

Experience Erchless Estate

Discover Oakville's Heritage at Erchless Estate

Oakville is a community with an interesting and evolved heritage. If you haven't yet visited Erchless Estate, the home of Oakville founder William Chisholm, experience this beautifully restored home today.

Oakville's premier museum has a heritage every bit as rich as the community that it would ultimately come to reflect. Located along the gentle shores of Lake Ontario, our own Erchless Estate is a testament to not only the individual dreams that inspired citizens of this town to reach beyond themselves, but also to the many generations that have made Oakville their home.

Oakville's founder William Chisholm lived out his final years at the sprawling Erchless Estate. William was buried in the Oakville/St. Mary's Cemetery, leaving Erchless to be occupied by son Robert Kerr and his young wife. Their death saw Erchless left to their surviving but absent brothers and siblings of the Kerr clan, and the estate soon found itself on the selling block.

Salvation appeared in the form of Emelda Beeler Chisholm. Emelda, a cousin of the famed Chisholms, owned a nearby summer property called Mount Vernon.

At first, she purchased Erchless Estate with an eye towards restoring it to its former glory and using it as a summer home, before tragedy struck. Husband John Alexander Jr. was struck down by typhoid fever in 1903, and Emelda would never completely recover from the loss.

In hope of caring for their mother, both Hazel and Juliet, who had by that time become a pediatrician, made their way back home to Erchless.

Eventually the house would change hands once again, and be transferred to the control of Hazel's



son Monty and his wife Margo, but these would be the final descendants of William Chisholm to call Erchless home. With no one left to pass the Estate to, it seemed that time and progress had finally caught up with this grand home by the lake.

Seemingly, Erchless Estate was bound to be forgotten, a relic of the way things used to be. Recognizing the historic and cultural significance of the Estate, the Town of Oakville stepped in in 1977 and bought the property, forever ensuring that it would remain a vibrant part of our community. Today, Erchless belongs to all of us.

