

Harper Government Supports Community Infrastructure in Clarington:



by Jim Abernethy, Publisher
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MP Erin O'Toole, Member of Parliament for Durham, recently announced the Municipality of Clarington will receive an important investment through the Canada 150 Community Infrastructure Program.

The Harper Government has approved up to \$455,000 for a total project cost of up to \$910,000 for the renovation of the Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex.

Clarington Council directed municipal staff to submit an application for the project earlier this year when the Infrastructure Program was first announced.

Many critics of the Harper Government said there was not enough time for municipalities to successfully process an application and receive the funds. It appears Clarington Council and Staff has proven those critics wrong.

Recreational infrastructure spending by municipalities is always justifiable when upper-tier levels of government offer to subsidize 50% of the cost.

The scope of the Clarington project proposes an expansion of approximately 1,500 square feet onto the existing community hall area, renovations to existing hall space and the construction of a fully accessible washroom. The project completion date should be March 2017.

The Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex, originally constructed in 1988, is a key community activity hub for residents of Clarington. The community hall is a key component of the spirit of Clarington residents.

Hon. Erin O'Toole, Member of Parliament for Durham commented "This Canada 150 grant will help improve the Garnet B. Rickard Centre which is a central community hub for sport and social events in Clarington. I am proud that Canada will work with Clarington to renew this facility in time for our 150 Celebrations as a country."

Thanks Mr. O'Toole - for your government's continued commitment to help build infrastructure projects in the Municipality of Clarington.

Perhaps Mr. O'Toole you could convince Premier Wynne to allocate funding in her next Provincial budget to construct the Go Rail/Train extension to Bowmanville.

Otherwise, the good people of Clarington will not see Go Train service extended to Courtice & Bowmanville.

Step 1 - was to complete/approve the E/A Environmental Assessment (approved in 2010) for Go Rail.

Step 2 - allocate the funds in Provincial Budget (not yet allocated).



MP Erin O'Toole with Regional Chair Roger Anderson, Regional Councillor Willie Woo and Clarington Municipal Staff outside Garnet B. Rickard Centre announcing Clarington recreation infrastructure funding.

Step 3 - begin tender process to select contractor to build.
Step 4 - construct the new Go Rail line.

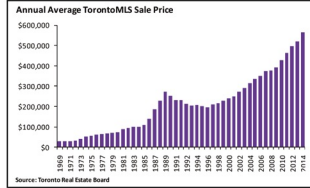
I have always promoted Clarington as the Eastern Gateway to the GTA. The Province needs to see Clarington in that light. Premier Wynne needs to start making financial commitments to build the transportation infrastructure required to support our ever growing community.

New Record for July Home Sales

Toronto Real Estate Board President Mark McLean recently announced record home sales for the month of July. Greater Toronto Area REALTORS' reported 9,880 sales through TREB's MLS® System, representing an eight per cent increase compared to July 2014. These numbers of transactions were up for all major home types, including a double digit year-over-year increase in condominium apartment sales.

"As we move towards a new record for home sales this year, it is important to point out that home ownership demand has been driven not only by low borrowing costs, but also by the fact that the GTA economy has been performing quite well, with the unemployment rate lower compared to last year. Home buyers remain confident in the long-term benefits of owning a home," said Mr. McLean.

"National sales activity remains solid, fuelled by strength in British Columbia and the Greater Toronto Area, where listings are in short supply or trending that way," said CREA President Pauline Auinger. "That said, markets elsewhere across Canada are largely well balanced and in some cases have an ample supply of listings. As always, all real estate is local and REALTORS' remain your best source for information about sales and listings where you live or might like to in the future."



The national average home price continues to be upwardly distorted by sales activity in Greater Toronto and Greater Vancouver, which are among Canada's most active and expensive housing markets. If these two markets are excluded from calculations, the average is a more modest \$341,438 and the year-over-year gain is reduced to 4.1 per cent.

I am often asked the question: Why are Clarington real estate prices so much lower than Pickering/Ajax and Toronto?

My answer is simply: Clarington does not have the transportation infrastructure necessary to connect our community to the rest of the GTA. Mississauga has five 400 series highways, Pickering has two plus Go Train service... we have one 400 series highway, and sadly no Go Train service. Therefore our property values will continue to lag behind those prices in other parts of the GTA until Premier Wynne and her Liberal Government allocate into their budget process the funds necessary to build the Go Train & Hwy 407 extensions to service the transportation needs of the good people of Clarington.

In a press release in Ottawa on August 12, 2015 - The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA), on behalf of its 110,000 REALTOR® members across the country, welcomes today's announcement by Prime Minister Stephen Harper to increase the Home Buyers' Plan (HBP) withdrawal limit from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

"The Home Buyers' Plan has helped so many Canadian families realize their dream of home ownership," said CREA President Pauline Auinger. "Today's commitment to increase the withdrawal limit of the HBP will ensure that the dream stays within reach for today's young people."

Home purchases involving the HBP generate spin-off spending and create jobs. In 2015, home purchases involving the use of the HBP are projected to result in over \$2.8 billion in spin-off spending and more than 19,900 jobs.

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1569 Green Rd. - Bowmanville

\$1,200,000

SOLD

1654 Green Rd. - Bowmanville

\$916,000

SOLD

6720 Leskard Rd. - Orono

\$749,000

52 Acre Hobby Farm - water, mature bush, 20 acres workable land. Wilmot Creek famous for glorious salmon & trout runs traverses 30 acres mature forest of Maple (Syrup), Ash, Hemlock, Cedar & Pine. Complete With Renovated Farmhouse, Original Bank Barn (5-Box Stalls/Hydro), South Of Concession 7 Road, less than 5 min. to Hwy 407 Inter-Change (scheduled for 2020 completion).



Bowman Family, Montreal c. 1845

In the centre of the painting is Charles Bowman and his wife Elizabeth Savage. On Elizabeth's lap is her youngest daughter Victoria-Sophia. In the forefront is her next youngest daughter Anne (named for a sister of Charles). To the right of Charles are his two sons: Charles and James. At the far left is their eldest daughter Elizabeth. She is the only one who lived to adulthood and married. She had 12 children of which 8 survived.

I Have Gazed Upon the Face of Agamemnon: A Lost Treasure Found

**Charles Taws
with assistance from
Rose McIntyre**

**CLARINGTON MUSEUMS
AND ARCHIVES**
www.claringtonmuseums.com

*This story dedicated to
Garth Gilpin*

In 1876 Heinrich Schliemann, famed archaeologist and the discoverer of fabled Troy, while working in Greece unearthed a series of ancient Mycenaean burials with golden face masks. One was more richly carved and detailed than the others. "I have gazed upon the face of Agamemnon" he telegraphed the King of Greece.

Schliemann thought he had uncovered the body of the legendary King from Homer's *Odyssey*. I now know exactly how Schliemann felt for on April 26th of this year I gazed upon the face of Charles Bowman, the man for whom Bowmanville is named.

To understand my excitement you must know that this painting of Charles

Bowman has been "lost" for over 80 years and is the only known likeness of Bowmanville's founder. It has been searched for by many people. Bowmanville Museum founder Elsie Lunney was the most diligent in her quest, but others too, such as Forrest Dilling, Marion

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Wiseman (the first curator of the Bowmanville Museum), Bill Bagnell, Garth Gilpin, Garfield Shaw and I have all speculated as to what could have become of it. Our last tangible evidence was from 1927. In that year Professor John Squair tried to have a copy made for his local history book "The Townships of Darlington and Clarke". It was then in the possession of Bowman's grand-daughters still living in the Bowman house in Westmount, Montreal, but they refused to loan it. By 1949 the house was torn down and the surviving grand-daughters had moved away. Where was this painting all this time? Well, it's always best to start a good story from the beginning so here we go...

In about the year 1824 a very successful Scottish merchant by the name of Charles Bowman came to this area looking to buy land. He found a little settlement in the valley south of the present day Vanstone Mill called Darlington Mills. He tried to purchase the land to the west of the valley, but it was unavailable so he purchased the land to the east. He laid out the town and gave a lot to the Anglican and Presbyterian Churches. He even had a meeting house built to be used as a school, town hall and place of worship open to all denominations. It was on the south side of King Street just east from where Silver Street is today. Apparently the Methodists used it so much that the others felt left out. An unveridical local legend says that he gave a lot of land to the eldest unmarried daughter in every local family. The idea being that as they married and built homes on their lots the others around them would become more valuable. Besides his holdings in Montreal and Trois-Rivières he also owned land in Colborne, Port Hope and near Goderich, but only here did his name become attached to the settlement.



This picture shows Charles Bowman's house in Westmount, Montreal. He acquired the property in 1828 and shortly after 1830 constructed this magnificent Italian Villa style house for his wife, Elizabeth Savage, and their growing family. The estate was called Forden and it later became the home of Charles Bowman's only surviving child Elizabeth Raynes and her husband Captain Robert Raynes. When the last Grand-child died the estate was sold and torn down in 1949. Today you can see Forden Crescent which used to be the estate driveway. The carriage shed still exists. It was converted to a home and owned for many years by the Birks Family of the Birks Jewellery Store chain. When the house came on the market a few years ago its price tag was in the millions!

Mr. Bowman also bought the store and mill. The store is today's Tim's Rent-All and the mill was a smaller forerunner of the current Vanstone Mill. His store dealt fairly with local settlers and helped them to get established. For his generosity the village of Darlington Mills became Bowmanville. The name seems to have been in general usage by the early 1830s, but was not officially changed until 1853. It is an odd fact that our founder never lived here. He stayed at his paternal house in Westmount, Montreal and spent most of his time going back and forth to Scotland buying manufactured goods which he could sell at great profit in the primitive colony of Canada. He died in 1848 and is said to be buried in Jersey. His last will and testament were written on the Isle of Jersey so perhaps he had a respiratory ailment and was seeking a warmer climate when he died. Such illnesses were common

place in the 1800s. For more information on Charles Bowman check previous articles at www.claringtonpromoter.ca, click on past issues and go to October 2011 Edition.

Charles married Elizabeth Savage of York (Toronto) in 1830. Charles travelled extensively and he tried to recreate for his bride the lovely Italian villas he saw on his tours. He built her a fine house on Cote St. Antoine, Westmount. The estate was called Forden and the house featured a large centre block with two pergolas or pavilions on either side. Corridors were eventually constructed to connect them to the main house as the Bowmans became tired of travelling back and forth through the drafty cellar to reach them during the winter. Charles and Elizabeth had several children: Charles, Elizabeth, James, Anne and Victoria Sophia. Only Elizabeth lived to adulthood and she married Captain Robert Taylor Raynes. The Raynes made their home in the Bowman house, having eight children (5 girls and 3 boys) and as none of them married the Bowman line died out. The house was sold, torn down and a new one built in its place, the surviving grand-daughters moved and eventually passed away. So what happened to the painting? In the early 1990s I began corresponding with many museums and art galleries throughout the Province of Quebec looking for this painting. No luck. One clue led me to the church that had absorbed Charles Bowman's church, St. Gabriel Street Presbyterian, and I tried there but again no luck. I ran out of leads and stopped looking, but never forgot. My fortunes changed in November of last year when I got a message to call a lady back about a Bowman painting.

It was Rose McIntyre from Whitby calling. She said her older sister Mona (Lesley) MacFarlane in Ottawa had an old painting of the Bowman Family and Lesley thought for some reason it had to do with a family in the Whitby area. Rose was calling to see if it might be connected to Bowmanville. Meanwhile Lesley's friend, Wikke Walop, had googled the Bowman family history and had made the connection. Lesley and Wikke had thought the painting fine enough to be given to an art gallery but after some discussion the Bowmanville Museum was chosen. Unfortunately Lesley died just at this time but her friend, Wikke, has acted upon the decision. When I visited Wikke I noticed on a table a binder with Clarington Promoter articles taken from the internet. I like to think my earlier articles helped to persuade them that the painting belonged in Clarington.

Lesley acquired the painting from her mother, Margaret MacFarlane. Margaret and her husband Donald were good friends of the Misses Raynes in Westmount. Rose can remember as a young girl playing in the Raynes' house and she knew three of the Bowman grand-daughters, Ethel, Polly and Norah. Ethel, the last of the sisters, died in 1957. The two families were close and one of Rose's middle names is "Raynes". Rose believes the connection started with her grandmother, Mahel (Ward) Aylmer, whose father James Kevelley Ward was Mayor of Westmount and owned a great deal of property. Mahel Aylmer was born in 1873 and was only a year older than Miss Norah Raynes.

As some time after the Raynes sisters moved into an apartment Margaret MacFarlane was given the painting. Both Wikke and Rose shared with me a story about Lesley visiting home from University. Margaret came down the stairs carrying the painting in one hand and the frame in the other saying to Lesley, "I have a use for this frame, but what will I do with this painting?" To which Lesley replied, "I'll take it with me and hang it in my room at school." This she did and the painting followed her wherever she went after that.

It is one thing to find a lost lost treasure, but when that treasure exceeds your wildest expectations then you know you've got something really and truly special. It is not just a portrait of Mr. Bowman but of his whole family including the dog! It comes with a handwritten note by his son-in-law, Captain Raynes, listing the children's names and their death dates and locations. So beyond a shadow of a doubt we have the right Bowman Family. It is a well-executed oil painting, 26" by 34", and some interesting clues can be gleaned from it. For instance there is a Montreal newspaper and what appears to be a ledger book at Charles Bowman's feet to indicate, perhaps, his business success. Also his son James holds an artist portfolio in his arm so he may well have been a gifted artist. Wouldn't it be wonderful if some of his artwork turned up!

So all long last the mystery is solved. In our darkest moments



John Simpson was a protégé of Charles Bowman. He began working in his Bowmanville store in 1825 at the age of 12. He opened the first bag of mail to arrive in town (1827), soon took over management of the store and eventually became a partner in the business. He was active in banking, politics and civic affairs. In 1857 he established the Ontario Bank in Bowmanville and in 1867 he became one of Canada's first Senators. His house can still be seen on the Southwest corner of Highway # 2 and Bennett Road."

we thought the painting was sitting in a collection unidentified or even worse destroyed. A happy ending is always the best ending. You may have noticed that this article is dedicated to Garth Gilpin. Garth is a member of the Historic Downtown Bowmanville organization. They run many successful annual events such as Applefest. Many years ago it was proposed to hold a "Charles Bowman Days" event. A picture of Charles Bowman was needed, but none could be found. They even offered a \$500 reward for such an image. Someone suggested using just any old picture of a man from pioneer times. Garth said "Oh no, you can't do that". So the event had to be changed, but historical accuracy was maintained.

One final note of interest: Wikke forwarded to me an article on the house built over the site of the old Bowman/Raynes house in Montreal. The new house was built in 1950 by members of the powerful Broomfield family. In 1993 it became the home of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his family. Two years ago the Mulroneys decided to downsize and sell their home in favour of a new downtown condo. The house was listed for many millions of dollars. Mr. Bowman's horse barn and carriage shed have also been converted to houses. The carriage shed was rebuilt into an English cottage in the 1920's and was, at one time, owned by the Birks Family of the Birks Jewellery store chain.