

THE HISTORY OF STRATFORDS SHAKESPEAREAN GARDEN

1904...STRATFORDS BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT IS
CREATED

1870s THE DUFTON WOOLEN MILL HAD BEEN IN OPERATION
FOR YEARS

1912...THE DUFTONS BUILD A NEW FACTORY CHIMNEY

1922...DUFTON WOOLEN MILL IS ENGULFED IN FLAMES

THE DUFTONS DECIDED NOT TO REBUILD

1922 VISIONARY AND ORIGINAL PARK PROPONENT R.T. ORR
LOBBYS CITY COUNCIL

TO PURCHASE THE SITE

1922...THE SITE INCLUDED A SMALL ISLAND WHICH WOULD
ENTHRALL MOST CHILDREN IN THE FUTURE

1925...THE CITY PURCHASES THE HURON ST PROPERTY ALONG
THE RIVER

1926...ORR RECEIVES APPROVAL TO BUILD A HANDSOM
SUPERSTRUCTURE ON

TOP OF THE DUFTON CHIMNEY TOWER... WITH CONICAL ROOF
..BIRD BOXES AN WEATHER VANE

1930s... INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CRASH AND FOLLOWING
DEPRESSION HALTS

ALL PROJECTS EVERYWHERE

1934...FINANCIAL WORLD RECOVERS AND R T ORR RECEIVES
APPROVAL TO BEGIN THE GARDEN

1934 CANADA'S RESPECTED LANDSCAPING FIRM DUNNINGTON
GRUBB AND STENSON ARE

HIRED TO PROVIDE BLUEPRINTS FOR THE GARDEN

1936...STRATFORDS NEW SHAKESPEAREAN GARDEN OPENS
WITH CANADA'S GOVERNOR GENERAL LORD TWEEDSMUIR
AS THE CITY'S GUEST

1936...ONE OF THE GUESTS AT THE OPENING WAS SIR
ARCHIBALD FLOWER OF THE BRITISH SHAKESPEARE TRUST
WHO

PRESENTED A SUN DIAL FOR THE KNOT GARDEN

IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT R.T.ORR WAS THE GARDENS
FOUNDER

1949...A CITY SERVICE CLUB RAISED FUNDS FOR A BUST OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE CREATED BY CANADIAN SCULPTOR CLEEVE HORNE WHOSE

WORK IS IN CANADA'S NATIONAL GALLERY IN OTTAWA

1953...STRATFORDS INTERNATIONAL THEATRE OPENED CHANGING THE CITY FOR EVER AND BRINGING

UNTOLD THOUSANDS OF VISITORS TO THE GARDEN

1958..A STRATFORD FAMILY CONTRIBUTED A DRINKING FOUNTAIN FOR GARDEN VISITORS

1960...THE GARDEN UNDERWENT A RESTORATION AND ONTARIO'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAULINE MCGIBBON OFFICIATED AT THE

OPENING

SITE EXPANSION

1960...THE GARDEN SITE WAS EXPANDED BY THE PURCHASE OF LAND TO THE WEST OF THE ORIGINAL SITE

WHICH HAS BECOME AN WOODLAND OASIS

1960...A HANDSOM GAZEBO WAS GIFTED TO THE GARDEN AND IT NOW CROWNS THE WOODLAND AREA

SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

2017/2018 A NEW ORGANIZATION WAS FORMED TO SUPPORT THE BOARD OF PARK MANAGEMENT

THEY ADOPTED THE NAME....FRIENDS OF THE SHAKESPEAREAN GARDEN

2020...THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY DONATED AN URN AS A FOCAL POINT IN THE GARDEN

2022...THE FRIENDS CONTRIBUTED 50 ROSES BUSHES TO RESTORE THE ROSE GAREN

2021 AND 2022 THE FRIENDS CREATED AND PUBLISHED TWO VISITOR BROCHURES *SEE ENCLOSED COPIES*

2022 AND 2023 AND 2024..THE PEONY SOCIETY OF CANADA HAS DONATED 100 PEONY PLANTS

FOR THE LONG BED IN THE GARDEN THIS GIFT IS VERY SIGNIFICANT IN NUMBER OF PLANTS BUT FINANCIALLY AS WELL

IN 2022 THE FRIENDS WERE DELIGHTED TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL MUSICIAN ..LOREENA MCKENNITT AGREE TO BE THE PATRON OF THE FRIENDS

2023...IN DECEMBER THE FRIENDS MET WITH STRATFORDS PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND THE HERITAGE DEPARTMENT AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE FRIENDS TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF HERITAGE RECOGNITION FOR THE HISTORIC GARDEN

2024...THE FRIENDS WILL CREATE AND BEGIN A NEW WEB SITE

2024...IN 2024 STRATFORDS SHAKESPEAREAN GARDEN WILL BE
88 YEARS OLD AND IN TERMS OF CANADA THAT IS AN HISTORIC
ACHIEVMENT