

**10. Former MERCHANT BANK & AULD'S BUTCHER SHOP**  
*(c.1913) 1109 Clarkson Road North*

The Merchant Bank of Canada opened on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1913. The bank leased this building from Alex Durie, who operated the store next door. The Merchant Bank was absorbed into the Bank of Montreal in 1922, and this branch closed in 1938. The building was later acquired by James Penguilly, who sold the building in 1947 to Doug Auld, and it became home to Auld's Butcher Shop.

**11. CLARKSON-BARNETT HOUSE**  
*(c.1819) 1084 Fellen Place*

The Clarkson-Barnett House, a private family home, is one of the oldest structures in Toronto Township and was the home of Warren Clarkson, the man after whom Clarkson was named. Warren Clarkson was born in Albany, New York in 1793. In 1808, he travelled to York (modern-day Toronto). While there, he met Thomas Merigold who had received a land grant in Toronto Township, and convinced Warren to settle with him here. In 1816, Warren married Susannah Shook. On February 2, 1819, Warren purchased parts of Lots 29 and 30, amounting to just over 120 acres. It is presumed that Warren began building this house soon after the purchase. Around 1825 Warren built a larger house fifteen feet east of his original home to accommodate a growing family. According to local tradition, the original home and the newer section were connected by a "spinning room" in 1858, creating the layout of the home that we see today. In 1936, Major John and Blanche Barnett purchased the home from the Clarkson family. Under the Barnett's care, the old home was repaired. In 1980, Barnett descendants sold the remaining seventeen acres of land. The house remains on its original site, facing Clarkson Road, although a modern subdivision has developed around it.

**12. CARMAN METHODIST CHURCH**  
*(c.1875) 1764 Lakeshore Road West*

This building was built in 1875 as the Carman Methodist Church. The earliest recorded Methodist meeting took place in 1826. By 1859 parishioners worshipped at the Merigold Meeting House. In 1875 plans were made to build a new, permanent home for the congregation and Margaret Merigold donated land. The congregation named the church after Bishop Albert Carman. By 1918 it became Clarkson Community Church. A community hall was constructed to the rear of this in 1924 and the

following year its name was changed to Clarkson United Church. When the congregation outgrew the 1875 structure, a new home was built in 1956, located at 1700 Mazo Crescent. Since 1964 the old church has served commercial purposes.

**13. BARN ANTIQUES**  
*(c.1827) 1675 Lakeshore Road West*

Sydney Preston operated the Clarkson Market, selling vegetables and fruit, out of this old barn. According to local tradition, the barn is believed to have been built around 1827 and was relocated to its current site by Preston. In 1918, Grace Fairbairn began working with Preston and used half of the building to sell antiques. In 1932, Grace took over the entire building as an antique store, calling it Clarkson Market Antiques. A second barn was moved to the site and adjoined the earlier structure in the 1930s. In 1966 the building was purchased by Alice Millar who ran Heritage House Antiques until 1970. In 1973, the building was bought by Frank Pleich, who continues the tradition of antique sales.

**14. PATTINSON HOUSE**  
*(c.1915) 972 Clarkson Road South*

This house is a fine example of rural architecture and the agricultural roots of Clarkson. The home was built in 1915 by Gordon Pattinson on property he had purchased from the Orr family. He actively farmed his property, raising a variety of vegetables, apples, and strawberries. Gordon was active in the community, attending nearby Carman Church, serving as a school trustee and as Hydro Commissioner for Toronto Township.

**15. BUSH'S INN**  
*(c.1830) 822 Clarkson Road South*

Russell Bush built the first Inn and Tavern in the area in 1830. The Inn was designed to provide rest and refreshment for weary stagecoach travelers between Toronto and Hamilton. Today, the front of this half-timbered house has been extended towards the road and conceals the original facade. The Inn's role diminished with the arrival of the railway. It was on this property that a later owner, Captain Edward Sutherland, converted some of the land to Strawberry Patches, the first step to Clarkson attaining its reputation as "The Strawberry Capital of Ontario." This landmark remains a private family home.

**16. BRADLEY HOUSE, THE ANCHORAGE, AND LOG CABIN**  
*Museums of Mississauga*  
*(c.1830) 1620 Orr Road*

Bradley House is believed to be the only surviving residence of the original families of Merigold's Point. Lewis Bradley, a United Empire Loyalist, received a Crown land grant in 1810 and constructed a log cabin. He and his wife Elizabeth (nee Merigold) constructed this one-and-a-half storey saltbox-style farmhouse around 1830. It has been restored and furnished to reflect daily life in that era, and has been open as a public museum since 1967. Although moved from its original location close to the lake, the building still stands on part of the original 200 acre Bradley farm. The Museum site also features The Anchorage, a Regency-style cottage built circa 1830, which was once the home of retired British Naval Commander, John Skynner. On his retirement in 1839, Skynner is said to have remarked: "Here I will rest; this will be my anchorage." The house was originally located on the lake shore, a short distance west, near Lakeside Park. This Regency-style dwelling was occupied by the Skynner family until 1853. In 1978 the building was donated and moved to this site, and eventually retrofitted to provide gallery, meeting room, office, and artifact collection storage facilities for the Museum. The mid-19<sup>th</sup> century log cabin is the newest addition to the site. First built near Mono Mills, the cabin was moved to Port Credit as a Centennial project of the local Rovers and Scouts. Slated for demolition in 2002, it was saved by the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the Museums of Mississauga.

**17. RATTRAY MARSH**

Ratray Marsh is a significant and protected natural conservation area. Originally designated as a Masting Lot because of its majestic white pines, the land provided masts to the British Navy. Known at one point as the Oliphant Swamp, after the property owners, other early settling families on the property included the Hendershott, Slade and Peer families. Major Ratray bought the property in 1945 from H.H. Fudger. The gates to Fudger's former estate, which was known as Barrymede, mark an access point along Meadow Wood Road and along nearby Bexhill Road. After Ratray's death in 1959, local citizen groups convinced the City of Mississauga to purchase the property. Today, a nature trail allows passage through the marsh. It is one of the last natural shingle-bar marshes along Lake Ontario.



*A Heritage Tour*

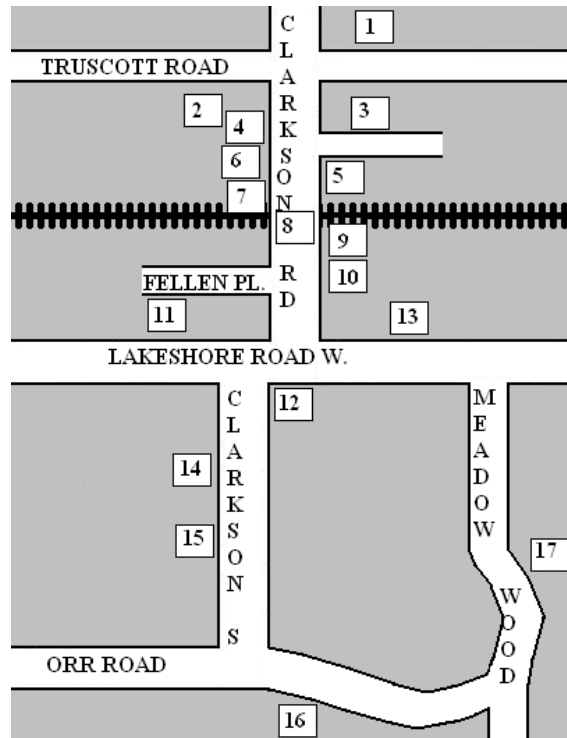
*Clarkson*

*Est. 1808*



*Enjoy a tour of some of the many landmarks of Clarkson and learn about the rich historical roots of this vibrant community.*

[www.heritagemississauga.com](http://www.heritagemississauga.com)  
[www.museumsofmississauga.com](http://www.museumsofmississauga.com)  
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## CLARKSON HISTORY

Driving into Clarkson today, newcomers might wonder at the “Welcome” signs that greet them. Certainly, to the average passer-by, following Lakeshore Road or Southdown Road, there might be little to remind them visually of the village’s rich historical roots. There was a time, not so long ago, that Clarkson was a rural village within the Township of Toronto (now the City of Mississauga). Considered by many as the first settled area of Mississauga, settlement first began in this area in 1807. Among the first settlers were the Bradley, Clarkson, Gable, Greeniaus, Hammond, Hendershott, Jarvis, Marlatt, Merigold, Monger, Oliphant, Shook and Thompson families, amongst others. Many of them were United Empire Loyalists. The first land patent was given to Henry Gable on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 1807. The area became referred to as “Merigold’s Point”, after the prominent Merigold family who arrived in 1808. However, over time, the developing community unofficially became known as “Clarkson’s Corners” after early settler Warren Clarkson. In 1850, the road alignment which bordered Warren Clarkson’s property was officially recognized as Clarkson Road. In 1855, the Great Western Railway

arrived. A train station was on part of Warren Clarkson’s property and given the name of “Clarkson’s”. The Clarkson family also operated the Post Office and General Store, located North of the railway tracks on Clarkson Road. The name of the station, and through it the surrounding area, was later shortened to “Clarkson”. Although the community never incorporated as an independent village, in its heyday Clarkson was recognized as the “Strawberry Capital of Ontario”.

### 1. BENARES HISTORIC HOUSE Museums of Mississauga (c.1857) 1503 Clarkson Road North

This Georgian Revival-style house was built in 1857, and is one of the few remaining upper-middle class homes from 19<sup>th</sup> century Clarkson. Construction was begun by Edgar Neave, who then sold the extensive property and unfinished house to Captain James and Elizabeth Harris in 1836. The house was named “Benares” in tribute to the holy Hindu city; both Neave and Harris had served with the British Military in India. Benares suffered a fire in 1855, and only the original summer kitchen at the back of the house survived. The present house was constructed by Robert Leslie, Charles Dingwall and William Heron of Streetsville in 1857. Captain Harris’ youngest son, Arthur, married Mary Magrath, the grand-daughter of Reverend James Magrath of Erindale. Benares, the remaining original outbuildings, and most of its contents were donated by the three great-grandchildren of Captain Harris – Geoffrey Harris Sayers, Dora Sayers Caro and Barbara Sayers Larson – to the Ontario Heritage Foundation in 1968. Restored to reflect the World War One era, Benares is owned and operated by the City of Mississauga, [www.museumsofmississauga.com](http://www.museumsofmississauga.com).

### MAZO de la ROCHE (1879-1961)

From 1924 to 1928, author Mazo de la Roche was a summer neighbour of the HARRISES of Benares, living nearby in “Trail Cottage”. It was there that she wrote her award-winning, best-selling novel *Jalna*, the first of 16 novels about the fictional Whiteoaks family. Her books have sold over 10 million copies in more than 100 languages. In 2008 the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada honoured Mazo de la Roche by unveiling a plaque at Benares, where her good friends the Harris family lived. Some believe that Benares may have been the inspiration for her fictional *Jalna*, although it was more likely a product of her own vivid imagination and the places and people she’d known throughout her life.

### 2. SPRINGCREEK CEMETERY (c. 1824) 1390 Clarkson Road North

Originally known as Chambers Spring Creek Grave Ground, this cemetery is among the oldest active cemeteries in Peel. The earliest written record of the cemetery dates to 1848, although many burials predate this. The first resident owner of this property was William Kelly, who obtained a deed for 120 acres in 1824. He subsequently sold the farm in two portions in 1827 and 1828, the latter, which included the burial ground, was purchased by John Chambers. Early trustees of the cemetery were Warren Clarkson and Nathaniel Hemphill. This cemetery has always been privately maintained and independent of any church affiliation or government aid. Many of the founding families of the Clarkson area and surrounding Toronto Township, including members of the Bradley, Clarkson, Gable, Greeniaus, Marlatt, Merigold, Shook, Oliphant, Oughtred, Peer and Shook families, are buried within this historic cemetery.

### 3. SAYERS-LARSON LOG HOUSE 1723 Birchwood Drive

This log house was designed by Beverly Sayers circa 1920 on Harris property. It was built by Denison. Barbara Larson, the great granddaughter of Captain James Beveridge Harris, owner of Benares, also lived here. This private family home is designated under the terms of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

### 4. EDITH CLARKSON HOUSE (c.1913) 1160 Clarkson Road North

Edith Clarkson, Warren Clarkson’s granddaughter, took over management of the family store and post office around 1904. It was Edith who enlarged the original store and expanded business. In 1913, Edith built this Edwardian style house for herself, just north of the family store. Edith, the last of the direct descendants of Warren Clarkson in the Clarkson community, died in 1919.

### 5. OAK TREE PARK Clarkson Road N.

On the east side of Clarkson Road North is a small park which is home to one of the oldest trees in Mississauga. While the age of the tree is unknown, its generous dimensions are evidence that it has survived many generations of change.

### 6. WILLIAM CLARKSON HOUSE (c.1860) 1140 Clarkson Road N.

The William Clarkson House is a one-and-a-half storey Gothic Revival home. William was the son of Warren Clarkson. Warren and his first wife, Susannah, had six children: George, Charlotte, Lovina, William, Henry and Isabelle. George, Lovina and Isabelle died young, and the family store was left to William in 1865.

### 7. CLARKSON GENERAL STORE (c.1860) 1130-1132 Clarkson Road N.

The Clarkson Store and the William Clarkson House are among the few remaining structures from the historic core of Clarkson. The General Store and Post Office provided one of the cornerstones of the community. On this site Warren Clarkson built the first store around 1835. The current building dates from the later half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the mid 1860s, William took over the store from his father. His son, Warren Frank Clarkson, who operated the store and post office from 1894 until 1901, was followed by his sister Edith. Her store had the first telephone in Clarkson installed in 1905. In 1906, Edith expanded the storey-and-a-half rectangular store into the present structure. Edith died in 1919, at which time the store was sold and left the Clarkson family. The store and post office were later run by H.U. Hare, J. Jamieson and W.T. McCord. Harry Gerhart purchased the store in 1944 and it became known as the “Carload Groceteria”.

### 8. CLARKSON’S CORNERS & RAILWAY CROSSING

The original rail tracks were laid in 1855, crossing through a portion of Warren Clarkson’s property. The Railway Station was located on the west side of Clarkson Road. The surviving buildings include the old general store and a house north of the tracks, while to the southeast the Butcher shop occupies a former bank.

### 9. Former DURIE STORE (c.1900) 1115 Clarkson Road North

In 1908, Alex Durie purchased this building and opened a grocery store. His store was a community meeting place where farmers gathered around a pot-bellied stove and discussed the news and gossip of the day. The store was purchased in 1932 by Charles Terry, and the building became home to Izatt’s Basket Factory. Following a fire in 1941, the building was converted to apartments.