

# Oakville News

## Bronze Statue Missing for a Decade Recovered

The Taras Shevchenko bronze statue disappeared from the Shevchenko Memorial Park in North Oakville in 2001 and was found intact, in Hamilton in November, 2011.

Shevchenko Memorial Park, owned and operated by the Taras H. Shevchenko Museum and Memorial Park Foundation, is devoted to the Taras Shevchenko (1814–1861), the Ukrainian poet, artist, humanist and founder of the modern Ukrainian language. He was twice celebrated as a cultural leader of world acclaim by UNESCO. The Foundation also operates a Taras Shevchenko Museum, located at 1614 Bloor Street West, Toronto.

The iconic bronze statue of the sitting poet, sculptured in Ukraine by the renowned sculptor Ivan Honchar, was a gift from Ukraine to Ukrainian Canadians. The sculpture arrived in Canada in the 1950s and was erected on a concrete pedestal near the first Shevchenko Museum in the Shevchenko Park in Oakville. Valued at approximately \$25,000, the statue disappeared from its pedestal in September 2001. A police investigation at the time was unsuccessful in solving the theft.

In November 2011, an antique dealer from Hamilton, Ontario, offered to sell the statue to the Shevchenko Museum. He did not know the statue was previously stolen. It evidently went through several hands before coming into the possession of the antique dealer.

Plans are in the works for the statue to become an exhibit in the Shevchenko Museum in Toronto from March 9, 2012 to commemorate the 198<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birth. For details, please visit the Shevchenko Museum website at [www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum](http://www.infoukes.com/shevchenkomuseum). For more information, contact Lyudmyla Pogoryelova, Taras Shevchenko Museum Director at 416-534-8662.



## Oakville in the War of 1812

Oakville's earliest history began during the same period as the War of 1812. Oakville's strongest link to the War stems from United Empire Loyalists who fought in the War and then settled in Trafalgar Township, particularly along Highway 5.

### Places

Significant locations in Oakville during the War of 1812 included Dundas Street, also known as the Governor's Road or Highway 5. It was commissioned by John Graves Simcoe as a strategic land route between Dundas and Toronto. Using Dundas Street as a baseline, the land was divided into concessions 1 1/5 miles apart, 200 acre lots with a regulation 66 foot wide roadway. Settlers were obliged to clear five acres, fence in their lots, and build a house, (usually a log cabin made from the trees that were cut down.) If the lot bordered the road, the trees would have to be cleared within 100 feet of the road, and landowners were responsible for making improvements to the road.

