

Queenswood Heights: Memories from up the Hill



Queenswood Heights
Community Association

Queenswood began in 1962, as a few homes built adjacent to the village of Orleans, in the Township of Cumberland. There would be two parts to this new community, Queenswood Village, North of the Queensway, and Queenswood Heights, on the hill above St Joseph Blvd. In the sixties the drive from Blair Road stretched through miles of open fields broken by the sight of the Normandie Motel to the left at Champlain St.



There were no stop signs, traffic lights or any other lights along the way, since Beacon Hill, Convent Glen and all the other communities we know so well did not exist yet. A right turn at the Normandie took you onto Champlain, which ran from St Joseph Blvd across the Queensway to the river, with houses on one side of it and a field on the left with a landmark farmer's silo where Place d=Orleans is presently situated. Champlain took you to St. Joseph Blvd which brought you to the infamous Duford hill, if you could find it as there were no lights or signs there either, if you didn't know where it was you missed it, especially at night. Once you found your way up the hill, you were still in darkness. There were no streetlights anywhere in the Heights until the late seventies, and residents were constantly being urged to leave their porch lights on. We did, however, get a street light at the entrance to the hill in 1969. If you came by Montreal Road/St Joseph Blvd., you passed through the quiet village of Orleans, with houses and trees on the main street and the iconic St Joseph church to complete the village setting.



St. Joseph Blvd., 1971: The Duford hill is behind the Coca Cola sign - Wikipedia photograph by Php man, licensed under CC BY 3.0



Duford St. entrance, 1989 - Photograph by H. Tweddle