

# Regal Heights

# REVIEW

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Fall 2019, Vol.1

## My Escarpment

By *Beth Marcilio*

My sister who was visiting from Australia, and I were travelling on a tour bus to Niagara-on-the-Lake to see a show when the guide, with barely-contained excitement, announced, "We're coming up to the escarpment ladies and gentlemen; look out the windows on your left".

My sister said to me, "When's the escarpment?". "We passed it." I said. "It was that hill on the left with the ragged sumac trees."

The Niagara Escarpment might have underwhelmed my sister, but come to Regal Heights and I'll show you a magnificent escarpment where once the waters of Lake Iroquois lapped gently to the shore.

The Lake was formed after the Ice Age, approximately 13,000 years ago, a short time in geological terms. The shores were formed by the expanding and retreating ice over thousands of years, forming a cliff face that parallels present-day Davenport Avenue.

Were humans living in Regal Heights during the Ice Age? They could have been, because man did live during this unfriendly time. Human history in Regal Heights starts with the formation of Lake Iroquois. One picture I found showed what the shores would have looked like in those ancient days. I saw cottage country.

Remnants of those forbearers can be found in Regal Heights. Arrowheads have been unearthed and a friend of mine found a clay pipe west of Regal Road. When I've dug in the garden along Regal Road I have found a tin soldier, a toy from the '30s or '40s and a small tin toy car from the '50s. Huge iron bolts, perhaps from farming equipment, have also been uncovered.

For a short time the south side of Regal Road was a playground. The City once told some old neighbours of mine that they would never allow homes to be built on the south side of Regal Road. So they bought on Northcliffe. However, houses did appear on the south side of Regal Road in the 1920s.

When houses were built on the north side of Davenport, huge chunks of earth were excavated from the cliff. I wish the diggings had been examined for fossils and any other artifacts that tied into the long history of the escarpment that marks the southern frontier of Regal Heights.

Perhaps some day the city or the community will put up a monument to the Indigenous people who once lived here. It would pay homage to the thousands before us who stood on the escarpment, overlooking the ice fields or Lake Iroquois and like me, dreamed.



*View of Toronto skyline from Davenport Escarpment.  
Photo: by Peggy Lampotang*

## Marie Goldthorpe

By *John Keating*



*Marie Goldthorpe*

They say you can't go home again, but don't try telling that to Marie Goldthorpe.

For almost 30 years now, Marie has been in the same Springmount Avenue house where she previously lived as a teenager. And on the cusp of her 80th birthday, she has no plans to go anywhere else.

When you count the years that she lived in the same house in her youth, Marie may well be the longest-term resident of Regal Heights. She moved into the neighbourhood with her family 68 years ago. But settling here might never have happened, except for the fact that her father was never comfortable with the idea of getting a loan from the bank.

Marie Goldthorpe was born in 1939 as Marie Collins. Her family rented the large three-story house on Albany Avenue in the Annex, across the road from St. Alban's Church and the parkland that ran beside it. "I sat on the porch and watched the lawn bowling across the street," she remembers.

One day, the owner of the house made an offer. He would sell Marie's parents the house for \$4,200. But he wanted cash, not a mortgage.

"It would have meant going to the bank for the money and Dad didn't like that idea," Marie says. So they started house hunting and soon found a two-storey semi on Springmount Avenue. It was half the size of the place on Albany Avenue, but the owner was willing to hold a mortgage.

*Marie Goldthorpe cont'd on page 2*

## Marie Goldthorpe cont'd from page 1

The family moved in 1951 when Marie was 12 years old. It was like going to an unknown frontier. "Nobody in those days wanted to live above Eglinton," she says. "That was the end of the line."

Garrison Creek had long been filled in to create Springmount Avenue, but the waterway was not yet in a sewer. As a result, the soil was always on the move, creating sinkholes along the way. "It had water squirting out all over the place," she says.

Marie went to the Loretto College School, which was then still in its original location on Brunswick Avenue. She soon became close friends with another teen who was destined to be a world-famous athlete - Marilyn Bell, who in 1954 became the first person to swim across Lake Ontario. Marilyn lived just down the street and they usually walked to school together. When it came time for high school, though, Marie switched to Oakwood Collegiate ("I decided to go where the boys were") but the two have kept in touch ever since.

When she finished high school in the late '50s, Marie saw an ad in the paper looking for a stenographer to work for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in the brand new medium of television. She stayed with the CBC for 10 years, most of it in the casting department.

In the 1960s, Marie got married and moved to North York where she gave birth to three daughters. But the marriage ran into trouble and by the time her father died in 1992, she was again living in the old family home on Springmount Avenue. "I

left the husband behind, packed up some clothes and moved."

There's one surprising advantage of keeping the house in the family for all these decades. Marie is one of the few people left in Toronto who still has a party line. Although almost unheard of today, party lines were common in the 1950s and early '60s. Two or more households shared a single phone line and each had a distinctive ring. It always seemed like every time you wanted to use the phone, someone else was on the line. Eavesdropping was as easy as quietly picking up the receiver.

But it was cheap - and still is. Marie pays \$12 a month. The other party, a neighbour, long ago switched to a private line, so Marie has it all to herself. She sees no need to change. "I don't recall Bell saying you have to have a private line. And this works for me."

Marie is happy with her decision to move back into Regal Heights and its strong sense of community. "Everybody looked after and took care of each other," she says. "They would come to check on you if they hadn't seen you in a while." She says that has changed a little as new generations moved in. People don't visit each other as readily and are more absorbed in their own lives, but the neighbourliness has never been lost.

"I'm glad we still have groups getting together for things like Pub Night and the Street Party," she says. "It's part of what makes this area so good to live in."

## Editors' Comment

Take a walk through Regal Heights and you will see why people love to live here. It is a community resplendent with trees, from their spring blossoming to branches laden with snow in winter and beautiful communal gardens maintained by volunteers.

It's a place rich with history, where First Nations once walked the trail called Davenport and where the Bull family farmed on the banks of Garrison Creek.

This inaugural issue of the Regal Heights Review, sponsored by the RHRA, is a celebration of our community and its people. We hope you enjoy it.

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Drawings by Harry Lay

\*The views and opinions expressed here are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the RHRA.

\*The archival photos contained in the article by Harry Lay were found in the history files at the Dufferin/St. Clair library.

## Unobtrusive Angels

By Beth Marcilio

We have all had the experience of a friend or stranger appearing at a crucial moment in our lives and saving a situation. It can happen suddenly or over time. It can be large or small, but kindness is always at the heart of it. There is something extra to the event. Perhaps it is just luck, or is it heaven sent? Regal Heights has its share of these people, neighbours who lend a hand when you need it most, without having to be asked. Here are the stories of just two of these unobtrusive angels.

### Dave Williams at the Grand Prix Garage

When an old woman drives into a garage with a clean but old, low-mileage car the garage crew sometimes think, "Here's a live one". They service the car and then come out front with a serious face and news that work needs to be done on the brakes or the transmission or something else that will cost a lot, but will save lives. This scenario is quite familiar to me, but I found a notable exception in the neighbourhood.

When my son was a teenager and driving an old Mazda RX 7, he used to praise a garage on St. Clair. I took no notice; he was young and gullible. But that shop moved and became the Grand Prix Garage, tucked in just north of St. Clair on Winona, opposite the TD Bank.

Dave Williams runs Grand Prix. One day I had a flat tire. As my car wobbled into the garage, Dave reminded me of Rod Stewart. Well, that was a bonus and a good start to some years of reliable service and remarkable kindness.

Unobtrusive Angels cont'd on page 3

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# A Meditation on the Coffee Shop

By Rebecca Love

As a person who drinks very little coffee or tea, it has never made much sense for me to spend my waking hours in coffee shops.

I certainly didn't do much of this while growing up in Regal Heights. As a kid I spent most of my time on the streets: playing ball hockey on Lauder, scootering down the Regal Road hill, racing across Clovis John Brooks Lane. In the winter months, we spent all our free time in the bedrooms of our best friends, collecting beanie babies or baking chocolate chip cookies in our parents' kitchens, carefully learning how to crack an egg.

As a teenager most of my hours were spent watching movies with friends, all crammed into someone's basement, supplies of Doritos and M&Ms collected from the corner store, or else spent in downtown shopping malls, or walking

through city parks and streets, brimming with youthful excitement about our lives opening up before us.

As an adult, the spaces I have occupied in my free hours have revolved mostly around our local coffee shop. This is where my girlfriends and I choose to spend time when we have some major life event to discuss (a breakup, a promotion, a relationship issue, a new art project). This is where I have had many memorable dates. This is where I've worked on some of my favourite film projects.

But the coffee shops in my neighbourhood provide more than just a space for hangouts. If you stumble across the right one, your local coffee shop can become a safe harbour for those seeking the comfort of other people. In an era where attendance rates are plummeting at places of worship, there has never been such a hunger for gathering or for community. Whether you are recovering from illness, unemployment, grief or loneliness, a good coffee shop can act as a soothing balm for the suffering heart.

In a shop filled with caring staff and quirky regulars, our life narratives are enriched as we begin to understand our own story through regular conversation—even if it is small-talkish. In a spot where customers and baristas spend enough time with one another, our heartbreaks and triumphs are recognized by others. We feel listened to, cared about. Even our absences are noticed.

There are all kinds of currencies exchanged in a local coffee shop: money, coffee, kind words and gestures of warmth. But the most powerful currency of all has to do with love—with loving your neighbour, loving the stranger, loving the community you live in and learning to love yourself.



## *Unobtrusive Angels cont'd from page 3*

Dave (or Rod as I call him) offered to drive me home. I demurred. He insisted. The car needed an oil change and the bill was more than fair. No charge for mending the tire. Since the flat, Dave/Rod has given consistent, excellent service and prevented some accidents with his skill and experience.

Last winter CAA had to boost my battery twice, but the battery was worn out. When I asked for a tow on my prime top-of-the-line membership card, they said they couldn't walk on the ice to my garage.

To the rescue came Dave Williams, who boosted the spent battery and drove the car back to Grand Prix to install a new one. He phoned me soon after and asked, "Do you ever smell burning when you are driving?". I had not noticed a smell but had seen what could have been smoke or steam emitting from the hood. I had even called the fire brigade who could see nothing from the top of the engine. (Those good fire fighters, however, carried my heavy grocery bags right into the kitchen for me.)

When Dave put the car on a hoist he noticed oil leaking onto the hot engine. I could have had a fire or been blown up or at least had a permanent wave from the resulting heat. Perhaps Dave saved my life.

After a routine servicing one day, Dave said casually, "I did a bit of body work". He had removed and repaired all the rust creeping around the rockers of my aged but beloved Subaru. No charge—just a kindness. And it's not just me. My referrals to Grand Prix are fellow devotees.

There are many examples of the good service, kindness and humour that I have experienced at the Grand Prix Garage. I am reminded of Chorus in Shakespeare's "Henry the Fifth" who said,

"The little more, and oh how much it is".

## **Danelia George at the LCBO**

One snowy day about two years ago, I did my errands before the weather really closed in and became the big storm that had been forecast. My last call was at the liquor store on St. Clair and Alberta.

As I browsed the shelves and put bottles in my cart, the blizzard set in with all its might and I was worried I would drop my precious bag of booze with a slip on the ice.

"Don't worry," said Danelia at the check out, "I'll take the bag out to your car". She carried the bag and steadied me on the slippery street, through the storm and to the car. It was quite a distance. I could not thank her enough but it took me some time to leave her a small gift and a thank you note.

A year later Danelia was again at the check out. She saw me and ran to the back of the store to bring me a small envelope. It was a thank you note to me for thanking her. This is what it said: "Thank you so much for your card and present. It was a nice surprise. You are very kind and it was my pleasure helping you no matter how long ago it was. I'd do it again in a heartbeat".



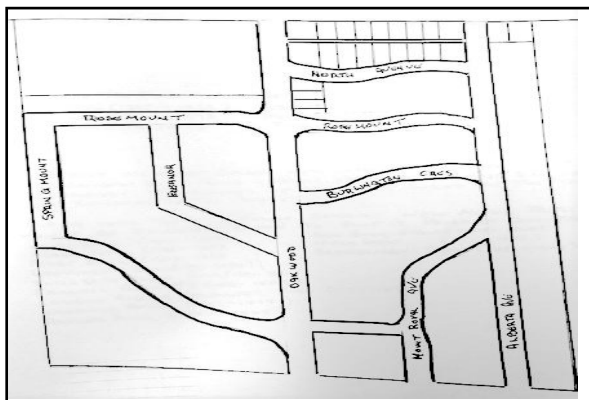
# How Regal Heights Got Built

By Harry Lay

The land that we call Regal Heights today has changed considerably over the 200 years that Europeans have been building on it.

In 1793, with the founding of a British settlement in what was then the Town of York, the Indigenous Mississauga made use of a trail along what we now call Davenport Road. The trail connected the Humber River at Weston with ravines leading into the Don River valley. An early map even suggests there was an Indigenous burial site above Davenport, somewhere on the height of land atop Regal Road. Residents of the street have reported uncovering arrowheads in their gardens.

In the nineteenth century, the Bull family acquired the acreage of wilderness in which the present Regal Heights neighbourhood is located. The land was gradually transformed from native forest into a working farm. The Bull property extended from Dufferin Street east to Alberta Avenue and from St. Clair Avenue W. to south of Davenport Road.



**"Bull family development of Oakwood ca. 1895"**  
**Few lots were sold and the venture was considered a failure.**

With the land boom of the 1890s came the first plan of subdivision of the property, a Bull family project organized around Oakwood Avenue. Oakwood and Eleanor (now Highview) avenues created building lots with good views over the city, as did Burlington Crescent and Rosemount Ave.



**Smoothing out the Dufferin Street hill north of Davenport, 1912.**

Then came the market bust of the late 1890s which lasted until 1910, stagnating further development. The Bull Farm remained as fields and pastures. That year, the Northcliffe Land Development Company capitalized on the water, sewage and hydro services being extended by the City of Toronto, as a way to market the real estate development of "Northcliffe on the Hill".

This development was very different from the wild west housing scramble in Earlscourt, to the west of Dufferin, where uncontrolled building and lot parceling gave rise to an area known as Shacktown. "Northcliffe on the Hill" was an orderly, modern subdivision of the east half of the Bull Farm. The fields were divided into properties of uniform size fronting onto a grid of new streets, with lot sizes appropriate for middle-class housing. New streets included Northcliffe Boulevard, Lauder and Glenholme avenues and Regal Road.

Photographs of the area at the time show a barren expanse of fields, with some leftover trees in the Garrison Creek ravine. Nevertheless, a marketing brochure for the project emphasized the suburb's proximity to a "high class residential section [likely Forest Hill] already supplied with all the conveniences of city life". House lots were priced based on the lineal frontage of each lot, and factored in a prestige value that was dependent on the particular street.

Foreshadowing our current transit needs, the marketing brochure noted the extension of streetcar service with access to the Avenue Road and Davenport electric lines.

The description of "Northcliffe on the Hill" was appealing: "Fresh breezes prevail on the warmest days in summer and the air is always free of the smoke and dust of the city". Like the "Hillcrest" development, topographic superiority was critical to Northcliffe. The development was "located on the highest elevation of land and overlooks Toronto from the north".

Local land developers like Sir Henry Pellatt were successful in turning the farmlands above Davenport Road into serviced neighbourhoods. Pellatt located his own new home, Casa Loma (deemed by some as the first monster home of the century) on the brow of Davenport Hill.

The Crangs were emblematic of local developers. In 1910 they owned a large parcel of land at the intersection of Oakwood Avenue and St. Clair Avenue West, on which they had built a large family home in the 1800s.

Over time, they knocked down their home and developed the property for multiple uses. The Crangs built a cinema (Oakwood Theatre, seating 1200), a public swimming pool, a stadium and a race car track on the grounds. Subsequent projects included Oakwood Collegiate Institute, many houses, and clusters of mixed-use retail residential buildings along St. Clair Avenue West.



**The Crang family home at 2 Regal Road (dem.).**

## How Regal Heights got built cont'd from page 4

More than any other family, the Crangs were instrumental in creating a dynamic neighbourhood built around a thriving St. Clair Avenue West.

On the eve of World War I, the Westmount Northcliffe and Lauder Land Development Company acquired the westerly remaining part of the Bull Farm. Like "Northcliffe on the Hill", this development was planned for larger and more expensive homes than those south of Davenport and west of Dufferin Street. Several styles of homes were built. Gone was the picturesque, asymmetric whimsy of the High Victorian style that was popular in the older Annex neighbourhood of Toronto. Builders now favoured the American Bungalow (or Craftsman) style and the English Garden Suburb style as seen in Wychwood Park.

The construction material of choice was brick supplied by the Don Valley Brickworks. Homes were built with buff, rose and magenta coloured bricks with blonde Humber Valley stone foundations. Roofs were covered with slate or cedar shingle. Windows were often of double-hung assembly. Interiors featured high first floor ceilings, with oak staircases and oak paneling in the principal rooms. Most houses had front porches or raised landings large enough for the family to gather. Freestanding brick car garages were located to the rear of lots. The kit tin garage supplied by the T. Eaton Company was a second option.

Over time, the Regal Heights landscape gradually transformed from farm fields to an urban forest. City foresters planted elms, maples, sycamores and oaks along the street. Hedges for privacy were also very popular.

The Oakwood Avenue boom in Regal Heights began just prior to the First World War and continued for another decade. Other hilltop developments to the east, such as Wells Hill and Bracondale followed. The creation of Regal Heights gives testimony to the merits of carefully controlled development and to the skilled trades responsible for its construction.



**A good example of the Arts and Crafts style that populates Regal Road: half timbered gables, pegged beams and leaded glass openings make for an English Cottage hiding behind lush hedges.**

## Authors' Afternoon at Stella's

By Peggy Lampotang

People in Regal Heights are dedicated to improving the neighbourhood, not only by making it safer and more beautiful, but also by uniting people through community events. One of those events is the Authors' Afternoon,

held once a month on Sunday afternoons at Stella's Lunchbox Café.

The idea of creating an afternoon for authors to share their work grew from the café owner's openness to cultural happenings in the neighbourhood. Tony Merante, who also owns Desotos next door, had already initiated jazz brunches on Sundays and open mic nights on Thursdays. They give both professional and aspiring musicians opportunities to jam and practice their songs in front of an audience.

Guitar players, pianists, sax players, violinists, bass players, drummers, and singers kept dropping by on Thursdays. Often, they spontaneously clicked, producing uplifting rhythms and sounds that pushed the creative vibes to a euphoric level.

As someone who works in the arts, I know how difficult it is for artists to promote themselves. But I've always believed that when opportunity knocks, I have to open the door. When Tony Merante made it clear that he was open to more cultural events in his establishment, I then arranged a few exhibitions of my own photography at Desotos and recommended a few artists to Tony for art exhibitions. We were all happy for the exposure and even sold photographs and paintings. Tony's support for artists extended to film screenings and literary events such as book launches. He was happy that more patrons would frequent his restaurant and did not charge fees unless it was during his busiest time of the day.

With that in mind, and charmed by the warm, friendly and cozy atmosphere at Stella's Lunch Box Café, it was there I launched "Island Lovers"- my book of poetry and photography. I was thrilled with the convivial ambience that the space generated as well as the enthusiastic turnout.

From that emerged the idea for the Authors' Afternoon at Stella's. It's a regular monthly meet-up to give authors the opportunity to read from their books and to share their creative journeys.

I volunteered to run it. The first reading took place on the last Sunday of July 2017. Neighbourhood authors were keen to participate and soon the year was fully booked. Some became regulars and spread the word about the authors' series to others.

Authors of fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, and poetry joined the list of guests, each bringing their unique experience and points of view. The discussions became a meeting of minds that inspired many to start writing or to keep writing, and others to read more.

The Authors' Afternoon runs the last Sunday of every month from 4-6 pm. You are all very welcome to join us.



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# The Lanes of Regal Heights *By Rosabel Fast*

When I was a child, my family lived in a small bungalow in the centre of Blumenort, Manitoba. Blumenort's only street did not have a name so we called it Three Eleven, after Provincial Road 311, which also served as the town's main street.

Over time, a new street was built in a new development and my family moved into a larger house with a wonderfully large yard with plenty of trees. This street had a proper name, Oakdale Drive. Because every family on Oakdale Drive lived in a new house, it was also called Millionaire Drive by the rest of the Blumenorters.

As we all know, names are important. Giving a place a name gives it an identity. Today I live in a huge city in Ontario, in a wonderful neighbourhood that goes by the posh name of Regal Heights.

Regal Heights' name reflects the grand view of the city from the top of the Davenport Ridge, which is locally referred to as "Our Escarpment." Like a growing number of neighbourhoods, Regal Heights has been recently naming its laneways, as a way of honouring notable people who lived here.

## **Clovis John Brooks Lane**



Soon after I moved to Regal Heights, I noted an attractive sign on my street that identified the Clovis John Brooks Lane. Now that's a regal sounding name, I thought. I wondered who this Clovis John was and how his name was chosen for the narrow laneway that runs north of Regal Road, from the Springmount Steps to Northcliffe Boulevard. Florence Watts, a long-time resident of Regal Heights, worked together with a small group of women to name Clovis John Brooks Lane.

"Clovis John Brooks was a great guy", said Florence Watts. He was the founder of the Clovis John Brooks Foundation. During the late 1960s Regal Heights experienced an influx of newcomer families from Jamaica. Noting that the newcomers would need assistance, Brooks stepped naturally into the role of provider. He guided the immigrants through their initial settlement and continued giving support as they blended into a new life in a new world.

Over the course of his long, service-filled life Brooks received: the Order of Canada, Order of Ontario, Order of Distinction from Jamaica, Medal for Good Citizenship and finally an Honorary Degree from Queen's University. In 1970, the Oakwood Escarpment Residents' Association (forerunner of the Regal Heights Residents' Association) was organized with Brooks' strong backing.

On April 29, 2008, at the age of 83 years, Clovis John Brooks died. What Regal Heights residents remember so well today, is his generosity and willingness to help those in need.

According to Florence Watts, Clovis John Brooks was also an all-round very nice person. "Spending time with him", she said, "was a pleasure".

## **Lt. John Roberts Kenmure Lane**

A second Regal Heights lane honours a man who did not get the chance at a long life. Lt. John Roberts Kenmure Lane

runs between Mount Royal Avenue and Alberta Avenue, just north of Davenport. It was dedicated in a ceremony on November 15, 2017. The Kenmure family lived at nearby Alberta Avenue from the 1930s until about 1967. Lt. Kenmure was only one week short of his 24th birthday when he died in World War II near Caen, France on July 20, 1944. He served with the Cameron Highlanders of the Ottawa Machine Gun Unit, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division C. Company, and was part of the D-Day landing on Juno Beach.

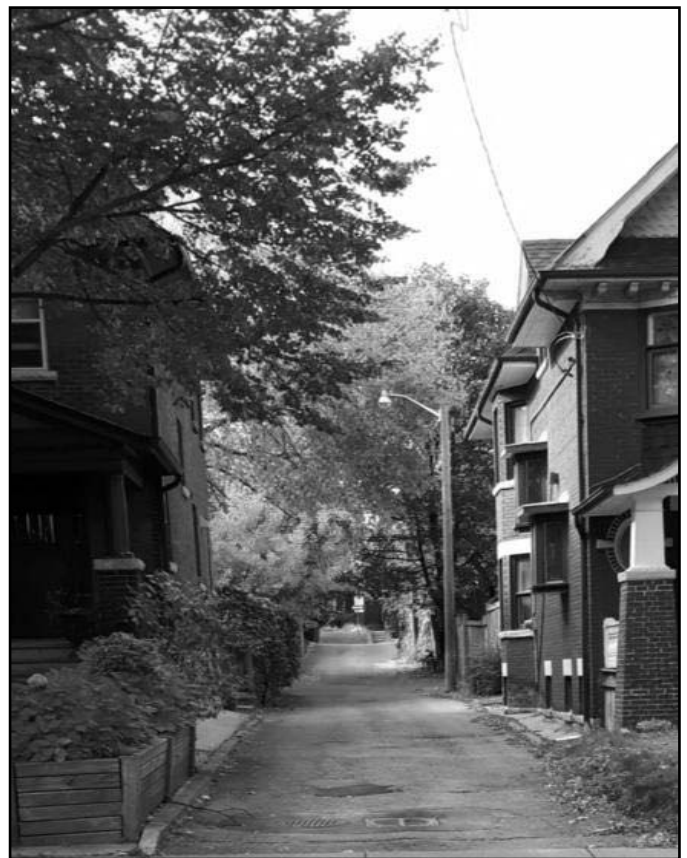
## **Edward McIlwain Lane**

On March 19, 2019 a third laneway was named. Edward McIlwain Lane runs from Oakwood Avenue just north of Davenport, emerging between two houses on Regal Road.

Ed, as he was known by everyone, lived on Davenport Road for over 50 years. He and his wife Mary had four daughters who still live in the neighbourhood.

Ed's occupation was plasterer and he became an artist in his craft. Many homes in Regal Heights still have lovely "Ed Ceilings". Ed was a friend to everybody and everyone knew of his warm, generous spirit. He was always helping others or contributing to community life. In his later years Ed got a mechanized scooter in order to continue connecting with people and to get around easily.

Edward McIlwain died January 18, 2013. As one Regal Heights resident stated, "We were lucky to have known Ed," a sentiment shared by many.



*Clovis John Brooks Lane in Regal Heights*

# The Regal Heights Steps

By Rosabel Fast

While much of Toronto is flat land, unique geographic features set the Regal Heights neighbourhood apart. Most prominent is the 50 to 75-foot bluff called Davenport Hill or the Davenport Escarpment, just north of Davenport Road.

One of the delights of visiting a new city is stumbling across exotic and surprising details: a hidden cobblestone square, a back alley that opens into a garden, a café behind a bend in a river.

Regal Heights has its own surprises, few of which are as distinctive as its public steps, or stairways. The Springmount Steps begin in a leafy bend in Springmount Avenue leading up to an alley off Glenholme Avenue. A second stairway is named the Dick Watts steps. These steps are more imposing, running from Glenholme and Regal Road down to Davenport Avenue. Both stairways were needed because of the unique geography that shaped the area.

That story begins at the end of the last Ice Age with the formation of Lake Iroquois, the ancient ancestor of Lake Ontario. Lake Iroquois' waters were held back by huge ice sheets. The eventual melting of the ice revealed an impressive ridge. In Regal Heights today, the ridge is known as the Davenport Escarpment. It is part of a natural feature that runs from the Scarborough Bluffs all the way to Mississauga.

In October 2016, the RHRA held an event to honour the life of Regal Heights community builder, Dick Watts. Some 75 people from the neighbourhood and beyond, gathered on Regal Road at the top of the stairs leading down to Davenport. They came to participate in the unveiling of a plaque and naming it the Dick Watts Steps. The event was to honour a man whose work greatly enhanced the quality of life in Regal Heights. Dick Watts died on October, 12, 2015.

Dick Watts served as Chair of the Regal Heights Residents' Association (RHRA) for decades. He was tireless in his efforts to improve the quality of life in the neighbourhood and inspired many others to take increased pride in where they lived. Dick and his wife Florence worked side by side on many initiatives: planting communal gardens and organizing tree planting, organizing neighbourhood festivities, being alert to issues in the community requiring attention and spearheading the publication of "St. Clair West in Pictures" by Nancy Byers and Barbara Myrvold, now in its third edition. This excellent book presents our local history in photos and text.

There is one other unexpected delight at the top of the Dick Watts Steps. A wooden post holds a small colourful abacus. As many Regal Heights residents know, the steps are more than a short cut for pedestrians. The abacus at the top serves as a counter for runners to keep track of their trips up and down the steps.



The Springmount Steps

# Well Known People from Regal Heights

Over the years, Regal Heights has had its share of residents who went on to become famous. Others made their mark after coming to the neighbourhood to attend school, often at Oakwood Collegiate Institute.

Here's a look at just a few of the accomplished individuals who have at some point lived or studied in Regal Heights. You can read more about notables from the neighbourhood in the About section of the Oakwood Collegiate website at [schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/oakwoodci](http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/oakwoodci)

## Marilyn Bell

Bell used to live on Springmount Avenue. In September 1954, at the age of 16, she became the first person to swim Lake Ontario. A year later, she became the youngest person to swim the English Channel and in 1956, she swam the Strait of Juan de Fuca.



## Al Waxman

Waxman became a Canadian icon as an actor and director in radio, television, film and stage. He was best known as the star of the TV series King of Kensington on CBC and Cagney & Lacey on CBS. He was awarded the Order of Canada in 1997. He died in 2001.



## Jane Bunnett

Bunnett is a saxophone and flute player best known for forming the all-female Afro-Cuban/jazz group, Maquette. The group has won five Juno Awards and two Grammy nominations.



## Stephen Lewis

Lewis was leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party for most of the 1970s. He became Canadian Ambassador to the United Nations in the 1980s and in the 2000s he served as the UN's special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. He is a Member of the Order of Canada.



## Jully Black

Black is an R&B singer-songwriter, producer and actress. CBC Music named her one of The 25 Greatest Canadian Singers Ever. She has collaborated with many other artists and won the Juno Award for her 2017 single hit, "Seven Day Fool".



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# EVENTS CALENDAR 2020

Regal Heights Residents' Association (RHRA)

Here is a list of tentative dates for events hosted by the RHRA. Please note times may change and we might add more events during the year.

**REGAL HEIGHTS WEBSITE:** [www.regalheights.ca](http://www.regalheights.ca) (check for details of events)

**TO HELP WITH AN EVENT:** contact John Keating ([johnpkeating@gmail.com](mailto:johnpkeating@gmail.com)) or just show up.

**TO JOIN THE RHRA:** simply go to our website and subscribe to our email news service. There's no charge for joining. We raise money through occasional on-line fundraising campaigns.

**PUB NIGHTS:** Our ever-popular, family friendly Thursday night get-together at the Fox & Fiddle, 1085 St. Clair Ave. W. Get 25% off your meal! Kids welcome. Feb 27, April 23, June 25, August 27, October 29, and December 3 (tentative date).

## 2020 EVENTS IN REGAL HEIGHTS

**January 21, 7 pm: RHRA Executive Meeting, location TBA.** We hold most executive meetings in members' homes, but anyone is welcome to attend if they have a particular issue they would like to discuss. Watch your email and our website for details and agendas.

**February 18, 7 pm: RHRA Executive Meeting, location TBA.** We hold most executive meetings in members' homes, but anyone is welcome to attend if they have a particular issue they would like to discuss. Watch your email and our website for details and agendas.

**March, (date TBA): Regal Heights Maple Syrup Making.** Got a maple tree on your property? Join us in tapping some sap! Don't have a tree? Then volunteer to do some of the boiling down. This was a big success when we tried it in 2019. Everyone involved gets a bottle of Regal Heights Maple Syrup of their own. Watch your email and our website for details!

**March 17, 7 pm: RHRA Executive Meeting, location TBA.** We hold most executive meetings in members' homes, but anyone is welcome to attend if they have a particular issue they would like to discuss. Watch your email and our website for details and agendas.

**April (date TBA): Garden planting and maintenance.** Watch your emails and the website for dates. Come spend a couple of hours helping to make our public gardens along Rosemount and Springmount beautiful.

**April 21, 7 pm: RHRA Executive Meeting, location TBA.** We hold most executive meetings in members' homes, but anyone is welcome to attend if they have a particular issue they would like to discuss. Watch your email and our website for details and agendas.

**April 25 (Saturday): Neighbourhood Clean Up Day.** Join thousands of others across the city and help clean up litter left over from the winter. We'll provide the bags and gardening gloves that you can keep. Help keep the neighbourhood looking great. Meet at the OCI parking lot at 10:00 am.

**May 19, 7 pm: RHRA Public Meeting, location TBA.** This is one of two public meetings we hold each year. Watch your email and our website for details and agendas.

**June (date TBA): Neighbourhood Garden Tour (tentative).** We're still working on this one. If you want to see it happen, please help us organize it.

**July 1st (Wednesday): Canada Day Parade.** Wear something red, encourage your children to decorate their bikes and join the family-friendly parade from Oakwood Collegiate through neighbourhood streets to Regal Rd. School. Starts at 10 am.

**September 15, 7 pm: RHRA Executive Meeting, location TBA.** We hold most executive meetings in members' homes, but anyone is welcome to attend if they have a particular issue they would like to discuss. Watch your email and our website for details and agendas.

**October 20, 7 pm: RHRA Executive Meeting, location TBA.** We hold most executive meetings in members' homes, but anyone is welcome to attend if they have a particular issue they would like to discuss. Watch your email and our website for details and agendas.

**October 24 (Saturday): Pumpkin Carving.** Our popular Halloween event for kids and kids at heart. We'll supply the pumpkins and safety knives. At the parkette, corner of St. Clair W. and Northcliffe.

**November 17, 7 pm: RHRA Annual General Meeting, location TBA.** This is one of two public meetings we hold each year. Watch your email and our website for details and agendas.

**December 18 (Friday), 7pm: Regal Heights Carol Sing.** A Christmas tradition. Meet in front of Oakwood Collegiate Institute at 7 pm for carols and seasonal songs.

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