

Windfield Photographic Collection and Archives
est. 1978 @ Windfields Estate, North York, Ontario
E. P. Taylor's Estate, 2489 Bayview Ave. North York, Ontario
Currently the Canadian Film Center www.wikimedia.org [search for 2489 Bayview before CFC]

<http://photoarchives.ca> Postmaster@photoarchives.ca

The WPCA began as a photographic collection of Botanical images and originally Copyrighted as Windfield Horticultural Photographic Collection [WHPC] around 1976 -1978. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/User:WayneRay/Windfield_Horticultural_Photographic_Collection] It was begun by Wayne Scott Ray, who was working as the Head Gardener for Metro Toronto Parks Department at James Gardens in Etobicoke in 1974 when he answered a Toronto Star advertisement looking for an Estate Gardener for Windfields Estate. After an initial interview, Wayne was hired as the Gardener to look after the apple orchard and the Greenhouse. The rest of the Estate was managed by Jimmy Allen who was responsible for the half acre garden and grass cutting etc.



Wayne Ray and his new wife, Susan (Walmsley) Ray moved into the small apartment directly above the two horse stables near the main house in the Fall of 1974. Attached to the Stables was a one car garage where Mr. Taylor had his Rolls Royce. This was a comfortable beginning for the couple. Susan was a Registered Nurse and her income supplemented Wayne's \$800 a month and free lodging. On the side, (evenings) Wayne volunteered with Scouts Canada as a Boy Scout Master for two Scout Troops; the 1st. Yorkminster (with Scouter Harry Gatley) & Bloorview Children's Hospital Troop. The WHPC amassed a considerable Scouting slide and photographic collection (also available on [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:1976_Scouts_Canada_Pentathlon_Jamboree,_Fredericton,_New_Brunswick])



Mr. Ray had already collected hundreds of images with his new Pentax camera and began photographing the Estate and the collections of plants in the greenhouse.



Previously he had taken extensive photographs of the Metro Toronto Parks including, Edwards Gardens [now the Toronto Botanical Gardens], James Gardens, Rosetta McLean Park etc.

There was a collection of fifty plus orchids, a ten sq. foot Cactus garden, and a large Ceiba pentandra, brought to the Estate from their home in the Bahamas. In the third year on the Estate, Wayne was offered the opportunity of going to the Bahamas, but passed. When it became too large for the greenhouse, it was donated to the University of Toronto [UofT] Botany Greenhouse, run by Karl Wimpy and John Narroway, where it remained into the 2000's; and many other tropical's, semi-tropical's, and bedding plants used in the Estate Home.



Wayne visited the UofT greenhouse over the years and photographed the plants there, eventually becoming close friends with the Gardeners as well as other Estates and homes in the nearby North York area, such as Galen Weston, Joseph Berman (Eaton's Center design), and the Laidlaw Transportation home, and others. He interviewed on reel to reel tape, Harry Green who worked for E. P.

Taylor for decades and described the horse farm in Whitby, called Windfield



Farm, and the House Estate. John Hornung, later a Canadian Middle Weight boxer, began his first job upon immigrating to Canada, working for Harry Green at Windfields at age 15 [2012 conversations with Wayne Ray].

Harry Green passed up a job being the paint supervisor for the new Caterpillar Co., whose founder lived on Post Road, which ran along the South side of the Estate.

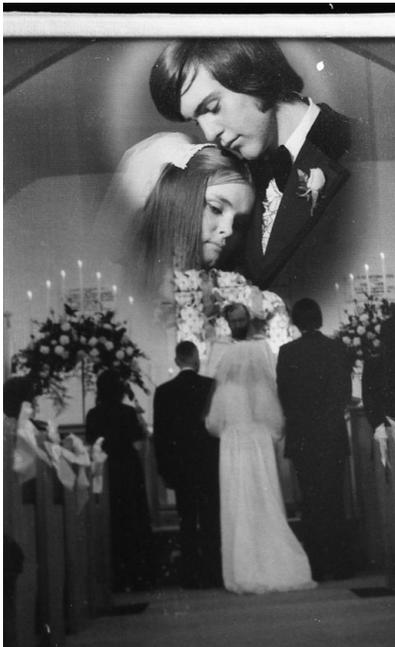


He joined several Seed Exchanges and traded many specimens of which he added to the Estate Greenhouse collection and eventual WHPC. The largest collection began with the purchase at an antique store North of his hometown of Woodstock, Ontario, was a three-box collection of weed and economic seeds from the Ministry of

Agriculture, which used to be distributed to area farmers. Continuing from his College education at Niagara College Horticultural School at 360 Vine St. at the St. Catherine's Campus, Wayne Ray maintained a small Herbarium, to which he added when the occasion was warranted. The entire seed and herbarium collection, along with the entire Dr.'s White, Zavitz & Tamsalu Herbarium collection from UofT Forestry Department in the Fitzgerald building, was donated to the Herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens in the mid 1980's. There is a complete list on www.wikipedia.org under the Royal Botanical Gardens page [see RPG Herbarium]. According to the RBG, this was the largest single personal collection in Ontario of 2000 species but the Income Tax Donation Receipt was only worth \$1800. One of the collections Mr. Ray had was a collection of 150 species of dormant trees and shrubs for identification. He also made a detailed and extensive index card list of each plant specimen, labelled with its location as Herbarium, Seed, Slide photo, & Dormant wood.



A large section of one of the Greenhouse benches held Pink Carnations as Mr. Taylor required one daily which he placed in his jacket pocket. At the end of the Greenhouse was a collection of larger plants such as Cymbidium orchids and Zantedeschia. Above the central bench, which held annual border plants such as begonias, marigold's and alyssum etc., were two benches with specialized tropical plants such as Veltheimia, Agave, Cyanotis, Aphelandra, Cyclamen, Lantana standards for the backyard pool, Schlumbergera, and Gnaphalium. Around the Greenhouse were Pine trees and along Bayview Avenue was a large bed of Trilliums under the bordering trees.



At that time (1974) Wayne and Susan decided that after two years of marriage, they would start a family as the estate was a quiet, in city location and job, and this would be the right time for a family. Their first daughter, Leanne Tyla, was born while they lived above the Stables, at north York Branson Hospital on August 6, 1975 and their second daughter, Jaclyn Taran, was born after they had moved into the original Gardener's House (after Jimmy Allen retired) on January 4, 1977. It was convenient for Wayne to help out his wife and family by being so close and available for early life assistance. The two girls were named after E. P. Taylor and used as their middle names. Unverified but heard that Charles Taylor (son) [Globe & Mail correspondent] was married on the same day Leanne



was born and her great-grandmother Maude Ethyl Ray died. (Aside) At this time the Ray's became



interested in Synchronicity which lasted many decades.

In the late 70's after moving into the Gardener's Cottage, Wayne began work on a small book about all the Botanical Garden's in Canada & the USA entitled *List of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens in North America*, published as his first Title under his HMS Press a few years later in 1983. The Fifth Edition was published in 1995 and later uploaded to www.wikipedia.org and became the basis of the List of Canadian Botanical Gardens. HMS Press also published *Pesticides You and Your Garden* by the columnist Fred Dale in 1995. His first book was published in the summer of 1983 with drawings by Shawn McConville. The stories were loosely based on the characters he met while working on E.P. Taylor's Windfield Estate in North York in the early '70's. The Small Press company was named after the initials of his short-lived landscaping company. He also wrote and published in several horticultural magazines as *The Windfield's Gardener* in the 70's.



In the late 70's Wayne began a small landscaping company and eventually left the Estate to pursue his own business, Custom Landscape Gardening and Horticultural Management Services. The WHPC increased with landscape photography and Gardens in the Toronto area. In late 1980, they moved into their first home on 4 Ivy Ave. and Wayne sold his landscaping company. With the personal recommendation of E. P. Taylor, he joined the Ontario Provincial Police for two years before moving onto a more lucrative position as Estate Gardener to the President of the UofT in Rosedale in 1980. The WHPC increased largely because of the Estate plants available there. With a continued participation in the Seed Exchange, and plant trading with the UofT Greenhouse, 93 Highland had a unique collection of plants and of course, photographs. Slides of 93 Highland are currently housed at the UofT Archives. An HMS Press publication *Horticultural Influences in the Founding of HMS Press* examining this time period states:

By the time I arrived for my first day of work in July of 1980 at 93 Highland Avenue in Toronto, the greenhouses and grounds had been virtually abandoned for six months except for some occasional grass cutting by laborers from the University of Toronto Grounds Department. It took me two weeks to get the two growing greenhouses and sheds up to working condition and it wasn't until September that the plants in the conservatory were transplanted, divided, cleaned and rejuvenated to the point where the dead jungle look had disappeared and life was back to normal. I did not have all that much time to clean up the grounds thoroughly as fall was coming and weeds, weed trees and shrubs had made a forest of the back slopes.





After the Fall season became a reality and the cleanup began I discovered that the lower of three tiers was in reality a half acre terraced rock garden with two large concrete ponds and a 300 foot artificial stream running to it from the east side of the upper lawn. This discovery changed my whole attitude toward the place and I looked forward eagerly for the next spring. The three and a half acre estate is situated in Rosedale, Toronto, overlooking a ravine that runs from Bayview Avenue to Mt. Pleasant Road, and goes from Highland Avenue halfway down to the floor of the ravine. The upper lawn is bounded by mature *Quercus* (left) and *Acer saccharum* on the north with a single mature specimen of *Acer saccharinum* and *Ailanthus altissima* next to the thirty two room house and a magnificent *Robinia pseudoacacia* on the Eastern edge of the half acre lawn.

A steep grassed slope flows south to the second terrace where the greenhouses, sheds and cold frames are located on the west side and a large gazebo which is situated beneath two large

Salix

babylonica. Beneath a stone step lies the remains of a family pet whose name (Billy, 1947) is inscribed upon the stone. From here the second slope; peppered with *Syringa vulgaris*. *Syringa*, and stumps of trees and shrubs long gone, flows onto the third terrace where several varieties of *Malus* are growing along with *Euonymus europaeus*, *Sorbus aucuparia* and *Robinia pseudoacacia*.

It is on the Eastern edge of this terrace that an artificial stream leaves the one acre deciduous forest and enters the rock garden and reaches the ponds. The forest is composed primarily of *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus rubra*, *Betula papyrifera*, *Acer rubrum* *A. saccharum*, *Ostria* and, *Robinia pseudoacacia*. The half acre rock garden encompasses the entire lower western section of the estate covering three smaller slopes and two smaller terraces.

What intrigued me most was the thought of what was lying beneath all that brush and leaves. What species of wild flowers had crept in from the forest? What species of plants were introduced into that rock garden before it was abandoned five to ten years before? What wild flowers were in the forest? In the rock garden proper,



including trees and shrubs, I found and

photographed *Tradescantia virginiana*, *Achillea lanulosa*, *Pinus mugho*, *viburnum trilobum*, *Acer palmatum*, *Hieracium canadense*, *Ulmus pumila*, *spirea vanhoutii*, *Malus coronaria*, *Asparagus filicina*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Pteris spp.*, *Potentilla recta*, *Ranunculus acris*, *Taxus cuspidata`Hicksii'*,



Chelidonium majus and Muscari botrides.

For the first year I kept the weeds, suckers and crab grass under control and thinned the wild flowers into groups or moved them around the garden to fill empty spaces and thinned out the new growth from the shrubs. I had, in my spare time, established a regular trading route with other gardens and gardeners (Allan gardens, Humber College Arboretum, Erindale College



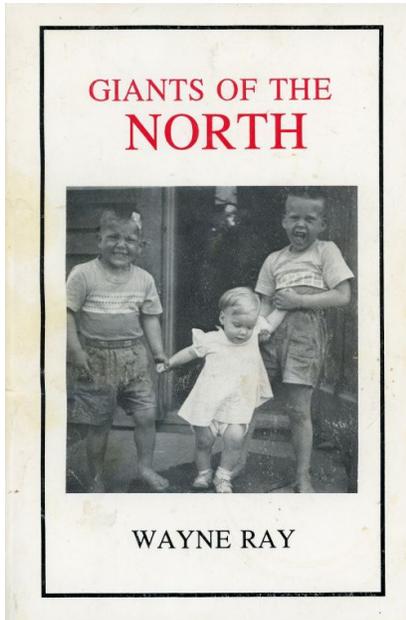
greenhouse, James Corruthers Estate, Niagara College, Edwards Gardens) whereby we would exchange plants, cuttings and seeds and I had become involved with the Seed

Exchange at the Glendon Hall Campus on Bayview Avenue.

By the time my second spring had arrived I had germinated or grown from cuttings, different species of plants. Only about 90 different species (photographed) made it to adulthood and graduation from the greenhouse and cold frames. Nearly half of these new plants were being grown for the conservatory and the flowerbeds around the house and plant exchanges. They included species of Begonia, Fuchsia, Pilea, Euphorbia, Peperomia, Impatiens, Hosta and other indoor plants. The flower beds on the second terrace that stretched from the work shed to the gazebo acted as trial beds for the wild flowers that I started earlier that year. The university was not overly interested in returning the estate to its earlier glory and especially not the rock garden as very few guests went to see it so I was obliged to thin out my new plants and let things grow wild. By the end of my third year (1983) just before I accepted the position of Grounds Foreman at the main campus I had successfully introduced the following wild flowers into the gardens; Aguiligia brevistilla, Ranunculus abortivus, Lychnis chalcedonica, Saxifraga aizoides, Silene cotripacta, sedum anacampceros, S. kamtshaticum, S. kamtshaticum oreo marginatum, Malva sylvestris, M. verticillata, Potentilla tridentata, P. intermedia, P. pentandra, Polemonium corveleum, Atriplex lentiformis, Agastace foeniculum (photo left), Campanula carpatica and Plantago lanceolata.

It was during these three years that I was alone on the estate that I found the time to write (other than the daily records I kept). I began my research into a booklet which is now published under the title of Arboreta and Botanical Gardens of North America: A Travellers Guide in 1983. The fourth edition was published in 1988. It took two years to accumulate all the information from the hundreds of gardens in the United States and Canada. My normal working hours started at 7:30 am and I would arrive at 6:30 am most mornings to do my correspondence and typing. Many of the botanical gardens in Canada sent large amounts of information in the form of brochures and

photographs which I have turned into a rather large manuscript to be published soon dealing solely with and titled *Botanical Gardens of Canada*. It was during the years 1983-85 that I began to get interested in the poetry scene in Toronto. I attended several readings and workshops and began to accumulate friendships and contacts in the local writing community.



I was at that point in my life where writing was just a hobby and I felt it was time to let my friends and the public become aware of my writings. I formed my own publishing company in 1982 and began what has been a very enjoyable publishing career. In the summer of 1982 I met Raymond Souster who had a look at some of my poetry and made several constructive suggestions that I applied to my writing skills and in the fall of 1984 I put together enough poems for a 32 page chapbook which was type set and published under the title of *Suburban Eyes*.

In 1983 I wrote a series of children's stories; books entitled *Animals of The Windy Fields* of which the first book was published in the summer of 1983 with drawings by Shawn McConville. The stories were loosely based on the characters I met while working on E.P. Taylor's Windfields estate in North York in the early '70's. In October of 1983 I wrote all the anti-war poems which were published in 1984 by Unfinished Monument Press. The chapbook was called *Auschwitz* and was received with mixed reviews. One of the poems (*Prisoner of War*) won me the Editor's

Prize for "Best Poet of the Year: 1989, from the Canadian Author and Bookman Magazine..

During my three years on the Presidents Estate I also accumulated one of the largest private Herbarium collections in Ontario. I began collecting and preserving plant material in the forms of seeds, pressed plants, dormant winter twigs and photographs during my college years at the Horticulture Campus of Niagara College in St. Catharines, Ontario from 1970-1972 and when I was an Estate Gardener for E. P. Taylor at his Windfield House from 1974-1978. By the end of 1988, when the collection was donated to the Herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton,



Ontario, I had accumulated over 2000 species of seeds and pressed material, 150 species of dormant trees and shrubs and 1000 slides of



plant material and landscaping. Before the donation, I was lending the herbarium material and slides to local high school science departments as teaching aids under the company name of Horticultural Management Services. When I began my publishing company I had planned on publishing poetry and botanical books, thus the name from the initials became HMS Press. In 1983 HMS

Press began by publishing *Suburban Eyes* by Wayne Ray; *Arboreta and Botanical Gardens of North America: A Travellers Guide* by Wayne Ray; as well as a game (*League of Poets Board Game*), and a series of greeting cards by Gillian Chapman entitled 'Ignatia Creations'. [See edited, third person Wikipedia articles]



In 1984, after two years as Estate gardener, Wayne was transferred to the main Campus and worked the East side as Landscape Foreman for two years until transferring over to the UofT Bookstore where he worked until 1988, when the family moved to London Ontario. He avidly continued his photography and acquired collections from Karl Wimpy (left) [U of Toronto Botany Greenhouse] and the Ministry of Natural Resources (right Riley) for his WPCA.



In 1985 he, along with Cris Faiers, Ted Plantos, James Deahl, Beverly Duario, and Shaunt Basmajian founded the Canadian Poetry Association [CPA] which

continued until 2019 under the leadership of Donna Allard and Ronda Wicks Eller. Wayne has 15 Chapbooks of poetry and three spine bound collections of prose by 2018. HMS Press has published more than one hundred authors and poets. In 1999 he purchased Atlantic Disk Publishers and republished 238 E-books by US and Canadian authors, currently uploaded to the EPPP (electronic publishing program) at the National Library of Canada. HMS Press was the first publishing company to participate.



Susan entered the BSc Nursing Program and wanted to pursue her Master's in Nursing at the University of Western Ontario. She graduated with Honours and her Master's Thesis was published as *Adult Male Survivors of Incest*, in November 1992. Her second book was *Incest: Selected Review of Literature* by HMS Press in 1993. Sadly, their marriage ended in 1994 with divorce. The two girls were in highschool and lived with their Mother. After a year they continued as friends and maintained family ties for the next twenty years. Susan eventually acquired her PhD in Nursing from the University of Alberta and was a Professor

in the University of Western Ontario Nursing Department until her sudden death from Cancer in August of 2014.

Spurred on by horticultural photographic donations, the WHPC grew to include a 19,000 B&W negative collection of the UofT Engineer Society which was abandoned in the move of the UofT Bookstore to the old Engineering Building where it is currently located (it was later donated back to their Archives); 900 World War II, Korean War, and early Alabama and NFLD (Ernest



as Kippens, Felix Cove, Port au Port, Port aux Basque and many others. At these locations as most children and people do, shells and fossils were discovered and kept. His parents, particularly his mother, Gay Ray, took many photos of the areas and the family. In high school, Wayne had set a goal to become a Geologist when he graduated. By Grade XIII he didn't have his sciences and moved into horticulture at Niagara College in St. Catharines, Ontario in 1970.



On of his earliest memories, probably a subconscious memory, was standing in the living room of the trailer they lived in along Queens Street in Stephenville at the age of eleven, listening to his Mother read the weekly letters arriving from her hometown in Lineville, Alabama. Her Mother and her had been writing weekly for most of the thirteen years they lived on the Base. When she had finished reading the long letter, she immediately tore it in half and through it in the burning stove! This memory seemed to have embedded itself in his brain and began his in later years of collecting and saving family written histories and other ephemera, along with the writing of a journal in Grade XIII at the age of 19.

This became an important issue in the 1980's as Grounds Foreman for the UofT. As Wayne worked outside most of the year, he was always around the back alleys and garbage areas of campus and began to notice that several Professors threw out copious amounts of office and personal papers at the end of the school year. Wayne contacted the Archives and they congratulated him immensely for saving the University records of many of the staff at the time. When he started publishing in 1983 and formed the CPA in 1985, these records went to the archives at York University.



In his work and travels while in London Ontario, he became involved with the University of Western Ontario Archives [now Western University] and met the Head Archivist Ed Phelps. Ed informed Mr. Ray on the proper collecting techniques for archives and what they were really looking for in collection.

Ed also passed on to him some of his own archival collections. The succeeding Archivist, John Lutman did the same thing and Wayne became involved in the publishing and photographic areas at Western, cataloguing local publishers and the London Free Press Negative Collection. After completing the Library Technician Program at Fanshawe College, Wayne worked in the Library for two years at Western from 1996-98.