

ERNEST THOMPSON SETON

Ernest Thompson Seton was born in Shields, England August 14, 1860. At the age of 6, he emigrated from England to Lindsay, Ontario with his family, settling on a farm which his father christened "The Elms." In 1870, when Seton was 10, he moved with his family to Toronto. While in Toronto, he attended the Ontario School of Art and Design where he formed the beginnings of a lifelong relationship with one of his teachers, Charlotte Schreiber, R. C. A. who lived in Erindale and who became his first link to the area now known as Mississauga. Although he graduated from the Ontario School of Art and Design in 1879, it was not until 1887 that Seton was first able to blend into one his three pursuits of author, naturalist, and artist when his brother Joseph offered him the opportunity to live and work in a cabin-studio on 86 undeveloped acres in Port Credit. In return for the minor responsibility of managing his brother's property, Seton would be privy to viewing all the local fauna in its natural habitat.



During his two and a half years of employment in Port Credit, Seton was able to finish *The Birds of Manitoba*, and in his own words "[meet] the animal heroes who are the basis of [his] stories"--*The Springfield Fox, Molly Cottontail, Dabbles the Coon, Bannertail the Gray Squirrel, Why does the Chickadee Go Crazy Twice a Year, and The Song of the Golden-crowned Thrush*. At the same time, he was also able to renew his acquaintance with Charlotte Schreiber. Starting at the lake, Joseph's property extended northward close to Erindale, and from there, it was just a short walk for Seton to visit Schreiber's home, Mount Woodham. Seton was forced to vacate his cabin-studio in 1889 due to a mortgage foreclosure on his brother's property, but not before he originated the realistic animal story and bequeathed a legacy to Canadian literature.

He died in Seton Village, Sante Fe, New Mexico on October 23, 1946.