

# Research and Evaluation Report



(Fairy Lake, c.1907 (Warwick Bro's & Rutter Ltd., Printers, Toronto Card #4282CLOT:Z007))

## Prospect Park and Fairy Lake

Acton, Town of Halton Hills

April 2025

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## 1.0 Property Description

Prospect Park and Fairy Lake	
<b>Municipality</b>	Acton, Town of Halton Hills
<b>County or Region</b>	Region of Halton
<b>Legal Description</b>	<p>PIN: 24992-0026 (LT) PT RDAL BTN LTS 27 &amp; 28 CON 2 ESQ WITHIN PT 2, 20R1243; PT LTS 27, 28 &amp; 29, CON 2 ESQ, LT 86 &amp; PT LT 87, PL 227 ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098, PTS 1, 2, 4, 20R1243;</p> <p>PIN: 24992-0111 (LT) PT LT 177 PL 227 AS IN EW5566; S/T 452253, 758570, 758571, H856994;</p> <p>PIN: 24992-0110 (LT) PT LT 192, PL 1098, PART 1, 20R5820; LT PARCEL N, PL 603, EXCEPT PT 1, 20R9956; ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098, S/T 767833</p> <p>PIN: 24992-0102 (LT) LTS 108 &amp; 109, PL 227; S/T 484413 &amp; 300270</p> <p>PIN: 24992-0104 (LT) PT LTS 197 &amp; 198, MUP 1098, AS IN 586110</p> <p>PIN 24992-0099 (LT) PCL 27-3, SEC E-2; PT LTS 27 &amp; 28, CON 2 ESQ; PT RDAL BTN LTS 27 &amp; 28, CON 2 ESQ, PART 2, 20R11251;</p> <p>PIN: 24992-0049 (LT) PCL 27-4, SEC E-2; PT LT 28, CON 2 ESQ, PART 3,4, 20R11251, S/T PT 4, 20R11251, IN FAVOUR OF BLK 61, 20M604 AS IN 585008</p> <p>PIN: 24992-0502 (LT) PCL BLOCK 63-1, SEC 20M604; BLK 63, PL 20M604</p> <p>PIN: 24992-0505 (LT) PCL BLOCK 66-1, SEC 20M604; BLK 66, PL 20M604</p> <p>PIN: 24992-0127 (LT) PT LT 133, PL 603, AS IN 268142; ALSO SHOWN ON PL 1098 The Corporation of the Town of Halton Hills, Regional Municipality of Halton</p>
<b>Construction Date</b>	c.1889
<b>Original Use</b>	Recreation
<b>Current Use</b>	Recreation
<b>Architect/Building/Designer</b>	N/A
<b>Architectural Style</b>	N/A
<b>Additions/Alterations</b>	N/A
<b>Heritage Status</b>	Listed on the Town's Heritage Register
<b>Recorder(s)</b>	Austin Foster; Laura Loney; Caylee MacPherson
<b>Report Date</b>	April 2025



## 2.0 Background

This research and evaluation report describes the history, context, and physical characteristics of Prospect Park in Halton Hills, Ontario (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The report includes an evaluation of the property's cultural heritage value as prescribed by the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and in particular as a significant cultural heritage landscape within the Town of Halton Hills.

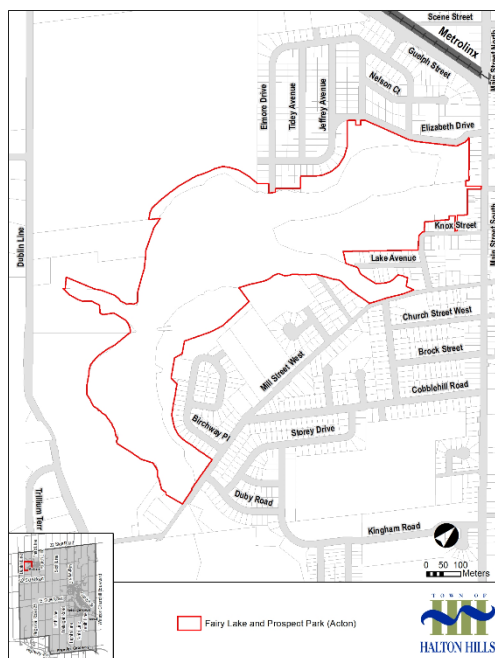


Figure 1: Location Map – Prospect Park and Fairy Lake Study Area



Figure 2: Aerial Photograph – Prospect Park and Fairy Lake Study Area

## 2.1 Property Description

Prospect Park is an approximately 25-acre parkland complex within the community of Acton in the Town of Halton Hills, located southwest of Acton's Main Street (Figure 3). The park is situated on a 14-acre peninsula that extends into the approximately 69-acre Fairy Lake. Surrounding the park to the northeast, east, and southeast are late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries residential subdivisions. Prospect Park shares the peninsula with Park Avenue and Lake Avenue. Vehicular access to the property is available through a central entrance from Knox Street and Park Avenue. Pedestrians can enter through the main entrance at Knox Street and Park Avenue, as well as via footpaths from Main Street and Elizabeth Drive.



Figure 3: Subject property identified in 2023 aerial photography (Town of Halton Hills)

Prospect Park features a variety of recreational and community facilities including a half-mile graveled running track, three baseball diamonds, a tennis court, an indoor soccer arena, a swimming beach, a children's playground, a splash-pad, a boathouse, and a dock with a canoe launch. The property also features several mature deciduous trees.

Prospect Park also currently features bleachers, a covered bandstand, a covered pavilion, picnic tables, benches, and public washrooms. It also hosts several structures used for the annual Acton Fall Fair and Agricultural Society, such as the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed (previously the Acton Drill Shed), the ticket booth (the old Bandstand) and cattle rails. Several accessory/utility buildings are also present on the property.

The subject property contains several individual historic features, including the original 1926 bandstand, the entrance pillars, the Acton Drill Shed, and the Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery. Figure 4 notes the location of the key historic and present features of Prospect Park.

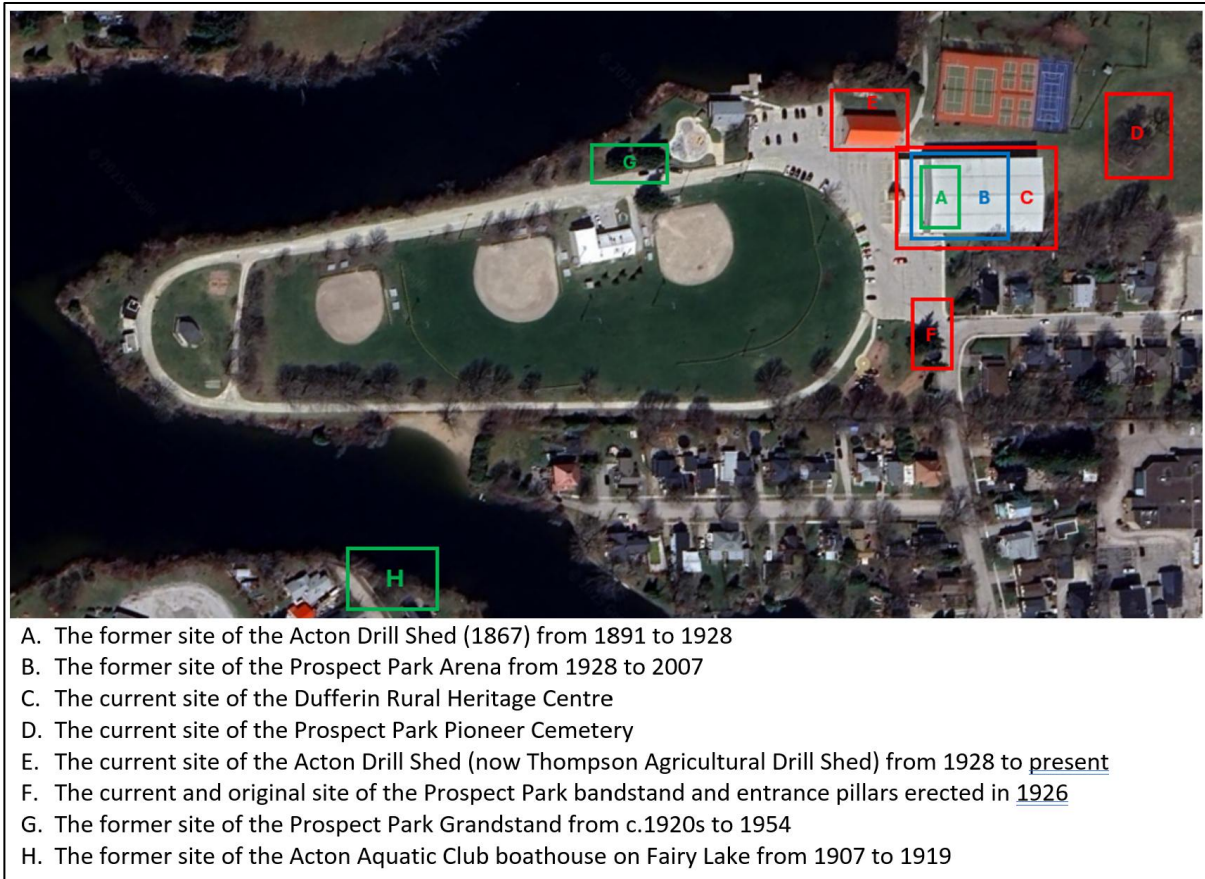


Figure 4: The current and former locations of cultural heritage features within Prospect Park

### 3.0 Historical Background

This section outlines the historical development of Prospect Park and its surrounding areas, examining the transformation of its landscape over time, its cultural significance to the Acton community, and the evolution of its heritage structures.

#### 3.1 Indigenous History

The enduring history of First Nation Peoples in Halton Hills can be traced back through time immemorial before contact with Europeans in the 1600s. Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the Credit River was central to Indigenous ways of life, supporting settlements, fisheries, horticulture, transportation, and trade. Iroquoian-speaking peoples, ancestors of the Wendat, occupied the Credit River Valley for hundreds of years until the mid-1600s, establishing semi-permanent villages. There are numerous archaeological sites in Halton Hills dating from this period, ranging from village sites to burial grounds, which reveal a rich cultural heritage.

The Wendat were displaced by the Haudenosaunee around 1649-50 amid the conflicts that arose between European colonial powers and their First Nation allies. The Mississaugas (part of the Anishinaabe Nation) arrived in southern Ontario in the 1690s, settling in two groups along the north shore of Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. The western group, occupying the area between Toronto and Lake Erie, became known as the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Until the early 19th century, the

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation followed a seasonal cycle of movement and resource harvesting along the Credit River (Missinnihe, meaning “trusting creek”), and other rivers. In the winter months, extended family groups hunted in the Halton Hills area, travelling south towards the mouth of the river in the spring for the salmon run. The Mississaugas’ fisheries and traditional economies were diminished because of increased Euro-colonial settlement, leading to a state of impoverishment and dramatic population decline.

In 1818, the British Crown negotiated the purchase of 648,000 acres of land from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, including present-day Halton Hills, under the Ajetance Treaty (No. 19), named after Chief Ajetance. This left the Mississaugas with three small reserves on the Lake Ontario shoreline. The legitimacy of early land “surrenders” to the Crown is questionable when considering the Mississaugas’ traditional understanding of property ownership. Unlike the British, the Mississaugas understood land in spiritual terms, and did not share the idea that access to land and resources could be given up permanently.

In 1986, the Mississaugas initiated a claim against the Government of Canada over the 1805 Toronto Purchase. On June 8, 2010, the parties involved reached a final compensatory agreement. It resulted in a cash payment of \$145 million to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.<sup>1</sup>

### **3.2 Early European Settlement and Fairy Lake**

In 1825, the area now known as Acton was settled by brothers and Methodist preachers Ezra Adams, Zenas Adams, and Rufus Adams. The Adams brothers took sabbaticals from their ministries to farm along a branch of the Credit River, and were later joined by their fourth brother, Eliphalet Adams. The land that includes the present-day Prospect Park and Fairy Lake is located within the area settled by the Adams brothers in the early-nineteenth century in the northeastern portion of Lot 28, Concession 2, Esquesing Township.

In February 1829, Silas Eames sold the eastern half of Lot 28, Concession 2, to Ezra Adams. In November 1834, Ezra Adams received the Crown patent for the western half of the same lot. By the mid-1830s, the Adams brothers had constructed a dam on Black Creek, creating a mill pond to power a sawmill and later a flour mill. This mill pond, now known as Fairy Lake, surrounds the approximately 18-acre peninsula that would later become the site of Prospect Park.

Over time, the waterscape has changed in appearance with the later additions of the boathouse in 1907, and the Toronto Suburban Railway in 1917. The Radial Line railway tracks ran across Fairy Lake and were a great attraction to swimmers in the Lake. Today, the piers from the former rail line can still be seen peering from the water.

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<sup>1</sup> This brief overview of Pre-Treaty Indigenous Territory within the land now known as Halton Hills is taken from the Town of Halton Hills’ 2023 *Cultural Heritage Strategy*. This document includes additional recommendations relating to Truth and Reconciliation in Heritage Planning as part of the Town's commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation.





Figure 5: Subject property identified on 1819 Patent Plan

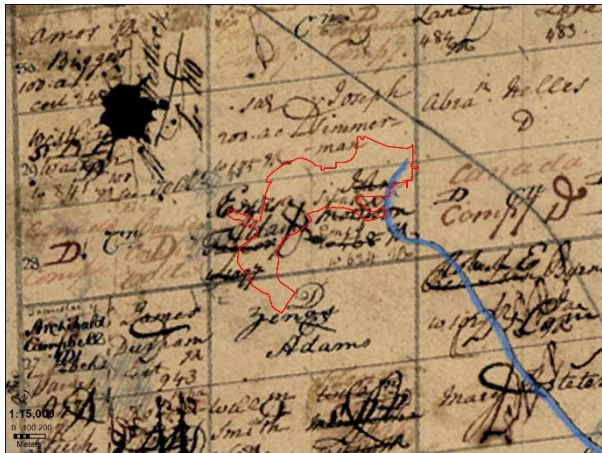


Figure 6: Subject property identified on 1822 Patent Plan

The property remained under Adams' family ownership throughout the mid-nineteenth century; Maria Adams owned the property in the 1850s, and in the 1860s, Ransom Adams retained ownership of 23 acres, encompassing the head of Mill Street and the western peninsula. On this land, he maintained an orchard, a small agricultural field, and a horse stable. While much of the land at the head of Mill Street was subdivided and sold as village lots, the peninsula remained intact until it was purchased by William Edgar Smith in 1885.



Figure 7: Subject property identified on Tremaine's 1858 Map of the County of Halton, Canada West

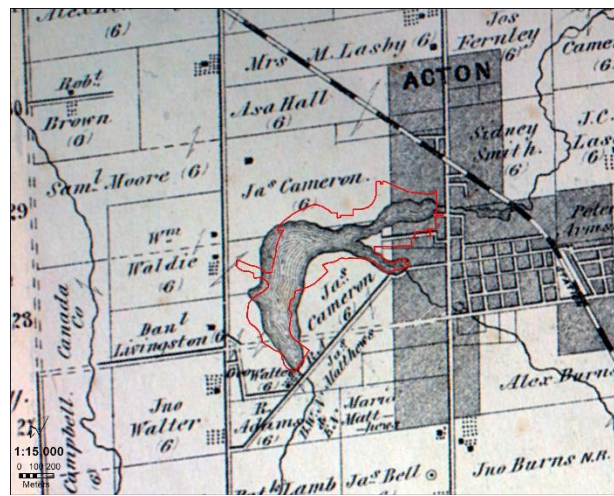


Figure 8: The prospect peninsula identified on the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton

Throughout the nineteenth century, Acton residents utilized the mill pond and its surrounding areas for various recreational activities. The lake, described by contemporaries as well-stocked with trout and bordered by cedar, birch, wild cherry, and basswood trees, became a focal point for leisure. Popular warm-weather activities included fishing, swimming, boating, and duck hunting, while winter months saw residents engaging in hockey, ice fishing, and curling. The first recorded organized curling match in Acton occurred on the Mill Pond in 1840, with early curlers clearing ice on the lake and using 'stones' carved from rock maple by John Speight and fitted with iron handles and weights by Mike Speight.

In the 1880s, notable local merchant and landowner Sarah Augusta Secord advocated for renaming the mill pond “Fairy Lake” as “such an expanse of such clear crystal spring water, with the environment of wooded hills, and cultivated farms, and pretty village homes and home surroundings [should] be honoured with a more dignified cognomen” (*Acton’s Early Days*, p. 278). This name was officially adopted in the 1890s.

### 3.3 Establishing Prospect Park

In August 1882, five acres of land at the head of Mill Street, owned by John McColl of Brampton, were developed into a small driving park. An editorial in the *Acton Free Press* on September 7, 1882, endorsed this initiative, proposing that if the village purchased the property from McColl, it could serve as both a public park and fairgrounds. This initiative gained public interest, however gained little traction. While McColl had initially planned to subdivide the land into building lots, local grocer A.W. Green approached McColl about personally buying the property to preserve the area for public use as a recreational space in Acton. Green subsequently purchased the property in 1885.

Around 1886, William Edgar Smith, who had purchased the western portion of the peninsula in 1885, partnered with A.W. Green to expand the driving park. Although Smith’s property had already been surveyed and subdivided into 30 village lots, separated by the proposed “Havelock Street,” Smith and Green constructed a half mile, graded and graveled track along with several public amenities spanning approximately 15 acres across their combined properties. The expanded driving park featured dedicated spaces for cricket, baseball, and lacrosse. In 1887, Smith purchased Green’s land, consolidating ownership of the peninsula.

By October 1887, Smith had surveyed two undeveloped fields southeast of the driving park, located both on the peninsula and at the head of Mill Street. Smith’s survey retained the driving park and created 20 village lots on two newly established residential streets, Park Avenue and Lake Avenue.

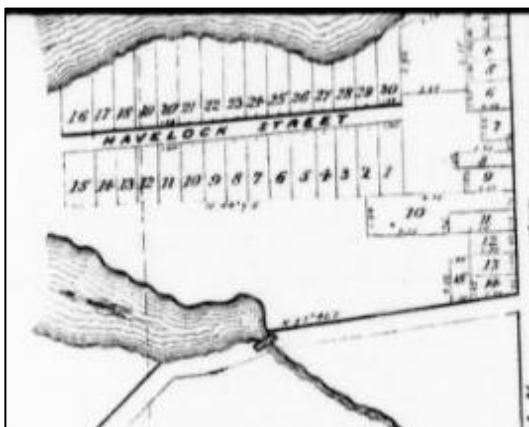


Figure 9: Plan of Acton featuring Havelock Street, from the 1877 *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton*

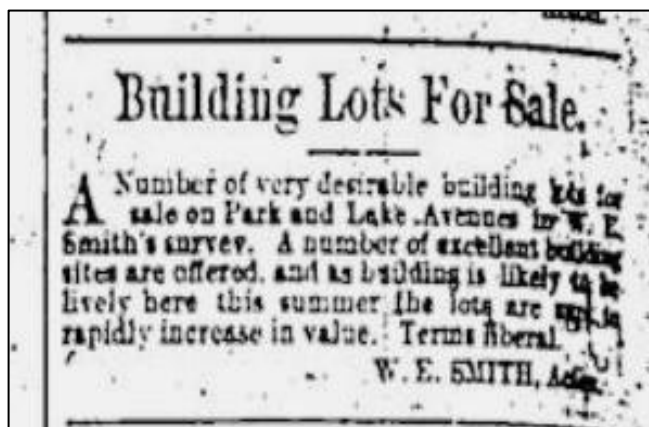


Figure 10: Advertisement for building lots in Smith's Survey, located on Lake and Park Avenues (*Acton Free Press*, April 4, 1889, p. 2)



Figure 11: Smith's Survey, including Lake Avenue and Park Avenue, identified on a c.1920 Map of Acton, with Prospect Park located to the north.

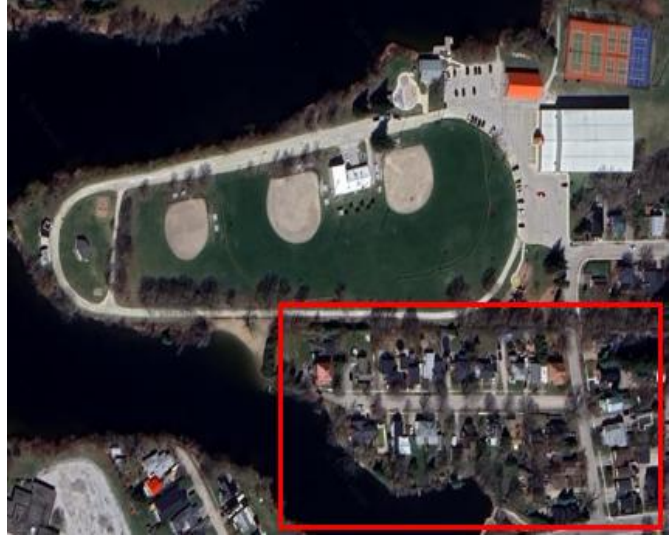


Figure 12: Smith's Survey, including Lake Avenue and Park Avenue, identified in 2023 satellite imagery (Google Earth 2023)

The potential of the undeveloped portion of the peninsula as a public park drew attention beyond Acton. In May 1885, following a visit from Toronto, H.C. Stovel published a letter in the *Acton Free Press* emphasizing the park's scenic and practical value:

*I took a stroll along the west end of your Main Street and was surprised to see open up to my view a beautiful stretch of water... On either side of the land is a nice stretch of water for boating; to the south is the road running round the hill; to the north is the railroad; on the west are attractive farm scenes; and to the east is the village, a fine view of which is here obtained—the splendid town hall showing up well... With very little trouble, Mr. Editor, this could be made an exceedingly nice spot; a place that would attract many from the surrounding country. (Acton Free Press, May 21, 1885, p. 2.)*

Stovel urged local leaders to consider acquiring the property for public use, noting its potential as a community asset.

In March 1887, Acton citizens advocated for the acquisition of the property in time for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Proposed names for the park included "Jubilee Park," "Coronation Park," "Victoria Park," and "Queen's Park." In July 1887, E.W. Smith relocated a barn from John Street (likely associated with his stabling and livery business) to the driving park to serve as an exhibition building. He also constructed an open-air grandstand on the property to enhance its utility for public events.

In July 1889, the Acton Ratepayers Association submitted a petition to the municipal council for the purchase of the driving park. In September 1889, By-law No. 175 authorized the village's acquisition of Smith's property for \$3,000. On December 18, 1889, the Village of Acton officially purchased 12.25 acres from Councillor William Edgar Smith, and the park was formally named Prospect Park in June 1890. That same month, By-law No. 182 was passed "to provide for the regulation of Prospect Park, hitherto known as the Acton Driving Park", which established maintenance standards for the park and prohibited activities such as bathing, swimming, and boating on Sundays.



Throughout the 1890s, the west end of the park doubled as pastureland. In 1890, a tender of \$26.50 for the use of the park during the summer seasons for grazing purposes was accepted by the Village Council. Following this precedent, tenders for grazing were accepted annually for the next decade. In February 1890, the park became the official home of the Acton Union Agricultural Society, which rented the grounds for \$30 annually. In its early years, agricultural exhibitions were held in large canvas tents, leading to calls for a permanent exhibition barn.

In July 1890, Prospect Park sustained extensive damage during a tornado. The storm destroyed Smith's original grandstand and exhibition building, and much of the debris was stolen. However, throughout the early-twentieth century, the park saw numerous improvements. In October 1912, the council committed to developing a children's playground, planting shade trees along new pathways, and constructing a new grandstand. In 1913, Prospect Park became the home of Acton's fall fair. Over the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the park remained a vital community space and grew with additional land acquisitions and the introduction of several new amenities.



Figure 13: A 1907 postcard depicting Fairy Lake, printed by Warwick Bros. & Rutter Ltd. (Warmick Bros & Rutter Ltd.)

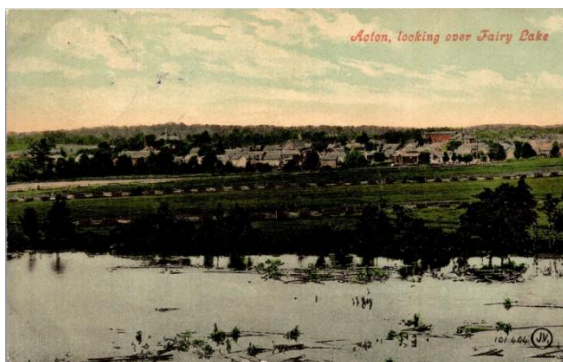


Figure 14: A depiction of the driving track in Prospect Park, looking south over Fairy Lake; the Lake Avenue neighborhood is visible in the background. (The Valentine & Sons United Publishing Co., Ltd)



Figure 15: Fishing on Fairy Lake, 1897. (Acton Free Press, June 26, 1974).



Figure 16: Looking east across Fairy Lake, c.1899 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



### 3.4 The Acton Fairgrounds

As of 1846, the area's annual Fall Fair, known as the "Esquesing Fair," alternated annually between Acton and Georgetown; local merchant John Holgate mentions one of the earliest instances of the fair being held in Acton in a diary entry from November 1848. Over time, the Fair underwent several changes, adopting different names while continuing its rotational schedule. From 1889 to 1891, the event was known as the "Acton Union Fair" and held for two days in September. In 1892, it became the "Acton Horticultural & Agricultural Exhibition" held in the newly established Prospect Park.

By 1908, the event was again known as the "Esquesing Fall Fair" and was advertised as "Open to the World - Esquesing Fall Fair at Acton." Admission prices were set at 25¢ for adults and 10¢ for children. The following year, Acton boasted 459 entries in horse events alone.

In January 1912, the Township Society voted to end the alternating arrangement and hold the annual Fair exclusively in Georgetown. However, in the spring of 1913, Acton residents rallied to restore the Fair to their town; a public meeting drew widespread support, and a committee was formed to canvas for funds. The effort proved successful, enabling the revival of the "Acton Fall Fair," complete with an impressive prize pool for competitions.

In 1913, Prospect Park became the permanent home of Acton's fairgrounds, hosting the annual Acton Fall Fair for the next century. Advertised as "Acton Fall Fair - Open to the World," the Fair took place over two days between September 23 and 24, 1913. Approximately 200 people viewed the exhibits, and \$21 was collected at the gate. The following year, in 1914, attendance at the Acton Fall Fair nearly doubled from the previous year and the Fair received its first government grant of \$300; by 1975, the Acton Fall Fair attracted over 10,000 attendees.



Figure 17: Advertisement for the 1914 Acton Fall Fair (Acton Agricultural Society)

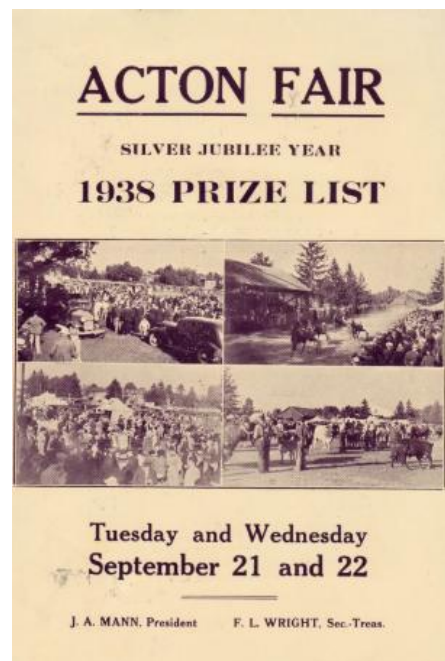


Figure 18: Prize list banner for the 1938 Acton Fair (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

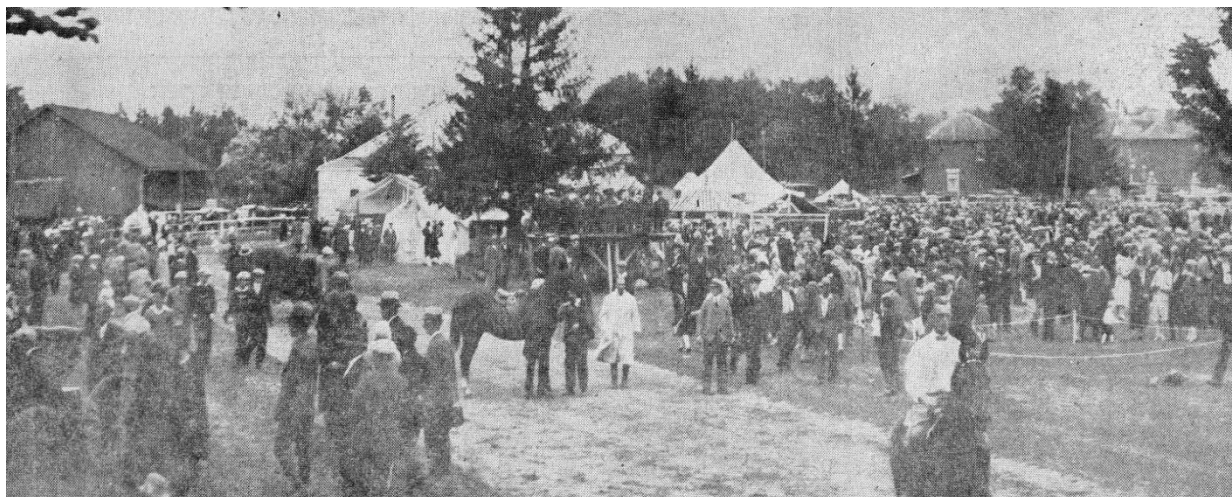


Figure 19: A photograph of the Acton Fall Fair in 1930 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 20: Acton Fall Fair c.1952 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 21: Acton Fall Fair c.1952 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 22: Acton Fall Fair 1977 (EHS 14126)



Figure 23: Best Beef Herd Award at Acton Fall Fair 1977 (EHS 14113)



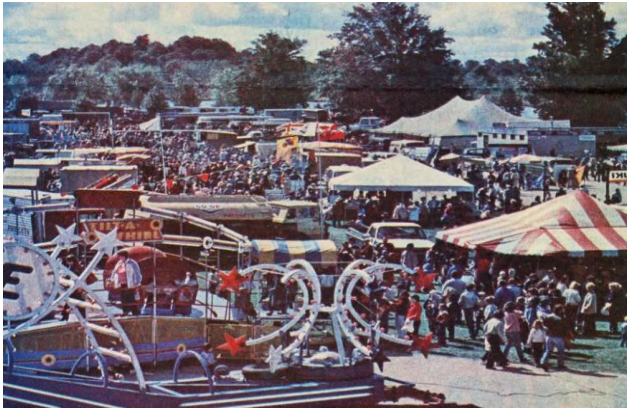


Figure 24: The Acton Fall Fair in 1982 (Dills Collection Via Vintage Acton)



Figure 25: Cattle rails at Prospect Park used for the Acton Fall Fair (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

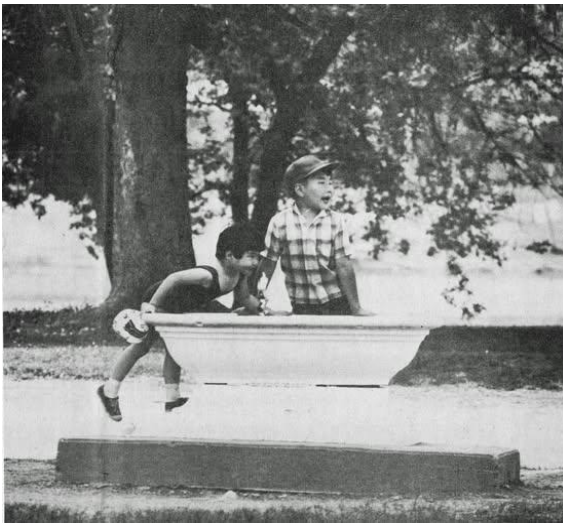


Figure 26: A 1975 photograph of children playing with the old cattle trough. The village horse trough, originally situated at the Mill-Main corner, was relocated to the fairgrounds to serve cattle during the Fall Fair. It was later transformed into a water fountain (Acton Free Press, August 1975)



Figure 27: The base of an old cattle trough in the Acton Fair Grounds at Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

### 3.5 The Acton Drill Shed



Figure 28: The current location of the Acton Drill Shed in Prospect Park identified in red; the former approximate location of the Acton Drill Shed identified in green (Google Earth 2023)

The Acton Drill Shed, constructed in 1867 at the corner of Bower Avenue and Elgin Street, was built by the federal government to serve as the headquarters for Company No. 6 of the Halton Volunteers, a local militia unit organized to defend Canada against potential Fenian invasions. Although professional framers and contractors oversaw the construction, local militia members and Acton residents contributed significantly to the labour, particularly in grading and leveling the ground and raising the 10x14-inch timbers and rafters. The building, measuring 60 by 100 feet, was the largest structure in Acton at the time. Framed from locally sourced pine, it was used for various purposes beyond its military function, including public events such as band concerts, political gatherings, dances, and other community activities. Following a fire on Main Street in the 1880s, the shed also provided temporary shelter for displaced Acton residents.

By 1890, discussions began regarding the relocation of the Drill Shed to the new fairgrounds in Prospect Park to provide better space for outdoor parades and militia drills. After seeking permission from the federal government, the relocation was approved in April 1891 at the cost of \$150 and was expedited with the help of Alexander Secord, who purchased the Bower Street property and began plans for a brick residence, *Villanore*, on the former Drill Shed site. Work began in May 1891, and the relocation required the removal of eight large oak and maple trees along Bower Street.



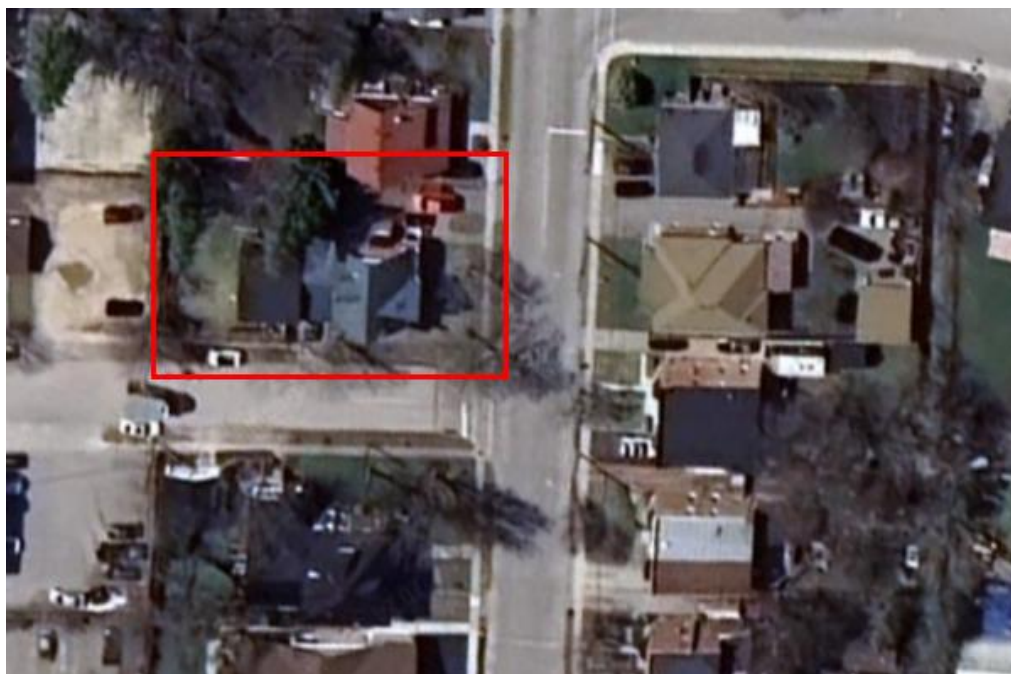


Figure 29: The former location of the Acton Drill Shed at the contemporary address of 68 Bower Street (Google Earth 2023)

By the fall of 1891, the Drill Shed had been successfully relocated to Prospect Park, under the supervision of Sir William Dillon Otter. The Drill Shed continued to serve the community for public events in its new location for nearly 40 years. In 1905, the building was electrified, and a removable stage was added. During WWI, it was repurposed as a training base for recruits of the Peel, Dufferin, and Halton Rifles, playing a key role in the war effort by housing and preparing soldiers for deployment.



Figure 30: 1914: Recruits for the Lorne Rifles pictured beside the Drill Shed in Prospect Park (EHS 11341)



Figure 31: Beardmore & Co. employees at the 1925 company picnic, with the drill shed visible in the background. (EHS 11651)

In 1919, proposals emerged to transform the Drill Shed into a feature of a memorial garden. These plans included the creation of gardens southeast of the building, with a paved park entrance flanked by granite pillars inscribed with the names of Acton's fallen soldiers. However, the idea was abandoned in favour of the modern cenotaph that now stands on Mill Street.

During the interwar period, the Acton Agricultural Society continued to use the Drill Shed for poultry displays and as additional storage for the annual Acton Fall Fair. The building remained a vital space, serving both military and civilian purposes. In 1929, the construction of the Arena necessitated the relocation of the Drill Shed to its current site. That April, J. M. McDonald informed the Council that Military District No. 1 required two rooms, totaling 800 square feet, within the new rink building for military purposes. In exchange, the Department of National Defense agreed to sell the Drill Shed and its site to the municipality. By July 1929, with a contribution from the Acton Fall Fair Board for \$300, the municipality had purchased the Drill Shed from the federal government.

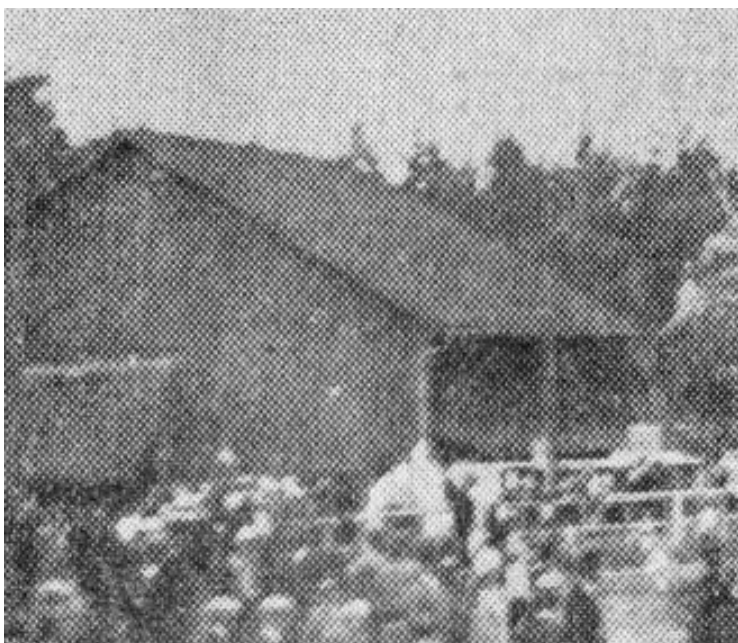


Figure 32: The Acton Drill Shed photographed in the background of fair festivities in 1930 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

During WWII, the Drill Shed and arena were used as storage facilities. In 1943, Council allocated \$200 for repairs including roof restoration and the replacement of damaged boards. After the war, the Drill Shed once again became a community and agricultural hub, housing poultry exhibits and providing storage for the Acton Agricultural Society.

In 2016, the Drill Shed underwent extensive renovations, funded by a Trillium Grant and a donation from the estate of Bill and Eleanor Thompson, lifelong members of the Acton Agricultural Society. The upgrades included modern fire-escape doors, an enlarged main entrance to accommodate large vehicles, and a new community room for public use. While the building's exterior now features aluminum siding and the roof, foundation, and floors have been replaced, the interior has remained largely unchanged. Today, it serves as the headquarters and storage facility for the Acton Agricultural Society.



Figure 33: West Elevation of the Acton Agricultural Drill Shed (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 34: South Elevation of the Acton Agricultural Drill Shed (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 35: The "Thompson Drill Shed" sign on the Acton Agricultural Drill Shed (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



### 3.6 The Prospect Park Arena



Figure 36: The location of the former arena in Prospect Park identified in red (Google Earth 2023)

In January 1927, the Acton Citizens Rink Committee initiated a proposal to construct a covered skating rink in Prospect Park. The committee conducted research on similar towns that had recently built their own covered rinks, including Fergus, Elora, Winchester, and Wiarton. The proposal gained momentum, partly fueled by a growing hockey rivalry with Georgetown and negative comments published in the *Georgetown Herald*, which referred to Acton as “a village too dead to build themselves a first-class rink” (*Acton Free Press*, February 9, 1928, p. 4). The editor of the *Acton Free Press* published articles that highlighted the moral, economic, and communal benefits of constructing a covered rink while countering Georgetown’s criticism by questioning its hockey prowess, noting that Georgetown had to rely on players from Acton to win their games. The editor also insulted the quality of Georgetown’s tanneries and questioned their civic pride and snobbery, among many other insults.

By January 1928, detailed plans for the arena were displayed in the windows of the *Acton Free Press* building to engage public interest and support. In April 1928, the proposal and supportive petition signed by 240 Acton citizens was presented to the Acton Council and Chamber of Commerce. On May 7, 1928, the Council voted in favor of the project, agreeing to provide \$15,000 to fund construction. The rink by-law was passed on June 5, 1928. Beardmore & Co. committed to covering up to \$200 annually for ten years if net revenue fell below \$1,000, while many Acton property owners agreed to contribute \$5 annually. The municipality also committed \$1,200 per year for 20 years to help repay construction costs.

By March 1929, the Council appointed a rink committee and finalized plans for a steel-framed building with a steel roof and siding. The ice surface measured 70 x 175 feet, designed for hockey, skating, and seating for up to 1,500 spectators. The design also included space for two or three standard curling rinks. Detailed plans, including provisions for military barracks, were submitted to military and government officials in June for approval, which was granted in August. Construction began in September 1929, requiring the relocation of the Drill Shed several meters west to make room for the new rink.





Figure 37: Construction of Acton Arena 1929 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

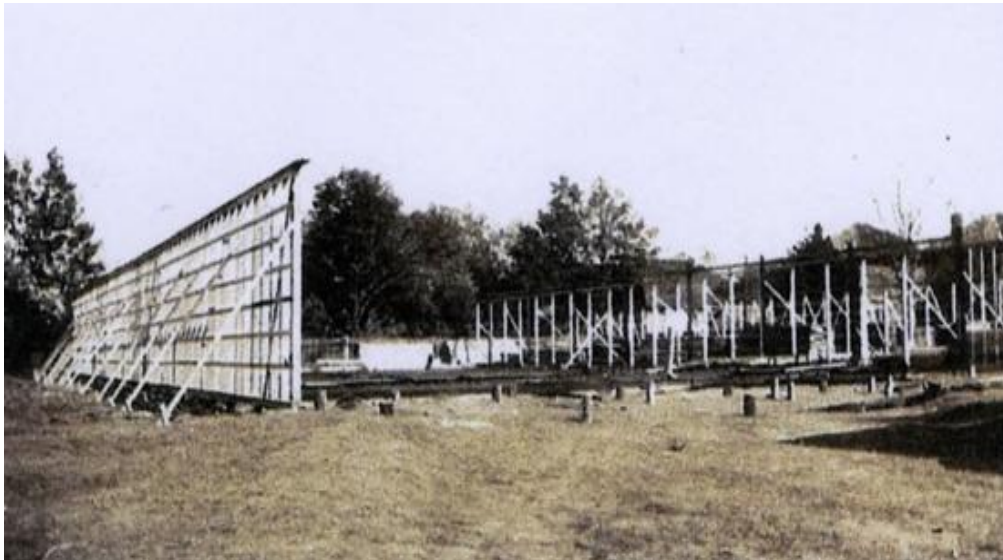


Figure 38: Construction of Acton Arena in 1929 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

The grand opening of the arena took place on December 25, 1929; that same month, Acton's Curling Club was officially established. Over the years, the arena has hosted hockey games, skating, lacrosse matches, and exhibits during the Acton Fall Fair.



Figure 39: Acton Arena, c.1930(Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 40: The 1934 Fire Insurance Plan of Acton identifies the (1) Grand Stand and Booth; (2) Drill Hall and Exhibition Building; (3) Skating Rink with attached curling rink; (4) Race Track; (5) Band Stand and Ticket Office; and (6) Judge's Booth.

Concerned that the arena might become an “eyesore” during the summer months, Beardmore & Co. funded the planting of large flower beds and oak trees around the facility in the spring of 1930. The Town also designated the arena for use as a civic centre during the offseason. For the following three

decades, the arena remained central to Acton's community life. During WWII, the arena was used to store supplies and wool.

On March 20, 1960, a heavy snowfall caused the roof over the curling rink section to collapse. In response, the community rallied to raise \$66,000 to repair the damage and construct a new community centre at the front of the arena.



Figure 41: A 1960 photograph of the Acton Arena's collapsed roof (Acton Free Press on March 24, 1960).

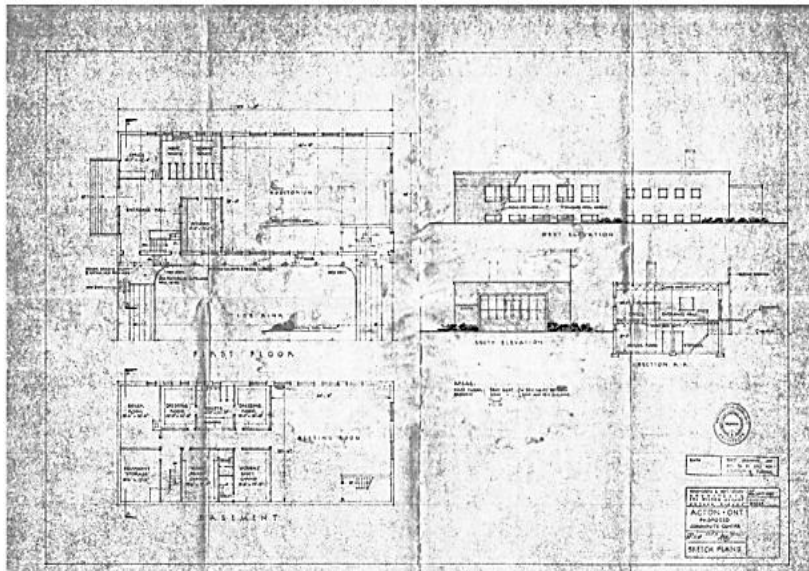


Figure 42: Architectural drawing plans for the Community Centre, 1961 (Dills, A Story of Community Development, 1962)





Figure 43: Conceptual sketch of the Community Centre at the Acton Arena in Prospect Park, 1961 (Dills, A Story of Community Development, 1962)



Figure 44: The Prospect Park Arena in 1994 (Halton Hills Today 2022)

By the 1990s, the aging arena prompted discussions about building a modern replacement. After much deliberation, the Town of Halton Hills approved the construction of a new \$5.1-million arena on Queen Street East. The new arena opened on February 1, 1998, offering modernized facilities. While the new arena became the primary recreational facility, the old Prospect Park Arena remained unused for several years. In 2007, the site was repurposed with the construction of the Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre, a facility designed for indoor soccer and hosting the Acton Agricultural Society's Fall Fair Homecrafts exhibits.



Figure 45: The Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre in Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 46: The Dufferin Rural Heritage Centre in Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

### 3.7 The Fairy Lake Boathouses



Figure 47: The location of the modern boathouse (1983) on Fairy Lake identified in red; the approximate location of the c.1907 boathouse on Fairy Lake identified in green (Google Earth 2023)

The first boathouse on Fairy Lake was constructed in the summer of 1907 under the direction of Alfred Owen Beardmore Jr. when he, with a group of his contemporaries, established a boating club to promote aquatic recreation in Acton. The original structure was located on the south side of the dam near Cameron Street within the high-water mark of the lake. Measuring 25 by 48 feet, the timber-framed building was designed to support both boating activities and social gatherings. The first floor of the boathouse had space for ten boats, as well as a bathing house and a meeting room. The upper portion of the structure had a flat roof with a railing and canopy. A 12-foot-wide verandah extended over the water, enhancing both the aesthetic and practical appeal of the building. The boating club also invested in ten new boats for its members following the facility's construction.

The Fairy Lake Club and Boathouse was formally opened in January 1909 and served as a recreational hub for Acton residents for the next decade. It provided a venue for boating and leisure activities, allowing locals to enjoy the natural beauty of the lake. However, by the summer of 1919, the original boathouse was torn down, following which the club's boats were temporarily stored in a shed at Prospect Park.



Figure 48: A c.1910 depiction of the Cameron Street Boathouse on Fairy Lake. Postcard by Stedman Bros. (ATB 2399)



Figure 49: Fairy Lake, c.1912- (John Lane Archives of Ontario, CA ON00009 C 127)



Figure 50: Two sets of rowers pictured on the water in front of The Clubhouse of the Acton Athletic Association on Fairy Lake, c.1910 (EHS 00386)



Figure 51: The Clubhouse of the Acton Athletic Association on Fairy Lake, c.1910 (EHS 11360)



Figure 52: Postcard featuring Acton Aquatic Club, c.1890s (A.T. Brown via Vintage Acton)



In 1983, a modern boathouse was constructed on the northern shore of the peninsula near the site of the former grandstand and to the west of the Drill Shed. A boardwalk and dock were also built to accommodate boating, fishing, and canoeing. This facility continues to serve the community, preserving the tradition of recreational boating on Fairy Lake.



Figure 53: Prospect Park Boat House (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 54: Prospect Park Boat House (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

In 2015, citizens raised concerns about the deteriorating condition and accessibility of the docks at Prospect Park. Between 2015 and 2018, the Town initiated a series of upgrades, including the construction of a new dock and the installation of a wheelchair-accessible ramp to the shoreline. The improvements replaced the broken boardwalk, uneven asphalt, and stairs with a dock extending further into the water, accommodating at least ten small boats. Retaining walls, gardens, and public viewing areas were added to enhance the space's aesthetic and functionality.

### 3.8 The Bandstand and Entrance Pillars



Figure 55: The location of the c.1926 Prospect Park bandstand and entrance pillars identified in red (Google Earth 2023)

In 1924, Prospect Park was the primary venue for Acton's 50th Anniversary celebrations, during which \$1,185 was raised to enhance the park's infrastructure and services. In July 1926, the Town's Park Improvement Committee, led by Chairperson C.E. Parker, unveiled a comprehensive plan for upgrading the park's facilities. The proposed improvements included extending Park Avenue into the park, connecting it to Knox Avenue via a semi-circular roadway flanked by cement walkways. To make this extension possible, a triangular parcel of land was acquired from Crewsdon McLaughlin, the adjacent property owner on the south side of Knox Avenue, facilitating a seamless connection to the park.

The Park Improvement Committee also planned the construction of ticket offices to serve as both the park's Operational Secretary's office and a venue for event admissions. Ornamental wire fencing was proposed to enclose the park, with shrubbery and ornamental trees planted along its boundaries. At the entrances, granite and concrete pillars with iron gates and gas lamps would create a formal entryway. The bandstand was a central feature of the committee's vision, designed to double as a ticket booth for events like the Acton Fall Fair. It was to be situated on a covered platform above the ticket offices, allowing it to serve multiple functions.

By the first week of September 1926, the contract for constructing the bandstand, ticket office, and secretary's office was awarded to prominent local builder J.B. Mackenzie for a total of \$740. Construction began immediately, with the goal of completing the projects before the Acton Fall Fair on September 21st and 22nd, 1926.

The octagonal bandstand was designed as vernacular structure with Swiss Fachwerk Revival and Gothic Revival influences. The raised, two-tiered structure features a lower enclosed base with decorative half-timbered framing. The upper open-air platform, supported by slender wooden posts with ornamental brackets, is encircled by a simple balustrade. The structure was capped by a steeply pitched, overhanging octagonal roof with a large flagpole extending from the peak.



By September 18, 1926, local stonemason Walter Lamb completed the installation of the three granite pillars at the park's entrance. The bandstand was ready for use during the Fall Fair, serving both as a functional ticket booth and a venue for entertainment.

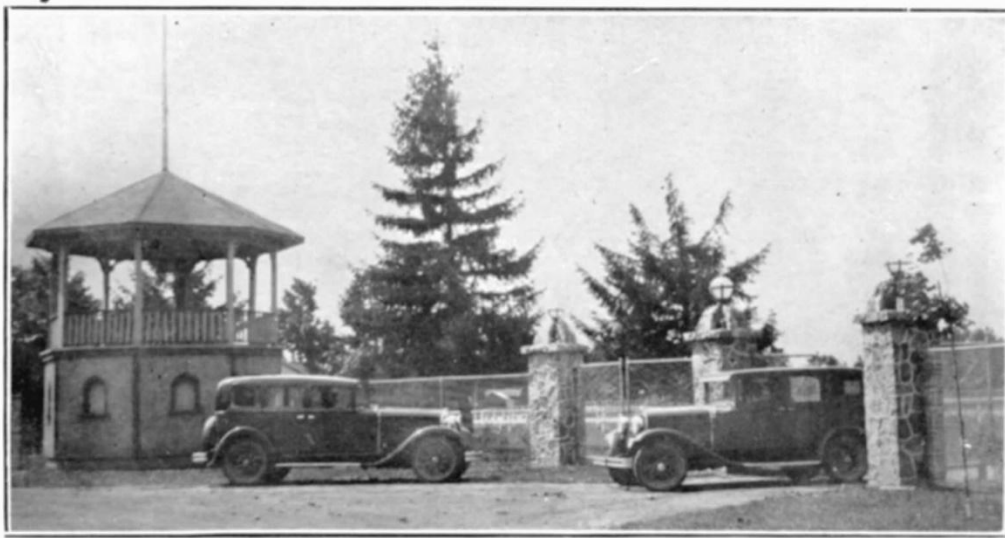


Figure 56: The Band Stand and gates at Prospect Park, c.1939(*Acton's Early Days*, p. 278)



Figure 57: The Old Bandstand and Stone Pillars c.1935 (EHS 11325)



Figure 58: The entrance to Prospect Park's formal gates, built for Acton's 50th anniversary in 1926, c.1935. Note the gas lamps mounted atop the pillars (EHS 11371)



Figure 59: Prospect Park's formal entrance, c.1950s. The iron gates had been replaced by chain-link at the time of the photograph (Dills collection Via Vintage Acton)





Figure 60: North pillar at the entrance to Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

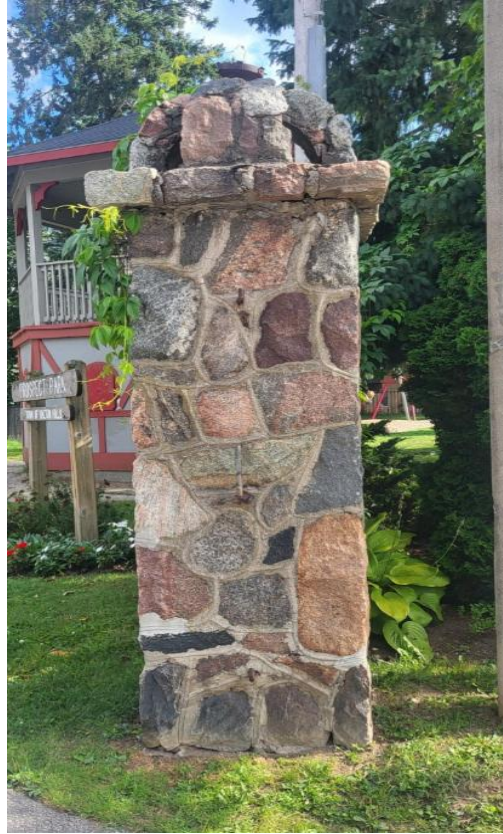


Figure 61: South pillar at the entrance to Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 62: North and south Pillars at the entrance to Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



While the centre pillar was removed in 1957 to accommodate increased car traffic, the north and south pillars and bandstand remain in situ. The nearly century-old bandstand continues to function as the ticket booth for the Acton Fall Fair.



Figure 63: The east elevation of the Old Band Stand at the gates of Prospect Park in 2024 (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 64: The west elevation of the Old Band Stand at the gates of Prospect Park in 2024 (Town of Halton Hills 2024)

In 2006, a new covered bandstand was constructed on the western point of Prospect Park. Built on a concrete slab for \$90,000, the project was funded in part through a \$30,000 loan from the Town of Halton Hills as well as donations of cash, materials, and labour from the community.



Figure 65: The Prospect Park band stand constructed in 2006 (Town of Halton Hills 2025)

### 3.9 The Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery



Figure 66: The Acton Pioneer Cemetery in Prospect Park identified in red (Google Earth 2023)

In 1843, a portion of Lot 28, Concession 2, Esquesing Township was purchased from the Adams family for the construction of a Scottish Presbyterian Church. Five years later, in 1848, a lot located at the rear of the church was designated for use as a graveyard. This site became the final resting place for several members of the Adams family, whose graves were in the northeast corner of the property. Another 1/3 of an acre was purchased in 1873 to meet the growing needs of the community, however, the village's rapid growth quickly outpaced space in the burial ground.

In 1877, a local resident, Mr. Christie, proposed urgent action to address the dilapidated state of the existing burial ground and the public health risks associated with its location. In response to these concerns, By-Law No. 76 was passed by the Acton Council in December 1876, authorizing the raising of \$950 through a loan to purchase land for a public cemetery. The new burial land was acquired from William Steele on Lot 27, Concession 2.

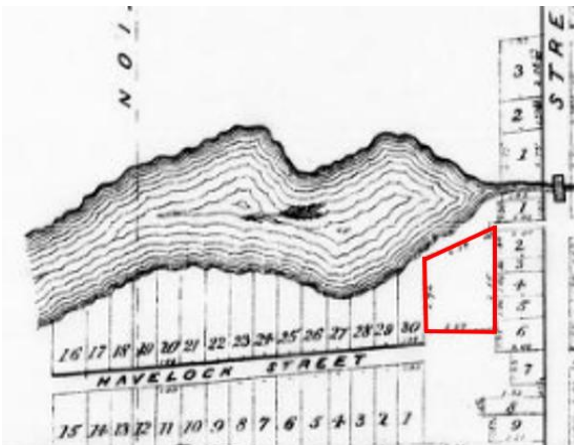


Figure 67: Boundaries of the Pioneer Cemetery identified on the 1877 Acton Village Plan.



Figure 68: Land purchased for new Fairview cemetery identified on the 1877 Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton

Preparation for the cemetery began in 1884, and the newly established Fairview Cemetery opened in 1886, providing a larger and more suitably located burial ground. Families were encouraged to secure plots in the new cemetery in July of the same year, with many opting to relocate their loved ones from the Knox Street cemetery to Fairview. The Knox Street burial ground was formally closed following the establishment of Fairview Cemetery.



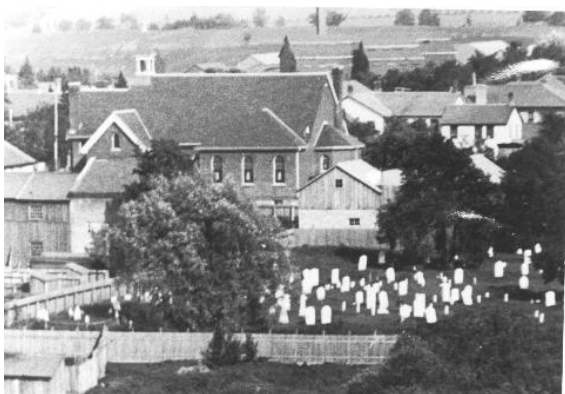


Figure 69: 1919: Prospect Pioneer Cemetery behind Knox Presbyterian Church (EHS 00062)



Figure 70: Photo showing the Pioneer cemetery and the Acton Shingle factory taken from Brown's windmill. C.1899 (EHS 00070)



Figure 71: Toppled and overgrown grave markers at Prospect Pioneer cemetery, C.1933 (EHS 27822)



Figure 72: A view of the overgrown pioneer cemetery, taken from the roof of the Arena, C.1933 (EHS 27820)

By the early twentieth century, the condition of the pioneer cemetery had deteriorated considerably. In 1933, the remaining headstones from the Knox Street site were collected and incorporated into a commemorative cairn to honour the early settlers buried there. To protect the historical integrity of the site, an entrance off Knox Street was secured, and the land was formally deeded to the Town of Acton. A fence was subsequently erected around the property to delineate its boundaries, and the cemetery was deeded to the Town in 1935.



Figure 73: A horse helps the work party with clearing the overgrown pioneer cemetery, c.1933 (EHS 27823)



Figure 74: A worker watches as weeds burn in the overgrown pioneer cemetery (EHS 27825)



Figure 75: The cleared field beside pioneer cemetery, backing on houses on Park Avenue, c.1933 (EHS 27826)



Figure 76: The seven men who cleared the overgrown pioneer cemetery (EHS 27831)



Figure 77: Prospect Pioneer Cemetery Graves gathered into Cairn, c.1934 (EHS 11366)



Figure 78: The nearly completed cairn containing all the stones and monuments in the pioneer cemetery, c.1934 (EHS 27830)



Figure 79: Dedication of Acton Pioneer Cemetery, c.1934 (EHS 11309)

In 1971, a restoration and beautification project were undertaken at the pioneer cemetery, including replacing the original fencing, planting flowerbeds and shrubbery, and cleaning graves. Much of this work was undertaken by students from Robert Little School. That same year, maintenance for the cemetery was assumed by the staff of the Arena.



Today, the cemetery is situated in a quiet section of the park, east of the tennis courts and dog park, north of the soccer arena, and south of a creek that flows into Fairy Lake. It is surrounded by mature trees and enclosed by a chain-link fence.



Figure 80: Acton Pioneer Cemetery Cairn in Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills 2024)



Figure 81: The grave of Eliphalet Adams, one of Acton's founders, in the Prospect Pioneer Cemetery (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



Figure 82: The grave of Zenas Adams, one of Acton's founders, in the Prospect Pioneer Cemetery (Town of Halton Hills 2025)



### 3.10 Prospect Park From 1950 to 1999

By the mid-twentieth century, Prospect Park had become the heart of communal and recreational life in Acton. Since its establishment in 1889, the Park had hosted many of Acton's community events, including Beardmore and Co.'s annual company picnic, fairs, sporting events, family outings, and holiday celebrations. In the 1920s, the rise of automobile travel briefly transformed the Park into a regional tourist destination. Camping grounds were established for motorists, attracting visitors from across the province. In 1925, the Acton Motoring Camp on Fairy Lake was featured in an Ontario Government Tourist Booklet as a recommended stop for travelers. However, following WWII, the Park was used more by locals than tourists, and the *Acton Free Press* noted that it had fallen behind other municipalities in amenities.

By the mid-1950s, Acton's council aimed to elevate the Park once again, striving to restore its regional significance. In June 1950, Prospect Park hosted a gathering of approximately 1,000 citizens to celebrate Acton's official incorporation as a town. The grandstand, however, was destroyed by Hurricane Hazel in 1954, with its materials sold for scrap the following year. Additionally, a wading pool was built within the park in 1954, further enhancing its recreational offerings for families and children.



Figure 83: The Bandstand in 1953 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 84: A group photo of attendees at the Beardmore Employee Picnic at Prospect Park, June 27, 1925 (EHS 11652)



Figure 85: Panoramic group photo of attendees at the Beardmore Employee Picnic at Prospect Park dated June 27, 1925 (EHS 11651)



Figure 86: Employees of Beardmore and Company gather for a group photograph at the 1943 company picnic in Prospect Park (EHS 04571)



Figure 87: Horse racing at prospect 1947 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 88: Horse racing at prospect 1947 (Dill's Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 89: Dominion Day Fair at Prospect Park in 1948 (Dill's Collection via Vintage Acton)



Figure 90: Community celebration at Prospect Park Grandstand 1950 (Dills Collection via Vintage Acton)

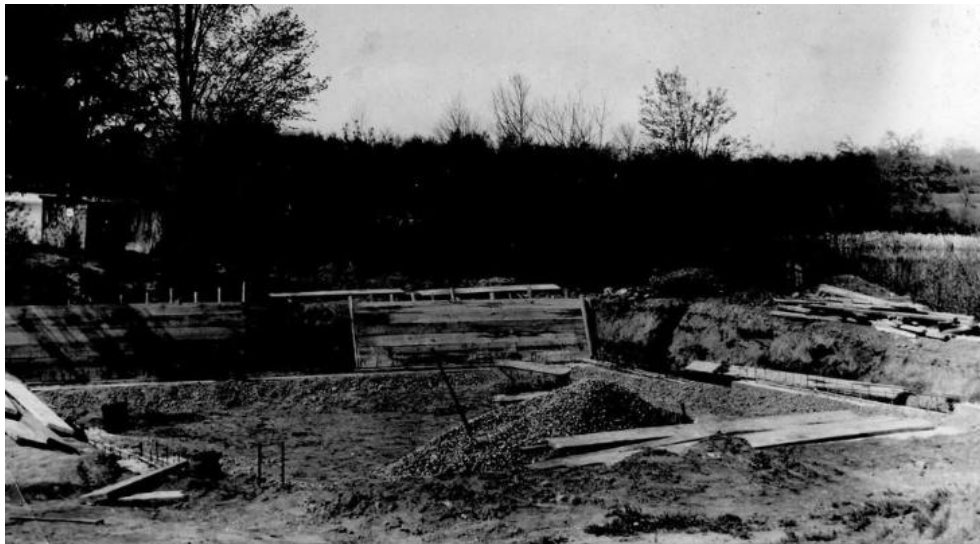


Figure 91: Construction of swimming pool at Prospect Park on May 14th, 1953 (Dills Collection Via Vintage Acton)

The Acton Board of Parks Management was established in May 1956 and included Mayor Tyler, A. Irwin, Clarence Rognvaldson, R. R. Parker, H. M. Coxe, G. Barbeau (Chair), and Mrs. G. Fryer as its inaugural members. Between 1956 and 1966, the Board initiated a series of ambitious projects designed to transform Prospect Park into a regional tourist destination. These initiatives included planting gardens, constructing dressing rooms and changing stations, developing beach areas, installing boundary-line fencing, renovating, and maintaining the wading pool, clearing Fairy Lake, creating new baseball diamonds equipped with floodlights, and comprehensive park beautification efforts. In 1957, Fairy Lake was stocked with 5,000 bass, and an additional 121 pike were introduced in 1965 as part of efforts to enhance the lake's ecosystem and recreational appeal.

In June 1964, the park's perimeter was enclosed with a chain-link fence at a cost of \$4,000, further delineating its boundaries and enhancing security for the annual fair. In 1966, parking fees for Acton residents were abolished, removing the \$1 passes previously required for locals and ensuring free access to the park for the community.



In 1969, a triangular parcel of land adjoining Fairy Lake at the end of Elmore Drive was officially annexed into Prospect Park. Efforts to preserve and expand the park continued in 1970 with the dredging of Fairy Lake. This project reclaimed significant portions of land along the lake's shoreline and at the western tip of the peninsula, enhancing the park's usability. The Town of Acton, and later Halton Hills, paid annual rent to Beardmore & Co. for the use of 3.5 acres of land within the park. However, a survey conducted in 1983 revealed that only 1.7 acres of the leased land were being utilized for park purposes, leading to an adjustment of the rental agreement to reflect actual usage.

In 1975, Halton Hills Council pursued the acquisition of land near Fairy Lake to further expand the park. The targeted area, located adjacent to the northeastern section of Fairy Lake and west of Main Street, was originally designated for residential development, with plans for 12 single-family lots, four semi-detached lots, and a commercial block. However, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority raised concerns about the environmental risks of residential use, citing issues such as habitat endangerment and frequent flooding. Town Planner Bob White emphasized the land's potential to significantly enhance the recreational amenities of Fairy Lake. The acquisition was viewed as a critical step toward preserving the area's natural features and expanding its community use.



Figure 92: An aerial photograph of the lakeview subdivision and Prospect Park in 1976 (*Acton Tanner*, October 2nd, 1996)

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, several improvements were made to Prospect Park, reflecting the Town's continued investment in its development. In 1976, a new concrete pumphouse block was constructed on the site of the former Women's Institute booth. In the early 1980s, the park underwent a detailed redevelopment process. Significant projects included the redevelopment of the play area, the construction of a multi-purpose sports field, upgrades for family use, painting and repairs to the Acton Arena, replacing the wading pool and filtration system, converting the soccer field into a ball diamond, insulating and heating the blockhouse, and installing lights for a second ball diamond. These projects, collectively costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, were partially subsidized by provincial funding.

In the early 1980s, a comprehensive redevelopment plan was undertaken for Prospect Park, encompassing a wide range of improvements and upgrades to enhance its functionality and appeal. This work included redeveloping the playground, installing a new multi-purpose sports field, upgrading the park to make it more family-friendly, painting the roof and beams of the Acton Arena and repairs to hall windows and frames, replacing the wading pool and filtration system, converting the soccer field into a ball diamond, and installing lights for the second ball diamond.

In 1983, Acton's parkland was expanded with the conversion of approximately seven acres along the southern shore of the Lakeview subdivision and a small field north of the Pioneer Cemetery into a new park area, designated as "Elizabeth Drive Park". Trees were planted, and a gravel path was laid connecting Elizabeth Drive Park to Prospect Park. In 1988, the Acton Rotary Club took responsibility for park improvements, planting 80 trees and constructing a soccer field. Now known as Acton Rotary Park, the space directly connects to Prospect Park and enhances the recreational amenities available to the greater Prospect Park lands.

### 3.11 Prospect Park from 1999 to Present

In 1999, a comprehensive plan for Prospect Park proposed key objectives and strategies for the park's future. The Prospect Park Master Plan was designed to address issues and opportunities highlighted in the Recreation Master Plan and the subsequent "Prospect for the Future" report. Public input gathered from surveys, interviews, submissions, and workshops helped shape a vision for the park. Key objectives included maximizing recreational use of Fairy Lake, supporting the park's role in hosting special events, diversifying recreational activities (such as arts, culture, and winter uses), maintaining existing recreational facilities, enhancing visual aesthetics through shoreline treatments, improved park entrances, and general maintenance.

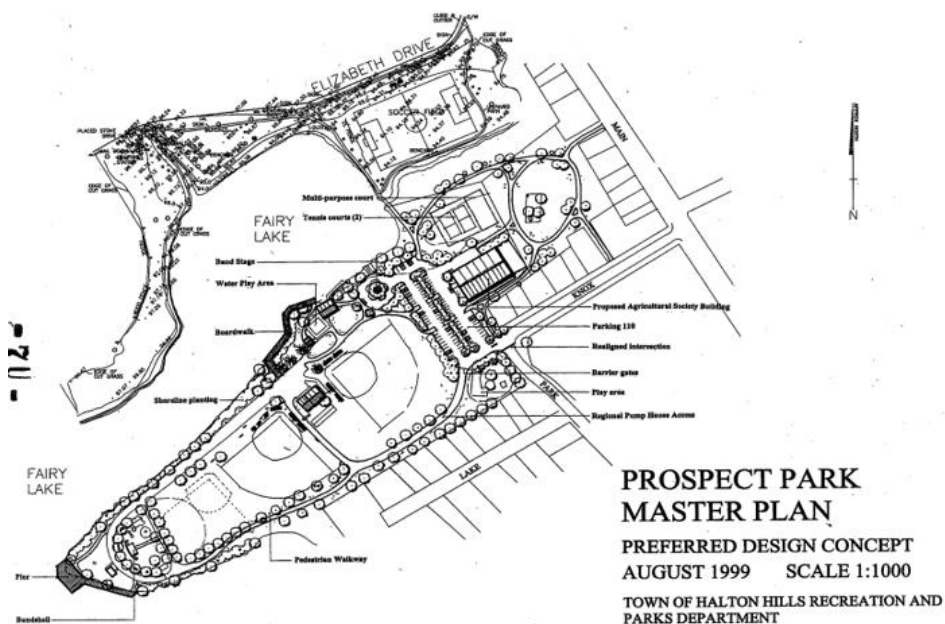


Figure 93: Prospect Park Master Plan (Town of Halton Hills 1999)

Four alternative development concepts were presented to the public and key stakeholders during a public session on May 27, 1999. Feedback from this session informed the creation of a preferred

development concept, which included several significant recommendations. These recommendations focused on improving park entrances by realigning the intersections of Knox and Park Streets and exploring the feasibility of a pedestrian walkway to Main Street. Collaborations with Credit Valley Conservation were proposed to naturalize shoreline plantings, develop boardwalks and piers, and enhance water flow and quality. Plans also included incorporating the Agricultural Society Building in the former arena area with proper buffers and architectural detailing, assessing the structural condition and relocation feasibility of the Poultry Barn, and retaining two main softball diamonds for league play as relocation plans were abandoned.

Additional recommendations included maintaining at least two tennis courts and one multi-use court, with surveys planned to determine resurfacing, fencing, and lighting needs. Winter skating facilities were proposed for either the tennis courts or another section of the park. Enhancements to walking trails, water play areas, and performance facilities for arts and cultural events were also prioritized.

Between 2003 and 2004, an off-leash dog park was also introduced, further diversifying the recreational offerings of Prospect Park and enhancing its appeal to the local community. In 2010, a splash pad was constructed on the site of the former wading pool.



Figure 94: Ongoing construction projects in Prospect Park (Town of Halton Hills, 2007)



Figure 95: "Ground-breaking held for Acton splash pad." (*The Burlington Post* March 12, 2010).



#### 4.0 Description of Heritage Attributes and Evaluation Checklist

The following evaluation checklist applies to Ontario Regulation 9/06 made under the *Ontario Heritage Act*: Criteria for Determining Cultural Heritage Value or Interest. The criteria are prescribed for municipal designation of Heritage Properties under Part IV, Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The evaluation tables utilize an 'X' to signify applicable criteria and 'N/A' to signify criteria that are not applicable for this property. The property has been evaluated as a cultural heritage landscape, while individual heritage attributes have also been evaluated for their contribution to the Park's cultural heritage value (Appendix B).

##### Prospect Park & Fairy Lake Cultural Heritage Landscape

	Design or Physical Value	
<b>A</b>	Is rare, unique, representative, or early example of a style, type, expression, material, or construction method	<b>X</b>
<b>B</b>	Displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit	<b>X</b>
<b>C</b>	Demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement	<b>N/A</b>

Prospect Park is a unique and representative example of nineteenth-century recreational and community space within Acton and the greater community of Halton Hills. Situated on a peninsula extending into the human-made Fairy Lake, the park has been landscaped to blend natural features with human design. Mature deciduous trees line the former driving track that encircles the park. The graveled track allows visitors to circumnavigate the property and observe the lake from its three shorelines. Mature deciduous trees are located around the perimeter of the path and throughout the park. Benches are installed throughout the property, and an additional semi-paved walking path stretches from Prospect Park through Rotary Park on the north bank, forming a horseshoe around the lake's north arm and transitioning users from the maintained park to denser natural vegetation.

Prospect Park's location on Fairy Lake, its landscape design, and its emphasis on preserving a curated natural setting distinguish it from other fairgrounds in Halton Hills, such as the Georgetown Fairgrounds, which are surrounded by residential development. Unlike Georgetown, where urban expansion has enclosed the fairgrounds, Fairy Lake serves as a natural boundary for Acton's fairgrounds. This relative isolation from urbanism around Prospect Park has enabled Acton to integrate its landscape design with the natural environment, despite the property's central location within the community. The park's design incorporates the lake as a central feature, while strategic plantings of foliage and fencing at the peninsula's base create a natural buffer against urban encroachment. This approach enhances the park's identity as a scenic, secluded space, preserving its historical role as both a recreational and cultural landmark.

The character of Prospect Park is also defined by its collection of cultural heritage sites and structures that exhibit high craftsmanship and artistic merit. These structures are rare, unique, and representative examples of specific styles and expressions. This collection includes the form and interior of the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed (formerly the Acton Drill Shed), the Bandstand, the entrance pillars, and the Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery. Each of these features represents a distinct period in the park's evolution and are closely tied to the broader history, culture, and heritage of Acton, collectively illustrating the community's cultural, political, social, and architectural development.

	Historical or Associative Value	
<b>A</b>	Has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization, or institution that is significant to a community.	<b>X</b>
<b>B</b>	Yields, or has potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture	<b>X</b>
<b>C</b>	Demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer, or theorist who is significant to a community	<b>X</b>

Prospect Park has direct associations with several significant community themes, events, people, activities, and organizations that are significant to the growth, development and culture of the Acton community and its cultural heritage.

The Park has routinely influenced Acton's community and civic identity since its establishment in 1889. Originally part of the Adams family farmland, the park's transition from private agricultural space to publicly owned civic land reflects the evolving priorities of the community. The park's development was closely tied to Acton's growth as an agricultural and industrial town, particularly through its association with significant community figures such as Ransom Adams, E.W. Smith, Alfred Owen Beardmore Senior, and A.O. Terrance Beardmore.

The park is associated with the most significant cultural and community events that have shaped Acton's social and civic identity for over a century. The Acton Fall Fair, first held at the park in 1913, remains one of the town's longest-standing traditions, reflecting the region's agricultural history and economic development. Large-scale public celebrations, such as Dominion Day events, town anniversary festivities, post-war celebrations, Canada Day, and other festivals, have been regularly held at the park for over a century. The park also hosted company picnics for Beardmore & Co., a major employer in Acton, illustrating how industrial and community life intersected within Acton's parklands. Its affiliation with organizations such as the Halton Rifles, the Acton Agricultural Society, and various sporting clubs emphasize its role as a communal space for both recreation and civic engagement. The park's uses have evolved over time, from early agricultural fairs and sports competitions to mid-century civic events, reflecting broader societal changes in Acton's development.

Beyond its role as an event space, Prospect Park provides information that contributes to the understanding Acton's community, culture, social progress, and historical development. The land was originally settled in the early nineteenth century by the Adams brothers, Methodist preachers who contributed to Acton's early agricultural and religious life. As Acton expanded and industrialized, the land transformed into a public space, reflecting a shift from individual land ownership to collective civic use. The development of Prospect Park was an ongoing process shaped by the town's needs. The construction of entrance pillars and a bandstand in 1926, for example, was part of a broader community-driven initiative to formalize and enhance the park in time for Acton's 50th anniversary. Similarly, the gradual addition of amenities, including the Acton Drill Shed, boathouse, and former arena, demonstrates how the park adapted to serve multiple generations.

Several historic structures within Prospect Park contribute to the overall character of its cultural landscape and are directly associated with significant themes, events, people, activities, organizations, and institutions that have played a vital role in the Acton community. These include the Acton Drill Shed (now the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), the bandstand, the entrance pillars, and the Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery.

	<b>Contextual Value</b>	
A	Is important in defining, maintaining, or supporting the character of an area	<b>X</b>
B	Is physically, functionally, visually, or historically linked to its surroundings	<b>X</b>
C	Is a landmark	<b>X</b>

Prospect Park is fundamental to the identity of Acton, playing a significant role in defining, maintaining, and supporting both the character of the surrounding neighborhoods and the broader community. Since its establishment in 1889, the park has served as a focal point for recreation, community celebrations, cultural heritage, and civic engagement. The park's role extends beyond its function as a recreational space; it has actively influenced Acton's physical development, preserved essential elements of its history and cultural heritage, and provided a continuous gathering place for generations of residents.

It is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings in several ways. Physically, Fairy Lake has directly influenced the park's geography and development. This body of water remains a defining feature, shaping the park's landscape and recreational uses. The peninsula that forms much of the property was created in the mid-1830s when the Adams brothers constructed a dam on Black Creek to create a mill pond for their sawmill and flour mills.

Moreover, Prospect Park's presence has directly shaped the urban and residential development of Acton. Unlike other areas where land was rapidly subdivided for housing or industry, Prospect Park was intentionally preserved as a public space, influencing how the surrounding neighbourhoods evolved. In the late nineteenth century, Councillor W. E. Smith surveyed the housing developments of Park and Lake Avenue, located northeast, east, and southeast of the park, to ensure that the development complemented rather than encroached upon the park. These streets were designed with the park as a focal point, ensuring it remained accessible and central to the community. This deliberate planning decision helped maintain the park as a central and accessible feature of Acton's landscape.

Throughout the twentieth century, as Acton expanded, the town recognized the need to protect and enhance the park. Ten additional acres of land adjoining the park to the northwest were designated as public recreational and green space rather than being developed for housing. Later efforts, such as the annexation of land from the Lakeview subdivision in the 1970s, further solidified the park's role as a defining element of Acton's built environment and accentuates its physical connection to and influence on community development. Municipal planning decisions over multiple generations have prioritized the park's expansion rather than its reduction thereby emphasizing its significance in maintaining the town's character.

Beyond its influence on physical development, Prospect Park is a repository of Acton's historical and cultural heritage. The park's origins are intertwined with Acton's early settlement history. Originally farmed by the Adams brothers in the early nineteenth century, the land was transformed by the creation of Fairy Lake in the 1830s, a result of their mill operations. This historical connection is further supported by the presence of the Pioneer Cemetery, where members of the Adams family, including Eliphalet and Zenas Adams, are buried, maintaining a physical link between Acton's founding figures and the present-day community.

The park's cultural significance is also evident in its structures that are visually and historically linked to the surrounding neighborhood and greater community. The entry pillars and bandstand, constructed in the 1920s, reflect the Edwardian and Gothic Revival architectural influences found throughout Acton,



particularly in the homes along Knox Street, Park Avenue, and Lake Avenue. These structures contribute to the community's historical continuity, reinforcing Acton's late nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural character. The Pioneer Cemetery, once connected with Knox Church, maintains a historic connection to the early European settlement of Acton and is linked to both the Knox Presbyterian Church and the Adams family property. Similarly, the Acton Drill Shed (now the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), originally built in 1867 and relocated to the park in 1891, preserves a piece of Acton's military and civic history. While its exterior has been altered to preserve its structural integrity, the preserved original interiors remain a representative example of mid-nineteenth-century rural military structures in Southern Ontario, making it one of the oldest standing structures in Acton today.

Another key cultural feature of the park is its longstanding association with the Acton Fall Fair, which has been hosted on the site since 1913. The fair has been an annual tradition for over a century, bringing together residents to celebrate Acton's agricultural and rural heritage. The park's ability to accommodate large-scale community events has reinforced its role as a cultural landmark, ensuring that Acton's traditions are maintained and passed down through generations.

Prospect Park is not only a historical landmark but also an essential community anchor that maintains the social and recreational character of Acton. From its inception, the park was designed as a shared space where residents could gather and participate in public life. Its diverse amenities, including sports fields, a boathouse, walking trails, picnic areas, and play facilities, have ensured that it remains relevant and valuable to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Another defining aspect of Prospect Park is its role in maintaining Acton's connection to nature. The preservation of Fairy Lake and green space has ensured that the park remains a scenic and ecologically valuable space, balancing public use with environmental conservation. Efforts to maintain the natural landscape have been ongoing. In the late twentieth century, concerns were raised about water quality and shoreline erosion, prompting initiatives in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation to restore and protect the area's natural features. These efforts included stabilizing the shoreline, improving water circulation, and introducing native plantings to support local biodiversity. By maintaining a balance between built structures and natural elements, the park reflects Acton's broader identity as a town that values both heritage and green space.

	<b>Cultural Heritage Landscape</b>	
<b>Designed Cultural Landscape</b>	A clearly defined and intentionally created human-made environment designed for aesthetics, inhabitation, or functionality	<b>X</b>
<b>Evolved Cultural Landscape (Relic)</b>	A landscape that has developed in response to initial social, economic, administrative, communal, or religious needs, where the evolutionary process has ceased, yet significant features remain discernible	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Evolved Cultural Landscape (Continuing)</b>	A landscape that has developed in response to initial social, economic, administrative, communal, or religious needs, that remains functionally active in contemporary society, sustaining traditional ways of life while exhibiting visible evidence of its historical development.	<b>X</b>
<b>Associative Cultural Landscape</b>	A site recognized for its religious, artistic, or cultural associations with the natural environment or a specific culture.	<b>X</b>

Prospect Park represents a Designed, Evolved, and Associative Cultural Heritage Landscape. Its intentional design, continuous adaptation, and deep cultural associations establish it as a historically significant site that reflects Acton's cultural development and continues to influence the community in the present as it remains a vital cultural landmark within Halton Hills.

### *Designed Landscape*

Prospect Park exhibits deliberate planning, structured landscape, and integration of built and natural features to serve as a public recreational and cultural space. From its inception in 1882 as a small driving park, the land underwent intentional transformation to accommodate community needs. The park was gradually shaped through conscious design decisions by key figures such as A.W. Green and William Edgar Smith. These individuals recognized the land's potential and adapted it into a public gathering space. The formalization of the park in 1889, with the village's acquisition of 12.25 acres from Smith, was motivated by the community's intention to structure, maintain, and define the landscape for public use.

By the twentieth century, the park's design elements include structured pathways, open green spaces, and purpose-built amenities such as the grandstand, bandstand, and entrance pillars. The half mile graded and graveled track, initially designed for harness racing, reflects an early example of landscape planning that integrated both recreational and competitive functions. Continued enhancements to the landscape, including tree plantings, the creation of dedicated sports fields, and the introduction of amenities like the swimming pool, baseball diamonds, boathouses and the Acton Arena, were developed to align with evolving recreational trends.

Aesthetic considerations played a significant role in the park's design. The layout maximized the scenic views of Fairy Lake while incorporating elements of Rustic and Edwardian landscape design. Features such as ornamental stone entrance pillars and shaded walkways exemplify the park's aesthetic intent. Additionally, its location on a peninsula ensured an immersive natural experience that has been preserved and accentuated by the evolving designs of the park.

The successive enhancements to Prospect Park—from the addition of the arena in 1929 to the boathouses, playgrounds, and splash pad—demonstrate a continued commitment to structured, intentional design that prioritizes both aesthetics and functionality. This sustained approach to landscape development solidifies Prospect Park's classification as a Designed Cultural Landscape.

### *Evolved Landscape*

Prospect Park is an Evolved Cultural Heritage Landscape that has continually developed in response to social and communal needs. It remains functionally active, sustaining traditional ways of life while exhibiting visible evidence of its historical development.

The park's evolution began with its early role as a harness racing track and agricultural fairgrounds. Initially developed as a driving park, it gradually transitioned into a civic space through both public and private investment. The 1889 acquisition by the village of Acton marked the beginning of municipal stewardship, reflecting changing attitudes toward public recreation and civic improvement. The decision to establish Prospect Park as the home of the Acton Fall Fair in 1913 reinforced its role as a dynamic, evolving landscape rooted in agricultural traditions while accommodating growing community participation.

Throughout the twentieth century, Prospect Park expanded its recreational offerings to align with evolving leisure trends. The introduction of the Acton Arena in 1929 responded to the community's increasing interest in hockey and curling. The mid-century construction of the swimming pool, ball diamonds, and enhanced picnic areas reflected broader societal shifts toward family-centred recreation. These additions maintained the park's active role in civic life while ensuring that traditional activities such as agricultural exhibitions and sporting events remained viable.

Environmental and infrastructural changes also illustrate the park's evolving character. The dredging of Fairy Lake in the 1970s, along with shoreline stabilization efforts in partnership with Credit Valley Conservation, reflected a growing awareness of ecological sustainability. Similarly, the expansion of parklands through the annexation of adjoining properties, such as the Lakeview subdivision lands in 1975, ensured that the park could accommodate increased urbanization while maintaining its role as a green space.

Throughout the twentieth century, significant investments were made to enhance the park and maintain its role in the community. In the mid-1950s, in response to a growing demand for modern recreational spaces, the Acton Board of Parks Management undertook several major improvement projects. These included the construction of a wading pool, new baseball diamonds, a beach area, and upgraded event spaces. By the late twentieth century, as Acton continued to grow, new initiatives were introduced to ensure that the park remained a vital community space. The 1999 Prospect Park Master Plan reaffirmed the town's commitment to maintaining and enhancing the park's facilities while also balancing historical preservation and environmental sustainability. This led to the development of additional walking trails, a dog park in 2003-2004, and the creation of a splash pad in 2010 to replace the outdated wading pool. These improvements, driven by direct community input, demonstrate the park's enduring importance in meeting Acton's evolving needs.

Prospect Park continues to evolve in the twenty-first century. The introduction of a splash pad in 2010, upgrades to the boathouse and docks, and accessibility enhancements demonstrate ongoing adaptation to contemporary recreational needs. Despite these modern developments, the park retains visible evidence of its historical phases, from the preserved Pioneer Cemetery to the repurposed Acton Drill Shed. This continuity of use, adaptation, and historical layering firmly situates Prospect Park within the "Continuing" category of Evolved Cultural Landscapes.

### *Associative Landscape*

Prospect Park also qualifies as an Associative Cultural Landscape, recognized for its cultural and personal associations. The park holds strong associative value through its connection to Acton's founding figures and early settlers. The Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery, established in 1848, serves as a physical and symbolic link to the town's early European settlers, particularly the Adams family. The cemetery's presence within the park grounds reinforces Acton's cultural memory, preserving the legacy of its first inhabitants and their role in shaping the town's development.

Religious and commemorative associations further enhance the park's significance. The cemetery was originally associated with Knox Presbyterian Church, reflecting the early Scottish Presbyterian influence in Acton. Additionally, the park's role in hosting remembrance events, particularly during and after WWI and WWII, solidifies its place in Acton's collective consciousness. The proposed 1919 memorial garden,



while unrealized, underscores the community's desire to embed commemorative landscapes within the park.

Prospect Park has also played a significant role in Acton's artistic and cultural traditions. The Acton Fall Fair, held annually since 1913, is a major cultural event that continues to celebrate the town's agricultural heritage. The park's bandstand, a focal point for concerts and performances, has been an artistic hub for nearly a century, hosting community bands, cultural festivals, and civic celebrations. These traditions reinforce the park's status as a cultural landmark that embodies the town's artistic and communal identity.

Beyond structured events, the park's natural landscape contributes to its cultural associations. Fairy Lake, a defining feature of the park, has been depicted in historical postcards, photographs, and literary references, reinforcing its symbolic importance within Acton's visual and cultural heritage. The scenic views described in 1885 by H.C. Stovel capture the enduring aesthetic and inspirational qualities of the park, positioning it as an integral part of Acton's cultural imagination. The extant dam has also been identified as a key feature, as it has acted to reinforce the existence and maintenance of Fairy Lake.

The continued preservation of heritage structures within the park, including the Drill Shed, entrance pillars, and Pioneer Cemetery, ensures that its historical and cultural associations remain tangible to present-day visitors. This ongoing connection between past and present solidifies Prospect Park as an Associative Cultural Landscape that continues to define Acton's identity.

Following research and evaluation in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act, Prospect Park and Fairy Lake meet the criteria and definition of a Cultural Heritage Landscape as outlined in Section G34 of The Town of Halton Hills Official Plan (2008) and UNESCO's classification of Cultural Heritage Landscapes model. This property is classified under the following categories:

- Designed Cultural Landscape;
- Evolved Cultural Landscape (Continuing); and,
- Associative Cultural Landscape.

The utility buildings, modern structures, and contemporary infrastructure on the property are not identified as heritage attributes within this report.

Please note, this Research and Evaluation Report reflects the most up to date findings relating to its cultural heritage value as identified by staff. This report may be updated in future to reflect future findings as required.

## 5.0 Summary

Following research and evaluation according to Ontario Regulation 9/06, it has been determined that Prospect Park and Fairy Lake have physical and design, historical and associative, and contextual value and therefore meets Ontario Regulation 9/06 criteria for determining cultural heritage value or interest.

The heritage attributes of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake are identified as follows:

- The central location of Prospect Park and Fairy Lake within the community of Acton;
- The existing built features, including:
  - The 1926 bandstand at the Prospect Park entrance, including:
    - The setback, location, and orientation of the 1926 octagonal Fachwerk Revival structure;
    - Its scale, form, and massing;
    - The materials, including local pine and decorative half-timbered framing;
    - The upper open-air platform;
    - The ornamental Gothic Revival brackets;
    - The wooden balustrade;
    - The octagonal roof;
  - The 1926 Prospect Park entrance pillars, including:
    - The setback, location, and orientation of the two remaining posts in their original location since 1926;
    - Their scale, form, and massing;
    - The materials, including local flagstone and lime mortar;
  - The 1867 Acton Drill Shed (currently known as the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed), including:
    - The setback, location, and orientation of the existing building, in its current location since 1929;
    - The scale, form, and massing of the 1867 frame building;
    - The materials, including the structure's original pine plank walls and exposed nineteenth century posts and beams on the interior;
  - The 1934 Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery Cairn, including:
    - Its original markers and monuments, with their surviving inscriptions;
    - The variety of styles, materials and symbolism represented in the markers and monuments;
    - The scale, symmetry, and design of the c.1930s cement cairn and monument;
    - Its location, orientation and dimensions;
    - Its c.1930s boundary posts and mature trees;
- Natural and human-made features within the landscape, including:
  - Fairy Lake and the extant dam;
  - The half-mile former drive track;
  - The mature deciduous trees along the former drive track; and,
  - The mature Coniferous trees in the former location of the Acton Grandstand.

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## APPENDIX A: Cultural Heritage Landscapes

### *Definition of a Cultural Heritage Landscape*

The concept of a cultural heritage landscape originated from early-twentieth century studies in cultural geography and was formally defined in 1926 to describe any area altered by both intentional and unintentional human activity. By the mid-twentieth century, this idea and its holistic approach to resource investigation gained international recognition through the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

In 1992, the UNESCO World Heritage Convention was revised to include cultural heritage landscapes, creating the first legal framework to acknowledge and protect them. Article 1 of the Convention now defines cultural heritage landscapes as the “combined works of nature and man.” These spaces often evolve and change in response to both internal and external influences, including through effects of the natural environment and successive social, economic, and cultural forces.

UNESCO further refined this concept by categorizing cultural heritage landscapes into three types:

The three categories identified by UNESCO are:

- **Designed Cultural Landscape:** This type of landscape is clearly defined and intentionally created by humans. It includes gardens and parklands designed for aesthetic purposes, often associated with religious or monumental buildings and ensembles.
- **Evolved Cultural Landscape:** These landscapes result from initial social, economic, administrative, or religious needs and have developed in response to their natural environment. They reflect their evolutionary process in their form and features and are divided into two sub-categories:
  - Relict (Fossil) Landscape: Where the evolutionary process has ended, but noteworthy features remain visible. This is applicable to both natural and cultural heritage landscapes.
  - Continuing or Evolving Landscape: Where the landscape still plays an active role in contemporary society, maintaining traditional ways of life while showing evidence of its evolution over time.
- **Associative Cultural Landscape:** These landscapes are included on UNESCO’s World Heritage List due to their strong religious, artistic, or cultural associations with the natural environment, even if material evidence is minimal or absent.

While the UNESCO Guidelines establish a recognized framework for cultural resource management, preservation, and evaluation, definitions and processes for specifications vary at national, provincial or state, and local levels. The Ontario Heritage Trust defines a Cultural Heritage Landscape as:

*A property or defined geographical area of cultural heritage significance that has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. These activities or uses may be key to the cultural value, significance and meaning of this landscape. A cultural landscape may be designed at a specific time by a specific person or it may have evolved organically over a long period time*

*(and may still be slowly evolving) ... It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features, such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements that together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts. (Cultural Heritage Landscapes, OHT: 2024, p.1).*

The Town of Halton Hills Official Plan (2008) outlines the definition and guidelines for the constitution of Cultural Heritage Landscapes within the municipality as:

*A geographical area of heritage significance that has been modified by human activities and is valued by a community. It involves a grouping(s) of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements, which together form a significant type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts. (Town of Halton Hills Official Plan, 2008, p.G-34.)*

**APPENDIX B: Evaluation of Prospect Park & Fairy Lake's Built Features**

<b>Prospect Park &amp; Fairy Lake Built Features: Design and Physical Value</b>				
<b>Site/Structure</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Heritage Value</b>
Acton Drill Shed	Y	N	N	Originally constructed in 1867 and subsequently moved in 1891 and 1929, the Acton Drill shed is a rare, unique, and representative example of a nineteenth century militia building in a rural Ontario community. At the time of its construction, it was the largest building in Acton. The structure, built from locally sourced pine, remains intact with minimal modifications beneath its modern aluminum exterior. As one of the oldest surviving wooden structures in Acton, it holds considerable historical and architectural value, representing an important aspect of the town's military and community heritage.
The Bandstand	Y	Y	N	<p>Constructed in 1926, the octagonal Acton bandstand is a rare and representative example of Fachwerk Revival architecture with Gothic revival influences. Swiss-inspired Fachwerk Revival architecture experienced a brief period of popularity in late Victorian and Edwardian park architecture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While bandstands were once common features in public parks, few remain in their original form, making this structure a significant surviving example of early twentieth century public pavilion architecture. Its distinctive half-timbered façade is an uncommon feature within Acton's built heritage.</p> <p>The bandstand is an early example of inter-war park architecture, embodying a blend of revival styles that were prevalent in post-war Ontario. Its elevated octagonal design steeply pitched overhanging octagonal roof, and rustic wood construction are influenced by late Victorian bandstands while incorporating ornamental details that reflect a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit. Handcrafted elements such as decorative brackets and timber framing further emphasize the skilled workmanship involved in its construction.</p>
Entrance Pillars	Y	Y	Y	<p>The 1926 stone entrance pillars represent a rare and significant example of Rustic-style park architecture in Acton influenced by the early twentieth century emphasis on exposed natural materials and civic beautification. Constructed from locally sourced fieldstone, these pillars exemplify the handcrafted quality characteristic of the Rustic and Picturesque architectural movements, which were commonly employed in public parks, fairgrounds, and commemorative landscapes of the period. They are associated with architect and builder J. B. Mackenzie and stone mason Walter Lamb.</p> <p>As an early example of landscape architecture in Acton, the pillars represent the community's efforts to establish picturesque public spaces during the interwar period and commemorate its 50th anniversary. Despite the removal of the centre pillar in the 1950s, and the subsequent removal of the gas lamps, the north and south pillars continue to stand in their original location after a century.</p>



Pioneer Cemetery	Y	N	N	<p>Constructed in the 1930s, the Acton Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery memorial cairn is a rare and significant example of early cemetery preservation architecture in Acton. It represents an early approach to gravestone conservation, consolidating and embedding individual markers into a formalized, enclosed cement monument. This method, characteristic of early 20th-century cemetery preservation practices, was intended to safeguard historical inscriptions while creating a collective commemorative space. However, such techniques are now largely avoided due to the potential for damage to original memorials.</p> <p>Architecturally, the cairn exhibits Neo-Classical influences, evident in its symmetrical design, squared pillars, axial approach, and orderly arrangement. As one of the few known examples of this preservation method in both Acton and the greater Halton Hills community, the cairn is both unique and representative of early twentieth century burial preservation efforts and early cemetery conservation techniques.</p>

Prospect Park & Fairy Lake Built Features: Historical or Associative Value				
Site/Structure	A	B	C	Heritage Value
Acton Drill Shed	Y	N	N	<p>The Acton Drill Shed holds significant historical and associative value through its connections to key military, civic, and community events spanning over 150 years. Constructed in 1867 as the headquarters for Company No. 6 of the Halton Volunteers, the Drill Shed forms part of Canada's broader early national defense strategy, which relied on local militias in rural communities. Its construction was a collaborative effort, involving both professional builders and residents. The Drill Shed continued to serve an essential military function throughout its history, most notably during World War I, when it was repurposed as a training base for recruits of the Peel, Dufferin, and Halton Rifles, and as a storage facility in WWII.</p> <p>Beyond its military significance, the Drill Shed has served Acton's civic and social life for over a century. Following its relocation to Prospect Park in 1891, it became a key venue for public gatherings, political meetings, concerts, dances, and community celebrations. It also provided emergency shelter for displaced residents following a major fire in the 1880s and later became an integral part of the Acton Fall Fair, hosting agricultural exhibits and community events. Even after its sale to the municipality in 1929 and its subsequent incorporation into the town's greater arena complex, the Drill Shed remained a vital hub for both military and civilian purposes.</p>
Bandstand	Y	N	Y	<p>The Prospect Park Bandstand holds a direct association with significant community themes and events such as public celebrations and civic engagement. As part of the Park Improvement Committee's 1926 vision</p>

				<p>for Park improvement following Acton's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the bandstand was constructed to serve as a central venue for public events, including the Acton Fall Fair, reinforcing its role as a centre for civic and cultural activities. Its dual function as both a performance space and a ticket booth emphasize its integral place within Acton's social and recreational landscape and reflects the broader themes of community identity, public entertainment, and communal development.</p> <p>Architecturally, the bandstand exemplifies the craftsmanship and design vision of J.B. Mackenzie, a prominent Georgetown-based builder and architect, and incorporates stylistic elements characteristic of the Swiss-Inspired Fachwerk Revival and Gothic Revival movements. Mackenzie's execution of the Park Improvement Committee's ambitious plan demonstrates his lasting influence on Acton's built heritage.</p>
Entrance Pillars	Y	N	Y	<p>The Prospect Park Entrance Pillars are directly associated with Acton's 50th anniversary celebrations in 1924, as funds were raised to construct them to commemorate the event. The pillars were designed by Georgetown architect J.B. Mackenzie to form the grand entrance to Acton's Park and were completed in 1926 by local stone mason Walter Lamb.</p>
Pioneer Cemetery	Y	N	N	<p>The Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery is associated with the early Scottish settlers of Acton and the Knox Presbyterian Church. Established in 1848 behind the Knox Presbyterian Church, the cemetery served as the final resting place for many early settlers, including Acton's founders, the Adams family; notably Eliphalet and Zenas Adams, are buried in the Pioneer Cemetery within the park.</p> <p>By the early twentieth century, the Pioneer Cemetery had fallen into neglect, prompting restoration efforts in the 1930s, which culminated in the creation of a commemorative cairn to preserve the site's historical significance. Further restoration and community-driven beautification projects in 1971 reaffirmed its role as a protected space honouring Acton's early settlers.</p>
<b>Prospect Park Cultural Heritage Structures: Contextual Value</b>				
<b>Site/Structure</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>Heritage Value</b>
Acton Drill Shed	Y	Y	Y	<p>The Drill Shed is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings. Although it was moved to its current location in 1929 to make room for the construction of the Acton Arena, the Acton Drill Shed has been a fixture in Prospect Park for over 130 years. Historically, the park's fairgrounds served as parade and training grounds for the local militia. After World War I, the park was considered for the location of a monument or memorial gardens due to the Drill Shed's presence.</p> <p>Purchased by the municipality in 1929, the Drill Shed has since served the Acton Fall Fair Board and Agricultural Society. For nearly a century, it has</p>

				<p>been integral to the Acton Fall Fair, used for storage, displays, and as the poultry barn for annual shows. While the exterior of the Acton Drill Shed (now the Thompson Agricultural Drill Shed) has been altered to preserve the structural integrity of the 1867 structure, the original interior remains a representative example of mid-nineteenth-century rural military structures in Southern Ontario. Today, it stands as one of the oldest structures in Acton and a landmark within Prospect Park. In its role as a poultry barn and fair building, the Acton Drill Shed is crucial in defining, maintaining, and supporting the agricultural character of the Acton Fairgrounds. Its interior serves as a well-preserved example of Acton's rural, military, and agricultural historical character.</p>
Bandstand	Y	Y	Y	<p>Constructed in 1926 along with the entrance pillars, the bandstand is physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to its surroundings. Its Victorian and Edwardian stylistic features complement the Gothic Revival and Edwardian character of the residences along Knox Street and Lake Avenue. Specifically built for the park and fairgrounds, the bandstand functions as the ticket booth for the Acton Fall Fair, thereby reinforcing its contextual and historical connection to the parkland and fairgrounds.</p> <p>Together, the bandstand and entrance pillars serve as the historic and present entrance to Prospect Park, playing an important role in defining, maintaining, and supporting the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century character of the surrounding neighborhoods and parkland and standing as a local landmark within the community of Acton.</p>
Entrance Pillars	Y	Y	Y	<p>The entrance pillars at Prospect Park are physically, functionally, visually, and historically linked to their surroundings. Constructed in 1926 alongside the bandstand, these pillars form the central part of the grand entrance to the park and fairgrounds. Physically, the pillars are situated at the entrance, marking the boundary and providing a clear point of entry to the property. Apart from a since-removed central pillar, the pillars have stood in their original location for nearly a century.</p> <p>Functionally, they continue to serve as markers for the entrance, despite the removal of the iron gates. They guide visitors into the park and fairgrounds and delineate both the current and historical boundaries of the Prospect Park Fairgrounds, a role they have maintained since 1926.</p> <p>Visually, the pillars are representative examples of early twentieth-century fairground architecture. They are designed in the Rustic style, which is prevalent throughout the park. This architectural style complements the late nineteenth and early twentieth-century character of the surrounding neighborhoods, creating a cohesive visual link between the park and its environs.</p> <p>Historically, the pillars were built to commemorate Acton's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary services in 1924 and have remained in their original location for nearly a</p>

				century. They serve as landmarks within the community of Acton. Their presence is significant in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of the area.
Pioneer Cemetery	Y	Y	Y	<p>The Prospect Park Pioneer Cemetery is significant in defining, maintaining, and supporting the character of Acton by physically representing the town's early European settlement history and serving as a tangible link to its founders. Established in 1848, the cemetery served as the burial ground for early Scottish settlers, including the Adams family, on whose land much of Acton, including the Knox Church, cemetery, and Prospect Park, were established. Although later replaced by Fairview Cemetery, the Pioneer Cemetery remains a historical connection to Acton's formative years.</p> <p>The cemetery is physically, functionally, and historically linked to its surroundings. Originally located behind Knox Presbyterian Church, the cemetery was directly associated with the town's religious and communal life. Its subsequent transition into a commemorative space and local landmark, marked by the 1934 cairn, reinforces its status as a cultural landscape. Enclosed by mature trees and adjacent to natural and recreational spaces, the cemetery's presence within the park supports its cultural landmark status.</p> <p>While the original nineteenth-century headstones have been gathered into a central cairn, the monument was constructed on the land of the original burial plot, and the general area has continued to serve the same purpose for over a century.</p>