

*Wilfrid Servington Dinnick (1874-1923), c.1912  
Founder of Lawrence Park*



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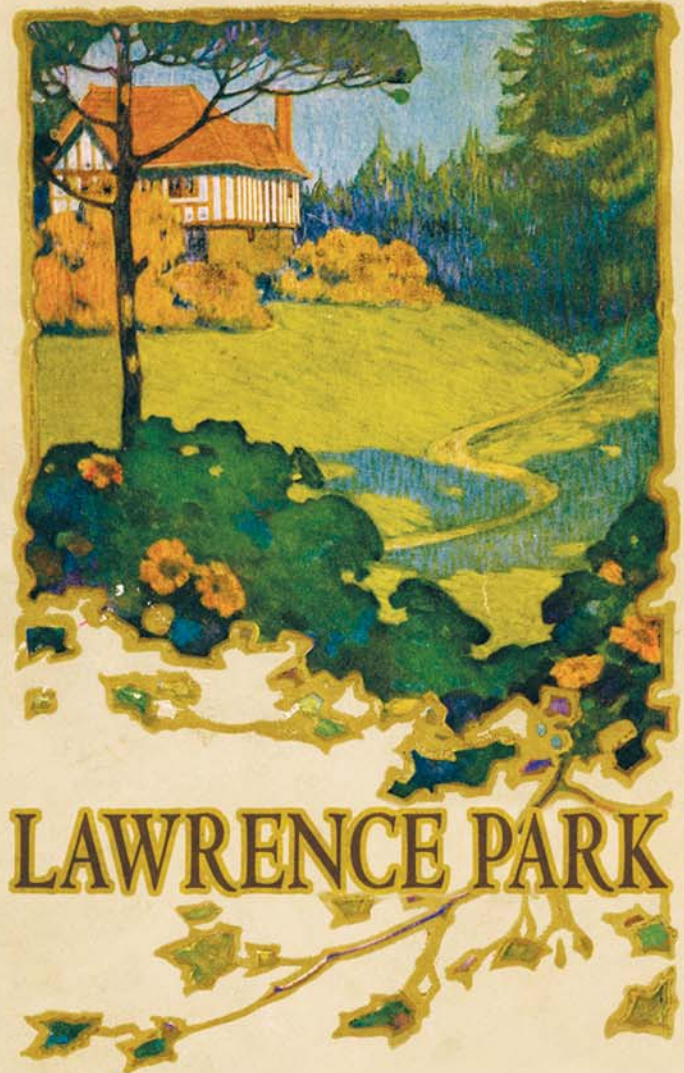
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# *Historical Walking Tour of*



## **LAWRENCE PARK**

*Barbara Myrvold*

*Lynda Moon*

*Revised and Expanded Edition*



# HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR OF LAWRENCE PARK – MAIN ROUTE



Plate 130, Goad's Atlas of the city of Toronto and suburbs, 1924.  
 Detail, altered from the original  
 TRL 912.7135 G57.14 \b BR

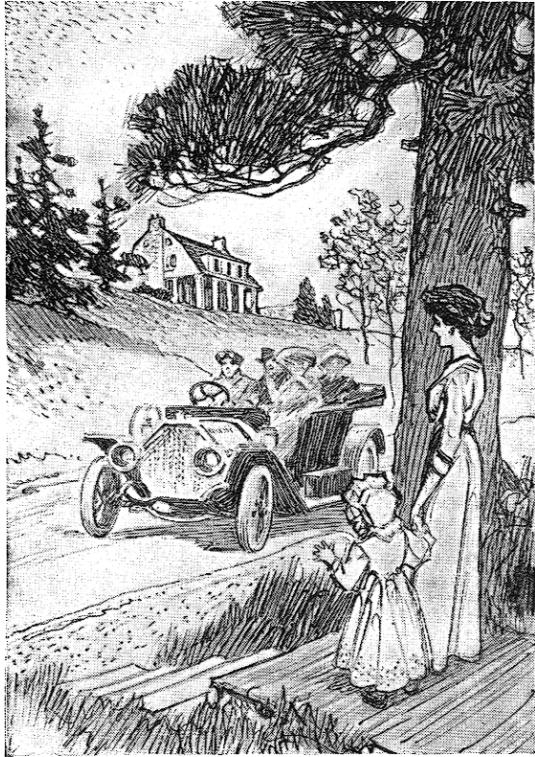
# HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR OF LAWRENCE PARK – EXTENDED ROUTE



Plates 130 and 131, Goad's Atlas of the city of Toronto and suburbs, 1924.  
 Detail, altered from the original  
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# HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR OF LAWRENCE PARK



*Barbara Myrvold*

*Lynda Moon*

Toronto Public Library Board

Published in partnership with  
Lawrence Park Ratepayers' Association  
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### Cover Illustrations

Front: Adaptation of the front cover of *Strath Gowan: the Southern Annex to Lawrence Park*, C. W. Jefferys (attributed), 1912 TRL 917.13541 S76 \b BR

Back: Wilfrid Servington Dinnick, c. 1912

*Leading financial and business men of Toronto*. Toronto: Edwin McCormick, 1912.

NDLHC

### Title Page Illustration

Strath Gowan: the Southern Annex to Lawrence Park, C. W. Jefferys (attributed), 1912 TRL 917.13541 S76 \b BR

### Key to Abbreviations in Credits

AO	Archives of Ontario
CTA	City of Toronto Archives
NDLHC	Northern District Library Local History Collection, Toronto Public Library
NTHS	North Toronto Historical Society
TRL	Toronto Reference Library, Toronto Public Library

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## PREFACE

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Lawrence Park, for it was in 1907 that the Lawrence and Harris farms were purchased to create a garden suburb for Toronto's middle classes. By happy coincidence, the centennial of this event in 2007 coincides with the publication of a revised and expanded edition of *Historical Walking Tour of Lawrence Park*. The booklet was published originally in 1994, with contributions by librarian Elizabeth Ridler, and a revised edition was issued in 1995.

This edition is a joint project of the Toronto Public Library, North Toronto Historical Society and Lawrence Park Ratepayers' Association. Many individuals from the three partner organizations assisted with the production of this edition. The Lawrence Park Ratepayers' Association instigated the republication. Jane Somerville and Valentine Lovekin of the Trees and Parks Committee were particularly involved, and we thank them for their vision and unflagging support.

Members of the North Toronto Historical Society also participated. Alex Grenzebach, a lifelong resident of Lawrence Park, helped refine the tour route, took photographs of several sites, identified many early houses from archival photographs and maps and interviewed his neighbours for their memories. This booklet has been greatly enriched through his efforts, and his invaluable insights and recollections. We also appreciate the assistance of architectural historian Marta O'Brien, who shared her knowledge of architectural styles and details. Marta conducts walking tours of Toronto neighbourhoods through Citywalks and has given many tours of Lawrence Park.

Toronto Public Library staff is thanked for their invaluable assistance in producing the new edition, particularly Alan Walker, Special Collections Department, Toronto Reference Library; Lynn Pasternak, Planning and Development Department; Cathy Izawa of the Marketing and Communications Department; and Fiona O'Connor and Christopher Coutlee, Preservation and Digitization Department.

We thank those who have shared their memories and documents about Lawrence Park for this edition. Douglas Brown provided details about Eden Smith's work here and James L. Packham shared information about W. Breden Galbraith. Suzanne Evans wrote us about her grandfather, John Evans, while Charis Cotter and her father, Reverend Canon Graham Cotter told us about their family, Eleonore and "John" Westley. Charlotte Erichsen-Brown's interview gave rare insights about her father, Wilfrid Servington Dinnick, founder of Lawrence Park, and his vision for a garden suburb. She was born in 1907, the year Lawrence Park began, and died on October 15, 2002.

Barbara Myrvold, Lynda Moon

April 2007

## LAWRENCE PARK: AN OVERVIEW HISTORY

### Original Grantees and Early Landowners

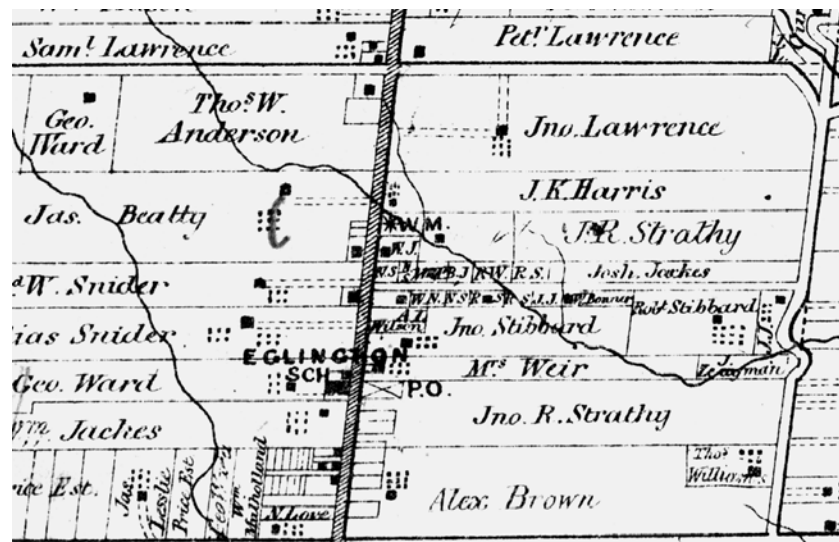
Between 1792 and 1796, the Queen's Rangers, under the supervision of Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe, surveyed a stretch of Yonge Street extending from York (now Toronto) to Holland Landing. As a result of this survey, farm lots fronting on Yonge Street were marked off. The land on which the Lawrence Park Estates were eventually built consists of Lot 4 and Lot 5, 1st Concession east of Yonge Street. Each lot had a one-quarter mile frontage on Yonge Street, and extended one-and-a-quarter miles to today's Bayview Avenue; the lots were 190 acres each.

Lot 4 ran from just north of what is now Blythwood Road to about today's St. Leonard's Avenue. It was first granted to William Weekes in 1803. He was an Irishman who had studied law in the United States and came to York (Toronto) in 1798. A fierce critic of the provincial government, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1805 representing Durham, Simcoe and the East Riding of York. Weekes was killed in a duel with William Dickson of Niagara in 1806. Two years later, his executors sold Lot 4 to William Allan, a prominent York merchant.

Lot 5 extends from just north of present-day St. Leonard's Avenue north to today's Lawrence Avenue. It was granted to William Cooper (1761?-1840) in 1797. He was born in Bath, England and came to York in 1793. Cooper ran a tavern, taught school, acted as an auctioneer, constructed a grist-and-saw mill on the Humber in 1806 and built a wharf at the foot of Church Street in 1817.

Jonathan Hale purchased Lot 5 in 1808 and Lot 4 in 1811, and extended his local farming operations there. Hale came to York from New England in the early 1800s. In 1803 he married Margaret Carey and bought the southern 95 acres of her father's, Bernard Carey's, farm on Lot 6, just north of today's Lawrence Avenue. By 1816, Hale's household consisted of 15 people, including seven children under the age of 16. His farmhouse was at the northeast corner of today's Yonge and Glengrove. Hale, active in local government, became known as "a man of much influence in his day for the promotion of public works."<sup>1</sup> He was appointed as the poundkeeper for Yonge Street for 1805 and the pathmaster for a section of Yonge Street in 1811 and 1823. Hale eventually divided and sold his Yonge Street holdings. Lot 4 was sold in 1817 to Benjamin Carey. Lot 5 was leased in 1826 to three of his sons, William, Thomas and James Hale; and sold in 1833 to David Graham. The south and north parts of Lot 6 were acquired in 1829 and 1836 respectively by a Yorkshireman, Peter Lawrence.

In 1836, Samuel Ames Huson bought Lot 5 for £1,500. He was a wealthy landowner with property in County Kilkenny, Ireland, as well as a plantation in the Barbados. His neighbours across Yonge Street, the Murrays and the Nantons, were also from the West Indies; many families left the islands after slavery was abolished in the British Empire in 1832. Huson commissioned prominent Toronto architect John Howard to design a home for his estate, which he called Kingsland. The house was located near the end of what is now Lymystone Avenue. Huson died before 1845, but Lot 5 remained in the family until 1861 when it was sold to James Metcalfe. He, in turn, sold the property in 1865 to John Lawrence, a farmer, and his wife, Sarah. The future Lawrence Park Estates would be



Yonge Street lot owners near Eglinton, York Township, 1878

named for this family. During the Lawrences' tenure there, Lot 5 was kept mostly intact; only about 12 acres of the 190-acre property were sold over the years.

Lot 4 was purchased by Jesse Ketchum (1782-1867) in 1830. He built a handsome red brick home on the north side of today's Strathgowan opposite St. Hilda's Avenue, reached by a long tree-lined drive. Ketchum was no stranger to the area. He came to York from Spencertown, New York in 1799 to help his older brother, Seneca, farm Lot 8 on the west side of Yonge near Hogg's Hollow. In 1812 he purchased a tannery in York, and eventually became a wealthy businessman. Ketchum was elected in 1828 to the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada as a Reformer, representing York County along with William Lyon Mackenzie. He held his seat until 1834, declining to run again. A public spirited and generous man, Ketchum donated a half-acre section of Lot 4 to the Methodist Church, and in 1834 the first church in North Toronto, soon called Eglinton Methodist Church, was built on the southeast corner of what is now Glengrove Avenue and Yonge Street (the site of the Hydro sub-station).

In 1845, Ketchum moved to Buffalo. The Yonge Street property was taken over by his daughter, Fidelia (1808-74), and her husband, Rev. James Harris (1793-1873), who had just retired as the first minister at Knox Presbyterian Church, Toronto. The farm remained in the Harris family for many years. The southern portion of Lot 4 (about 85 acres) was bought in 1877 by a Toronto banker, John R. Strathy, who also owned most of Lot 2 north of today's Eglinton Avenue. He named the farm, Strath Gowan, combining his name and his wife's maiden name of Gowan. Strathy died in March 1878, and his property at Lot 4 was sold in 1884 for \$11,000 to Jessie Garland, who turned it over to her husband, Nicholas Garland, in 1888.

## Suburbanization of North Toronto

Because of its proximity to the growing city of Toronto and its prime location on Yonge Street, Eglinton was desirable for subdivision and suburbanization. Farms in Eglinton began to be subdivided as early as the 1850s. During the 1880s, when Toronto's population more than doubled, approximately 35 subdivision plans were registered in what in 1889 became an incorporated municipality, North Toronto, which included Eglinton.

Suburban development depended on good transportation connections with the city. On January 26, 1885, the Metropolitan Street Railway Company of Toronto began to provide streetcar service on Yonge Street from the CPR tracks at Birch Avenue north to the Eglinton Town Hall at the northeast corner of Montgomery Avenue. The horsecars ran in a single track along the west side of Yonge; by May 1891 electrification was complete. The service was extended to Glengrove Park (stop 21) in June 1886 and to Melrose Park (stop 26) in December 1892. At the southern terminus, connections could be made with the Yonge Street cars of the Toronto Street Railway Company. During its short-lived operation from 1892 to 1894, the Toronto Belt Line Railway Company also provided service to Eglinton.

An economic depression slowed growth during the 1890s, but by the beginning of the 20th century Toronto had recovered and was expanding again. Between 1901 and 1911, the city's population increased over 80 percent, from 208,040 people in 1901 to 376,538 in 1911. Many, though, viewed this growing city, with its crowding and industrial pollution, as a threat to physical health, social and moral well-being, and good family life. For some, the solution lay in establishing new communities beyond the city in a country setting where there would be clean air, pure water and cheaper land.

## Assembling the Lawrence Park Property

The most complete study of Lawrence Park is Karina Bordessa's M.A. thesis, "A Corporate Suburb for Toronto: Lawrence Park 1905-1930," and it has been used extensively in the following sections of the overview.

In 1907, English-born Wilfrid Servington Dinnick was the young president of the Standard Loan Co., a rapidly expanding loan and mortgage company in Toronto. He convinced the board of directors that developing and selling land in the suburbs would be a good money-making venture for the company. Moreover, he argued, Toronto had reached the point that it could support another Rosedale or Moore Park, a district restricted to high-class homes, for people soon described by Dinnick's company as "that class uncertainly designated "comfortably off," or "well-to-do" whose "home of the future will be set in the garden-suburb."<sup>2</sup>

Dinnick believed that Lots 4 and 5 in North Toronto and York Township would make an ideal site for a new suburb. The land was some of the choicest in the area: on high ground of rolling hills and open spaces, interspersed with ravines and mixed woodlands, and traversed by a tributary of the Don River. Furthermore, it was one of the few remaining undivided original properties within easy distance of the city.

The area had other advantages. North Toronto's council was anxious to encourage development and provide services; annexation by Toronto was inevitable and then more

amenities would be available. The Metropolitan Division of the Toronto and York Radial Railway Company's service along Yonge Street now extended from the CPR tracks at Farnham Avenue in Toronto to Jackson's Point on Lake Simcoe. The stop at Glengrove Avenue was the limit of the single fare. The automobile also was becoming a popular means of transportation.

In 1907, the board of directors of Standard Loan approved the purchase of both lots. Lot 5 (except for the northeast corner), the Lawrence Farm, was acquired in November 1907 for \$47,000. In the same month, the northern section of Lot 4, the Harris Farm, was bought for \$17,000. Mortgages on the lots were held by the Harris and Lawrence families. The southern 85 acres of Lot 4 were bought in 1912 from Nicholas Garland and his daughter, Isabella M. Dunbar, who took back a mortgage of \$256,666. The company also purchased the Anderson farm to the west of Yonge Street in 1911.

## Lawrence Park: The Garden Suburb

Dinnick envisioned the creation of a "garden suburb," similar to suburbs being developed in England at this time, notably at Letchworth (1903) and Hampstead (1907). Dinnick later referred to Lawrence Park as the Hampstead Garden Suburb of Canada. The garden suburb was an offshoot of a city planned at low or moderate density, with gardens and open spaces, and an essentially residential development, i.e., without local industry. Houses and gardens were designed to fit harmoniously into their surroundings. Dinnick wanted to restrict the subdivision to high-quality homes on large lots where professionals and business executives could return from the dust, noise and smoke downtown to family life in the pure air of the countryside.

In 1908, Dinnick hired an English consulting engineer, Walter S. Brooke, to carry out his ideas and lay out Lawrence Park. A surveyor and an engineer, he had gained an international reputation for his work in Britain at Richmond, Chatham and Seven Oaks, and on some of the largest estates around London, Hove and Brighton. A working plan for the subdivision was prepared in 1909. The first plan (1485) was registered in January 1910; it covered the area from Yonge to Sidmouth Avenue (now Mount Pleasant Road) between Lawrence and Dawlish avenues. It was followed in January 1911 with Plan 1543 for the easterly portion. Plan 511E for the southerly extension, Strath Gowan (or Lawrence Park South as it was also known), was registered in February 1914.

The early plans shows lots located along winding crescents, circles and cul-de-sacs that follow the natural contours of the land. There are still many straight long streets and rectangular blocks though. "The break with the traditional grid is tentative indeed," John Sewell observed, "Curves seem to be interruptions rather than a new and pleasing element."<sup>3</sup> Lot sizes are generous, on average 50 by 150 feet each, large enough to accommodate a good-sized house, a car garage and a garden. Dinnick described his suburb as "rivalling the far-famed lanes of Devonshire," and named many of the streets for places there, which also was the birthplace of his recently deceased father.

The plan preserved natural landscaping. On the Yonge Street frontage, a ravine was left as a park along a nearby stream, "which in less adventurous schemes would simply have been contained in a sewer."<sup>4</sup> This space also screened the suburb from the



noise and dust of the highway. Another five-acre park was set aside in Lawrence Crescent, where the Lawrence farmhouse and outbuildings stood for several more years; also, a small circular park was planned for the centre of St. Ives Crescent.

## Services

Bordessa describes Lawrence Park as an early example of a subdivision where the real estate developer assumed responsibility for the provision of some services. Sewers, sidewalks and water mains were a joint venture undertaken by both the Dovercourt Company and the two municipalities that had jurisdiction over the west part of Lawrence Park, the first section to be developed: North Toronto, and after its annexation on December 15, 1912, the City of Toronto. The provision of gas mains, parks and landscaping was a cost to the company; while the municipalities paid for roads and street lighting. Only partial services were in place before building began.

The plans for Lawrence Park also included landscaped gardens, formal courts, croquet lawns and terraces, summer houses, pergolas and seats, stone walks, flower gardens, decorative shrubbery and trees. The company undertook extensive landscaping before the subdivision was offered for sale and for many years afterwards. Dinnick maintained a nursery on the east section of Lawrence Park; trees and shrubs for landscaping were made available at cost to builders and homeowners. Dovercourt also provided rustic bridges, flowering shrubs, rockeries and fountains. According to Charlotte Dinnick, Dunington-Grubb came from England (in 1911) to assist her father with the nursery and approve garden plans. A few years later, Howard Grubb and his wife Lorrie Alfreda Dunington founded the Sheridan Nurseries.

Lawrence Park was designed to be strictly residential with schools, churches and shops located outside. Although most sporting activities were to take place on the ample grounds of private homes (or at two nearby golf clubs), early on Dinnick agreed to have a lawn bowling and tennis club in the south end of Lawrence Park.

## Housing Plans and Site Development

Dinnick believed that building activity would stimulate lot sales, so between 1909 and 1910 he had Dovercourt build and landscape about seven homes in Lawrence Park, designed by the Toronto architectural firm of Chadwick & Beckett. These were not model homes for prospective buyers to tour, but were intended to be sold and inhabited immediately. They were featured in the early promotional literature with photographs, descriptions, and floor and garden plans. Dovercourt also made the plans of the original Lawrence Park houses available to purchasers if they wanted to use them. Dinnick rented one of the houses, at 77 St. Edmund's Drive, for his own family, and another, Buena Vista at 35 St. Edmund's, for his mother and sister. By June 1911, some of the houses had been rented or sold: Flag Court at 1 St. Edmund's Drive to John Firstbrook, Grey Gables at 16 Dawlish Avenue to John Evans, 110 Dawlish Avenue to Julian Sale, 40 Dawlish Avenue to John Brooks and 24 Dinnick Crescent to Alphonse Jones. Most of the first occupants did not stay long: in the 1920 city directory only two of the properties (16 and 110 Dawlish) were in the same hands.



AO F 175-1-02.2

*Road building in Lawrence Park, c.1909*

Vaux Chadwick and Samuel Beckett were the official architects of Lawrence Park, and plans for Lawrence Park houses had to be submitted to their firm for approval, in order to maintain a "high architectural standard throughout."<sup>5</sup> Purchasers were not restricted to using Chadwick & Beckett, however. Eden Smith, a prominent architect, built a house here before the First World War, as did Forsey Page and W. Breden Galbraith, then at the beginning of their careers, whose own houses in Lawrence Park showcased their design talents. Restrictions were placed on the type of house that could be built "to ensure not only against depreciation of property values," but also to "guarantee a steady and consistent advance in the marketable price."<sup>6</sup> Houses had to be detached, constructed of brick or stone, and have a value of at least \$4,000. Stucco had to be less than half the exterior. The front of the house was to be 40 feet wide, 15 feet back from the street and three feet from the side boundaries. Garages, rather than stables, were built, reflecting Dinnick's belief that the automobile would influence suburban lifestyles. There was no official architect for Lawrence Park after 1914. The granting of building permits was subject only to the rather casually enforced municipal bylaws of the day.

## Sales Stories

Dovercourt used a variety of techniques to promote sales in the Lawrence Park subdivision. Advertising was widespread. The initial campaign was launched in the *Toronto World* in June 1909 before the site was developed. There was then a lull in advertising while the first houses were built and the work on grading and landscaping started. The second newspaper promotions started in spring 1910 with eye-catching advertisements mixing text with drawings of houses, gardens and children of Lawrence Park; by fall 1910, the illustrations were dropped. These ads were placed in several Toronto newspapers including the *Globe*

and the Star, and ran intermittently until mid-1914. The advertisements stressed the location of Lawrence Park, its healthy environment and the unusual number of services offered. Some ads were directed to car owners, while others promoted the idea of a garden suburb with architecturally-designed and -landscaped houses.

The company also published a series of attractive pamphlets extolling the features of the Lawrence Park Estates, one in 1910, a second in 1911, and a third, on Strath Gowan, in 1912. Artists of the calibre of J. E. H. MacDonald (a founding member of the Group of Seven) and C. W. Jefferys (who lived up Yonge Street at York Mills) were hired to illustrate the brochures. Like the newspaper advertisements, these promotional materials were aimed at the middle classes looking for a high-quality suburban development, rather than at the speculator wanting to make quick money. The 1911 pamphlet stated the groups for whom Lawrence Park was intended: it was not to be just "the exclusive haunt of millionaires", nor only for those who "can and do afford to number automobiles amongst the mere necessities of life." It was also to be a place where "the man of moderate means can build his home amongst hundreds of others of like cultivated tastes."<sup>17</sup> (Dinnick was not an elitist, though. In a promotional pamphlet - *Who Gets Your Wages? You or the Landlord?* - he encouraged workers to quit renting, buy a lot in the Parsons Estate, a Dovercourt development at Dufferin south of Eglinton, and build a house by themselves.)

In January 1914, Dinnick set up an advertising department within Dovercourt to coordinate promotions. A billboard campaign was launched and direct mailings were sent to individual prospects. The department also prepared promotional exhibitions (panoramic views, scale models, etc.) of Lawrence Park for display at shopping areas, trade shows, conferences and other special events. This extravagant and expensive direct advertising campaign for Lawrence Park all but ceased with the First World War.

Dinnick also had a genius for indirect sales promotions. He wrote articles for newspapers and magazines promoting Toronto and its suburbs, with subtle mentions of his own projects. Dinnick had a contract with the *Toronto World* to publish articles and editorials "showing the great progress of North Toronto."<sup>18</sup> He also wrote a booklet entitled *Tremendous Toronto*, which promoted the real estate investment possibilities of the city. He frequently granted interviews and made speeches that promoted the Lawrence Park Estates, disguised as booster speeches for Toronto real estate.

Dinnick was a masterful image maker. He realized that subdividers were becoming unpopular with the public. To gain favour, he organized and initiated the Backyard Garden Competition in 1913-4, with prizes totalling \$1,000 for the best-kept back yard garden in



North Toronto Office of the Lawrence Park Estate, c.1911

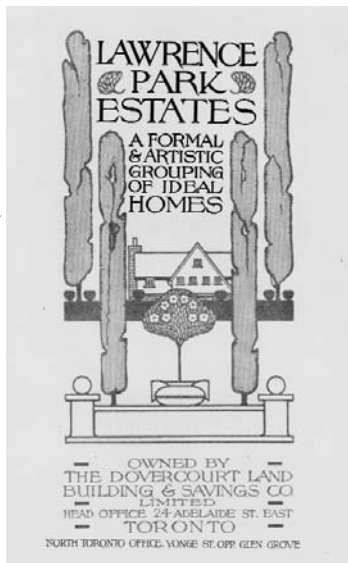
the city, worked by the owner without any hired help. Flowers gave way to vegetables with the advent of the First World War.

Dovercourt set up a site office in a small bungalow on Yonge Street at the northeast corner of Glengrove Avenue. Initially lots sold for \$15 to \$75 a foot, depending on location. The company provided automobiles to bring prospective customers from their houses to the subdivision. More importantly, though, it made mortgages available to buyers through its parent company, Standard Loan. Although lots in Lawrence Park were sold individually, many were purchased for speculative gains. Bordessa calculated that "only 25 percent of the lots were built on by the first purchaser."<sup>19</sup> Some lots changed owners as many as ten times before building. In 1914, Dovercourt conducted a survey of Lawrence Park property owners. Eighty-three percent of respondents stated they were holding their lots for sale in the future. One speculator was a Miss A. Dooley, who purchased property on Dawlish Avenue in May 1911, and also persuaded her friends to buy lots. She later resold the property back to the company at a profit of \$4 a foot. In 1913, she claimed she should have a commission for getting friends to buy lots and also stated her profit margin on her own resale was too low! The company paid her to end her claims.

### Building Phases

Several periods of building activity in Lawrence Park can be identified. The 1910 Goad's Atlas shows that 143 building lots of Plan 1485 had been laid out on seven new streets west of Sidmouth Avenue (now Mount Pleasant Road): St. Edmund's Drive, Devon (now Weybourne) and Exeter (now Dinnick) crescents, and Pote, Lympstone, Dawlish and St. Leonard's avenues. No houses had been built on the subdivided lots, although several structures stood on the undivided sections.

Between 1910 and 1915 there was a minor building boom, although sales of



J. E. H. MacDonald design for promotional brochure, 1910

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AO F 1751-02.1



Lawrence Park properties were slower than Dinnick wanted. Only eight households were listed with Lawrence Park addresses in the Canada Census conducted in June 1911, and this included one family who, in fact, resided on Ranleigh Avenue north of Lawrence Avenue. "A central problem that probably hurt sales," observed Ron Fischer, "was the constant struggle between the developer and municipality on the provision of hard services – gas, water, sewers, electricity."<sup>10</sup> Nevertheless, there was flurry of building before the First World War, although the initial attraction of lower property taxes disappeared when North Toronto was annexed to the city in 1912. A revised Goad's Atlas issued in 1914 showed approximately 35 buildings in Lawrence Park. Many buyers were young professionals or entrepreneurs, who were moving into their first house after marriage or to a new place to raise growing families. They were middle class, not the upper crust such as lived in Forest Hill and Rosedale.

Construction in the subdivision all but ceased when the real estate market in Toronto collapsed with the First World War. Dinnick himself became very busy with the war effort and had less time to devote to the development. Advertising for Strath Gowan, "the southern annex of Lawrence Park," had started in spring 1913, but only a few houses were built there until after the war. Nicholas Garland continued to live in the old brick farmhouse built by Jesse Ketchum in the 1830s. In 1915, the *Globe* reported the grounds included "a perfect aviary of rare and beautiful pheasants, besides picturesque houses for the more commonplace barnyard fowl, a stableful of beautiful horses."<sup>11</sup> Starting in 1914, he allowed Girl Guides to camp on weekends in one of his barns. Mary Lean, the officer in charge, later wrote a novel, *Joan of Glen Garland* (1934), based on her experiences.

After the war, a recession and a revised tax law, which taxed unimproved land as well as land with buildings on it, placed the various interconnected companies developing Lawrence Park in financial difficulties. The real estate market was suddenly flooded, as people sought to unload property they could no longer afford to keep, and prices fell sharply.

In May 1919, the Standard Loan Co. and all its subsidiaries, including the Dovercourt Land Building and Savings Co., were taken over by the Sterling Trusts Corporation. On May 5, 1919, Charles Buchanan, Sterling's managing director, posted a letter in several Toronto newspapers that, upon instructions from Dovercourt, authorized "the sale at absolute public auction of the unsold sub-divided lots in Lawrence Park."<sup>12</sup> Over the next few weeks, advertisements for the sale saturated the city. "Every lot will be sold without reserve no matter what price it brings," proclaimed one poster.<sup>13</sup> Investors and speculators were invited to attend the auction beginning on Thursday May 22, 1919 at 2:00 p.m. Some lots sold for bargain prices: frontages previously valued at \$75 a foot went for \$22; some lots outside the city limits sold for as little as \$4 a foot.

At that time, building in Lawrence Park was mainly west of Mount Pleasant Road. Part of Lawrence Crescent was subdivided in 1919, and filled in after Mount Pleasant Road was extended. The Dovercourt Company's financial situation worsened in the 1920s. On December 31, 1923, it sold 14 acres of park and ravine lands bordering Yonge Street to the City of Toronto for \$28,500. As part of the deal, the company wanted the City to cancel all of its tax arrears of almost \$10,000.

By the early 1920s, a second more pronounced boom was evident. The Goad's Atlas

# LAWRENCE PARK ABSOLUTE AUCTION SALE COMMENCES TO-DAY

**AT 2 O'CLOCK SHARP**

AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL 11 O'CLOCK AT NIGHT

**It will be Conducted on the Property  
Under a Mammoth Tent, Just East  
of Yonge Street, at Stop 22  
RAIN OR SHINE**

*Toronto Globe, 22 May 1919, 7*

of 1924 showed 225 houses in Lawrence Park, as well as a few apartment buildings along its Yonge Street frontage. About 100 buildings were west of Mount Pleasant and an equal number were east of that to the Toronto and North York boundary near Wanless and St. Ives crescents. Beyond that to Bayview Avenue (formerly Junction Road), the subdivision mostly was undeveloped, with about two dozen houses, including six contiguous dwellings on St. Leonard's built before 1920. Don Ritchie recalled that in the 1920s and 1930s, this section "was scrub land ...fields that had gone to waste over a period of years, mostly overgrown with hawthorn bushes. It was a paradise for boys - ideal for dug-in forts and mock battles."<sup>14</sup> Joy Mollenhauer, whose family moved to Lawrence Park in 1914, remembered, "there were open fields for years, east of St. Ives Crescent. We could stand, as children, at the top of St. Leonard's Ave. hill and look far across open country, to see the spire of St. Augustine, still on Kingston Rd near West Hill."<sup>15</sup>

With the 1930s Depression, building in Lawrence Park slowed. After the Second World War, when Toronto began to boom, activity increased and during the 1950s and 1960s, Lawrence Park was completely developed. At that time, some double lots were divided, and infill housing began to appear on what had formerly had been side gardens. In 1949, the tradition of Lawrence Park's being only residential was slightly compromised when two organizations opened buildings: Toronto Public Library's George H. Locke Memorial Branch on Yonge Street at Lawrence, and Lawrence Park Community Church at Bayview and St. Leonard's avenues.

In the late 1970s, a new building trend started in Lawrence Park. Some owners and developers, taking advantage of the large lot sizes, demolished existing houses and replaced them with so-called monster homes. The loss of several of Lawrence Park's early homes, for example Grey Gables at 16 Dawlish Avenue, along with concerns about unsympathetic renovations, spurred the Lawrence Park Ratepayers Association in 1999 to consider the benefits of creating a heritage conservation district. Despite these

changes, Lawrence Park has remained true to the vision of its creator, Wilfrid S. Dinnick, who wanted to create a high-quality garden suburb in Toronto.

## MAJOR ARCHITECTS OF LAWRENCE PARK

These architects are known to have designed at least two houses in Lawrence Park.

**Murray Brown:** Murray Brown (1884-1958) studied architecture in his native Scotland and at the Royal Academy of Architecture in London, England before arriving in Toronto at the age of 30 in 1914. He worked as an architectural draughtsman for Charles S. Cobb and then set up his own practice in 1921. Brown was the architect for a number of award-winning residences and public buildings including Postal Station K at the southwest corner of Yonge and Montgomery (1936), as well as a few local neighbourhood theatres: Belsize on Mount Pleasant (1926-7) and Bedford Park on Yonge (1929). He served as president of the Ontario Association of Architects, 1935-36. Brown drew upon a variety of influences including Georgian Revival and Art Deco while emphasizing building function. See Stops 20, 27

**Chadwick & Beckett:** Chadwick & Beckett were the official architects of Lawrence Park in the early days. The partnership of William Craven Vaux Chadwick (1868-1941) and Samuel Gustavus Beckett (1871-1917) did a variety of work, but was best known for designing upper- and middle-class residences, notably in the Annex and Rosedale. Chadwick & Beckett practised for about 17 years beginning at the turn of the 20th century.

During the First World War, the practice virtually shut down, when "every eligible employee of the firm went overseas with the Canadian battalions."<sup>6</sup> Beckett volunteered in March 1915 at the age of 45. He became the lieutenant-colonel of the 75th Battalion and was killed in action in France on March 1, 1917. Chadwick signed up in December 1914 when he was 43 years old, and served as a lieutenant-colonel, commanding the 4th Mounted Rifles and the 124th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. After the war, Vaux Chadwick and his brother Bryan Chadwick (who had joined the firm in 1910) continued to practise; their work includes Eglinton Hunt Club buildings (1928) at Avenue Road and Roselawn. See Stops 2, 6, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 23, 30, 31.

**W. (William) Breden Galbraith:** Born in Montreal on January 24, 1885, he was the son of a prominent Methodist minister, William Galbraith, and his second wife, Katherine Breden. In 1901 the family lived at Belleville, Ontario, where Breden attended Albert College, but they soon relocated to Toronto. Here, Galbraith lived at Balmy Beach for a time, and held various jobs including traveller and accountant. An exceptional athlete, Galbraith represented Canada as a five-miler and a steeplechaser at the 1908 Olympics in London, England.

Around that time, he began his architectural career, perhaps with Chadwick & Beckett, but evidently mostly self-taught and not professionally trained. He was a "draughtsman" in the 1911 Toronto city directory living at 3 Davenport Road. In 1911 and 1912, he worked in Red Deer, Alberta, designing at least one house there. However, his chief occupation was

"real estate agt." and secondarily "homesteader," according to the 1911 census. Upon returning to Toronto in 1913, he lived in the first of two houses of his own design in Lawrence Park. He continued to be listed as "draughtsman" in the city directory, still at Davenport Road, but in 1915 he was designated "arch" (for architect) at 18 King Street West. (No established architectural firm was at either address.)

By 1918 he was in the Excelsior Life Building at 36 Toronto Street, advertising "W. Breden Galbraith Architectural Design and Construction. 'Homes not Houses'."<sup>17</sup> During 1925 and 1926, he wrote 16 articles for Saturday Night showcasing houses he had planned and these formed the basis for two self-published books. He also created an "Architectural Service Bureau" within his practise (relocated to 57 Bloor Street West c.1928-33), selling copies of his house plans and other design services to clients and builders, especially those outside of the Toronto area. W. Breden Galbraith died suddenly on October 12, 1937 in his 53rd year. See Stops 3, 8, 12, 21, 22.

**Mathers & Haldenby:** Alvan Sherlock Mathers (1895/6-1965) and Eric Wilson Haldenby (1893-1971) formed a partnership in 1921; Mathers & Haldenby was in business until the early 1990s. The work of the firm includes several houses in Lawrence Park, some buildings at the University of Toronto (both men were grads), offices and more recently, Roy Thomson Hall. See between Stops 2 and 3, Stop 23.

**Forsey Page (of Page & Warrington; Forsey Page & Steele; Page & Steele):** Forsey Pemberton Bull Page (1886-1970) was born in Toronto and attended Harbord Collegiate, St. Andrew's College and the University of Toronto, graduating with a degree in architecture. Just before the First World War, he joined Stanford Warrington in a partnership that lasted until 1925. Page & Warrington, Architects designed numerous houses with several in Lawrence Park where Forsey Page lived from c.1913 until 1933. They also planned small office buildings, school and churches including several buildings in North Toronto, notably North Toronto Collegiate (1912) and St. Clement's Church (with C. M. Willmot, 1925).

After Warrington's retirement, Forsey Page had a brief solo career, but in 1926, he embarked on a new practice with W. Harland Steele, a recent graduate of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. As Page and Steele, the firm continued to work in Lawrence Park, and went on to design many of the landmarks of the Modern era in Toronto, ranging from the Garden Court Apartments on Bayview Avenue (c.1942) to Benvenuto Place (completed in 1955 with Peter Dickinson as chief designer) and Commerce Court (completed in 1972 in association with American architect I. M. Pei). A recipient of the Coronation Medal for his work in architecture, Forsey Page was president of the Ontario Association of Architects, 1933-34 and of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, 1943-44. See Stops 4, 5, 11, 25, 26, 28.

**Harold J. Smith:** Little is known about him or his work, except that he designed two houses in Lawrence Park, one where he lived with his family beginning in 1928, and that he also planned Brantford General Hospital (1959). See Stops 26, 28.



*This tour is comprised of 33 stops and is a total of 4.2 km long. The main tour of 23 stops (1 to 13 and 24 to 33) is 2.4 km long. The extended tour of ten stops (14 to 23) is 1.8 km.*

*The tour begins in front of the William McDougall Plaque, which stands in Lawrence Park, on the south side of Lawrence Avenue East, one block east of Yonge Street, near the southwest corner of St. Edmund's Drive.*

### STOP 1: WILLIAM MCDUGALL PLAQUE

The following is the text of the provincial historical plaque unveiled on Nov. 3, 1972:

Hon. William McDougall 1822-1905

A Father of Confederation, William McDougall was born on a farm in this vicinity. He became a solicitor and in 1850 founded the North American, a newspaper which became the voice of the "Clear Grit" Liberals. A leading Reformer, McDougall became Provincial Secretary in the coalition government that sought confederation. He attended the Quebec and London Conferences which negotiated the terms of federal union. Appointed first Lieutenant-Governor of the North West Territories in 1869, he was prevented from undertaking his duties by the outbreak of the Red River Rebellion. He returned to politics as a private member in the Ontario legislature, 1875-78, and in the federal parliament, 1878-82, there after withdrawing to his legal career.<sup>18</sup>



TRL 730908

*William McDougall  
(1822-1905), c.1860*

The setting for McDougall's commemorative plaque is particularly appropriate for it is close to his grandfather's old farm on the west side of Yonge Street. In 1811, John McDougall, a Scottish-born Loyalist, acquired Lot 4, 1st Concession west of Yonge Street, having sold Lot 3 immediately south, granted to him in 1803. He established a farm on the new property, which extended west to today's Bathurst Street between the present Alexandra Boulevard and Glenview Avenue, and it was here that his grandson, William McDougall, was born and spent his boyhood. Evidently the McDougall family was friendly with Ojibwa, who had a camping ground where Havergal College is now located, just north of the McDougall farm: "Mrs. MacDougall [sic] had been very kind to the Indians and one day they came and asked if they could borrow the baby [William McDougall]. She lent the baby to them and some hours afterwards he was returned with

the information that he had been adopted into their tribe and given an Indian name."<sup>19</sup> Another event that affected McDougall's later liberal politics occurred when he was a teenager. "Having witnessed the burning of Montgomery's Tavern north of Toronto during the rebellion of 1837, he often recalled the rebels' escape in terms of the northward advance of freedom against the rule of entrenched oligarchies."<sup>20</sup>

McDougall continued to have ties with the local area as his career progressed. He began legal studies c.1841 in the office of James Hervey Price, a reformer whose home, Castlefield, was at Eglinton. His first wife, whom he married in 1845, was Amelia Caroline Easton (d. 1869), the adopted, only daughter of the Joseph Eastons, whose farm occupied all of Lot 7 on the east side of Yonge, north of Lawrence. In 1855, the couple - eventually they had at least seven sons and two daughters - moved there and set up a sawmill in the ravine at the back of the property.

*Cross St. Edmund's Drive. Turn right and walk south on St. Edmund's Drive.*



AO F 175-1-0-2.1

*77 St. Edmund's Drive, 1911*

### STOP 2: 77-79 ST. EDMUND'S DRIVE

Originally Wilfrid Servington Dinnick House  
Chadwick & Beckett, c. 1911

Chadwick & Beckett designed about a dozen houses in the early days of Lawrence Park, including this two-and-a-half storey dwelling where Wilfrid Servington Dinnick, the subdivision's developer, lived from the latter part of 1911 until about 1916. It has several Tudor Revival features: red brick construction with dressed stone trim, leaded glass windows including an oriel window above the entrance, and tall, elaborate brick chimneys. Note also the diagonal main entrance and the diamond-shaped decorative

brickwork above the two-bay window. The house appeared in early publicity for Lawrence Park, and plans for the ground and first floors were published in *Construction* magazine in 1911, along with this description:

This house has a somewhat interesting plan. The house is situated on the north boundary of the estate, and the principal view is to the southwest. In order to make the most of this view, the vestibule and main hall were placed on a diagonal axis. The main hall is octagonal, and from two sides of the octagon the living room and dining room opens.<sup>21</sup>

Dinnick spared no expense in completing the inside of the house. Gustav Hahn, who designed and painted decorative work at several homes of Toronto's elite in the early 1900s, was commissioned to paint the ceiling and frieze of the dining room. *Construction* provides further details about the interior:

This house is finished in black ash with ingles and beamed ceilings, etc. The dining room has a white enamelled wainscot and plate rail 7 feet high. It is octagonal in shape with china closets in the corners. The ceiling and frieze are of panelled plaster with decorations by Mr. Hahn. The verandah is paved with Welch Quarry tile, and in winter will be enclosed and heated to form a sun room; it opens directly to the garden. The first floor is arranged with a very complete suite, consisting of own bedroom, boudoir and dressing room, bathroom and night nursery.<sup>22</sup>

In keeping with Dinnick's belief in the important role that the automobile would play in the development of suburbs, the house included a large garage for four cars with living for a chauffeur above. Dinnick was an avid motorist. He listed motoring as one of his recreations in a 1914 biographical sketch, and in the same year purchased an English Sunbeam 25/30 six-cylinder automobile for \$5,000 and a McLaughlin roadster for \$1,875.

Dinnick was also an advocate of the garden suburb, in having houses set in formal gardens and open spaces. In the early days, his house had lavish landscaping (of which little remains today):

On the south side is a rose garden and sun dial of Doulton terra cotta. The terrace is of paving brick with Roman stone parapet. The formal garden has a circular pool and jet in the centre, surrounded by a circular pergola of cement stone around which are arranged formal beds and borders. To the north of the house is a tennis court surrounded by a cedar hedge and flower border. In rear of the tennis court is the rose garden with flower and vegetable beds. The circular drive and court leads to the garage and drying grounds in the rear. The garden and drive are surrounded by brick garden walls.<sup>23</sup>

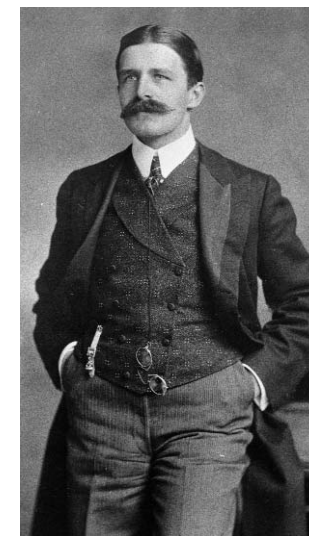
The W. S. Dinnick House was listed on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties on October 1, 1979; both the house and the garage were designated under

the Ontario Heritage Act on April 16, 2004.

## Wilfrid Servington Dinnick

Wilfrid Servington Dinnick was born at Guildford, Surrey, England on July 19, 1874, where his father, John Dunn Dinnick, was a Methodist minister. Educated at York School, Brighton, he immigrated to Canada in 1890 along with his parents and several siblings (see Stop 31). They settled in Toronto, and initially Dinnick worked for the Provincial Loan Company. He then became an inspector with the Canadian Birkbeck Investment Security and Savings Company (1892-5) and Trusts and Guarantee Co. (1895). Dinnick's first efforts as an entrepreneur included establishing factories for producing "Coke Dandruff Cure" and screwdrivers. He became involved with the Standard Loan Company, and was its vice-president and manager in 1898. The company expanded quickly, merging several other Ontario loan companies.

By 1908, Dinnick was president of several interrelated companies including Sterling Trusts Corporation, and the Dovercourt Land Buildings and Savings Company, at the time the largest real estate development company in Canada whose projects included Lawrence Park and later Strath Gowan. In 1908, the Standard Loan Company and the Reliance Loan and Savings Company of Ontario merged to form the Standard Reliance Mortgage Corporation, with Dinnick as vice-president. Dinnick was also involved with the ill-fated Grand Valley Railway Company, a proposed first-class hotel for Toronto, and mining and lumbering in Northern Ontario.



TRL 977-20-1

*Wilfrid Servington Dinnick*  
(1874-1923), 1906



TRL 977-20-3

*Alice Louise Dinnick*  
(1882-1954), 1906

Dinnick led an active life outside his business dealings. He was married to Alice Louise Conlin in New York on June 16, 1905. The bride was born in Toronto on June 4, 1882. The couple had two daughters and two sons: Charlotte (1907), Wilfrid (1909/10), John (1912) and Peggy (1914) – the two youngest children were born at Lawrence Park. He was the honorary secretary of the Pocket Testament League and a director of the Canadian Bible Society and Bishop Strachan School. He belonged to many private clubs including the Albany, National, Toronto Hunt, Lambton Golf, Rosedale Golf and the Royal Canadian Yacht Club.



He was a founder and the first president of the Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club. He was a member of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Toronto and a Conservative in politics. His recreations were bowling, motoring and riding.

Dinnick also was involved with military affairs. On September 29, 1913, he accepted the position of honorary colonel of the Fairbanks Cadet Rifle Corps. On December 21, 1914, Dinnick helped to organize the 109th Regiment: he was appointed major on January 30, 1915 and became commanding officer in August. Chiefly a recruitment and supply regiment, by 1916 it had sent more than 5,000 men and 200 officers to the front lines, primarily in the 84th and 169th Overseas Battalions. During the First World War, Dinnick also raised \$5,800,000 for the Toronto and York Patriotic Fund and \$1,290,000 for the British Red Cross. He also sponsored the Backyard Garden Contests to encourage people to grow their own food to prevent wartime shortages and to free money and provisions for the war effort.

Dinnick set up his own company, Lawrence Park Estates Ltd., in 1915 to supervise the sale of Lawrence Park. In summer 1917, he resigned from Standard Reliance Mortgage Company, and the Dovercourt Land Building and Savings Company, establishing his own offices to devote his time to his own enterprises. Dinnick retained an interest in Lawrence Park until 1919 when the bank called in its loans and refused to give him any voice in the sale of the balance of the land. During winding-up proceedings for Sterling Reliance in 1919 and 1920, Dinnick testified at Supreme Court of Ontario hearings. Around this time he formed the Toronto Terminal Warehouse Company.

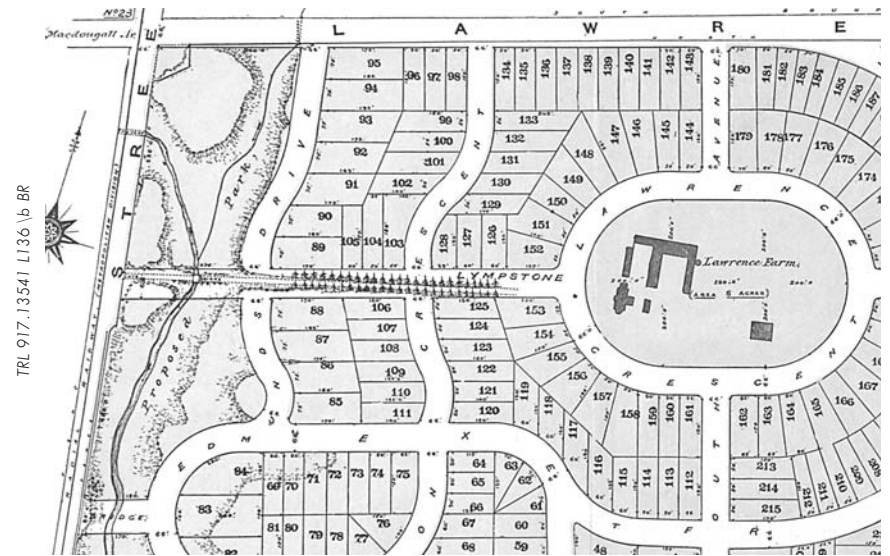
The collapse of Dinnick's business empire and the strain of the war ruined him financially and physically. After suffering a heart attack and a stroke, Dinnick moved to England with his family in summer 1920. Robert Dack immediately foreclosed a \$35,000 mortgage on Dinnick's North Toronto house, Bedford Lodge on Yonge Street at Teddington Park Avenue, where the family had lived from 1916 and whose payments had not been received for some time. Dinnick died in London on August 23, 1923, a month after his 49th birthday. His widow and their four children soon returned to live in the Toronto area. His friends and business associates raised money for the family to ensure that the children could continue their education.

Dinnick lived a full life and left important legacies. A biographer concluded: "A man of varied interests and talents, this enthusiastically religious, deeply patriotic Englishman left an indelible impression on Toronto, particularly in the history of the 109th Regiment and the beauty of Lawrence Park Estates."<sup>24</sup>

*Walk south on St. Edmund's Drive to Lymstone Avenue. Turn left and walk a few steps east on Lymstone Avenue.*

### STOP 3: LYMPSTONE AVENUE EAST OF ST. EDMUND'S DRIVE

These pines on the south side of Lymstone Avenue may be remnants from the days when this street was a tree-lined lane leading up to a house and farm buildings on the crest of a hill (now Lawrence Crescent) overlooking Yonge Street. From 1865 to 1907, this was the Lawrence family farm, comprised of about 190 acres south of Lawrence Avenue



*Lawrence Park plan showing trees on Lymstone Avenue and old farm buildings, 1910*

between Yonge Street and Bayview Avenue.

The farmhouse may have been Kingsland, built for Samuel Huson and completed c.1840 from a design attributed to architect John Howard. Historian Henry Scadding wrote about the old house and its setting in a recollection of Yonge Street published in 1873: "On high land to the right, some way off, an English-looking mansion of bricks with circular ends was another early innovation. A young plantation of trees so placed as to shelter it from the north-east winds, added to its English aspect."<sup>25</sup> The old house stood in the centre of Lawrence Crescent for several more years after it appeared on this 1910 plan, which clearly shows its "circular ends."

### 55 ST. EDMUND'S DRIVE

Originally Albert R. Greene House  
W. Breden Galbraith, c.1926

This attractive stone-and-stucco house at the northeast corner of Lymstone Avenue was first owned by Albert R. Greene of A. R. Greene & Co., manufacturers agents, located at 590 King Street West. Although it is a good-sized house, with four bedrooms on the second floor and two more in the attic, the long, sloping gables tend to reduce its impact. The curved-top windows give a Mediterranean flavour as does the red tile roof. This house is the first of several on the tour designed by W. Breden Galbraith. It is listed as design no.1601 in his 1930 publication, *A Canadian Home Plan Book*.

*Continue east on Lymstone Avenue to the northwest corner of Waybourne Crescent.*

**STOP 4: 49 WEYBOURNE CRESCENT**  
Originally Charles E. Linstrum House  
Forsy Page (of Page & Warrington), c. 1922

This large home is the first of several houses on the tour designed by Forsy Page. The Linstrum House features “a gently pitched hip roof, light-coloured stucco, a picturesque setting on a slope and floor-to-ceiling windows doubling as French doors,” observed architectural historian Marta O’Brien.<sup>26</sup>

The first owner was a buyer at Simpson’s, or the Robert Simpson Company, a Canadian department store chain, founded by Robert Simpson in 1872 and acquired by the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1978. Born in Ontario in 1866, Charles Linstrum and his wife, Anna, previously had lived on Warren Road.



TRL 964-7-783

41 Weybourne Crescent, c.1955

**41 WEYBOURNE CRESCENT**  
B.C. Coast Wood Trend House. Originally Eric Arthur House  
Fleury, Arthur & Calvert, 1955-56

This house was constructed on what had been the formal gardens of 49 Weybourne. It broke with the traditional house designs of Lawrence Park and introduced elements of International, Modern and '50s Contempo architecture to the area. In 1956, *Canadian Architect* magazine included 41 Weybourne as a representative postwar building in Canada. The house was listed on the City of Toronto’s Inventory of Heritage Properties (adopted by City Council on October 17, 1983), which noted: “The post and beam structure is emphasized by the wood posts projected in front of the dark stained horizontal wood siding of the second floor and the recess of the floor and entry. The broad eaves and cantilevered balcony further emphasize the possibilities of wood as a versatile building material. The masonry and landscaping aid in uniting the building with its site.”<sup>27</sup>

Eric Arthur (1898-1982) built the house as a publicity stunt for the B.C. Coast Wood Trade Organization, which sponsored the building of several wood houses across Canada to promote the use of its products. The Toronto fire code forbade the construction of wooden houses, so Arthur created a brick house with wood cladding. The garage was put at the front and designed to blend into the split-level house. Bedrooms, and the dining room and living room were placed at the back. The Lawrence Park tradition of building the house into the landscape was maintained.

A professor of architecture at the University of Toronto, Eric Arthur lived in this house for more than 20 years. He was a founder of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and was involved in many important heritage restoration projects in Toronto. Arthur spearheaded the campaigns to save Old City Hall and Union Station, and wrote a number of books on Canadian architecture, including *Toronto No Mean City* (1964), which raised awareness of the massive destruction of the city’s 19th-century architectural treasures. His many awards included Companion, Order of Canada.

*Continue east on Lypmstone Avenue to the southwest corner of Lawrence Crescent.*

You will pass 60 Lypmstone Avenue, on the north side, one of Mathers & Haldenby’s early houses in Lawrence Park. The first occupant, c.1924, was W. Arnot Craick (1880-1969), who had a long career as a newspaper and magazine writer, a local historian and a literary critic. To assist him in his writing, he compiled an index to Toronto newspapers, later donated to the Toronto Public Library, which was an invaluable resource for researchers before electronic databases were created.

**STOP 5: 63 LYMPSTONE AVENUE**  
Originally Thomas W. Mix House  
Forsy Page (of Forsy Page & Steele), 1930-31

This twelve-room house was built at a cost of \$30,000 for Thomas M. Mix, sales manager of Dominion Woolens and Worsteds, then in his mid-40s. It was Mix’s second house in Lawrence Park. Previously he had lived at 9 Dinnick Crescent, designed c.1916 by Molesworth, West and Secord.

Constructed of stone, stucco and brick, 63 Lypmstone is a fine example of a Tudor Revival house and the exterior is almost totally intact from the original plans. It features leaded glass windows irregularly placed, half-timbering over stucco and tall, elaborate chimneys. The gable above the main entrance way is elaborately fashioned with round-headed windows, decorative bargeboard and a reverse finial. Matching iron lamps over the front door and the garage door (around the corner) are similar to the one Forsy Page used at his own house at 79 Dawlish Avenue (Stop 25) a few years earlier. This house has an unusual lengthwise placement on the 68 by 150 ft. lot, giving it a wide frontage and large side yards. Flagstone has been used in the walkways; the original plans show a sunroom opening on to a flagstone terrace.

Gilbert LaBine (1890-1977), a prospector and mining promoter, moved into 63





Plan for 63 Lymphstone Avenue, January 1931

Lymphstone in the mid-1930s. Born at Westmeath, Ontario, he and his brother, Charles, formed Eldorado Gold Mines in 1926, and when that mine petered out, the LaBines took what remained of their funds to make prospecting trips around Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories. In the spring of 1930, Gilbert made one of the most significant mineral strikes in the history of Canada. He discovered a valuable deposit of silver mixed with pitchblende (radium). A mine was established and the product was refined into radium at Port Hope, Ontario - then the only industry of its kind in the British Empire and the largest in the world. Eldorado was saved from near-bankruptcy by the sudden rise in importance of its waste product, uranium, during the Allied drive to produce the first atomic bomb. The Canadian government secretly bought control of Eldorado in 1942, and in 1944 the company was nationalized. LaBine remained president until 1947.

The multi-millionaire became one of the most influential men on Bay Street in the 1950s. Although he left school at 14, he pursued learning and was appointed to the board of governors of the University of Toronto in 1948. LaBine eventually moved to an apartment on Avenue Road where he died on June 8, 1977 at the age of 87. Family members occupied 63 Lymphstone until 1979.

*Turn right on to Lawrence Crescent and walk southeast.*



12 Lawrence Crescent, c.1913

**STOP 6: 12 LAWRENCE CRESCENT**  
Originally Charles E. Davies House  
Chadwick & Beckett (attributed), c. 1913

Six, 12 and 22 Lawrence Crescent, constructed in 1912-13, are situated on the highest point of land in Lawrence Park, and were visible in many early pictures of the subdivision. At that time, the old Lawrence brick farmhouse and four wooden outbuildings still stood on the north side of the street. Eventually all of the farm buildings were demolished, but an old well remains in the backyard of 11 Lawrence Crescent.

Chadwick & Beckett probably designed 12 Lawrence Crescent, which has similar features to some of their other Lawrence Park houses. Here they created a large Edwardian dwelling two-and-a-half storeys in height, with a hipped roof and a central dormer. The front entrance was sheltered by a walkout supported on substantial brick piers. The shaped gable on the left side shows a Flemish influence, while the battered incline at the corners has a medieval origin. (A batter is the outward slant of the bottom of a wall, originally the thickening of the base of a tower as fortification against battering.) The porch piers and roof have been removed, now stucco covers the brick and there are two front dormers.

The first occupants of these houses indicate that Lawrence Park already was being favoured by aspiring professionals – accountants, businessmen, entrepreneurs and the like. Charles E. Davies, first occupant of 12 Lawrence Crescent, was a manager at Ganong Bros., a Canadian candy company founded in 1873. Born in Ontario in 1865, Davies had previously lived at 51 Albany Avenue, Toronto, with his wife, Mary and their two sons, Stewart and Gordon. Meanwhile, the first occupant of 6 Lawrence Crescent was David E. Kilgour, an actuary with North American Life Insurance. Before moving to Lawrence Park, Kilgour (born in 1878), his wife, Olive, and their young son, Alexander, along with a domestic, lived in an apartment building on Charles Street East. Herbert

E. (Edgar) Page, initially at number 22, was a contractor. He was married on September 25, 1913 in Toronto to Lottie Close Dunk.

Dinnick originally hoped to retain an open space in the centre part of the five-acre parcel enclosed by Lawrence Crescent. A plan by Walter S. Brooke, dated October 30, 1914, shows a bowling green and four tennis courts in the centre of Lawrence Crescent. Twenty-four large lots are placed around the perimeter of the circle, which Brooke proposed be developed as an exclusive enclave.<sup>28</sup> These plans were never carried out, though, for at least two reasons. The Dovercourt Company's financial situation deteriorated during and after the First World War, and it could no longer afford the luxury of providing sports facilities and open spaces.

More importantly was the extension of Mount Pleasant Road from Strathgowan to Lawrence Avenue, which took up some of the open space in the centre of Lawrence Crescent. In May 1919, the Dovercourt Company registered Plan 541-E (dated 16 April 1918) to subdivide Lawrence Crescent and a section of Mount Pleasant Road into 37 building lots. Many were sold in the 1919 land auction of Lawrence Park sites, although by 1924, only two houses had been built in this section, one west and the other east of Mount Pleasant Road.

*Continue east on Lawrence Crescent to Mount Pleasant Road. Turn right and walk south to the northwest corner of Dinnick Crescent.*



Sidmouth Avenue (now Mount Pleasant Road) at Dinnick Crescent, southeast corner, c.1913  
110 and 114 Dinnick Crescent are shown in the back right.

**STOP 7: 1351 MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD**  
Originally Allan G. Clark House, c.1913

Look across to the southeast corner of Mount Pleasant Road and Dinnick Crescent to view a house that is remarkably unaltered from the time when it was built. The first occupant was Allan G. (Gordon) Clark, born in Wellington County, Ontario in 1887 and a prin-

cipal with C. & A. G. Clark, manufacturers agents. He lived here with his wife, Lillian, and their young daughter, while his business partner, Charles Clark (probably his father), lived around the corner at 1 Rochester Avenue (Stop 15).

The setting of this house has changed considerably since it was built before the First World War. At that time (and for several more years), the house's address was 7 Sidmouth Avenue, and it was the only building on the street, which then extended from Dawlish to Dinnick Crescent, was unpaved and the same width as other streets in the subdivision. The name of Sidmouth was changed to Mount Pleasant Road in 1920. The cross street was called variously Exeter or Cranbourne (named for places in England), but became Dinnick Crescent sometime after North Toronto was annexed to Toronto in 1912.

*Turn right and walk west on Dinnick Crescent to near the corner of Pote Avenue.*



CTA Fonds 1508, Item 538

56 Dinnick Crescent, 1920s

**STOP 8: 56 DINNICK CRESCENT**  
Originally William Irwin House, c.1914

This early Lawrence Park house incorporates several Arts and Crafts style features: a low-pitched gambrel roof, a spacious front porch, and a mixture of building materials. Of particular interest are the tapered piers that support the roof of the verandah across the front of the house. Constructed of large rounded stones, the piers give the house a rustic, Craftsman flair. An addition to the east side replicates the dormers and windows of the original design.

The first owner was William Irwin, who was the assistant business manager at the Globe newspaper in 1915 when this house first was listed in the Toronto City Directory; he lived at this address for many years. His property, landscaped with extensive shrub-



bery and perennial gardens, was a showplace, and a testament to the ideals of Lawrence Park's founders, who believed in "the all-evident advantages and delights of living in the country, or at least in suburban districts, where glorious gardens surround houses that are designed by men of taste and refinement."<sup>29</sup>

9 POTE AVENUE  
c.2001

Two of Pote Avenue's five houses are replacement dwellings. The new house at 9 Pote Avenue "fits well into the area, through the skilful application of high-quality materials - stone, brick, cedar shingles and copper."<sup>30</sup> Its neighbour to the south at 5 Pote Avenue replaces an Arts and Crafts Bungalow from the mid-1920s, but with less success.

Pote Avenue was named for Claude Savery Pote, the sales manager of the Dovercourt Land Building and Savings Company, which developed Lawrence Park. Born at Exeter, Devonshire on June 17, 1882, Pote and the president of the company, Wilfrid Servington Dinnick, were first cousins; their mothers (Emma and Charlotte Savery) were sisters from Cornwall, England. Apparently Pote and Dinnick had a falling-out in 1913 over the failure of an expensive advertising campaign to generate housing sales. Pote joined the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force in April 1915. He was awarded the Military Cross after the Battle of the Somme, September 15, 1916, where he was wounded. After the war, Pote set up his own real estate and investment business in partnership with William T. Roger, developing and selling properties around Toronto.

44 DINNICK CRESCENT  
Originally Sidney McMichael House, c.1925

This beautifully preserved house was constructed in a variety of building materials and features a multi-coloured slate roof and a recessed doorway with a heavy stone surround. The first occupant, Sidney McMichael, was the vice-president and general manager of the Dominion Messenger & Signal Company Ltd. and Dominion Electric Protection Company. Now known as ADT (American District Telegraph), the company began in 1874 to provide telegram service and soon expanded into burglar and fire alarm systems. Dominion Electric Protection Company started in 1924, with a manufacturing plant in Montreal and central stations across the country.

8 POTE AVENUE  
Originally Wilfred L Esson House, c.1935

One of Pote Avenue's three remaining original houses, it features carved bargeboards, leaded glass windows, a coloured stone doorway and a medieval-style door complete with studs and a peephole. The original owner was a director of Willis Faber & Co. of Ontario, insurance brokers.

49 DINNICK CRESCENT  
Originally Oswald Dunville Robinson House  
W. Breden Galbraith, c.1922

Robinson was the manager of a branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada at 925 Queen West. Galbraith pictured the four-bedroom house in his 1930 publication, *A Canadian Home Plan Book*, noting its "raking roof." He pointed out, "There have been many failures on the part of builders who have attempted to copy this design." Therefore, design no. 1115-M, showed "slight variations from our actual plans as protection against copying. Blueprints may be obtained at nominal fees."<sup>31</sup> Leaded glass windows on the main floor, in the front door and above the portico are attractive features of the house.

*Continue west on Dinnick Crescent. Cross Weybourne Crescent.*



24 Dinnick Crescent, c.1911

STOP 9: 24 DINNICK CRESCENT  
Originally Alphonse Frederick Jones House  
Chadwick & Beckett, 1910-11

This house was used by the Dovercourt Company in early publicity for Lawrence Park, as being both physically representative and romantically evocative of the character of the area. It was the "symbol house," according to architectural historian William Dendy.<sup>32</sup>

Chadwick & Beckett designed a Tudor Revival dwelling featuring high chimneys, a tall roof, leaded glass lights and decorative bargeboards. An early description noted it was constructed of "clinker brick and stucco plaster stained a warm ochre with half-timbering."<sup>33</sup> Clinkers are misshapen bricks, usually in darker, purplish colours, produced from being over-fired in the kiln. Originally they were discarded or used for the inner layer, but around 1900, architects discovered clinker bricks were distinctive and

charming in architectural detailing, especially in Arts and Crafts and Period Revival buildings, giving a rough, handcrafted look.

The clinker brick and half-timbering at the Alphonse Jones House were covered in the mid-1980s, when skylights (inappropriate for a Tudor Revival house) and a balcony also were added. By this time, the house was in bad condition, but several original features were retained in the 1980s renovation: the wrought iron supports and clay tiles at the front porch and the two chimneys. Inside, wood floors on the ground floor are intact, as are an inglenook and a banister, carved in a rose design.

Alphonse F. Jones, the house's first occupant, lived here only briefly. Born at Toronto on July 29, 1851, he was married to Alice Barbara Connon, exactly two years his junior, in 1876. In June 1911, the couple, then in their late 50s, was living at Lawrence Park with two unmarried adult sons. Alphonse held \$20,000 of life insurance – a very large amount for that time – but appropriate since he was an agent with Jones and Proctor Bros., insurance and real estate brokers on Wellington Street East. Alice, who died the following year on October 20, 1912, had no life insurance. By that time, the Jones family no longer lived at Lawrence Park. The house had several different occupants until the 1940s when the John D. Clarkson family moved in and lived here for about four decades.

*Walk south on Weybourne Crescent.*

**STOP 10: 28 WEYBOURNE CRESCENT**  
Originally George Maun House, 1939

This fanciful cottage has a “Hansel and Gretel” quality, with its “rolled roof” resembling thatch, low profile and unusual chimney.<sup>34</sup> It was built for George W. Maun, a teacher at Northern Vocational School. During construction, he made daily visits to the site after school to judge the progress. He sold the house to the current owners in 1944.



AO F 175-1-022

21 Weybourne Crescent (left) and 9 Weybourne Crescent, c.1914.

**21 WEYBOURNE CRESCENT**  
Originally William L. Niddrie House, c.1913

**9 WEYBOURNE CRESCENT**  
Originally William M. McKennedy House, c.1913

As this picture indicates, these two houses both date from the early days of Lawrence Park, but show different architectural styles. With its half-timbering, projecting second storey and low roof, no. 21 is an English Cottage style house. William L. Niddrie, the first occupant, was married to Ada Morrison at Toronto on April 29, 1911. He was an insurance broker with Toronto General Trust, and later formed his own company, which continues to operate today.

Nine Weybourne Crescent is a large Edwardian house. It features a central dormer, a pediment over the porch, and selected stone accents. An addition to the south side repeats the two-storey bay window of the original house.

William McKennedy, the first occupant, moved into the house concurrent with his marriage to Mabel Caroline Whale at Toronto on September 18, 1912. The 29-year-old accountant then worked at the Canadian General Electric Company. Previously, he had lived at 61 Macpherson Avenue with his widowed mother and several siblings. His deceased father, also named William McKennedy (1851-1896), had been a painter and a decorator at Cobourg, “very successful, and a leading man in his line.”<sup>35</sup>

*Continue south on Weybourne Crescent to St. Leonard’s Avenue.*



## STOP 11: 1 WEYBOURNE CRESCENT

Originally J. Robert Page House

Forsey Page (of Page & Warrington), c.1913

One Weybourne Crescent is an example of Forsey Page's early work, and was designed just before the First World War when he formed a partnership with Stanford Warrington. The house was built for (and probably by) J. [John] Robert Page, a contractor. Apparently the two Pages were not related.

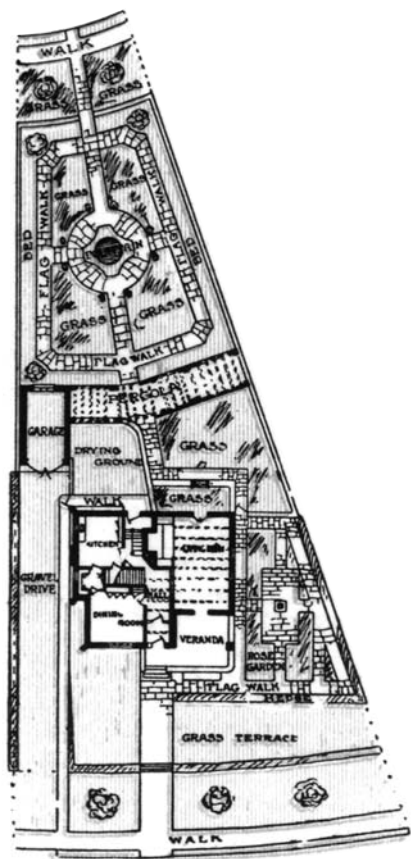
Born at Toronto in 1879, J. Robert Page may have got his start working for his father, John J. Page, also a contractor, who was retired by 1911, when the family (including Robert) lived at 211 Davenport Road. In 1905, J. Robert Page and Herbert Elgie formed Elgie & Page. Their company constructed some 14 churches as well as Casa Loma.<sup>36</sup> Elgie retired in 1916, and Page went out on his own. Many years later, J. Robert Page's company built Locke Library (Stop 33) in Lawrence Park. He was married to Hope Fothergill McMurtry on October 21, 1921.

### BETWEEN 3 AND 11 ST. LEONARD'S AVENUE

Stone wall from Grey Gables  
Originally John H. Evans House  
Chadwick & Beckett.  
Stood c.1909-1993

The lower part of this stone wall, and another one in the front yard of 16 Dawlish Avenue, are the only remnants of Grey Gables, which was demolished in the summer of 1993, destroying a significant piece of North Toronto's architectural heritage. From here, the back of the replacement dwelling can be seen. It lacks the tradition and charm of the original house.

Grey Gables was one of the first residences in Lawrence Park. It was set in a large, pie-shaped lot facing Dawlish Avenue and extending 180 feet north to St. Leonard's Avenue. It was landscaped to be a showplace. The Dovercourt Company's 1910 brochure on Lawrence Park included garden plans, a photograph of the rose garden, and this description:



House and garden plans for Grey Gables, 1910

The shape of the grounds of "Grey Gables" has enabled the architects to develop them along especially charming lines. The whole front is a sweeping curve, terraced back to the house, with a rose-garden and sun-dial on the right-hand side. Opening from this is the lawn and formal garden, with its walks and fountain, and at the further-end, the pergola arranged in semi-circular form. The same flowers and shrubs, wall and hedges, are found here as in the other gardens.<sup>37</sup>

By 1911 the gardens at Grey Gables were beginning to grow. A photograph of the formal garden and another of the rose garden appeared in the 1911 promotional pamphlet on Lawrence Park. Sadly, all of the landscaping has disappeared. Here are further details about the original gardens:

The rose garden is paved with large Credit Valley flag stone, from Mr. Graham-Bell's quarries; in the centre is a Roman stone sundial, and a cedar hedge surrounds the whole. From the rose garden a gate leads to the formal garden in the rear, in the centre of which is an octagonal basin of rubble masonry with a Roman stone fountain modelled by Messrs. Green & Wicks, and a pergola. The whole is enclosed by a dry stone wall. The French window from the living room leads to the formal garden. On the north side of the house, the drive leads to a small stone garage and drying ground, separated by a dry stone wall from the garden.<sup>38</sup>

The original owners of Grey Gables were John Henry Francis Evans, born at Toronto on January 18, 1877, and his wife, Sarah Constance Jones, originally from St. Thomas, Ontario; they were married at Toronto in 1903. By June 1911, the Evans lived at Lawrence Park with their two young sons, five-year-old John and Thomas, an infant of ten months, and a domestic servant. A third son, George Raebarn Evans, was born in 1912. George's daughter, Suzanne Evans, recalled the family's four-decade tenure at 16 Dawlish Avenue:

When the first owners, John H. Evans of Evans & Evans manufacturing agents, and Sarah Constance Evans moved into the house with their two sons, they decided to rent for a year to see if they enjoyed what they considered to be "country living." They stayed, had a third son, and the house became a focal point and a shelter for a large extended family through two world wars and the Depression. The sons made good use of the tennis courts and enjoyed being close to Rosedale Golf course. In 1948 when the youngest son, George, got married, he sold the house to his brother-in-law, Hugh Kortright. Constance Evans, then widowed [John died in 1942], moved to St. Ives Crescent.<sup>39</sup>

*Walk east on St. Leonard's Avenue.*



22 St. Leonard's Avenue, 1913

**STOP 12: 22 ST. LEONARD'S AVENUE**  
Originally W. Breden Galbraith House  
W. Breden Galbraith, 1913

"Fieldstone, brick, shingles and projecting rafters forming an harmonious semi-bungalow," is how W. Breden Galbraith later described his house.<sup>40</sup> It is an early example of the Bungalow style in Lawrence Park, a design that gained popularity in Canada in the 1910s. Here the Bungalow is one-and-a-half storeys with a broad, low-pitched roof that seems to blanket the building. Exposed brackets support the roof, and unusually, the fixed awnings over the upper-storey windows.

22 St. Leonard's is the first of several houses that W. Breden Galbraith designed in Lawrence Park. The young draftsman built it for his own home near the beginning of his architectural career, and following a two-year sojourn in Alberta. He lived at Red Deer in 1911 and 1912 with his wife, Mabel M. Hoffman, and Birdie Madge Galbraith, the first of their three daughters, born at Toronto on July 29, 1907. While there he planned "one of the first fully-insulated homes in Canada," he later claimed. Insulation was an important consideration in Galbraith's Lawrence Park house.

On returning to Toronto in 1913, our new home was constructed of Natco hollow tile, just then coming into use for residential work...Being of the semi-bungalow type, with the rafters of the dormers forming the ceiling joists at the bedrooms, thanks to the insulation of the roof these bedrooms were cooler in summer than in the average house having an attic.<sup>41</sup>

Galbraith moved from 22 St. Leonard's c.1917, but included it in his publications, listed as design no. 210 in his 1930 *A Canadian Home Plan Book*.

Continue east on St. Leonard's Avenue to the northeast corner of Pote Avenue.

Look across to 49 St. Leonard's Avenue. Built c.1913, the original occupant was Edmund H. Yeigh, an architect with an office at 156 Yonge Street. He may have contributed to the design of his house.



40 St. Leonard's Avenue, 1911

**STOP 13: 40 ST. LEONARD'S AVENUE**  
Dutch House. Originally John McConnell House  
Chadwick & Beckett, 1910-11

Sometimes called the Dutch House, 40 St. Leonard's Avenue was used in early promotional literature for Lawrence Park, and was featured in an article published in *Construction* (1911): "Mr. Connell's house is built in Dutch Colonial style with gambrel roof and stucco pillars to verandah. The brick work is in Flemish bond. The roof is of cedar shingles in the natural state. The verandah is paved with brick and Roman stone border. The terrace covered by the pergola leads to the front door."<sup>42</sup>

The house retains several original exterior features including a cedar-shingled roof that shelters a recessed gallery-style verandah. "The weighty stucco columns and the broad dormer add to its appeal," one writer commented recently.<sup>43</sup> There have been significant changes. The brickwork has been covered with stucco and the pergola over the terrace is gone.

The Dutch House was the first of four dwellings in Lawrence Park occupied by John McConnell and his family, although evidently they resided here only briefly. In June 1911, the census recorded that John McConnell, a 28-year-old glassmaker, lived at 123 Shaw Street in Toronto, with his wife, Alvina (26) and their four children: Willis (8), Mildred (6), Marie (4) and Evelyn (1). City directories show the McConnell family at 51



St. Leonard's in 1912 and 12 Dinnick Crescent in 1914 (neither is a current street address) and 51 Dawlish Avenue from 1915 to 1927 (Stop 26).

After the McConnell family moved out of the Dutch House, it had two occupants in as many years. George A. Hodgson was the occupant in 1916. He was an accountant and the superintendent of properties for the Dovercourt Land Company from 1912 to 1918, when he established his own wholesale hardware business.

*Continue east on St. Leonard's Avenue to Mount Pleasant Road.*

- *For the main tour, walk south on Mount Pleasant Road to the corner of Dawlish Avenue and turn right for Stop 24.*
- *For the extended tour, cross Mount Pleasant Road, and continue east on St. Leonard's Avenue to Stop 14.*



AO F 175-1-0-2.3

68 (left) and 72 St. Leonard's Avenue, c.1914

#### STOP 14: 68 ST. LEONARD'S AVENUE

Originally Harriet A. Greer House, c.1914

#### 72 ST. LEONARD'S AVENUE

Originally Orill A. Cole House, c.1914

As the above photograph shows, these two houses were built at a time when horses still were used in construction. Although designed in different architectural styles, they have similar height, massing and setbacks giving cohesion to the streetscape.

No. 68 is a typical Four-Square dwelling: "square, upright, dormered and with just enough detail not to be plain."<sup>44</sup> The first occupant was Harriet A. Greer, the widow of John Greer, a barrister who had died in 1904.

No. 72 is an English Cottage style designed to convey a homey, welcoming feeling with

its sloping, cross-gabled roof, tall brick chimneys and recessed, rounded-arch doorway. Like some other Lawrence Park houses built at this time, it was constructed of Natco hollow clay tile, in this case covered with roughcast. It first was occupied by Orill A. Cole, the American-born managing director of Alabastine Handmortar Ltd., "plaster and fire-proofing manufacturers" with an office on Bay Street and a factory in East Toronto.<sup>45</sup>

*Continue east on St. Leonard's Avenue.*



AO F 175-1-0-2.1

Looking north on Dundurn Road from St. Leonard's Avenue, c.1914.

Left: 110 and 114 Dinnick Crescent. Right: 1 Rochester Avenue

#### STOP 15: ST. LEONARD'S AVENUE AND DUNDURN ROAD

Look north to Dinnick Crescent and Rochester Avenue to view two Lawrence Park houses built before the First World War. With their turrets, gables, half-timbering and enclosed sun porches, both 110 and 114 Dinnick Crescent are designed in a picturesque style.

Leonard Smith, the general manager of the Toronto Railway Company, was the first occupant of no. 114, moving here c.1913 to be the first householder on Dinnick Crescent east of today's Mount Pleasant. Although greatly enlarged by a recent addition, the house retains its original flavour and is a good example of a sympathetic renovation.

John Ramsey, a builder, was the original occupant of no. 110. A subsequent owner was J. (Joseph) Bascom St. John (1906-1983), a journalist with the *Globe and Mail* starting in 1945 and from 1964-73 a civil servant with the Ontario government. His sister, Judith St. John, headed the Toronto Public Library's world-famous Osborne Collection of Early Children's Books from 1952 until her retirement in 1979.

The large house now at 1 Rochester (at the southeast corner of Dinnick Crescent) was built in 2006, replacing the dwelling pictured above, then the only house on the street. Its first occupants, as listed in the 1914 Toronto city directory, were Charles Clark of C. & A. G. Clark, manufacturers agents (his business partner, Allan G. Clark, lived around the corner on Sidmouth Avenue; see Stop 7) and John Douglas, a draftsman at Darling & Pearson, architects.

A. J. Casson (1898-1992) lived further east at 43 Rochester Avenue from c.1931 until his death, when he was the last surviving member of the Group of Seven.

*Continue east on St. Leonard's Avenue.*

**STOP 16: 108 ST. LEONARD'S AVENUE**

Originally Edwin P. Bentley House, c.1914

This Lawrence Park house has some Tudor Revival features: half timbering, a steep roof and a tall chimney. Originally, brackets supported a sloping roof over the portico. When Edwin P. Bentley moved in as the house's first occupant, the address was 102 St. Leonard's Avenue. He was a partner with Albert J. Bentley at "Bentley," Real Estate Brokers, Insurance and Loans, Room 108, Stair Bldg, 123 Bay."<sup>46</sup>

*Continue east on St. Leonard's Avenue.*



AO F 175-1-0-2-3

126 St. Leonard's Avenue, c.1914

**STOP 17: 126 ST. LEONARD'S AVENUE**

Originally E. Brooke Daykin House, c.1913

This was the first house on St. Leonard's Avenue east of Mount Pleasant Road (then Sidmouth Avenue). It is a typical Edwardian house with two-storey bay windows and a front dormer. Different colours and textures were used in the brickwork to add interest. Originally, triple colonnettes supported a triangular pediment over the portico.

E. (Esca) Brooke Daykin, the first occupant, was born in England in 1870/1 and immigrated to Canada in his early teens. Married to Edith Webster in 1897 (they had four children), Daykin held various jobs in the Ottawa area until at least 1911, including being a clerk in a dry goods store and a window trimmer. When he moved to Lawrence Park he

was the manager of Invincible Renovator Manufacturing Company at 81 Peter Street, Toronto. A few years later, he became the private secretary to David A. Dunlap (1863-1924), who made his fortune as a lawyer and a mining promoter in Northern Ontario. The David Dunlap Observatory, opened in his memory in Richmond Hill in 1935, housed what then was the second-largest telescope in the world – it is still Canada's largest telescope.

*Continue east on St. Leonard's Avenue to St. Leonard's Crescent.*

At this point, you are at 177 St. Leonard's Avenue, which was the home of John W. Billes, one of the two brothers who founded Canadian Tire in 1922. He lived here from the late 1920s until his death in November 1956. 152 St. Leonard's Avenue, at the northwest corner of St. Ives Avenue, was the home of Gordon V. Thompson of the music publishing company of the same name. He lived here from the mid-1920s to the mid-1940s. Until the 1950s, the garden extended to the north. The new flat-topped house at 1 St. Ives Avenue replaces a delightful Arts and Crafts style house built by a builder, James W. Buchart, around 1915. St. Ives Avenue is the former City of Toronto / North York boundary and there has been much more infill redevelopment in the former North York due to more generous lot coverage allowances.

*Turn right and walk south to Dawlish Avenue. Turn right and walk west on Dawlish Avenue.*



Joy Mollenhauer/TRL 982-14-2

181 Dawlish Avenue, 1914

**STOP 18: 181 DAWLISH AVENUE**

Originally James Edmund Jones House  
Chadwick & Beckett, 1914

This substantial 18-room house was built for James Edmund Jones (or Judge Jones as he



became known locally) who resided here from 1914 until his death on June 13, 1939. It was later used as retreat house by the Roman Catholic Church, but is a single family dwelling once again. The original property was much larger than it is today, extending farther west and east, and south to Glengowan Road. Early photographs show extensive gardens and lawns.

The house is set perpendicular to the street. In the early days, the west-facing porte-cochere (a porch large enough for a carriage to pass through) was clearly visible from a distance. The attractive main entrance is located between two, two-storey bay windows with matching gables. The house also features brickwork detailing that includes a battered incline at the corners, corbelled gable ends and massive chimneys. It is a curious blend of several architectural styles including Gothic (the battered incline), Tudor, Classical (the fanlight over the north entrance and the porte-cochere) and Arts and Crafts (the second storey). The house is listed on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties for its architectural and historical importance, adopted by City Council on October 17, 1983.

### JAMES EDMUND JONES

James Edmund Jones was born in Belleville, Ontario on June 24, 1866, the son of Rev. Septimus Jones (1831-1915), the founder in 1871 of the Church of the Redeemer at Avenue Road and Bloor Street, and Eliza Bruce Hutton, a daughter of a federal deputy minister of agriculture. He was head boy at Upper Canada College, and then awarded a Prince of Wales scholarship to the University of Toronto, graduating with a B.A. in 1888. Called to the bar in 1891, Jones eventually belonged to three law firms. He left private practice in 1920 when he was appointed police magistrate of Toronto, a position he held until his retirement in 1938. No doubt his work on the bench inspired the writing of *Pioneer Crimes and Punishments in Toronto and the Home District* (1924).



James Edmund Jones  
(1866-1939), c.1924

AO F175-1-0-2-2

Jones married Emilie Florence Hooper and they had seven children - one son and five daughters lived to maturity. In 1919, when the Lawrence Park Estates land auction was held, Jones purchased six lots, for \$4 a foot, on the east side of Mildenhall Road (then Haslemere Road), one for each of his children. Only one child, Mrs. Joy Mollenhauer, actually built there. The other lots were used as a Victory Garden in the Second World War, and later became part of Cheltenham Park. In the early 1920s, his widowed mother lived in a modest home to the east of his own house. In later years, other members

of his family, including his widow, occupied this house. It was replaced in the late 1970s by the suburban-style home now standing at 191 Dawlish.

Jones was a man of varied interests: he confessed to a *Star Weekly* reporter in 1916 "to being one of the most inveterate hobbyists in Toronto."<sup>47</sup> He was the author of several books on the outdoors: *Camping and Canoeing* (1903), *Some Familiar Wild Flowers* (1930), and *Mushrooms, Ferns, and Grasses and Some More Wild Flowers* (193-?). He was also the compiler of several books of music including *The University of Toronto Song Book* (1887) and *Camp-fire Choruses* (1916). An expert in hymnology, Jones supervised the revision of *The Book of Common Praise; Being the Hymn Book of the Church of England in Canada* (1909), and also acted as an advisor on hymns to the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. He wrote his own music scores including, *In Fane and Forest* (1915) and *The Last Supper and Gethsemane* (1927).

Interested in welfare work for young men and boys, Jones founded the Aura Lee Club in 1887 and served as its president until 1925. (Members skated in a rink created in the ravine near his house. Several players on its hockey team went on to play professionally.) He was also a member of the National Boys' Work Board. Jones took teenage boys on canoe trips to Algonquin Park. One canoe held eight paddlers and all their gear; it was made of tin and came apart for portaging. The Jones house was a favourite stop for neighbourhood children on Halloween when they were invited in for slides and refreshments.

*Continue west on Dawlish Avenue.*



157 Dawlish Avenue, c.1914

AO F175-1-0-2-3

### STOP 19: 157 DAWLISH AVENUE

Originally G. Mansen Mulholland House, 1914

This substantial brick house is a good example of a Lawrence Park phenomenon, which

sees people who grew up in the area buying their own homes here or taking over their parents' places, and newcomers sometimes living in one house for a time and then trading up or down.

The first owner of 157 Dawlish was G. (Gustavus) Mansen Mulholland, an accountant, then in his 30s. Born in 1880 at a farm in Aldborough Township, Elgin County, he clearly had come a long way since 1901, when he was a hardware store clerk in his native township. Mulholland and his wife, Jessie May Holliday, a one-time teacher, moved to Lawrence Park a few years after their marriage in 1911. In the 1920s, they relocated to a new house at 37 Dawlish Avenue (Stop 27).

The Mulholland home was built around the same time as the dwelling that James Edmund Jones constructed for his family at 181 Dawlish Avenue in 1914. Joy Mollenhauer recalled: "My father rented a horse and carriage to take us all to see our new home in the building stages. His father, Reverend Septimus Jones .... occasionally came with us. He often sat on the porch of the only nearby house – a nine room home at 157 Dawlish - waiting for us to take him home again. "157" many years later was to be the home, for 21 years, for my husband, Arnold Mollenhauer, myself and our four children."<sup>48</sup>

### 151 DAWLISH AVENUE

Originally Elmer B. Cogswell House, c.1923

The first occupant of this house was the general manager of Canadian Foreign Products Ltd. From 1934 to 1955, it was the home of Ethel Mary Granger Bennett (1891-1988) and her husband, Howard Bennett, a professor at Victoria College, University of Toronto.

Granger Bennett was born in Shroton, Dorsetshire, England, the daughter of James Henry Granger and Julia Ann Hutchings. The family immigrated to Canada and settled at Collingwood, Ontario where Mary was raised. A brilliant student, she taught briefly at a nearby school before entering Victoria College, Toronto, in the autumn of 1911. She received a B.A. in modern languages in 1915 and a Ph.D. in French literature from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1931.

While living at Lawrence Park, Granger Bennett was a lecturer in French at Victoria College (1945-7) and wrote the first of three novels of historical fiction featuring women in 17th-century New France: *Land for Their Inheritance* (Ryerson Press, 1955). Her other books were *A Straw in the Wind* (1958) and *Short of the Glory* which won the Ryerson Fiction Award for 1960.

*Continue west on Dawlish Avenue to the southeast corner of Dundurn Road.*

### STOP 20: DAWLISH AVENUE AND DUNDURN ROAD



TPU/NDLHC. Photo by Peter Scott

122 Dawlish Avenue, October 1981

### 122 DAWLISH AVENUE

Originally Charles A. G. Matthews House  
Murray Brown, 1924

Look across to the northwest corner of Dawlish and Dundurn to view a stucco house designed by Murray Brown for Charles A. G. Matthews, secretary-treasurer and later president of Sampson Matthews Ltd., printers and lithographers, whose family lived here until the mid-1950s.

This was one of two houses that Brown created on Dawlish Avenue in 1924, the other being at no. 36 (Stop 27). It was featured in *Canadian Homes and Gardens*, which praised the house for its originality and use of colour: "A checker-board chimney is an English touch; a huge window extending the entire depth and breadth of a sunroom wall is another daring treatment, while the quaint doorway . . . takes its precedent from the Spanish mission type."<sup>49</sup>

The house has seen several changes since the early 1980s. An addition has been placed on the north façade and gables on the second floor. Many of the decorative touches that Brown used to embellish the house are less visible. The red brick with wide white mortar joints at the windowsills and on the exterior walls has been painted out. So has the distinctive checker-board chimney built of alternate squares of red brick and white stucco. Originally keystone windows were trimmed with vertical board shutters, painted alternately dark marigold and yellow and finished with wrought iron hinges and cloverleaf cut-outs. The new portico hides the recessed front entrance whose splayed corners form an unusual arch.





*Dawlish Avenue looking west to Mount Pleasant Road, c.1914.  
110 Dawlish Avenue is in the foreground.*

### 110 DAWLISH AVENUE

Originally Julian Sale House  
Chadwick & Beckett, c.1911

Looking west on the north side of Dawlish west of Dundurn, there is a dark red brick house, which “stands boldly on an eminence,”<sup>50</sup> to quote an article from 1911. This was the fifth house to be built in Lawrence Park, and the first constructed east of Sidmouth Avenue (now Mount Pleasant Road), then an isolated backwater. When 26-year-old Julian Sale and his bride, Edith Spohn of Penetanguishene, took occupancy shortly after their marriage on January 11, 1911, they had gas for cooking but no electricity, a septic system instead of sewers; in addition the roads were unpaved.

The shaped Flemish-style gable on the east side is a prominent feature of the house. So is the garage, which was dug out of the hill at the front of the property c.1960. It is unlike most garages in Lawrence Park, which either have been placed at the back of the lot or attached at the side and designed to look like part of the house. Originally the house had green stained shingles. Inside, the living room was finished in stucco plaster with a large brick fireplace and the dining room was finished in mahogany.

Julian Sale was the third generation of his family with that name. He was a merchant and a director of Julian Sale Leather Goods Co., Limited, his father's company located at 105 King St. West, Toronto. Edith Sale died of nephritis on September 21, 1921 at the age of 39. After her death, Julian Sale continued to live at 110 Dawlish for some time.

*Walk south on Dundurn Road to Glengowan Road. Turn left and walk east.*

### STOP 21: 61 GLENGOWAN ROAD

Originally James R. Staunton House  
W. Breden Galbraith, c.1929

Another Galbraith-designed house, in this case designed in the English Cottage style, with a tall oriel window and a Juliet balcony above the protruding doorway adding a medieval touch. Galbraith took full advantage of the sloping wooded site. Every room, except the kitchen and the bathroom, was given ravine views. “Also, it made feasible a most exceptional basement room, practically at ground level,” the designer commented in 1930 in his *A Canadian Home Plan Book*, where this was design no. 1707.<sup>51</sup> James R. Staunton was the director of Stauntons Limited, “Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers in Wall Papers,” with a factory and a salesroom at 934-948 Yonge Street. Previously he had lived at 19 Weybourne Crescent.<sup>52</sup>

### 63 GLENGOWAN ROAD

Originally W. Breden Galbraith House  
W. Breden Galbraith, 1924

This is the second house that W. Breden Galbraith built for himself in Lawrence Park, after he returned to this area following an absence of about seven years (see Stop 12). He included pictures, plans and a description of the house in his 1930 design book. “The Elizabethan adaptation, Design No. 1203, is built where there is a considerable slope to the street, making practicable the garage floor being placed on a level with the basement floor, the garage roof forming a balcony from the Reception Hall and from the Living Room.” He ensured the ravine would be appreciated “by having a bay window placed in the corner of the living room.” He also noted, “there is nothing, from the street, to indicated that the leaded glass window, at the left, is at the kitchen.”<sup>53</sup> Galbraith sold the house in 1934 to Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Burtis.

### 65 GLENGOWAN ROAD

Originally T. (Thomas) Geoffrey Leith House  
W. Breden Galbraith, c.1915

This house is credited as being “a demonstration home for the newly-established Strathgowan subdivision of W. S. Dinnick’s developments in Lawrence Park.”<sup>54</sup> It probably also was one of W. Breden Galbraith’s first commissions in this neighbourhood. He later called it “an inexpensive home of seven rooms,” claiming, “What could be more unostentatious than this little home.”<sup>55</sup> He wrote about its “Beauty of Simplicity exemplified in the bit of lead glass, the arches of the verandah that overlooks the old fashioned garden, and a little balcony at the French windows of the master bedroom.”<sup>56</sup>

The house was rented out in its early years, and had several different occupants between 1916 and 1922. The first, who only stayed for a year, was T. (Thomas) Geoffrey Leith, the Toronto manager of British Aluminium Co. Ltd. Born in London,

England in 1883, Leith was the son of Major Thomas Leith (Bombay Fusiliers, India) and Lady Mary Elizabeth Dalzell. During the First World War, Leith returned to England with his family comprised of his wife, Olga Renfrew Schwartz, whom he married at Toronto on June 10, 1913, and their two children, Phillip (awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during World War II) and Thelma, both born here. A few years later, Annie S. Dinnick, sister of the developer, lived in the house, moving here from 35 St. Edmund's Drive (Stop 31). From 1923 to 1965, the house was owned and occupied by the family of Frank Adrian Brook, an insurance agent.

Originally the house's address was 171 Glen Grove Avenue East (as Glengowan Road was called until 1927) and it was one of only two houses on the south side of the street. Nicholas L. Garland lived at no. 35 close to Yonge Street. He was the son of Nicholas Garland (1841/2-1926), whose Strath Gowan farm was sold in 1912 to create the subdivision. "Young Nick" (born at Caledonia, Ontario in 1870) probably built his house concurrent with his marriage on August 13, 1914 to Jean McPherson.

Before retracing your steps west on Glengowan Road, take a look at no. 62. Until 2006, a small white house stood on this site, which was the home of author Margaret Marshall Saunders from c.1923 until her death in 1948. Often viewed as a neighbourhood eccentric for her menagerie of birds and stray animals, she was famous for her novel, *Beautiful Joe*, the autobiography of an abused dog. Published in 1893, it eventually was translated into 14 languages and reportedly was the first Canadian book to sell more than a million copies.

*Continue west on Glengowan Road to the southeast corner of Mount Pleasant Road.*



39 Glengowan Road, c.1925

## STOP 22: 39 GLENGOWAN AVENUE

Wyndekrest. Originally C. A. (John) Westley House  
W. Breden Galbraith, c.1923

Wyndekrest was built for C. A. (Clarence Avon, known as John) Westley, a lumber merchant originally from Bradford on Avon, England, and his Ontario-born wife, Mary Eleonore Vincent Wright, married at Toronto on June 29, 1917. Mr. Westley was on the executive of the Toronto Board of Trade and a director of the Lakeview Golf and Country Club. Mrs. Westley was the contralto soloist at Metropolitan Methodist Church for 12 years (resigning in July 1924) and also active in her church, the IODE (Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire) and Ontario Ladies' College alumni.

Their English Cottage style house – note the sweeping bell-cast roof and rounded carriage doors – was situated at the corner of Mount Pleasant Road, then a quiet street, and on the crest of a small hill, backing on to a ravine. W. Breden Galbraith featured it as design no. 1308 in several publications, including photographs of its beautiful garden and kitchen, which he called "The Factory in the Home." When the Mount Pleasant Bridge was constructed in the 1930s (see below), Westley "objected most strongly," Joy Mollenhauer recalled. "Little wonder, as it did spoil his private view over an unspoiled valley."<sup>57</sup>

C. Graham Cotter, now a canon in the Anglican Church and a writer on religious subjects, lived with his aunt and uncle at Wyndekrest during school holidays in the 1930s. Three decades later, Reverend Cotter took his seven-year-old daughter, Charis, and her siblings to visit. By that time, John Westley had died, but Eleonore still lived in the house, remaining here until her death in 1965. Charis skilfully evokes the atmosphere of the "dark and beautiful house in Lawrence Park" in her history, *Toronto Between the Wars*:

It had a name – a romantic, full-blown name worthy of a house in a novel by L.M. Montgomery: Wyndekrest. It was a strange name for a house squeezed in beside a bridge on Mount Pleasant Road, about six feet below street level, with the front door looking directly into the wheels of the passing cars...only a narrow path remained between the house and the bridge. It led down to a wild ravine, where we would go to escape the grownups.<sup>58</sup>

## MOUNT PLEASANT BRIDGE, 1935, REBUILT 1982 AND 2006

Before the Mount Pleasant Bridge was built in 1935, there was no direct route on Mount Pleasant Road north of Blythwood Road; its course was interrupted by a stream and a ravine. The quickest route for the adventurous northbound motorist was to turn east at Blythwood, go down Blythwood hill, then head north along the ravine and follow Stibbard's Creek to a foot bridge. After driving (illegally) across the bridge, the motorist could then climb a path on the north slope of the ravine and come out near Mount Pleasant and Strathgowan.

In 1932, Toronto City Council authorized a capital expenditure of \$249,000 to build a bridge on Mount Pleasant Road, over the ravine near Strathgowan Avenue. "There was great controversy over the extension," Joy Mollenhauer later recalled. "It would cut





Mount Pleasant Bridge, looking south from Glengowan Road, 28 July 1936

the Park area in two and spoil valuable (by then) property.<sup>59</sup>

But the project went ahead: politicians wanted a civic project to create much-needed jobs in the Depression; motorists wanted an alternative north-south route to Yonge Street; and Blythwood Road residents wanted automobile drivers to stop using their street as a link between Mount Pleasant Road and Yonge. "The only protest," surmised a correspondent to the *Mail and Empire* in October 1933, "comes from a few wealthy people who wish to keep their little corner cut off and sacrosanct from rightful access by the city at large."<sup>60</sup>

Toronto Controller Joseph George Ramsden (Ramsden Park) officiated at the opening in 1935. A member of Toronto City Council for 16 years between from 1903 to 1936, Ramsden lived at 170 Blythwood Road from 1924 until his death at 81 on December 22, 1948. Some alleged that he championed the north-south linkup of Mount Pleasant to reduce unwelcome traffic on his own street.

When the Mount Pleasant Bridge was built, it was 361 feet, 6 inches long, with a roadway width of 46 feet and two sidewalks of 8 feet each. The contractor was Richardson Construction Co., and construction costs were \$107,382.93.

*Cross Mount Pleasant Road and continue west on Glengowan Road.*

### STOP 23: 10 GLENGOWAN ROAD

Originally Frederick B. Housser House  
Mathers & Haldenby, 1929

This house, first owned by Frederick B. Housser of F. B. Housser and Co. (Financial Analysts), was a departure for housing design in Lawrence Park. The architects drew on Canada's colonial heritage, rather than on American or English precedents. They used Owen Sound limestone, referred to as "rubble stone" because of its irregular shape and



10 Glengowan Road, 1981

rough texture, and the irregular manner in which it was laid.

The award-winning house was featured in several architecture and decorating magazines, including an article in *Canadian Homes and Gardens*, which noted,

The architectural traditions of old Upper Canada have been adhered to, with certain modifications, in this interesting design for a small house. The large windows, the eave-line, the pitch of the roof, and the general sturdy, four-square appearance are definitely reminiscent of houses that were built at the beginning of the 19th Century.<sup>61</sup>

Originally the main entrance faced west; infill housing on the adjacent lot caused the main entrance to be relocated to the south elevation, closer to the street. A garage has also been created from the lower level of the house.

### 4 GLENGOWAN ROAD

Originally William H. Baker House  
Chadwick & Beckett, c.1912

William H. Baker was a Canadian representative of John Brown and Sons, Belfast, Linen Merchants. At the time the house was built, its address was 74 Glen Grove Avenue East, and it was the only residence on the street. In 1927, the section east of the ravine was renamed Glengowan Road (Bylaw 11096) and the houses were numbered. The owner of the newly renamed and renumbered 4 Glengowan Road was Harold W. Wookey, a surgeon, who lived here for many years.

Chadwick & Beckett designed the house in an English Cottage style, and many of its design elements were replicated in other Lawrence Park residences. Constructed of brick clad in stucco with wrought iron and wood trim, the Baker House has a steeply-pitched roof with an asymmetrical, picturesque roofline. The arched opening at the entranceway is replicated in the decorative relief arch over the attic window. The house also features shed dormers, battering of walls and ornamental brackets at the eaves.

The house is included on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties, adopted by City Council on October 17, 1983. "This residence, one of the early Lawrence Park Houses, is remarkable for its close stylistic affinities to houses of the English Arts and Craft movement, particularly those of Charles Voysey. The architectural detailing and the sensitive landscape treatment are representative of the original design intentions of the park."<sup>62</sup>

*Retrace your steps back to Mount Pleasant Road. Turn left and walk north to Dawlish Avenue.*

102 Dawlish Avenue (at the northeast corner of Mount Pleasant Road) has an Arts and Crafts influence in the stained glass, low sloping roof and brackets under the eaves.

*Turn left on Dawlish Avenue and walk west.*

#### STOP 24: 87 DAWLISH AVENUE

Originally Charles B. Cleveland House, c.1914

This Cottage style house was constructed of yellow rug brick, an unusual colour in Lawrence Park where bricks mostly are red. Originally the address was 89 Dawlish Avenue. The first occupant was Charles B. Cleveland, an architect with Darling & Pearson, a prominent Toronto firm. Perhaps he helped design his own house.

#### 80 DAWLISH AVENUE

Originally Roy K. McConnell House, c.1924

"The horizontal emphasis achieved through the windows and rooflines, along with the geometry of the brickwork, reflect U.S. architect Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style designs," Marta O'Brien writes.<sup>63</sup> Unfortunately the original design has been compromised by a second-storey addition. The first occupant was a salesman.

*Continue west on Dawlish Avenue.*

#### STOP 25: 66 DAWLISH AVENUE

Originally Gordon R. Medland House, c.1919

This house combines a Georgian doorway and multi-pane shuttered windows with Arts

and Crafts elements such as rough brick, a prominent roof and exposed rafter ends under the eaves. The first occupant was Gordon R. Medland, an insurance agent then in his early 30s, who worked with his father and brother (both named William) at Medland & Son, located at King and Bay.



NDLHC/Alex Grenzbach

79 Dawlish Avenue, March 2007

#### 79 DAWLISH AVENUE

Originally Forsey Page House  
Forsey Page & Steele, 1928-9

This was the second house that Forsey Page designed for himself in Lawrence Park. (See Stop 28.) He lived here from 1929 to 1933, when he sold the house to Kempt Waldie and moved out of the neighbourhood.

The steeply-pitched shingled hipped roof and the pointed dormers recall not only French-Canadian precedents, but also the rural architecture of Normandy France. The yellow brick house also features decorative brickwork banding, cast stone sills and a variety of window sizes and shapes including one inset octagonal window. Wrought iron is used in several places including the decorative lamp and the ship cut-out.

The original house plans show a somewhat unusual layout. The kitchen, dining room, laundry room and boiler room were placed in the ground floor (basement). The first floor contained the living room, a bedroom and a bathroom along with a large stairway. The second floor had four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

*Continue west on Dawlish Avenue.*



**STOP 26: 69 DAWLISH AVENUE**  
Originally Victor W. McCormack House  
Forsey Page of Page & Steele, 1926

William Dendy observed, "This house mixes old and new details, Georgian in its doorway, vaguely French in its windows, cottage-like really in its scale. . . . It looks down into a ravine on the other side so that you get a very close connection with nature."<sup>64</sup>

The house was built for Victor Wardle Vivian McCormack, a physician born in 1881 at Whitchurch Township, York County, where his father was a lumber merchant. In December 1911, he married Ethel Angeline Widdifield at North Toronto. Around the same time, he set up a medical practice in the town. For many years his office was located on the west side of Yonge Street at Lytton Boulevard. Until they moved to this house on Dawlish Avenue in the mid-1920s, the McCormacks probably also resided in same building.



50 Dawlish Avenue, c.1911

**50 DAWLISH AVENUE**  
Originally John Alexander Leckie House.  
Chadwick & Beckett, c.1911

Here is one of Lawrence Park's earliest houses. The above picture, from a 1911 promotional pamphlet, shows that the brick residence already had concrete sidewalks, newly-planted trees and flowering borders, but still was surrounded by open fields. The house retains some of its original features such as the two-storey bay windows. However, an unsympathetic renovation in 2000 altered the original design with the addition of a third storey featuring a massive gabled, mansard roof and the removal of multi-pane casement windows. The front porch canopy and piers had been removed earlier.

Originally 50 Dawlish Avenue was the residence of John Alexander Leckie, who in

1911 was 41 years old and living at Lawrence Park with his wife, Helen H. (age 37), their son, John (13 years) and two daughters, Margaret (11) and Helen (nine). Like most early households in Lawrence Park, the Leckies had a domestic servant. She was 20-year-old Maud Ovaskaina, who had immigrated to Canada from Finland in 1911.

Leckie had been a farmer in Peel County when he and Helen Harp Noble (a native of the Isle of Man) were married in 1897; all three of their children were born there. A decade later, Leckie had given up farming, moved to Toronto and was a salesman in his father's company, John Leckie Ltd., ship chandlers, which made flags, masts and other nautical paraphernalia. The Leckie House later was sold to James W. Coombs, a travelling salesperson, whom city directories list as living at 50 Dawlish from 1921 to 1959.

**46 DAWLISH AVENUE**  
Originally William W. McLaughlin House  
Harold J. Smith, 1924

No. 46 Dawlish Avenue has, William Dendy proclaimed in 1982, "one of the most beautiful doorways in Toronto."<sup>65</sup> A lantern hanging in front of a wooden fanlight and other wood details contribute to its charm. The steeply sloping cedar roof "admirable for our climate," is punctured with wide clapboarded gables. Unfortunately, the view of its west side is less impressive that it was originally due to the recent replacement of 40 Dawlish Avenue (one of the original Chadwick and Beckett houses) with a much larger house. Architect Harold J. Smith's own house is at Stop 28.

William W. (Webster) McLaughlin, born at Lindsay, Ontario on February 24, 1894, was a corporate lawyer, a veteran of the First World War and one of the original directors of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. He lived with his wife Erma in the house until his death in 1963.

**51 DAWLISH AVENUE**  
Originally John McConnell House  
Eden Smith & Sons, 1914

This 15-room house, overlooking a ravine, is the only dwelling in Lawrence Park credited to Eden Smith, whose firm designed many residences in Forest Hill, the Annex and other upscale Toronto neighbourhoods during this period. A building permit was issued on May 27, 1913 for a 2 1/2 storey dwelling to cost \$10,000, with James Nelson the builder. The house was constructed with Natco hollow clay tile walls covered in rough-cast. The front façade, with two large gables, was faced with Indiana sandstone.

The house was built for John A. McConnell, the president and managing director of Canada Glass Mantels and Tiles, which in 1914 was located at 37-47 Richmond East with a factory on Carlaw Avenue. He and his large family – eventually there were seven children - moved to the Dawlish Avenue house in March 1914, having lived previously in three other houses in Lawrence Park (see Stop 13). The McConnell children and the Leckie children across the street rigged up a small overhead trolley to send small items



51 Dawlish Avenue, 1913

such as fudge between the two houses.

In the mid-1920s, the home became the residence of Mark Bredin, whose career as a baker was an example of modern enterprise and success. Bredin was born in Ireland on July 2, 1863 and immigrated to Toronto from Dublin in 1884. The energetic young man started a small bakery on Yonge Street with his brother. They expanded their operations in 1902 to a new and larger plant near Dupont and Avenue Road. In 1911 he and three other bakers, including George Weston, joined with multi-millionaire Cawthra Mulock to form the Canada Bread Company, soon known as "the largest organization of its kind in the Dominion."<sup>66</sup>

Bredin quickly became the company's president and managing director, serving in those capacities until his retirement in 1929. In 1913 he received the distinction of being chosen as president of the National Association of Master Bakers, the first Canadian to be so honoured by the continent-wide organization. A public-spirited man, he also served as alderman on Toronto City Council for Ward 3 in 1908 and 1909.

After his retirement, Bredin re-established the Bredin Bread Company at 559 Davenport Road. He died at age 72 on October 19, 1935. Members of the family, including his widow Eliza and his son, William (one of at least 12 children), continued to live at 51 Dawlish Avenue for another 25 years.

*Continue west on Dawlish Avenue.*

**STOP 27: 36 DAWLISH AVENUE**  
Originally G. Mansen Mulholland House  
Murray Brown, 1924

Here is the second of two houses that architect Murray Brown created on Dawlish Avenue in 1924; the other being at no. 122 (Stop 20). There are some similarities. Both were



36 Dawlish Avenue, c.1933

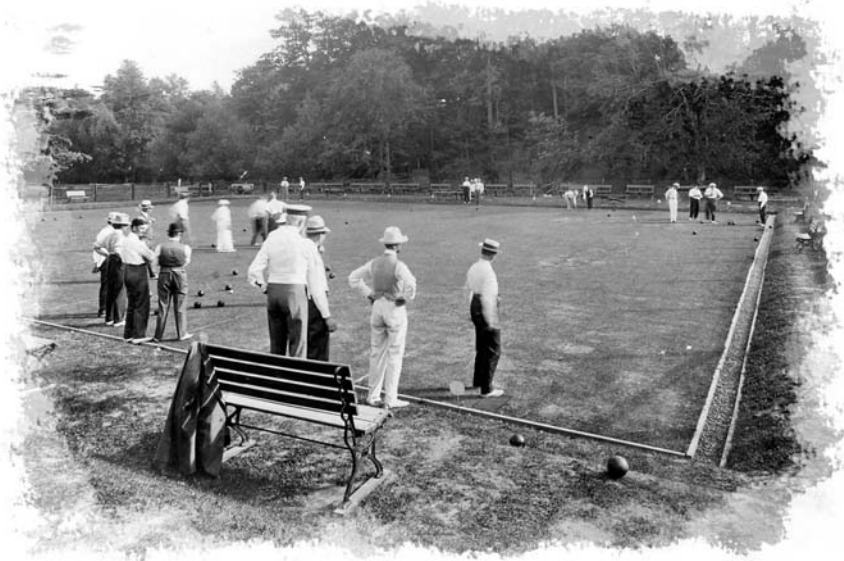
constructed in pale stucco, with colourful shutters (blue in this case) and bricks at the sills, entrance steps and front walls. Both were planned to be part of the landscape, in keeping with the garden suburb philosophy, and provided access to the garden from the living room, placed at the back of the house. *Canadian Homes and Gardens* wrote about 36 Dawlish in 1932, commenting: "The architect has incorporated certain Georgian details, notably the doorway, into the design, yet the house is unmistakably in the modern manner."<sup>67</sup> The house was planned for G. Mansen Mulholland, an accountant, and his wife, Jessie, who previously had lived at 157 Dawlish Avenue (Stop 19).

**DAWLISH AVENUE SOUTH SIDE OVERLOOKING LAWRENCE PARK**  
Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club

Lawrence Park was in its infancy when, on January 30, 1909, J. C. Moorhouse, Secretary of the North Toronto Golf, Bowling and Tennis Club, sent a letter to W. S. Dinnick, president of the Dovercourt Land Building and Savings Company. He requested purchase of the land at the edge of the ravine park in order to establish a bowling and tennis club. This was quickly acceded to, and the clubhouse and facilities were soon in place in the ravine. Dinnick, the first president, was an enthusiastic supporter of the project, no doubt realizing its value in attracting potential buyers. He featured the bowling green and tennis courts in his advertising.

By spring 1912, the date given in the Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club's history for the commencement of its operations, there was a membership of 40 men and women. The club soon expanded to include a second green which was partly on private property. The Dovercourt Company conveyed its portion of the lawn bowling club land (Block





Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club, c.1911.

A, Plan 1485) to the City of Toronto in 1923. The Lawrence Park Lawn Bowling Club used the bowling greens, tennis courts and clubhouse on a permit issued from season to season by the Parks Department.

The original club house, which stood where the present tennis club now stands, was a small but attractive two-storey building, likely designed by Chadwick & Beckett. With its large front verandah and four large pillars supporting the porch and gambrel roof, it was similar in design to the Dutch House at 40 St. Leonard's. The ground floor was occupied by the men, both lawn bowlers and tennis players. Upstairs was the "ladies portion" and a balcony. Originally the lawn bowlers had control of the tennis club and charged it a portion of the annual fee for lease of the property. Later the Lawrence Park Tennis Club was established as a separate organization.

In the early years, this was definitely a men's club. Women served refreshments, looked after the flower beds, and were an important part of the social scene. They were invited to bowl on only four occasions during the year - Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Civic Holiday and Labour Day. By the 1940s this had changed. New greens had been added, women were allowed to be full members in 1943, and mixed bowling became a standard feature of the club.

In 1951-2, when the Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens were moved to Lawrence Park, the original club house was demolished. The City built a new club house, which was enlarged by the members in 1962 and redecorated in 1977.

### *Walk northwest on Dawlish Avenue to Weybourne Crescent.*

The stone wall on the east side of 16 Dawlish Avenue is a remnant from landscaping at Grey Gables, the house that stood here from c.1910 to 1993. (see Stop 11).

## STOP 28: 12 WEYBOURNE CRESCENT Originally Forsey Page House Forsey Page (of Page & Warrington), c.1913

This was Forsey Page's first home in Lawrence Park. It has a well-proportioned Cottage style form and roof, with a Tudor touch in the Gothic-arched entrance and doorway. Page was living here in June 1916 with his wife, Nellie Pentland Page, when he volunteered to serve with the Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force. Wounded at Vimy Ridge, he ended the First World War with the rank of major.



14 Weybourne Crescent, March 2007

## 14 WEYBOURNE CRESCENT Originally Harold J. Smith House Harold J. Smith, 1928

Harold J. Smith designed this "modern small house" for his own family. It was described in 1928 in *Canadian Homes and Gardens*: "Influenced by the English Cottage this architect-owner has developed an interesting theme in brick. The treatment of the facade is unusual while the deep sloping roof line from the front gable breaks the front to give the feeling of the old thatched roof."<sup>68</sup>

Originally, the front windows of the house had louvered shutters, which added to the "English cottage manner." Marguerite I. Ball, a daughter of Harold J. Smith, recalled in 1995 that the shutters, the louvered gate at the side entrance and the cedar shingles on the roof were all the same colour of green. An addition has been made to the rear of the house, facing the garden, which does not intrude on the front façade. Smith also designed the house at 46 Dawlish Avenue for William W. McLaughlin (Stop 26).

Descend into Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens by the steps on the south side of Weybourne Crescent near the junction of Dawlish Avenue. Turn right on the path and walk a few yards and then turn left.

CTA SC 128-9549-10 | Strathy Smith



Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens, 6 June 1952

**STOP 29: ALEXANDER MUIR MEMORIAL GARDENS**  
Edwin Kay, 1951-2

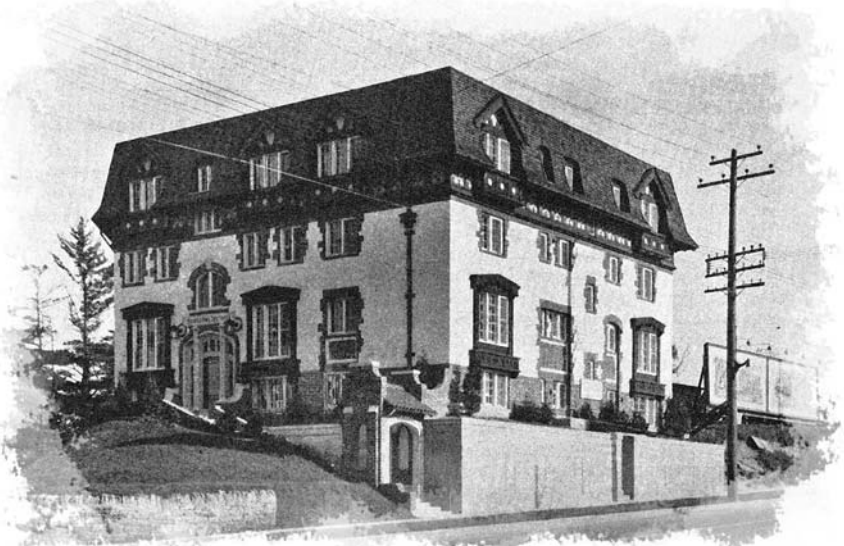
Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens were selected in 1990 by a five-member international jury as one of 25 best urban design projects in Toronto constructed before 1985, "superb as a public gateway - a transition - from the everyday life of the streets to the city's bucolic ravine system."<sup>69</sup> The gardens were established through public subscription in 1933, in preparation for Toronto's centennial celebrations. Designed by landscape architect Edwin Kay, they were situated on the west side of Yonge Street, near Lawton Boulevard and opposite the entrance to Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

In 1951, because of construction of the Yonge Street subway, the Toronto Transportation Commission paid over \$100,000 to move the gardens, including the stone walls and plants, north to Lawrence Park. Kay followed his original formal, symmetrical design for the new gardens, rededicated at their present location on May 28, 1952 by City and TTC officials and surviving members of the Alexander Muir Memorial Committee.

The gardens were named for Alexander Muir (1830-1906), a Toronto teacher famous for his national song, *The Maple Leaf Forever*, which received second prize in a patriotic song competition sponsored by Montreal's Caledonian Society in 1867. It was written while Muir was the schoolmaster at Leslieville, Toronto. It is said that he was given the idea of using the maple leaf by nurseryman George Leslie with whom he was

discussing the competition when a maple leaf fell on Leslie's coat. Muir never received royalties for the popular song because he did not secure copyright.

Appropriately, the maple leaf appears throughout Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens in various decorative and natural forms. At the Yonge Street entrance there is a commemorative plaque topped with a multi-coloured maple leaf. It is on the pillar to the left of the black, wrought iron gate with its single gold maple leaf. Another memorial inscription with the refrain of *The Maple Leaf Forever* is located in the stone walls of the terrace. When the relocated gardens opened in 1952, the seven largest trees in the new park were maples.



Construction, October 1925, 320

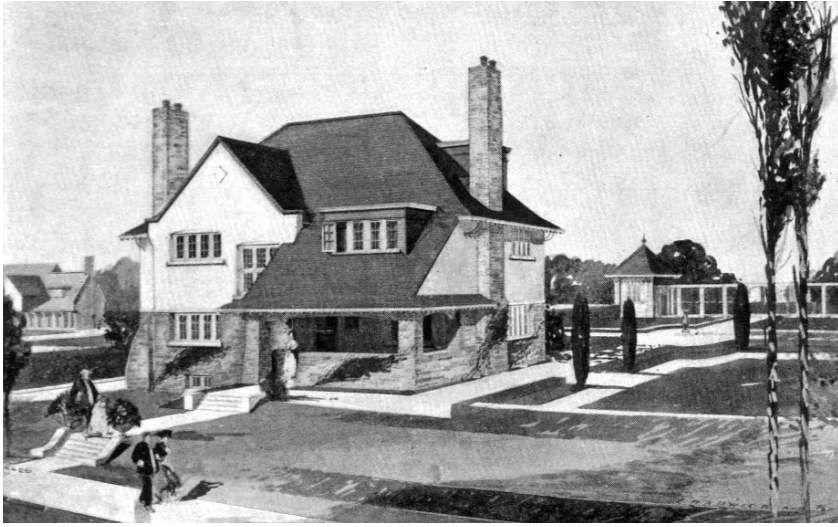
Lawrence Park Apartments, 1925

**2875 YONGE STREET**  
Lawrence Park Apartments  
S. B. Coon & Son, 1925

Look up to Yonge Street to view a Tudor Revival style apartment building. These are the Lawrence Park Apartments, an early residential apartment building in North Toronto, opened in 1925. The 16-suite structure was designed to be in harmony with the domestic architecture of the area and with the wooded grounds of Lawrence Park. "Each apartment, due to the elevated position of the site, has an excellent view from every window," *Construction* reported in 1925. "The building has been planned to take advantage of this outlook."<sup>70</sup>

*Retrace your steps and continue west on the park path until you reach St. Edmund's Drive.*





Flag Court, 1 St. Edmunds Drive, 1910.  
Drawing by R.C. Kennard.

**STOP 30: 1 ST. EDMUND'S DRIVE**  
Flag Court. Originally John Firstbrook House  
Chadwick & Beckett, c.1909

Flag Court was one of the original houses in Lawrence Park. It was built by the Dovercourt Company, and extensively used in its promotional literature. A 1910 pamphlet, *Lawrence Park Estates*, featured a drawing of the front elevation and another of the living room, as well as a plan of the ground floor. It noted, "The grey rubble stone, grey stucco, and natural roof are in perfect harmony with the surroundings. The same English country house style has been the motive for its interior."<sup>71</sup> With its beamed ceilings, fireplaces (one with an inglenook) in the living and dining rooms, wood floors and plate rails, the ground floor had an Arts and Crafts flavour. The spacious kitchen included such modern conveniences as a refrigerator and a gas stove.

The house was situated on a large terraced lot (originally 100 ft. wide by 237.5 ft. deep) with an unimpeded view of the "natural" park designed by W. S. Brooke. The 1910 brochure included a plan for landscaping Flag Court, likely so named for the flag-stone paving used in the gardens and front porch: "The garden to 'Flag Court' has a quaint old-world effect with its broad walks, sun-dial, garden seats, box trees and box edging. A pleasing background is formed by the stone garage, pergola and summer-house. The whole is framed in by hedges and stone walls."<sup>72</sup>

The property at Flag Court was landscaped to be a showplace for the Lawrence Park development. A brochure published in 1911 included a photograph of the formal garden and the pergola. The garden also was illustrated in the 1911 *Construction* article about Lawrence Park. Remains of the formal gardens - a stone wall and bases of stone

pergolas - are still visible in the back yards at 1 St Edmund's and 10 Weybourne. The house on the latter property was built c.1950 when the south part of the original Flag Court property was sold.

John Firstbrook and his family

John Firstbrook, the first occupant of the house, was the president of The Firstbrook Box Co. Limited, which the 1909 city directory listed as, "Manufacturers of Packing cases, Dovetail Printed Boxes, Sawdust and Baled Shavings."<sup>73</sup> Born on July 20, 1856, at Erin, Wellington County, Ontario, Firstbrook moved to Toronto in 1870. In 1879, he and a brother took over the business that their father, William, had established in 1867. By 1911, the King Street East factory had 200,000 sq. ft. and employed 550 people.

In June 1911, Firstbrook and his wife, Frances Crawford, both in their 50s, lived at Lawrence Park with three generations of their family: their eldest daughter, Ada (age 27) with her husband Arthur W. Ellis, a dentist, and their three-year-old son, Firstbrook Ellis; three unmarried sons, Frank (age 25), William Harold (23) and John (16) and one single daughter, Mary (age 21). The household also included two female domestics.

The Firstbrooks were Baptists, and John was a member of the board of governors and senate of McMaster University and was the treasurer of Jarvis Street Baptist Church. He also served on the Executive Council of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, was a vice-president (with W. S. Dinnick) of the Standard Reliance Mortgage Corporation, and a director of the Metropolitan Bank and the Canadian National Exhibition. During the First World War, Firstbrook was on Toronto's fundraising committee for the British Red Cross Society. In his leisure time, he curled and golfed. Firstbrook's home and lifestyle were models for other residents of the Lawrence Park Estates. He and his family lived at 1 St. Edmund's Drive until c.1918, when they moved to 15 Glen Grove Avenue West.

*Continue north on St. Edmund's Drive. Turn left, staying on St. Edmund's Drive.*



Buena Vista, 35 St. Edmunds Drive, 1911



### STOP 31: 35 ST. EDMUND'S DRIVE

Buena Vista. Originally Charlotte and Annie Dinnick House  
Chadwick & Beckett, c.1910

Buena Vista was one of the demonstration houses built by Chadwick & Beckett to promote the Lawrence Park Estates. It appeared in newspaper advertisements, and was illustrated and described in a pamphlet published by the Dovercourt Company in 1910: "This is a peculiarly dignified and very attractive home of solid stone, half timbered, with a tile roof."<sup>74</sup> The house exhibits other Tudor Revival features including a steeply sloping roof (the slate is original) and leaded glass windows. The massive and irregular stone work is highlighted in the recessed entranceway where stone voussoirs form a semi-circular arch, repeated above the windows. The 1910 pamphlet also noted: "Around the entire property is a stone wall, with imposing gates giving entrance to the driveway and garage."<sup>75</sup> The stone wall, except at the back, and the gates have since vanished.

#### Charlotte Dinnick and her family

The first occupants of this house were Charlotte Matilda Dinnick and Annie S. Dinnick, mother and sister respectively of Wilfrid S. Dinnick. By June 1911, they were living in Lawrence Park with their long-time maid, 52-year-old Mary Ann Juniper. Mrs. Dinnick died at her St. Edmund's home (of heart disease) on December 26, 1912. Toronto city directories list Annie Dinnick at this address until 1919, when she moved, briefly, to the present 65 Glengowan Road (Stop 21).

Charlotte was born at Liskeard, Cornwall, England on February 5, 1838, a daughter of William Savery and his wife, Martha. In 1864, she was married in Devon to John Dunn Dinnick, born at Devonport in 1841. He was a Methodist minister, and for the next 25 years, the growing family moved from place to place in southern England while John worked at "some of the leading churches" or established new congregations. Because of failing health, John made two trips to Canada before finally settling at Toronto with his family in 1890. Here he worked as an itinerant preacher, "and thus became widely known and most highly esteemed,"<sup>76</sup> and also wrote religious articles until his death of a cerebral haemorrhage on January 24, 1900.

John and Charlotte Dinnick had seven sons and one daughter. Augustus (Gus) George Cuthbert Dinnick (born January 22, 1867) had business interests in Toronto including real estate. He used family names for streets at Glebe Manor Estates, his 1912 development near Yonge and Davisville: Wilfrid, Servington and De Savery, the French form of his mother's maiden name. Samuel Dunn Dinnick (born October 1869) was a Methodist minister like his father. He worked at churches in Toronto and Peel County, and was chaplain of the 116th Battalion in the First World War. Annie S. Dinnick (born May 23, 1872) was a companion to her mother and never married. Information about Wilfrid Servington Dinnick (1874-1923) is included at Stop 2. Oswald Tilson Dinnick (born on November 16, 1881) studied medicine at the University of Toronto, fought and was wounded in Belgium during the First World War, and later was an outpatient surgeon at Royal Free Hospital, London, England. Three other sons died in their youth: John Ernest Dinnick, the eldest, in England c.1887 at the age of 21, Danzy Vincent (born March 1872) and Theodore (1876-1879).

The house at 37 St. Edmund's Drive was built a year or two after no. 35. It may have also have been designed by Chadwick & Beckett.

*Walk west on Lypmstone Avenue to Yonge Street.*



CTA Fonds 1231, Item 412

*Lawrence Park, looking east from Yonge Street at Lypmstone Avenue, 1920*

### STOP 32: LYPMSTONE AVENUE, NORTHEAST CORNER OF YONGE STREET

Lawrence Park

The creators of Lawrence Park wanted to establish a retreat from city life. On the Yonge Street frontage, a meandering ravine that followed the course of two streams, Lawrence Park Stream and its short tributary, McDougall Stream, was left intact, with the trees within its valley preserved. This created, historian William Dendy observed, "a breathing green lung – a green wall between Yonge Street and its commercial hurly-burly and the houses on this side."<sup>77</sup> In the early days, the space was not a well kept park, but rather "a tangle of bushes and trees, a great place to play games," one long time resident recalled.<sup>78</sup> Fourteen acres of park and ravine lands bordering Yonge Street were sold to the City of Toronto in 1923 for \$28,500.

Today, "Lawrence Park is naturalized to some extent north of Lypmstone," notes a website devoted to Toronto's Lost Rivers. "White Pine, Linden, Norway & Silver Maple, Crack Willow, Basswood, Black Locust, Mulberry and Ash of fair size line the slopes of the small valley. McDougall Stream joins Lawrence Park Stream here." This site also describes trees in Lawrence Park south of Lypmstone Avenue where "both the east and west slopes have been naturalized. The west side was planted in April 1996 by The Task Force to Bring Back The Don: Silver Maple, Ash, Larch, Manitoba Maple & shrubs (Dogwood etc.). Crack Willow & Norway Maple are found in the centre of the park. On the east, there are Scots Pine, Black Cherry, Aspen and White Pine. South of St Edmund's

Drive, Lawrence Stream joined Burke Brook in the middle of where Alexander Muir Memorial Gardens is now located.”<sup>79</sup>

## 24 CHERITAN AVENUE

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. J. Gibb Morton, 1930

Look across Yonge Street to view the front façade of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, established as a parish in 1926 and officially opened on June 1, 1930. The ceramic tile mosaic above the entrance depicts Jesus appearing before St. Mary Margaret Alacoque (1647-1690), who from early childhood “showed intense love for the Blessed Sacrament.”<sup>80</sup>

The building is located on the west side of Yonge Street outside of Lawrence Park, which was designed so that services such as schools, churches, stores and libraries would be on the borders of the subdivision. This would give residents easy access to such amenities, but preserve the residential character of the neighbourhood. The original concept was modified slightly in 1949 when the Toronto Public Library opened a branch on Yonge Street (Stop 33), and Lawrence Park Community Church was opened on Bayview Avenue.

*Walk north on Yonge Street to the library.*



*George H. Locke Memorial Library, 1949*

## STOP 33: 3083 YONGE STREET

George H. Locke Memorial Library. Beck & Eadie, 1949  
Renovations by Stinson Montgomery & Sisam, 1982-3

This library reflects its time and place. When it opened in 1949, it was the Toronto Public Library's first branch since the Depression. Library staff wanted a modern building with

plate glass doors and a street level entrance rather than a flight of steps. As the first public building in Lawrence Park, the designers wanted it to blend harmoniously with its natural setting and the spirit of the community. Constructed of rough stone, similar to many local houses, it also brings the outside in with clerestory windows above the bookcases and large bay windows on all four frontages. The library was listed on the City of Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Properties on June 20, 1973.

Planning for the library began in 1944, when City Council voted that “a portion of Lawrence Park, at the south-east corner of Lawrence and Yonge Street, with a frontage of 165 feet on Yonge Street and having the required depth be deeded to the Toronto Public Library as a site for a new branch public library.”<sup>81</sup> That same year, the city also provided a capital grant of \$125,000 to build and equip the new library, and the library board selected the Toronto architectural firm of Beck & Eadie, with Eric Arthur a consultant (Stop 4), to design the new branch.

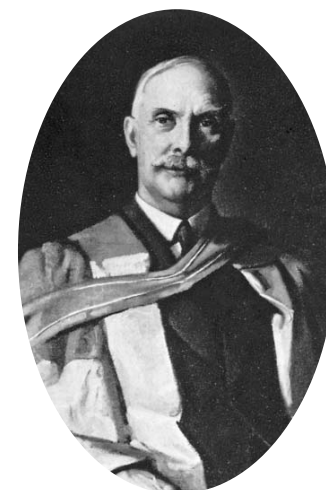
Building had to be delayed, however, because, “the demands for war supplies . . . caused a serious shortage in the supply of construction materials and labour.”<sup>82</sup> Post-war shortages also stalled construction. Contractor J. Robert Page (Stop 11), whose tender was accepted on September 10, 1946, stated that he could not guarantee when he could start or finish the job. Shortcuts were taken, such as not providing a basement under all of the building. The George H. Locke Memorial Branch of the Toronto Public Library finally was opened on January 5, 1949.

The library was named in memory of George Herbert Locke, chief librarian of Toronto Public Library from November 1908 until his death on January 28, 1937. Born in Beamsville, Ontario on March 29, 1870, he had a distinguished career in education, teaching at several colleges and universities including Harvard, McGill and Chicago, before coming to Toronto.

## George H. Locke

During his tenure as chief librarian, Locke greatly expanded public library service in Toronto developing children's services, introducing books in many languages and opening a new central library and 16 branches. George Locke was popular as a public speaker and was the author of several books on Canadian history. He received honorary degrees from the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario. After his death, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada unveiled a commemorative plaque at Beamsville on October 26, 1948.

A life-size oil portrait of Locke by Curtis Williamson (shown here) hangs in the south wing of the George H. Locke Memorial Library. It was presented to Locke in 1933 by library staff to commemorate his 25th anniversary of being chief librarian. A sculpture by Elizabeth Wyn Wood



*George H. Locke  
(1870-1937), 1933*

Portrait by Curtis Williamson/TRL TPL Fonds

(one of Canada's finest sculptors) also hangs at Locke Library, a memorial to Louise Boothe, the first branch head, 1949-61.

## LOST LAWRENCE PARK

The original houses at these addresses (only in the immediate vicinity of the walk route) have been demolished and replaced with new buildings. There are many more throughout Lawrence Park!

Dawlish Avenue: 16, 40, 68, 74, 91, 104, 107, 108, 118, 143, 156, 165, 167, 170, 171, 191

Glengowan Road: 17, 20, 21, 44, 60, 62

Pote Avenue: 5, 9

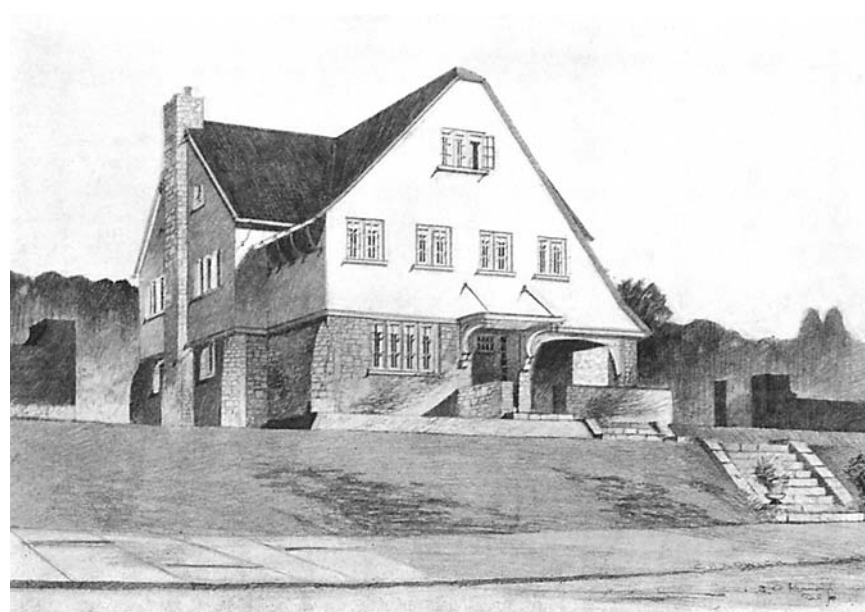
Rochester Avenue: 1

St. Edmund's Drive: 25, 63

St. Ives Avenue: 1

St. Leonard's Avenue: 20, 39, 55, 103, 112, 114, 128, 132, 133

Weybourne Crescent: 24, 50, 71



16 Dawlish, 1910-1993

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40 Dawlish, 1911-c.2003



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- <sup>3</sup> John Sewell, *The Shape of the City: Toronto Struggles with Modern Planning* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1993), 45.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 44.
- <sup>5</sup> *Lawrence Park Estates: A Formal & Artistic Grouping of the Ideal Homes* (Toronto: Dovercourt Land, Building and Savings Company, 1910), [9].
- <sup>6</sup> *Lawrence Park Estates*, (1911), [16].
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, [14].
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- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 79.
- <sup>10</sup> Ron Fischer, "The Development of the Garden Suburb in Toronto," *Journal of Garden History*, 3 (July/September 1983): 202.
- <sup>11</sup> "Girl Guides at Glen Garland," *Toronto Globe*, 27 July 1915, 8.
- <sup>12</sup> *Toronto Globe*, 5 May 1919, 5.
- <sup>13</sup> *Lawrence Park Estates* [auction poster]. (NDLHC)
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- <sup>26</sup> Marta O'Brien, *Heritage Toronto Walking Tour Programme Lawrence Park* (Toronto: Heritage Toronto, 2000), Stop 11.
- <sup>27</sup> Toronto Historical Board Property Information Sheet, 1983.
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- <sup>29</sup> *Lawrence Park Estates*, (1911), [6].
- <sup>30</sup> O'Brien, Stop 12.
- <sup>31</sup> W. Bredin Galbraith, *A Canadian Home Plan Book* (Toronto: Architectural Service Bureau, 1930), 72.
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- <sup>74</sup> *Lawrence Park Estates*, (1910), [10].
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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**Barbara Myrvold**, Local History Services Specialist, Toronto Public Library, has written or supervised the production of 15 books about Toronto communities and neighbourhoods. Her first, *North Toronto in Pictures*, was compiled in 1974 while she was a librarian at Locke Branch, one of many libraries where she has worked during her career. Barbara also has been an archivist for both the Toronto Public Library and the Toronto Transit Commission. Her most recent projects have been to provide the library's local history collections and services over the Internet, through *Historicity: Toronto and Then and Now* and *Ontario History Quest* websites. She has received several awards for her work, most recently being declared in 2007 a "Woman of Distinction" for volunteer work in her Beach neighbourhood.

**Lynda Moon** started her career as a librarian with the Toronto Public Library in 1971, working first at Locke Library. She has been at Northern District Branch since it opened in 1975, and for many years was the History Specialist. A resident of North Toronto, she was a founding member of the North Toronto Historical Society in 1975 and is now its president. Called a "local hero" by the *North Toronto Post*, Lynda also was awarded a Certificate of Commendation in 1991 for "her dedication to the promotion of Toronto history."

