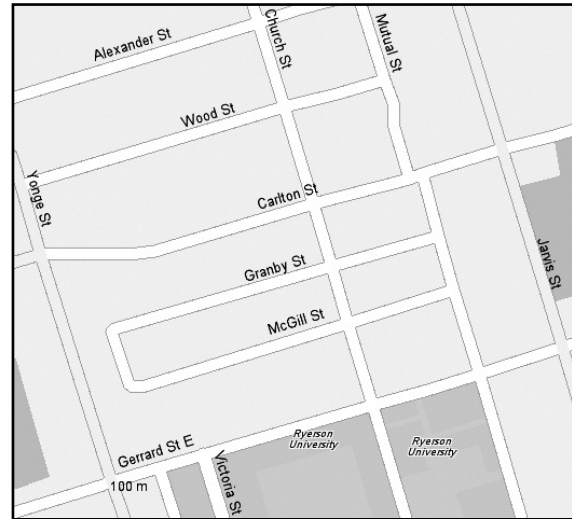


# WELCOME

## The McGill - Granby Village

On behalf of the McGill-Granby Village Residents' Association, we welcome you as a recent newcomer to our neighbourhood. Enclosed are some historic and reference materials, and some information you may find interesting.

The McGill-Granby Village Residents' Association was established in 1978 when the City of Toronto Planning Department recognized this as an area which merits planning attention to preserve residential house form dwellings in the City's core. The City of Toronto passed By-law 283-83 to establish this as an area of Special Identity, in response to the planners' recommendations. Our boundaries are Yonge Street, Carlton Street, Jarvis Street, and Gerrard Street East.



The association has a Constitution, and became a non-profit Ontario Corporation (No. 721716) on August 12, 1987, in order to have legal standing before the Ontario Municipal Board and other Municipal and Provincial bodies.

Since 1978, we have constantly monitored the impact of development and other proposals upon our area, have protected and promoted the interests of our neighbourhood, and have had a relatively high degree of success. We maintain excellent relations with the government of the City of Toronto, particularly with our Ward Councillor and the City Planning, Municipal Licensing & Standards, and Legal staff; and with the Toronto Police Service.

We invite you to consider joining the Association, so that you will receive notice of the Annual General Meetings and any Special Meetings; receive any information and/or newsletters during the year; and be able to participate with us in issues, decisions, and on committees. Annual membership is \$20 per person (\$15 for those 65 and older). We also are pleased to receive additional donations. Payment is by cheque only, payable to "McGill-Granby Village Residents' Association".



# HISTORY

## McGill Cottage - Captain John McGill

John McGill was born in Auckland, Scotland. He came to North America to serve under Simcoe with the Queen's Rangers during the American Revolution. Afterward, he settled in New Brunswick, where he married Catherine Crookshank, sister of George Crookshank. The McGills moved to Upper Canada in 1792 and John was put in charge of supplying the army. By 1799, as Commissary General of Upper Canada, he had received a number of land grants, including a town lot and park lot 7. During his tenure, he also served as Receiver General, from 1813 to 1819.

McGill preferred to live on his suburban estate, so he had his home - McGill Cottage - built there in 1803. He paid the carpenters with land that he owned in Scarborough. McGill's lot was east of the Playter park lot. McGill Cottage faced down to Lot Street, between present-day Bond and Mutual Streets. "Situated in fields at the southern extremity of a stretch of forest, the comfortable and pleasantly-situated residence erected for him for many years seemed a place of abode quite remote from town," wrote Henry Scadding in *Toronto of Old*. The house was a spacious one-and-a-half-storey Regency cottage with an attractive centre gable and a broad verandah. The prettily treed grounds surrounding the house later came to be known as McGill Square. The remaining southern part of the property was a working farm. Behind the house, woods stretched up to modern Bloor Street. Hunting parties frequently ventured into McGill's bush in search of deer, snipe, and other small game.



Yonge Street - 1868

Catherine and John had only one child, who died in infancy. Catherine died in 1819. Without an heir, McGill drafted an interesting will: his nephew, Peter McCutcheon, of Montreal, was to inherit the entire property, on the condition that he change his surname to McGill. John died in 1834.

In 1836, Peter McGill began selling off portions of the property, in one of the earliest subdivisions around York. Church Street, named for St. James Church, was finally extended north of Queen. The segment next to Lot Street was one of the first subdivisions in the city to include laneways flanked by dense row housing. Slightly north, larger lots were subdivided between 1840 and 1842, and Shuter, Crookshank, Gould and Gerrard Streets were opened up. A number of Streets were named for McGill connections: Gould for Nathaniel Gould, an officer of the British American Land Company and a friend of the captain; Shuter for Gould's co-director, John Shuter; Gerrard for a family friend; Ann Street for Ann McGill, later renamed Granby Street and Crookshank for Catherine's relatives. Mutual Street was surveyed by John Howard as a shared road between the McGill property and the Jarvis estate. McGill Street, which bisects the old property, came much later and was actually named for Ann McGill, wife of Bishop Strachan, rather than for Captain McGill.

Most of the homes erected during the 1850's were middle-class houses built on speculation. An exception was architect William Thomas' Oakham House, which he built in 1848 on land purchased from the McGill estate. McGill Cottage was suddenly at the centre of a genteel suburb.

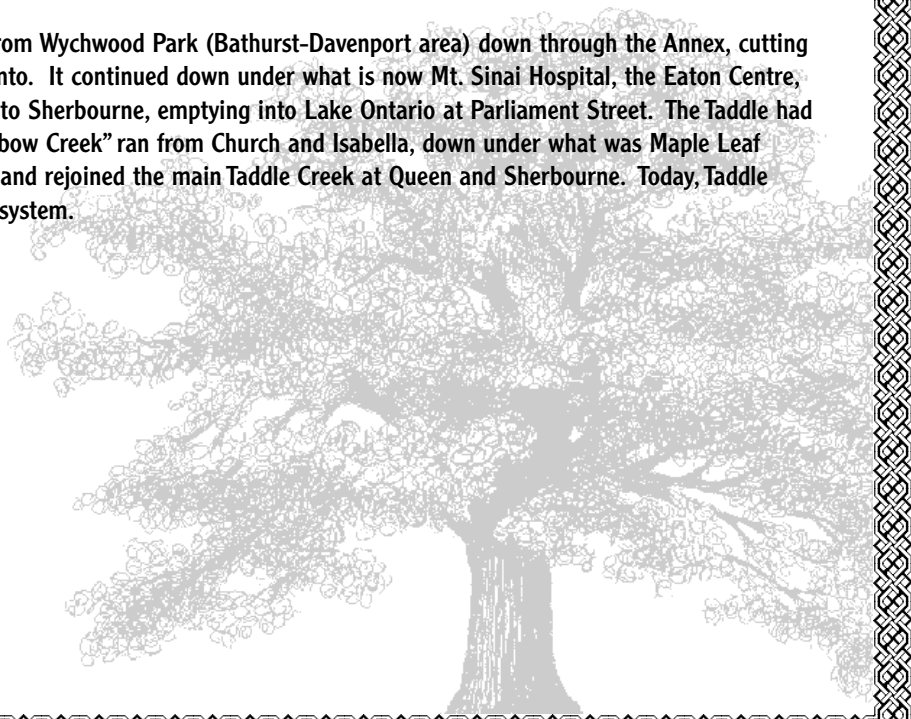
Although much of the northern section was intact into the 1850's, a large block was purchased by the Province in 1850 for a normal school. Under the direction of Egerton Ryerson, it became Ontario's first training institution for elementary school teachers. The site is now part of Ryerson Polytechnic University.

Peter McGill died in Montreal in 1860, but his brother lived at McGill Cottage until 1870. In that year, McGill Cottage and the two acres surrounding the house were purchased by the Wesleyan Methodists. Here they built Metropolitan Church, now Metropolitan United.

## TADDLE CREEK



Two hundred years ago, Taddle Creek ran from Wychwood Park (Bathurst-Davenport area) down through the Annex, cutting through what is now the University of Toronto. It continued down under what is now Mt. Sinai Hospital, the Eaton Centre, St. Michael's Hospital, along Queen Street to Sherbourne, emptying into Lake Ontario at Parliament Street. The Taddle had major tributaries - what we now call "Rainbow Creek" ran from Church and Isabella, down under what was Maple Leaf Gardens, through Ryerson, into Moss Park and rejoined the main Taddle Creek at Queen and Sherbourne. Today, Taddle Creek is buried as part of the City's sewer system.



## Transportation

The Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is the quick, convenient, and safe way to get around Toronto. The College Park subway station is located at the corner of Yonge and Carlton. The subway system is linked with buses and streetcars to get around Toronto on one fare, provided it's a one-way trip with no stopovers.

On weekdays, subway trains run every few minutes from about 6am until 1:30am, and on Sundays, from about 9am to 1:30am. There are late-night buses and streetcars called the Blue Night Network (transit stops are marked with a reflective blue band); these run every day from about 1:30am to 5am, every 30 minutes or more often. See your Yellow Pages for maps, schedules and passes.

Motorists are approximately five minutes from Lake Shore Boulevard, the Gardiner Expressway, and the Don Valley Parkway.

## Recreation

**Allan Gardens** is the largest public park in the Downtown core. This park is the home of the Allan Gardens Conservatory, a botanical garden with six greenhouses that feature unusual and exotic plants from around the world. Allan Gardens' calendar of events includes spring, Easter, and fall flower shows, as well as a Victorian Christmas show.

**The John Innes Community Centre** located at 150 Sherbourne Street, has an indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium, a running track, a weight room, a cardio training room, a games room, a woodworking shop and a craft room. Adjacent to the community centre is the Moss Park Arena which includes pleasure and power skating programs as well as hockey leagues and a summer hockey camp.

### **Ryerson Sports and Recreation (RAC)**

RAC is located in the centre of the Ryerson Campus. Enter through the 40 or 50 Gould Street historic facade, which is one block north of Dundas and one block west of Church St. Annual memberships are available to all individuals 17 and over. Membership at RAC and the use of it's facilities is entirely at the discretion of Ryerson.

### **Metro-Central YMCA**

20 Grosvenor Street Toronto, ON M4Y 2V5 - Tel: **416-975-9168** • Fax: **416-975-1999**  
Young Adult, General and Adult Plus memberships include full use of YMCA programs and facilities.

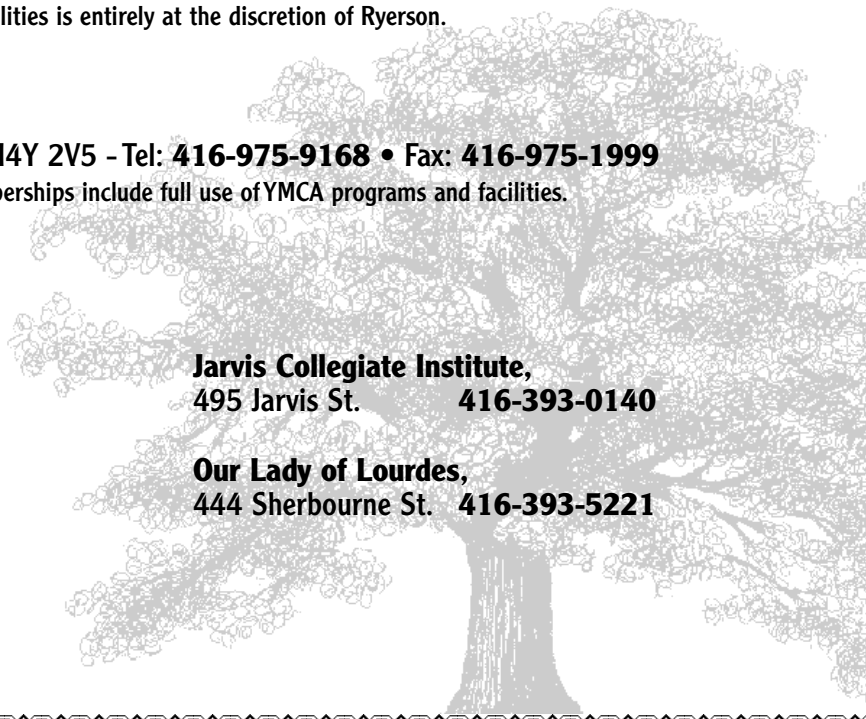
## Schools

**Church Street Jr.,**  
83 Alexander St. **416-393-1250**

**Lord Dufferin Jr. & Sr.,**  
303 Berkeley St. **416-393-1760**

**Jarvis Collegiate Institute,**  
495 Jarvis St. **416-393-0140**

**Our Lady of Lourdes,**  
444 Sherbourne St. **416-393-5221**



# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**TORONTO POLICE - 51 DIVISION**  
51 Parliament Street, Toronto M5A 2Y5

**Emergency 911**  
(crime in progress)

**Nuisance 416-808-2222**  
(you need the police to come out)

**Front Desk 416-808-5100**  
(concerns & complaints)

## CITY OF TORONTO

**Garbage: 416-392-0843**  
(litter on sidewalks or properties)

**Snow: 416-392-7768**  
(ill-maintained, treacherous sidewalks)

## COVENANT HOUSE, at 21 McGill

**Daytime: 416-204-7060**  
**After hours: 416-593-4849**

## RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

McGill-Granby Village  
77 McGill Street, Toronto, Ontario M5B 1H3  
**Fax: 416-979-3981**

Ian Gemmell,  
President: **416-977-9825**

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## BECOME A MEMBER

Annual membership \$20 per person\*  
(\$15 for those 65 or older)

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

## MAKE A DONATION\*

**\$10**                      **\$20**                      **\$50**                      **Other \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
                                                                 

\*Fees and donations are not tax-deductible.

