

Sixth Stop – Tennis court where an apartment parking lot now stands, on Thirty Third St.

We have learned from Bill Rawson, who for many years ran a used furniture store on Lake Shore Blvd. West, that a tennis court was located where a parking lot for an apartment building on Thirty Third St. is now located.

The tennis court was a feature of Long Branch Park for many years.

From Jane Olvet, the daughter of a long-time local architect, we have learned that Jane Olvet's father, Gresley Elton, met his future wife (that is, Jane's mother) when the two were summertime guests at Long Branch Park in the early 1900s. The rest of the year, they lived in Toronto.

The couple subsequently moved from Toronto and lived on Muskoka Ave. in Long Branch for many years.

Gresley Elton designed many buildings in Long Branch, including the Long Branch Library, James S. Bell School, the former Parkview School, and several buildings at the mouth of Etobicoke Creek just west of Forty Second Street, in what is now Marie Curtis Park.

Elton Crescent, located near the waterfront a short ways to the east of the original Long Branch Park, is named after Gresley Elton's brother, J.O. Elton, who was a reeve of Long Branch.

Heritage register listing does not preclude demolition

As we walk north toward Lake Shore Blvd. West, we will pass by 25 Thirty Third St.

The house is noteworthy because it was previously listed on the City of Toronto Heritage Registry. It was demolished anyway, as is noted in a May 22, 2008 Etobicoke Guardian article, entitled "OMB supports Lake Promenade homeowner: Long Branch house on city's list of heritage properties for demolition, rebuilding."

The Etobicoke Guardian article also refers to 274 Lake Promenade, a property that had been listed on the Heritage Registry, but that was demolished, following an Ontario Municipal Board ruling, as part of a rebuilding project.

The bottom line, in this regard, is that being on the heritage "list" offers a measure of protection, has not - at least in the past, prior to the passage of OMB Reform legislation - offered the same level of protection as designation under the Ontario Heritage Act.

Ontario Heritage Act

An example of a property that has gained protection, under the Ontario Heritage Act, is 26 Daisy Ave., located north of Lake Shore Blvd. West. With this, higher levels of heritage protection, the chances of a house being torn down are vastly decreased.