

# 1390 Captain Court

## Heritage Impact Assessment

February 2022, Revised March 2022



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## Executive Summary

This Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) has been prepared by W.E. Oughtred & Associates. This report was requested by City of Mississauga Heritage to research the totem pole found on the subject property. 'The article below states that it's a Haida totem pole carved for Canada's 1967 centennial. Please investigate its provenance and authenticity. The totem pole should be documented, i.e. photographed and dimensions provided. If it is indeed a Haida totem pole, recommendations should be made around whether or not it will be repatriated, stay in place, etc. Please address sections 2.1, 2.3 and 2.6 thru 5 of the Heritage Impact Assessment Terms of Reference available [here](#) but focus on the documentation, history, heritage value, etc. of the totem pole.'<sup>1</sup>

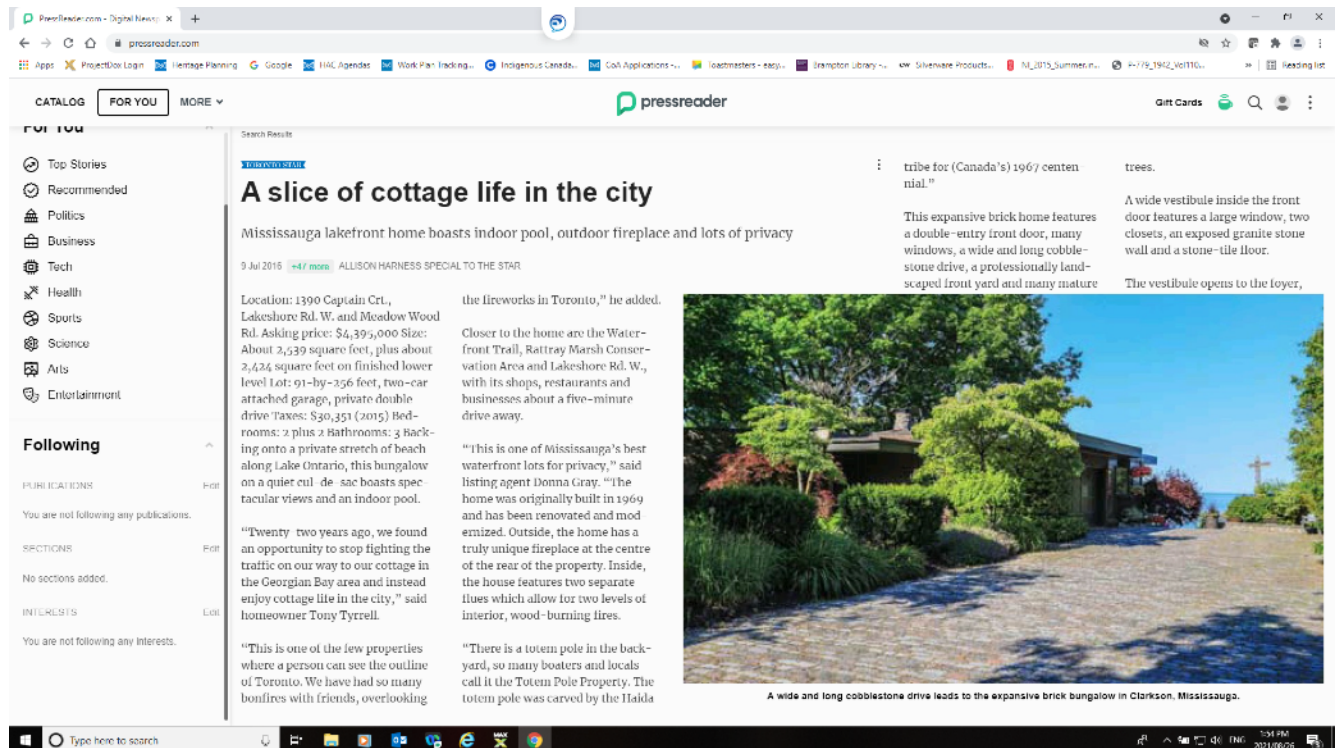


Image 1: Toronto Star Article

The assessment includes the following evaluations by W.E. Oughtred & Associates Inc.:

- Field review of the subject property, and specifically the totem pole
- Review of existing historical information
- Review of relevant heritage policies

<sup>1</sup> Paula Wubbenhorst, Email, December 1, 2021



## Introduction

This report was prepared in accordance with the City of Mississauga's Terms of Reference for Heritage Impact Assessments (Culture Division, City of Mississauga, June, 2017). A site visit was undertaken by W.E. Oughtred & Associates on December 16, 2021 to assess and document the totem pole.

## Location & Site Description

Municipal Address: 1390 Captain Court

Legal Description: Lot 15, Plan 802

Zoning: R1-2 Residential

General Location: South of Lakeshore Road West, East of Southdown Road



Figure 1: Location Map

The subject property is located at the end of Captain Court, adjacent to Lake Ontario.

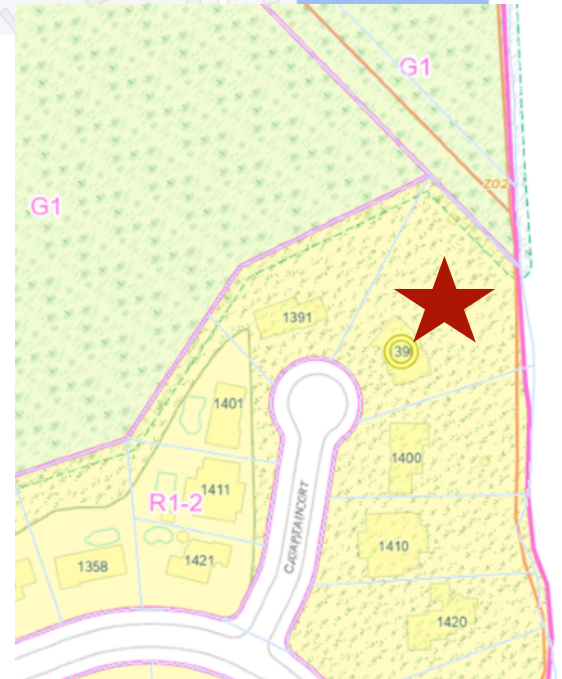


Figure 2: Site Location

## Property History

Table 1: Property History

| DATE               | GRANTOR                                    | GRANTEE                                     |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Lot 26, Con 3, SDS | Patent 200 Acres                           |   |
| November 1808      | Crown                                      | Christian Hendershott                       |
| October 1843       | Isaac Hendershott                          | Philip Oliphant                             |
| January 1851       | Philip Oliphant                            | Thomas Slade                                |
| September 1883     | Daniel Slade                               | Thomas C. Haslett                           |
| June 1886          | Thomas C. Haslett                          | Charlotte Reid                              |
| June 1886          | Henry S. Clarkson                          | John M. Kerr                                |
| April 1889         | Mary E. Kerr, Administrator                | Fred Custead                                |
| March 1907         | Fred Custead                               | William Batty                               |
| May 1910           | William Baty                               | The Governing Council of the Salvation Army |
| May 1916           | Salvation Army                             | National Trust Co.                          |
| June 1916          | National Trust Co.                         | Harris H. Fudger                            |
| May 1945           | Harris H. Fudger, Estate                   | James H. Rattray                            |
| February 1964      | James H. Rattray, Estate                   | * As Rattray Park Estates                   |
| September 1964     | Rattray Park Estates                       | ** As Rattray Park Estates                  |
| July 31, 1967      | Plan 802 Registered                        |   |
| Lot 15             |  |   |
| October 1968       | Rattray Park Estates                       | Victoria Wood Homes, a limited partnership  |
| November 1968      | Victoria Wood Homes, a limited partnership | Charles R. Leger                            |
| December 1978      | Charles R. Leger                           | Nam Holdings Ltd                            |
| May 1980           | Nam Holdings Ltd.                          | Norman Goodhead                             |

| DATE          | GRANTOR                           | GRANTEE                |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| August 1980   | Norman Goodhead<br>(1/2 interest) | Eula M. Goodhead       |
| December 1993 | Norman & Eula Goodhead            | Norman & Eula Goodhead |
| February 1995 | Norman & Eula Goodhead            | Mary Elizabeth Tyrell  |
| June 2017     | Mary Elizabeth Tyrell             | Dayong Liu             |
| February 2020 | Dayong Liu                        | Current Owners         |

\* Person Construction Limited, Tomevan construction Limited, Toronto-Hamilton Leaseholds Limited, Toronto Income Estates Limited, Thibodeau Investments Limited, Port Credit Developments Limited

\*\* Person Construction Limited, Tomevan construction Limited, Toronto-Hamilton Leaseholds Limited, Toronto Income Estates Limited, Thibodeau Investments Limited, Port Credit Developments Limited

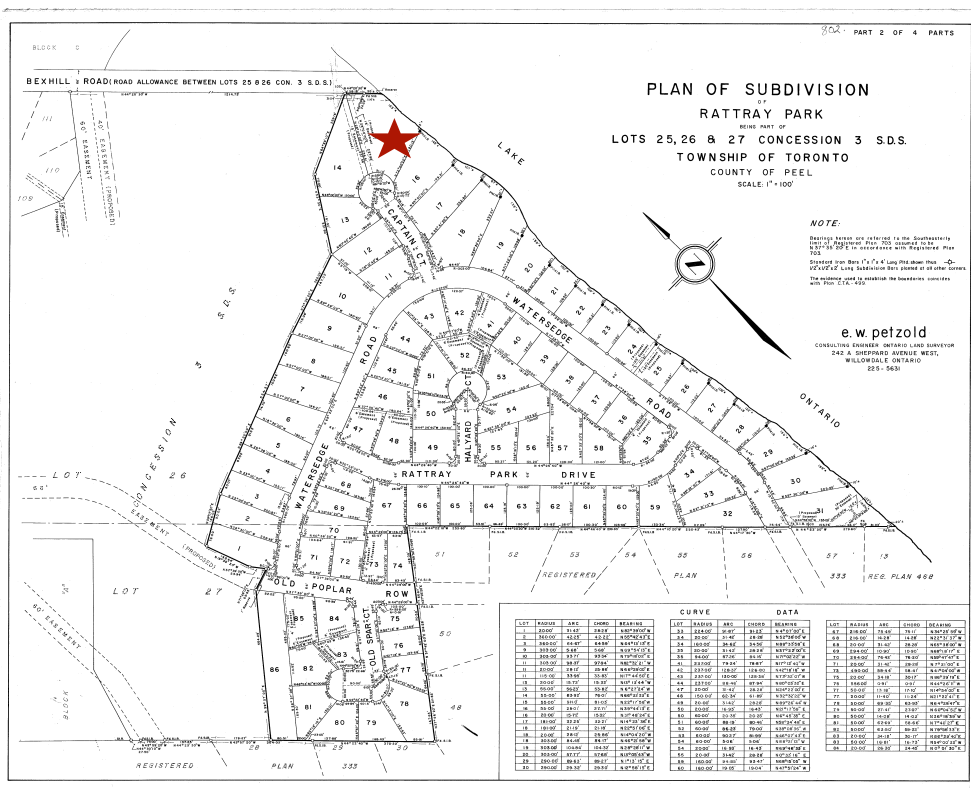


Figure 3:  
Plan of  
Subdivision  
of Rattray  
Marsh

The Plan  
was  
registered  
July 31,  
1967



Figure 4: 1954  
Aerial photo

Property is  
undeveloped.

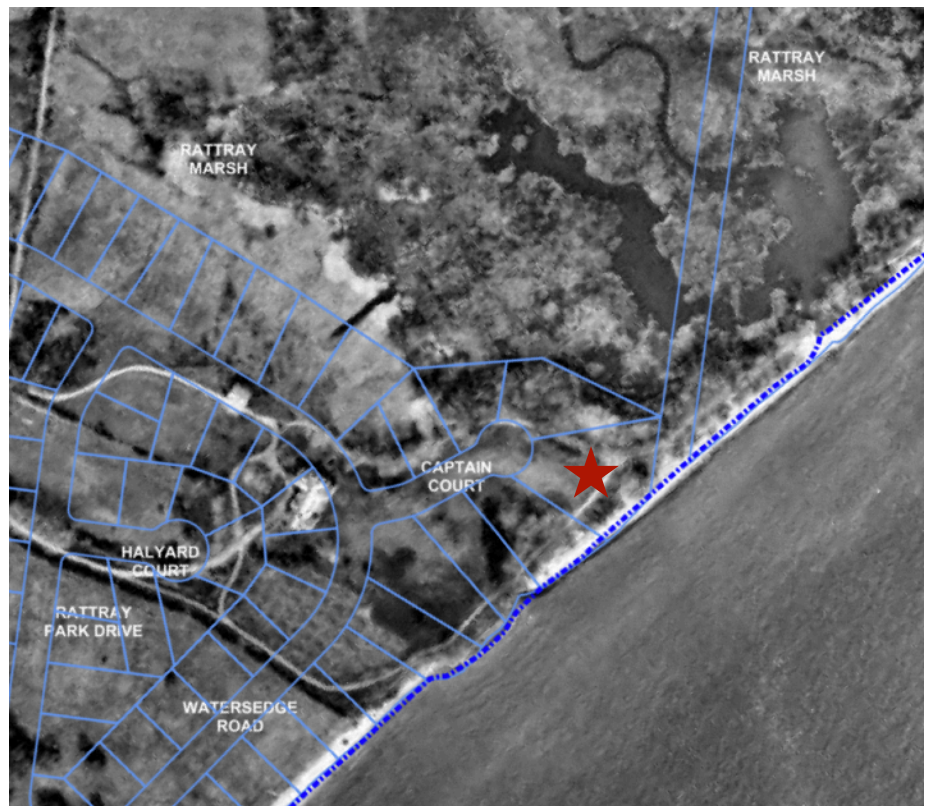


Figure 5: 1966 Aerial  
photo





Figure 6: 1975 Aerial photo

Post registration of subdivision - the property is developed with a home on the lot.

Figure 7: 2021 Aerial photo



Current state of property



Building permits issued by the City of Mississauga are listed below.

Table 2: Issued Building Permits, City of Mississauga

| App no.<br>App date         | Address<br>Description   | Unit<br>no. | Scope<br>Type description | Issue date<br>Status              |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| HCC 69 172237<br>1969-06-23 | 1390 CAPTAIN CRT<br>PLUMBING PERMIT # 814                          | -           | -<br>-                    | -<br>HISTORY<br>COMMENT<br>PERMIT |
| HCC 69 172236<br>1969-06-19 | 1390 CAPTAIN CRT<br>DRAIN PERMIT PLG PERMIT # 7998                 | -           | -<br>-                    | -<br>HISTORY<br>COMMENT<br>PERMIT |
| HCC 69 172235<br>1969-02-18 | 1390 CAPTAIN CRT<br>SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING BLD PERMIT #<br>68-2956 | -           | -<br>-                    | -<br>HISTORY<br>COMMENT<br>PERMIT |

According to City records, the house was built in 1968, under the permit number, 68-2956.

## The Totem Pole

The article, published in the Toronto Star, provided by Heritage suggests that the totem pole, hereafter referred to as the 'pole', was installed for Canada's Centennial Celebration in 1967. The exact date of installation is undermined.

In researching the pole, the following people and agencies were contacted:

1. Contacted and searched previous owners, where possible. This included Charles Leger, Norman and Eula Goodhead.
2. Web searches, using key words; totem pole, Mississauga, Centennial, Haida
3. Email requests to the following for comment;
  - i) UBC Indigenous Foundations, January 18, 2022
  - ii) Granville Island, January 18, 2022
  - iii) Heritage Mississauga; December 2, 2021
  - iv) Peel Archives and Museums; December 2, 2021
  - v) Royal Ontario Museum, February 2, 2022
  - vi) Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, February 1, 2022

All emails included a picture of the totem pole and a request for any information on Haida Totem Poles in Mississauga. It should be noted, that none of the email requests were met with a response.

In an email from Tony Tyrrell, who owned the property from 1995-2017, he offered the following information:

'We purchased the property around 1994 and it was the previous owner who bought it likely in 1967. We visited the Haida workshop in Vancouver and inquired about the repainting the pole. They said that's not what you do. The totem pole has a life and you replace it. So we never painted it. There were carved markings showing the year of the centennial.'<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Email, Tony Tyrrell, December 2, 2021



Photo 1: Undated photo provided by the Terrell's, who owned the property from 1995-2017

Celebrations, activities and events of all kinds were held across Canada in 1967 to mark the 100th anniversary of Confederation, and promote the country's achievements, history and cultural heritage. Centennial publications and events were all branded with the Centennial logo, designed by Stuart Ash. It consists of a stylized maple leaf composed of 11 equilateral triangles representing Canada's 10 provinces and the Northwest Territories (Canada's accepted geography at the time).<sup>3</sup> The image is shown at right.



Figure 8: Centennial Logo

<sup>3</sup> The Canadian Encyclopedia





Photo 2: Remnants of the Centennial Logo on the pole located at Captain Court.

Image 2: The Centennial Logo overlaid on Photo 2.

The colours used on the pole logo do not appear to match that of the Centennial logo, but rather, correspond to the colours used on the pole.





Another totem pole was installed for the Centennial in Mississauga. It once stood along the Credit River at the corner of Lakeshore Road West and Front Street North. The following images were obtained from the website, waymarking.com.



The totem pole is no longer at this location. It is not known when it was removed.

Photo 3: Centennial marking

Photo 4: Totem pole adjacent to Credit River

Howard Geddes was the Town of Port Credit Superintendent during the 1967 Centennial celebrations in Mississauga.





## Totem Poles

‘Totem poles were erected for different reasons and as different kinds of freestanding and architectural forms.’<sup>4</sup> As noted in the Toronto Star article of July 2016, this pole was erected for Canada’s Centennial. However, no reference or information on the installation of the pole could be found. Based, on the information below, and the seeming effort involved in its installation, it is surprising that no reference material could be found about the installation.

*Erection of a totem pole is almost never done using modern methods, even for poles installed in modern settings on the outside of public and private buildings. Instead, the traditional ceremony and process of erection is still followed scrupulously by most artists, in that a great wooden scaffold is built, and hundreds of strong men haul the pole upright into its footing, while others steady the pole from side ropes and brace it with cross beams. Once the pole is completed, a potlatch is typically held where the carver is formally paid and other traditional activities are conducted. The carver will usually, once the pole is freestanding, perform a celebratory and propitiatory dance next to the pole while wielding the tools used to carve it. Also, the base of the pole is burnt before erection to provide a sort of rot resistance. Totem poles are typically not well maintained after their erection. Traditionally once the wood rots so badly that it begins to lean and pose a threat to passersby, the pole is either destroyed or pushed over and removed. Older poles typically fall over during the winter storms that batter the coast. A totem pole rarely lasts over 100 years. A collapsed pole may be replaced by a new one carved more or less the same as the original, with the same subject matter, but this requires a new payment and potlatch and is thus not always done. The beliefs behind the lack of maintenance vary among individuals, but generally it is believed that the deterioration of the pole is representative of natural processes of decay and death that occur with all living things, and attempts to prevent this are seen as somehow denying or ignoring the nature of the world.*

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<sup>4</sup> Halpin, Marjorie M., Totem Poles: An Illustrated Guide

*This has not, however, prevented many people from occasionally renewing the paint on poles or performing further restorations, mostly because the expense of a new pole is beyond feasibility for the owner. Also, owners of poles who are not familiar with cultural traditions may see upkeep as a necessary investment for property, and ignore the philosophical implications.<sup>5</sup>*



Photo 5: Traditional Totem Pole raising

August 22, 1969 marked the first time in living memory the Haida had raised a traditional totem pole<sup>6</sup>. This pole was raised in Masset, British Columbia

*Nearly a thousand people came from out of town and neighbouring villages to watch the totem pole raising. (Photo by Robert Davidson)<sup>7</sup>*

Numerous references were found about the raising of the pole as a celebration to be witnessed and enjoyed by many. As such, it is surprising that there is no documentation on the raising of the Centennial Totem Poles in Mississauga.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.liquisearch.com/totem\\_pole/construction\\_and\\_maintenance](https://www.liquisearch.com/totem_pole/construction_and_maintenance)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/haida-totem-pole-anniversary-1.5256754>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/haida-totem-pole-anniversary-1.5256754>

## Totem Pole Details:

Height: 32 feet (approximately)

Diameter: 18 inches

Materials: Unknown wood

Owner at time of installation: Assumed (could not be confirmed) to be Charles R. Leger

Carver: Unknown

Age: approximately 55 years (assuming installation in 1967)

Condition: Poor, deteriorating. The paint is faded and peeling. It has been structurally supported at an unknown date with a steel plate across the back of the 'wings' as well a steel support and chain at the base. See photos 5 and 6 below.



Photo 6: Steel Plate on wings



Photo 7: Steel beam and chain supporting base of pole.



The Totem pole can be broken down into six sections/figures.

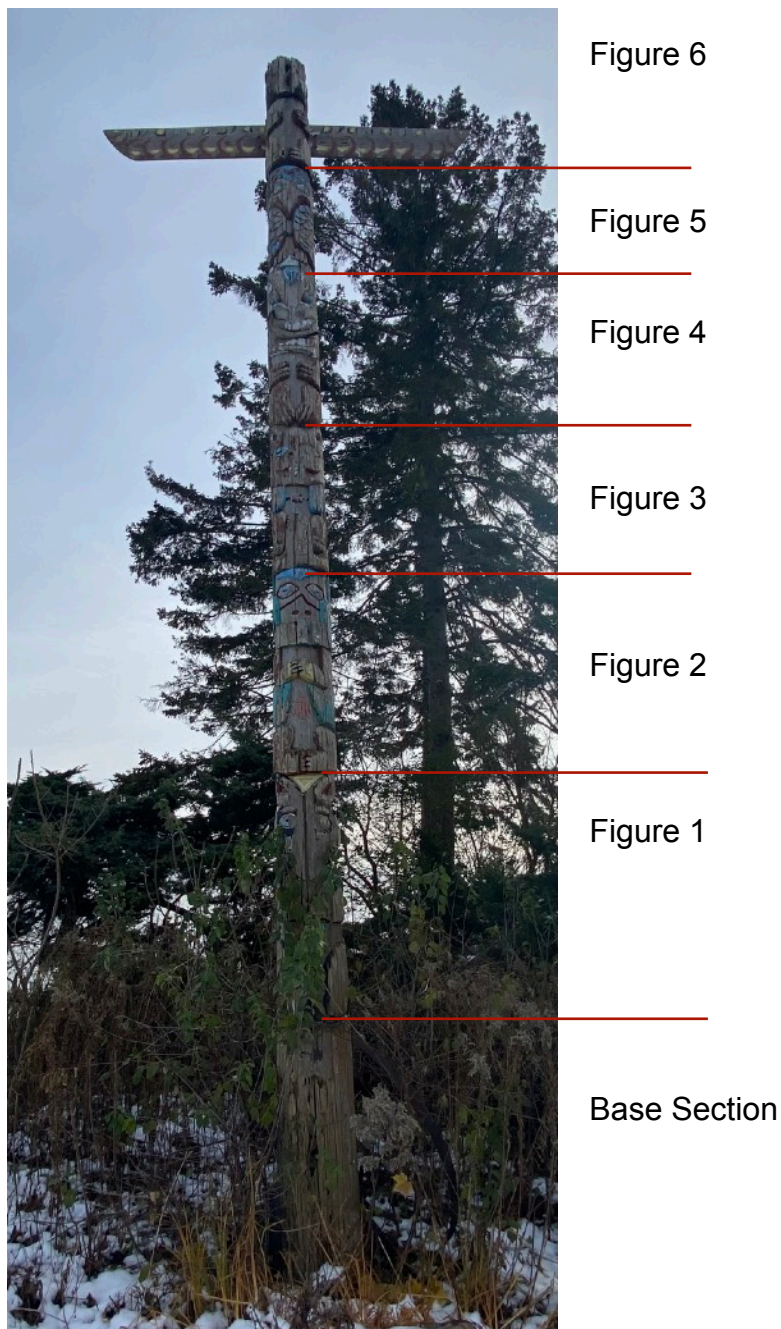


Photo 8: Overall view of pole

The base section is not painted or sculpted. At some time, it was structurally reinforced with a steel beam and a chain. See photo 6.



## Details of Figures



Photo 9: Figure 1

Section 1 is interpreted as a rabbit. The centennial logo appears in this photo as well.



Photo 10: Figure 2 (right)

Sections 2 - 4 are interpreted as stylized people/humans.



Photo 11: Figure 3 (left)





Photo 12: Figure 4 (right)

Section 4 person may be holding a pipe in their mouth.



Photo 13: Figure 5 (right)

Section 5 is interpreted as an owl or a bird of prey.

Photo 14: Figure 6 (bottom)

Section 6 is interpreted to be a bear. The top/head is indiscernible due to deterioration.



*“Totem poles were usually erected at potlatches, at which times the stories pertaining to the crests they displayed were told, and the right of the family to claim the crests was publicly witnessed. Especially important totem poles were*

**From:** tony tyrrell  
**Subject:** Re: 1390 Captain Court - Totem Pole  
**Date:** December 2, 2021 at 1:59 PM  
**To:** Meagan Sanderson meagans@me.com  
**Cc:** Donna Gray donna@invidiata.com, Kevin Obrien kobrien@sutton.com



We purchased the property around 1994 and it was the previous owner who bought it likely in 1967. We visited the Haida workshop in Vancouver and inquired about the repainting the pole. They said that's not what you do. The totem pole has a life and you replace it. So we never painted it. There were carved markings showing the year of the centennial.



*those raised in honour of chiefs by their successors. When a totem pole was commissioned, the artist was told which crests it was to show, but there is considerable evidence that he was given freedom in how he chose to portray them. It appears also that the artists put into their designs hidden meanings and visual puns of their own. The meaning of a totem pole was, therefore, very personalized: to know exactly what a totem pole signified it would be necessary to ask both its owner and the carver what they had intended it to mean. Recorded information of this kind is surprisingly meagre, so that we only know the meanings of totem poles in the most general and, thus, superficial ways. Most of their meanings have died with the people for whom and by whom they were carved".<sup>8</sup>*

It is likely that the home on the property was built by Victoria Wood Homes and sold to Charles Leger in 1968. No information on Mr. Leger could be found, to determine a connection to Mississauga (and/or Port Credit). Mr. Leger owned the property until 1978 when it was sold. Based on the date of Canada's Centennial, it can be concluded that the pole was installed during his tenure of the property. The pole is not visible in any aerial photography images.

The next owners of the home (Norman and Eula Goodhead), who owned the property from 1980 to 1995, to determine if it could confirm any details of the pole. Norman Goodhead passed away in 2009, at the age of 92, and we could not find any information on the death of his wife, Eula. The Goodhead's had four children, Barry, Stephen, Patricia and Linda. Barry passed away in 2016 at the age of 78, however, no death notice was located. Same for his siblings; we could locate no information.

The Goodhead's sold the property to the Tyrrell's in 1985. Email correspondence with Mr. Tyrrell (included below) with his recollections on the pole. As such, we can only assume that the pole was installed for the Leger's.

Research has failed to turn up any details on the carver of the pole. The other totem pole installed for the Centennial was carved by Howard Geddes, then Superintendent of the Town

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<sup>8</sup> Halpin, Marjorie M., Totem Poles: An Illustrated Guide



of Port Credit. There is no reference plaque on this pole to determine the carver, nor any visual clues.

*“It appears also that the artists put into their designs hidden meanings and visual puns of their own.”<sup>9</sup>*

Details on the pole, which may or may not be hidden meanings or visual puns are highlighted below. Each figure on the pole, has a unique symbol painted onto the pole. It is not carved.



Figure 1 contains two symbols, including the centennial marking. The other symbol is the yellow triangle at the top of the rabbit. Figure 2 contains a red circle with six lines.



Figure 3 contains a black square with a line through it.

<sup>9</sup> Halpin, Marjorie M., Totem Poles: An Illustrated Guide

Figure 4 contains a blue heart at the top.

There was no discernible symbol on figure 5. Figure 6 contains two symbols.

The bottom symbol is indiscernible/unrecognizable. The top symbol is a triangle.



The remnants of colours on this totem pole are black, yellow, teal, burnt umber and white

Typically totem poles were erected for the following reasons; as a house portal, memorial pole or a mortuary pole. Arguably, this pole is a memorial pole for Canada's Centennial.

*The most iconic totem pole, the classic pole that we think of today, the most reproduced variation is a relatively short pole with a Thunderbird or Eagle displaying outstretched wings on top of a Bear holding a person. This type of pole was statistically incredibly rare on the coast.<sup>10</sup>*

This pole is an exemplar of the most iconic pole, or classic pole as noted above.

<sup>10</sup> Aldona Jonaitis and Aaron Glass, Totem Poles and Contemporary Tourism



## Conclusions, Recommendations

Many references to the 'life' of a totem pole were found, and the general consensus is that a totem pole only stood until it fell.

*"Most poles, even though they are made from rot-resistant cedar, last only about a hundred years before they begin to disintegrate. This disintegration is recognized as a natural part of a pole's life cycle."<sup>11</sup>*

*"It has been estimated that totem poles seldom lasted as long as 100 year in the coastal climate, and their usual life before falling from wood decay was about 60 years. To move or restore a fallen pole required that its owner give another potlatch, and they were more usually left where they had fallen, sometimes to be revived at a later time."<sup>12</sup>*

*"In keeping with tradition, the totem now serves as an evocative reminder of the spirit of the First Nations ancestors and that all things organic are eventually returned to the earth."<sup>13</sup>*

*"Once a pole was erected, it was never repaired or repainted. It was left to fall prey to the elements."<sup>14</sup>*

*"The meaning of a totem pole was, therefore, very personalized: to know exactly what a totem pole signified it would be necessary to ask both its owner and the carver what they had intended it to mean. Recorded information of this kind is surprisingly meagre, so that we only know the meanings of totem poles in the most*

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<sup>11</sup> [https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/totem\\_poles/](https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/totem_poles/)

<sup>12</sup> Halpin, Marjorie M., Totem Poles: An Illustrated Guide

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/community/comox-filberg-park-totem-pole-moved-to-complete-its-life-cycle/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.vancouverbiennale.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Pavilion-Unit-Plan-Totems.pdf>

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*general and, thus, superficial ways. Most of their meanings have died with the people for whom and by whom they were carved.”<sup>15</sup>*

Our conclusion and recommendation is the removal of the supports added to the pole, so that the pole can live its life cycle as intended; that it be laid on the ground and permitted to decompose and return to the earth on the site that it was erected, 1390 Captain Court. The pole should not be removed from the site, but rather lay in-situ until nothing remains.

There is no documentation on the origin of the pole. There is no specific information on the carver or artist who created the pole. There is major deterioration due to the proximity to the lake. Based on the presumed date of installation of 1967, the pole has arguably lived its lifetime.

Although you could loosely call the pole a memorial to Canada's Centennial Celebration, there is no direct link to a person or a period significant to Mississauga. Further, origin and meaning/history of the pole cannot be determined.

The pole has been deteriorating over the years, and additional supports have been added, and is likely the only reason it is still standing today. As such, it is recommended that the support and chain be removed, and to let the pole fall (or be placed onto the ground for safety reasons) to allow it to return the earth as intended.

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<sup>15</sup> Halpin, Marjorie M., Totem Poles: An Illustrated Guide

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**About the Author:**

William Oughtred of W.E. Oughtred & Associates Inc., is a development and land use consultant who has been practicing in the Mississauga and GTA area for over 30 years. Mr. Oughtred has a Bachelor of Arts from McMaster University. Mr. Oughtred is well versed in both Planning and building procedures and the City of Mississauga Zoning By-law and Official Plan.

Mr. Oughtred specializes in infill development projects. His extensive experience has afforded him the opportunity to see the City evolve and be at the forefront of growing trends and patterns in land development in Mississauga. He consults regularly on both heritage and urban design for infill projects.

Heritage Impact Statements and Assessments have been completed for many properties in Mississauga, including, but not limited to, the properties listed below.

- ❖ 1541 Adamson Street
- ❖ 306 King Street
- ❖ 846 Chaucer Ave
- ❖ 943 Whittier Crescent
- ❖ 2417 Mississauga Road
- ❖ 1641 Blythe Road
- ❖ 2777 Mississauga Road



## References

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en>

[https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/totem\\_poles/](https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/totem_poles/)

[www5.mississauga.ca/pdfs/Cultural\\_Landscape\\_Inventory\\_Jan05.pdf](http://www5.mississauga.ca/pdfs/Cultural_Landscape_Inventory_Jan05.pdf)

<https://www.mississauga.ca/portal/services/property>

<https://thetyee.ca/Books/2011/03/31/TotemPoles/>

<https://www.comoxvalleyrecord.com/community/comox-filberg-park-totem-pole-moved-to-complete-its-life-cycle/>

[https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2009/10/05/norman\\_goodhead\\_92\\_former\\_north\\_york\\_reeve.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2009/10/05/norman_goodhead_92_former_north_york_reeve.html)

[bing.ca](http://bing.ca)

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[yahoo.ca](http://yahoo.ca)

<https://www.vancouverbiennale.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Pavilion-Unit-Plan-Totems.pdf>

[waymarking.com](http://waymarking.com)

<https://www.cbc.ca/kids/>

[https://www.liquisearch.com/totem\\_pole/construction\\_and\\_maintenance](https://www.liquisearch.com/totem_pole/construction_and_maintenance)

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Halpin, Marjorie M., Totem Poles: An Illustrated Guide (Vancouver: UBC Press, 1981)

Aldona Jonaitis and Aaron Glass, "Totem Poles and Contemporary Tourism," in The Challenges of Native American Studies: Essays in Celebration of the Twenty-Fifth American Indian Workshop, eds. Barbara Saunders and Lea Zuyderhoudt (New York: Cornell University Press, 2004)