

# Ferndale NEWS LETTER



Coming soon: [www.ferndalepark.ca](http://www.ferndalepark.ca)

## THE History Of Ferndale

*The Conservator - July 5th, 1923*

*Cheltenham, July 2 - Ferndale Park is a place well known in Peel now and motorists have no trouble finding this lovely spot on the banks of the Credit within a stone's throw of old Boston Mills. The river flows murmuringly under the bridge beside which lie the ruins of the famous old mill and then laves the green banks of this gem like a summer resort. The place is a natural amphitheatre, sloping from the edge of the high bank on the east side to the river's edge on the west. No greener, richer carpet of grass is to be found in Peel than that which clothes Ferndale.*

*Why the name Ferndale? Because in the rich bottomland beside the river, is a natural plantation of stately ferns, waving their graceful fronds in the fragrant summer air.*



The above discription of Ferndale Park taken from an article published in the The Brampton Conservator, July of 1923, has remained accurate well into the next century - except for the "well known in Peel". Throughout the years Ferndale Park has become a best kept secret. We, as residence of this gem, are lucky to share in that secret as we live in and experience its charm.



# Your Board

**James Purdy**  
**Vice President**



mentor\_edu@hotmail.com

**Director**  
**Chris Haggerty**



chrysh54@hotmail.com

**Director**  
**Bill Blackmore**



bill.blackmore@peelregion.ca

**Tom Carney**  
**Secretary**



**Director**  
**Roger Hartung**



# Message from your President

## Your new Ferndale Park board members! Welcome!

As I step into the role of Ferndale Park board president, I'm so pleased to introduce to all of you, our new board.

Those of you who have lived in our community for a while will of course know James Purdy, Chris Haggerty and Billy Blackmore who have all stepped up to the plate once again in service of our community to assume positions on our board.

## “ Our first year saw progress in many areas”

The Ferndale Park Members and Board all wish to extend our deepest appreciation to Hanns Willemssen for everything he's done during his time as president.

I would also like to express my appreciation to Tommy Carney and Roger Hartung. Elected to the board at last year's AGM, they have done a fantastic job in their service this passed year. Regrettably, they will not be staying on the board going forward and will be missed. A big thanks to both of them for all their hard work!



Our first year saw progress in many areas. We had a successful clean up week last spring with the East Side winning by completely filling their dumpster. Another notable project was tree removal done by Zeke Dean. He removed many dangerous trees and tree limbs for us. We must give a shout out to Zeke for the prompt, professional job. We received input from many residents as to how clean and neat he left each property upon the completion of each removal.

As we start into another year we hope to continue to bring improvements to the community we all love.

# The History Of Ferndale Park

*A Cursory History by Andrew N. McLellan 1978. Written in honour of his mother Catherine (Kit) McLellan and William (Bill) Reid both long-time summer residents.*


Mr. Harry K. House, "A merchant residing in the Village of Cheltenham-acquired a parcel of land for the token sum of one dollar from Mr. Hugh E. Henry, farmer, under an agreement dated the 5th of February, 1924, for the purpose of establishing a summer cottage and picnic resort. Through an agreement of sale dated the 13th of April, 1926, Mr. House is recorded as having sold about 10 acres of his property running along the west side of the Credit River to Mr. William LeGrow for the sum of eighteen hundred dollars and the explicit purpose of erecting additional cottages and a hotel ("The Riverside Inn"), but with the stated proviso that, "A right of way is reserved and other uses of the grounds for all peoples coming to Ferndale Park and which is given to people residing on the grounds in connection with other grounds in comprising Ferndale Park."

During the next two decades, Ferndale Park was gradually developed into a very popular rental cottage community and picnic ground under the proprietorship of patriarchal Mr. House, his wife and son, Norman.

A large pavilion was built during the 1930's and was proudly billed as the place, 'where particular young people dance'. The building also included a general store, tea room and post office and continued to serve the Cheltenham/Inglewood area to a lessor and lessor degree until it was sadly demolished during the late '60s.

Throughout the war years, Ferndale was a thriving summertime community with a very active social and recreational life. A general housing shortage and close proximity to the war industries in the Malton area resulted in the winterising of a few cottages and that trend has regrettably continued until today. The Park has gradually become more of a residential community with each passing year.

Long gone are the days when most cottagers made their weekend and holiday jaunts to Ferndale aboard steam-puffing trains on the CN and CP rail lines that encompassed the Park. Although the fond memories linger on, the loss of the trains is one of the main reasons why the 'good old days' at Ferndale will never be experienced again!



During the early 1920s Ferndale or Ferndale Park in Chinguacousy Township was a popular recreational Centre with boating and dancing facilities. It was so named as ferns grew well in the rich soil along the river's edge (7, July 5, 1923). By the mid-1930s there were two summer resorts -- Ferndale on the east bank and Riverside on the west bank. Ferndale as a name was more popular and thus depicted on official maps. At one time it even displaced, to a certain extent, that of Boston Mills to the north. With the building of a bridge joining the two resorts the name of Riverside faded out of use. By the 1970's with the reinstatement of Boston Mills on official maps both it and Ferndale were used and considered as distinct places. With the advent of the automobile many summer residents of Ferndale were lured elsewhere; thus by the mid 1970s there were only a few permanent homes on the east bank and the west bank was a commercial campground with more than 50 lots.





Ferndale Pavilion, Ferndale Park, 1931; Mrs. G. Campbell

▲ Original cottages entering from Chinguacousy Road  
 ◀ Original Pavilion before the second story was added  
 ► The Inn on the Croation side



The Riverside Inn, Ferndale Park, 1931; Mrs. G. Campbell

## “ a summer time haven for thousands for the past half-century ”

The LeGrow holdings, including the section known as 'Rosedale', were acquired by a Mrs. Ruby Moore and continued to be operated until a gradual decline in fortunes led to ownership in the early 60's by a Croation Cultural Society. The property, minus most of the original cottages, is still in use as an ethnic picnic ground and as the location of a nationalist shrine.

In 1952 abortive attempts were made by a few long-time cottagers, led by Mr. Eric McLellan and Mr. William McCleery, with the active encouragement of the senior Mr. House, to purchase the Park and its buildings. That same year, however, the section known as 'Land's End' was divided

up and sold to a number of individuals and it was not until six years later, shortly after the death of Harry K. House, that his son, Norman, re-activated the idea of co-operative ownership. His father had long favoured making it possible for some forty tenants to gain joint possession of the cottages they had been renting over the years, along with thirty-four acres of recreational land in the picturesque Caledon Hills adjoining the historic site of Boston Mills.

So it was during 1952 that the Ferndale Park Cottagers' Co-operative Company Limited was formed by Messrs. McLellan and McCleery as its founding executive

officers with the goodwill and participation of all but a few of the original tenants.

The Park has been a summertime haven for thousands over the past half-century and while its more recent history may have been one of doubtful growth and transformation, it is still affectionately referred to as 'Fundale' and continues to provided a refuge for many individuals whose appreciation of the rural setting may be the same but differs somewhat from the original concept of summer cottage community.

# Toronto Daily Star Feb 15, 1958

## Cottage Co-op Cheltenham Plan

You can become a cottage owner under a unique co-op scheme being carried out at Ferndale Park, a summer holiday resort at Cheltenham, 10 miles northwest of Brampton. Arrangements have been worked out by principals of the scheme for the total cost of the cottage to be retired in 10 years, but purchase of the park pavilion, equipment, sheds, vacant land and water system are to be taken care of this year on a share basis of \$7.50 for each \$50 invested by the cottage purchaser.

The scheme is a working arrangement between the owner, Norman House of Brampton, whose father developed the park 35 years ago, and a group of summer visitors to the area headed by Eric McLellan, secretary-treasurer, and William McCleery, president, both of Toronto.

### Recreation Club

The park boasts its own spring water supply and a recreation club which includes every form of summer entertainment from bingos for the youngsters to Sunday night sing-songs.

Mr. House has sold 22 cottages and allowed the remaining 37 cottages and nine cabins, plus the pavilion, to be purchased on a co-operative plan. About 60 per cent. of these 46 units already have been sold, mostly to families who have been there summers over the past 20 years.

Here's how the co-op scheme works: Say, for example, your cottage is worth \$1,400; you would then have 28 shares valued at \$210, and any profits accruing from the pavilion hall, sale of land, etc., will compensate for this extra first-year outlay.

### \$324 Cost

During this year, the cost on a \$1,400 cottage would be as follows: Shares (28 at \$7.50), \$210; insurance, \$9 for \$2,000; hydro, \$47.50; association fees, \$3; garbage collection, \$2.50; taxes, \$12; deposit - certified cheque, \$50; reserve fund, \$10. This comes to a total of \$324.

During the second year (1959): A charge of 8 1/2 per cent. on \$1,350 (\$50 deposit off \$1,400), amounting to \$87.25; 1/10 of \$1,350, \$135; hydro,

\$27.50; insurance, \$9; association fee, \$3; garbage, \$2.50; and taxes, \$12. After five years, your rent on a \$1,400 cottage should be \$87.67, and your equity approximately \$700 (savings). To become a member of the co-op a \$50 certified cheque must be made payable to Mr. McLellan, who lives at 65 Hillside drive.



## Recreation BUILT FOR YOU BY

A den for Dad, sewing room, quarters for all the family. No the basement. No better way improvement. Service where you experienced craftsmen plus the building material direct from financing can be handled. One call does it all - call B a home appointment, planning service.

### NO MONEY DOWN.

Have it done or do-it-yourself home improvement can be a Beaver Time-Payment Plan down, as low as \$9.00 a month.

### FREE MEASURING SERVICE For The "Do-it-yourself"

Want help in estimating the need for a recreation room or improvement? Just phone! We'll fit for you and quote a price only or the finished job.

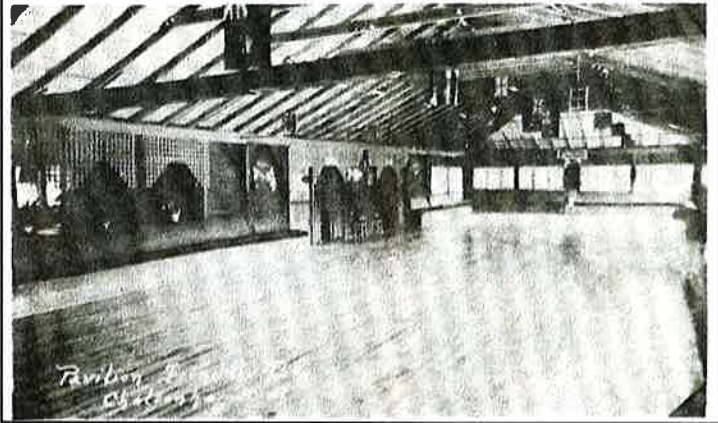


► To spend the just a weekend instead of renting a cottage for the whole summer Who's/Who of Toronto's rich and famous would take the train up from Union Station. Above the dance floor all around the top of the Pavillion there were rooms that you could rent.

▼ The "Tearoom" where weekenders would have their meals.



Tearoom, Ferndale Pavilion, 1931



During the summer months, the pavilion at Ferndale park is a popular gathering spot for dancing enthusiasts. The current dancing season opens there on Saturday evening of this week.

## Ferndale Park Was Well Known To Early Settlers

No place on the Credit is more attractive than Ferndale Park at the present time, though it is well remembered by the older settlers that the site of the park at the present time was a few years ago a country piece of land. Even though the people in the early days did not agitate a park, it was universally predicted that the grounds would be an attractive place in years to come. Long after Boston Mills was reduced from a thriving village to a population which can be counted on ten fingers to-day, it was desired of Mr. Harry K. House to make the district an attractive park, which now accommodates thousands of tourists every year, and looks after the business men and their families from Toronto and many other places, who since the park has opened have returned to spend their summer months for as far back as seventeen consecutive years.

### First Sod Turned

The first sod in the park was turned April 13th, 1921, to erect a tool shanty. In the early spring of the same year Mr. House erected five cottages, which were occupied immediately after they were completed. In 1922 Mr. House erected five more cottages which were rented immediately. In August 1922 the modern pavilion was opened, and from that time on Ferndale Park grew, dancing, Bathing, Fishing, Tennis, Bowling, being enjoyed from the early spring until the late fall. As time went on more cottages were erected until 80 modern buildings are being rented exclusively by the season. Dancing is one of the attractive features of the park, guests being entertained from Toronto and other outside places in a modern pavilion fully equipped with refreshment booths, dressing rooms, and modern equipment for ventilation. Mother Nature is prominent at the park during the summer months, as she supplies the cottages with spring waters direct from the mountains, and also sup-

plies scenery that is not to be found elsewhere in the Dominion. A modern orchestra is always engaged for the dancing season, and even though the weather is inclement sometimes, it does not interfere with the crowd, as every convenience is provided for the parking of cars, and roads to the park are always in excellent condition. Mr. House is making big preparations for his opening dance on Saturday night, May 20th, word being already received that several parties from Toronto, Brampton and other places will be present.

### Distinguished Guests

As a demonstration that the scenery of the park cannot be excelled upon, H. Tygerson, danish artist, who has travelled in Europe, Egypt, France, Italy, and many other foreign places, decided to make his headquarters at Ferndale Park last summer, and in his remarks to a reporter stated that he had never sketched any place that possessed the inspiration that he received at Ferndale. Mr. Tygerson will return to the park to spend the summer months this year.

Ferndale Park received its name from the date of ferns which are so plentiful from spring until fall, and forms a bed of beauty throughout the park. An incident worthy of mention is that Premier Hepburn and his cabinet were guests at the park during the season of 1936.

Two railroads cut through the park property and adds as a convenience to the guests who, not only remain for the summer, but to the thousands who come for week-ends.

Another attraction at the park are the sing-songs which are held in the pavilion at the week-ends, and gives entertainment to not only the residents of the park but the entire community. A general field day is always held once a season, and is conducted by the cottagers, this supplying plenty of amusement for both old and young.

In the early days the Wilkinson homestead was situated in the immediate vicinity of the park, and though the families have grown in large numbers and have moved to other places they have returned to celebrate the family re-unions from time to time.



# FERNDALE PARK Newsbites

## The Flood of 2018

Our community came together this spring when Mother Nature dropped a giant iceberg on the lower road. Both private owners and Cooperative residents volunteered their time with ice picks, axes and whatever other tools they had to smash it up and clear the road. They all put forward great effort and the road was opened by the end of that day. Thank you to all who were involved in that project.



# The Flood of 2018, con't...



Amazing how quickly it came in. The water started creeping in during the day, slowly coming up over the bank and across the lawns and park fields.

Over night it peaked resulting in the highest water levels and the worst ice damming in over 40 years.

For many of us it was just a fascinating example of nature. For some though there was basement flooding and damage.





**“There was food  
- lots of food”**



**“There was corn  
- lots of corn”**



# Ferndale Day 2017



Ferndale Park Day 2017 had a small but enthusiastic group. The day turned out to be beautiful in spite of a cloudy and rainy morning. The clouds pulled away about noon and people started to arrive shortly after.

It was a cool day instead of the traditional hot

July 1st of other years. That was viewed as a positive by those slugging it out on the baseball field. We had players of all different degrees of expertise, ages, participating.

There was also no shortage of spectators, ready to cheer on whichever team was winning.





# In Memoriam



**Lou D'Amore**

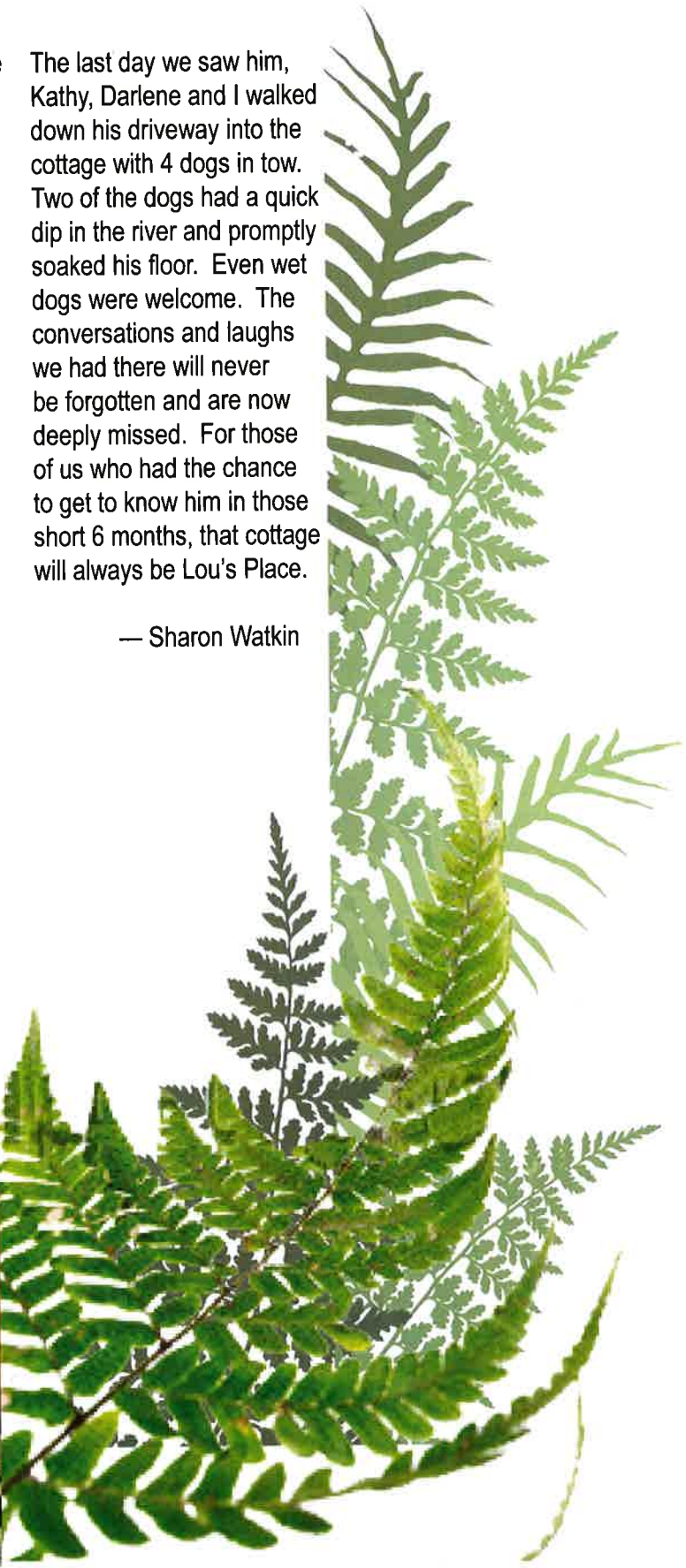
A new neighbour taken too soon! Many people looked at the old dilapidated cottage abandoned for roughly 27 years, but it was Lou who bought it and gave himself the birthday present he had always wanted. On a chilly March morning he saw the potential in the overgrown riverside property and rotting minty green boards of one of the last original House cottages.

A retired math, music and chemistry teacher, actor, musician and choir member, Lou found the perfect abode

for his later years — A place to kayak, tube, bike, hike, fish and relax with his son, Anthony. He and his friend Cliff frequently came up from Toronto to fix up the place. One couldn't walk by without being welcomed in with Lou's infectious smile and magnetic personality while Cliff hammered away. It was such a pleasure to see the progress from week to week while Lou showed us his latest find on Kijiji. In turn, Lou got to know his neighbours and loved us Ferndalians as well. In fact, quite a few of us helped out: Like maneuvering a tree that was within inches of smashing down on the cottage, providing electricity when there wasn't any, lending tools and generally pitching in. One of the things I love about this neighbourhood is how we help each other. Lou was such a wonderful addition to our unique close knit community.

The last day we saw him, Kathy, Darlene and I walked down his driveway into the cottage with 4 dogs in tow. Two of the dogs had a quick dip in the river and promptly soaked his floor. Even wet dogs were welcome. The conversations and laughs we had there will never be forgotten and are now deeply missed. For those of us who had the chance to get to know him in those short 6 months, that cottage will always be Lou's Place.

— Sharon Watkin





# Ferndale Weekend 1950's

The origins of the holiday on the first Monday in August seem to stem back to a 'day of recreation' first organized by Toronto City Council in 1869.

When Ferndale Park was created, the Civic Holiday Weekend was one of the most celebrated events of the summer for its visitors and summer residents. Known then as, 'Fundale Weekend' it was always the long weekend between July and



August. With events that ran all weekend long beginning with the dance on Friday night at the Pavilion. People would arrive on the train from Hamilton on the north side of the Park and from Union Station in Toronto on the south side. As soon as they got the children settled into bed at the cottages, they would join the singles at the dance hall. Once the music was

## Fundale Parade



well underway the children would sneak out of bed, across the bridge and watch the dance from the bushes. Everyone loved the Friday night dances, even those not old enough to attend. The big day was Saturday which centered around the Picnic. There were events like tug over war, where rope spanned over the river. Usually married men against the single men, many wearing suits, white shirts and ties as they did back then. The



losing team would end up in the river.

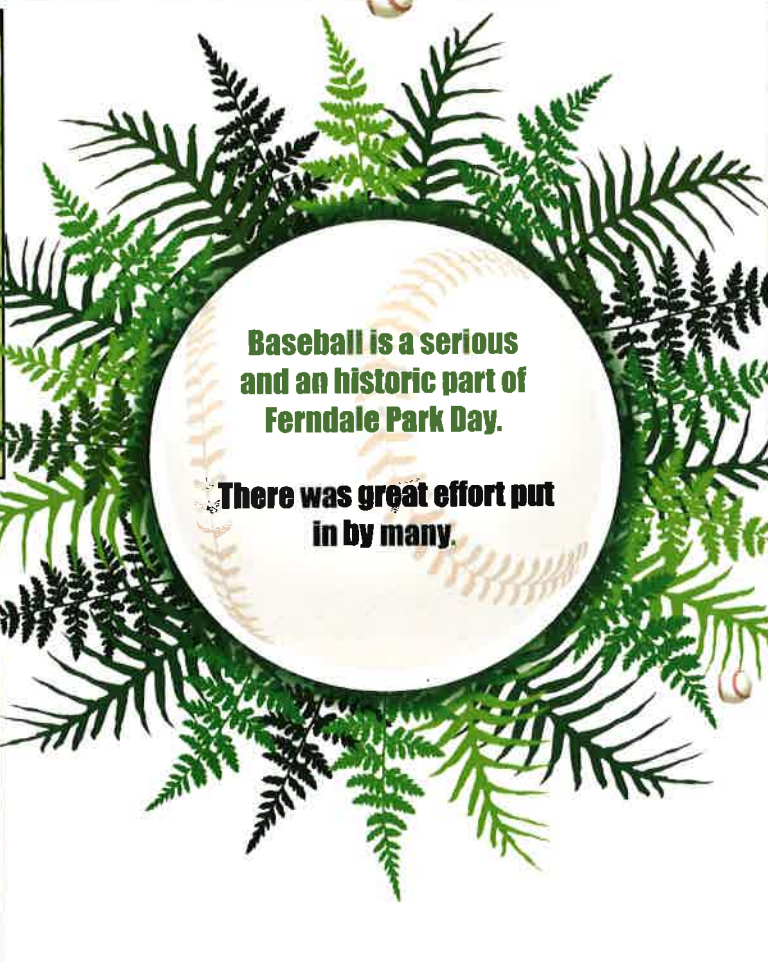
The river was much higher and deeper then, there would be swimming races with lanes of swimmers vying to see who was the fastest for both bragging rights and prizes. Elaborate items purchased by the committee made up the prizes for these games as well as the BINGO. One of the cottagers had a farm near by and he would bring pigs which would be greased (just to make it even harder). The idea was to catch the pig and hold on to it. The person that held on to it the longest would again win bragging rights .

Children would spend days finding bits and pieces of material to make their costumes for the parade. Sometimes the parents would get involved in the making of these costumes and they could get quite elaborate. There would be prizes for the winning costumes in various categories. Shown here is an example of a winning costume and the proud winning participant.



**The information for this article was provided by Bill and Miriam Roche of Copperhead Rd. Miriam has been coming to Ferndale Park since 1945**





**Baseball is a serious and an historic part of Ferndale Park Day.**

**There was great effort put in by many.**



There might have been some unsportsman like behaviour on occasion. This seems to have been all perpetrated by the same person.  
◀ shown both to the right and to the left ▶



# Good Neighbour Guidelines

## Dog Leashing



All over North America in cities and rural areas alike the rules regarding dogs off-leash are very rigid. Leash off areas are primarily fenced, often small, few and far between. We are so fortunate here in Ferndale Park that leash off opportunities for our canine companions exist as they do. We have acres of forests and trails as well as the grassed areas of the flood plain, not to mention a river which they can swim in. Of course, officially, our community bylaws are inline with the bylaws of the region. Therefore, it is important we do not abuse this privilege or take it for granted. There are some common curtacies that must be adhered to if we hope to continue allowing our dogs to run free.

If any resident refuses to honour our "Ferndale Park Curtacy Requirements" listed here we will implement those by-laws with regards to that person/persons and their dogs.

- If your dog is off-leash you must be within a reasonable distance of him/her at all times. It is not acceptable to open your door and let them run free throughout the neighbourhood.
- You must have a leash with you incase you are required for any reason to put them on a leash.
- You are still responsible for poop and scoop even if your dog is off-leash.



## Tree Removal

Both the town of Caledon and the Ferndale Cooperative have bylaws that oversee what we can and cannot do when it comes to removing trees in the Park. A tree can no longer be removed just because it is located in a spot where we would rather put or build something. Town of Caledon Woodlands By-law 2000-100 covers all the trees in this area. As does the Co-op Bylaw number ??????

The Ferndale Board of Directors must grant permission for the removal of any trees and it must be permission given in writing, signed by no less than three board members. That permission is submitted with the application for a permit to remove the tree to the

Town of Caledon. Failure to follow the the By-laws from the Town of Caledon can result in fines.

**SECTION 10 PENALTY**  
 10.1 Any person who contravenes any provision of this by-law, including the condition of a permit or an order issued by an officer, is guilty of an offence and on conviction is liable:  
 (i) on a first conviction, to a fine of not more than \$10,000.00  
 and  
 (iii) on any subsequent conviction, to a fine of not more than \$20,000.00



# FERNDALE PARK Fireworks GUIDELINES

Below we have included for you the actual by-laws of our township which we are required to follow.

To simplify their meaning it states it is against the law to use fireworks on any date other than Victoria Day and Canada Day.

**Further to the Town of Caledon by-law the Caledon Fire Department has given us some very specific additional restrictions that we are also required to follow. They are as follows:**

The houses in Ferndale Park are built too close together to allow for the safe use of any fireworks. They have recommended for our residence to use the beach area and the baseball diamond of our Park.



## It's the law

**BY-LAW NO. 2009-097**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF CALEDON** A by-law to regulate and prohibit the sale and discharge of Fireworks and to provide for the issuance of permits for the sale and discharge of Fireworks and to repeal By-law 93-49.

### **SETTING OFF OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS 10.**

(1) A person may use, set off, discharge, fire or cause or permit to be used, set off, discharged or fired or hold a display of any consumer fireworks on Victoria Day and Canada Day on property owned by him or her.

(2) In the event of rain on either Victoria Day or Canada Day in such amount that it is impractical to fire or set off the fireworks, the day next following Victoria Day or Canada Day, as the case may be, shall be considered to be the statutory holiday for purposes of subsection (1).

## Fire

### Recreational Campfires:

Backyard fireRecreational burn permits (\$25) are available for most residential properties providing the lot meets the minimum distances set out in the By-laws of the Township of Caledon.

All recreational fire must be contained within a non-combustible device and be located on a non-combustible surface.

The container must be at least 3 metres from any nearby combustible materials.

For these fires only clean, dry seasoned firewood is permitted.

The permits are available for one year from the date of purchase.



# Get Help and Stay Safe in a Crisis

If you are in a mental health crisis, we can help. Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Call us anytime:**

**905-278-9036**

**1-888-811-2222 Caledon & Dufferin**

For non-crisis information and referrals, please contact: 905-451-2123

24.7 Crisis Support Peel Dufferin is a community crisis service offering timely response to adults (16 years and over) experiencing a mental health or addictions crisis; individuals having difficulties coping; and family, caregivers and friends needing support.

24.7 Crisis Support Peel Dufferin professionals will speak to you by phone to provide support and help you make a plan to stay safe.

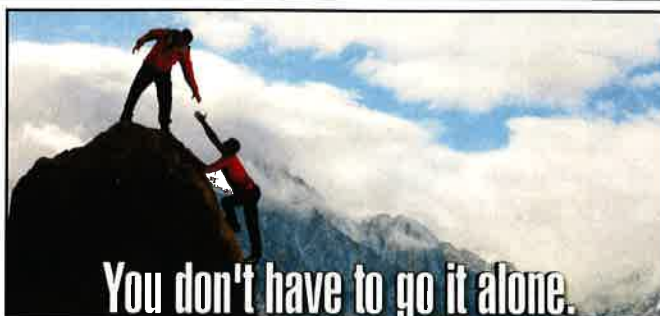
Our team of registered health professionals may also visit you where you are to provide support. Our crisis team may include mental health workers, nurses, social workers and specially trained plain-clothes police officers. We may also provide ongoing telephone support and connect you to others who can help.

24.7 Crisis Support Peel Dufferin is not an emergency response unit. If your situation is a life-threatening emergency, call 911.

24.7 Crisis Support Peel is provided in partnership with the Peel Regional Police Service and Caledon OPP detachment.

**2018  
Road Dues  
Thank you  
to the Ferndale Private  
Owners for paying so  
promptly**

**If you have any pictures  
of Ferndale Park  
throughout the years;  
or if you know of  
anyone that does,  
please help us obtain  
copies for the website's  
history section**



**You don't have to go it alone.**