

## Getting Your Balance Sheet Right

Many businesses have a poorly structured balance sheet and pay the price for it. Assets are financed from both debt and equity and the right balance is needed. If things get tight, try and move your balance sheet to having

more equity and less debt, as this reduces risk, and also reduces the servicing costs. Equity is more expensive as it carries a risk and hence demands a higher return but it is more forgiving in terms of servicing in the short term.

## Financing Capital Expenditure

Assets should be funded within the lifespan of the asset, in particular those with short life spans. There is nothing worse than still paying off a loan relating to an asset that has worn out. It is important to match the asset life to the funding cycle. Conversely paying off assets quickly may draw too much from free cash flow and restrict other business development activities. A lot of businesses pay for assets out of cash flow, e.g. computers, and over time there can

be a lot of working capital tied up in capital assets.

## Manage Sales Lead-To-Cash Cycle Time

Sales lead-to-cash cycle is the time it takes from marketing a product to receipt of cash. Put simply, it's the number of days from initial investment (marketing) to payment in full. This is often quite a long time, much longer than you realize. Consider carefully before launching a marketing campaign that will take a long time to have cash deposited into your bank account. It might be better from a cash flow point of view to do something with an existing campaign.

The part of this cycle that should be a focus is credit management. Review your credit policy and adherence to your policy. Compliance

with your credit policy is vital. Some businesses expend a great deal of energy focusing on sales at the expense of getting the cash in the door. Look for signs that customers are in trouble. You should review the accounts of slower payers to see if you should be tightening the terms and maybe going "cash on delivery". Also, watch for customers who don't comply with payment terms they have agreed to.

## Implement Supply Chain Management

Improvement in cash flow management can be achieved by reviewing your supply chain management. There are three primary areas where you can find improvements:

1. **Supplier management**, i.e. your relationship and terms of trade with suppliers

2. **Inventory management**, i.e. look closely at inventory turnover by product lines, consignment stock, Just-in-Time ordering systems

3. **Workflow management**, i.e. bringing greater efficiency into your production processes

## Other ways to Manage Cash

Implement spending policies and controls by setting authority levels and making it clear who can order items.

Lower operating expenses by reviewing suppliers e.g. power, telecoms, freight, travel.

Adopt a culture of cash preservation and cost control and as a fish smells from the top down, this has to start with the boss i.e., the boss must lead by example.