

# Alias Grace Park

## Town of *Richmond Hill*

### Park Design Intent

The intent of the park design is to: 1) provide historical reference to early settlement in Richmond Hill; 2) promote and encourage literature within our community; and 3) celebrate the wealth and quality of Canadian literature through interpretation and expression of renowned Canadian author Ms. Margaret Atwood's novel *Alias Grace*. It is our hope that this park will inspire the minds of its users and encourage active participation and exploration of Canadian literature.

### About the Author

Margaret Atwood

Margaret Eleanor Atwood was born in Ottawa, Canada, in 1939. Ms. Atwood is an award winning novelist.

### Art in the Park

Art and sculptural elements found within the park serve to reinforce the primary park themes while enhancing the aesthetic and overall quality of the park environment. A bronze statue of a boy reading a novel can be found in the Reading Garden, while self-weathering panels depicting a boy on a fence, perched crows and an apple are found within the manicured lawn area. A book sculpture serves as the park entrance signage at Ridgestone Drive.



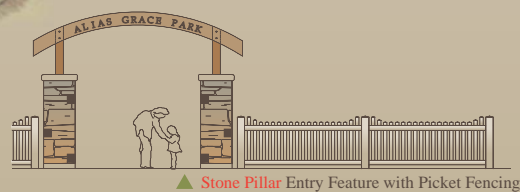
Ms. Margaret Atwood



Laser-Cut Steel Sculptures

### Historical Elements

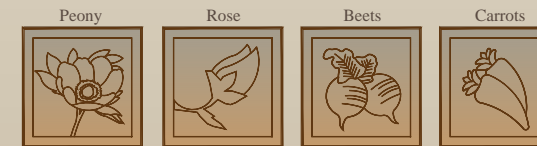
The park is laid out in a linear arrangement giving reference to the patterns of early rural settlement. Framed by hedgerows reminiscent of the farmstead that once existed, site elements and the use of natural materials such as stone pillars, split rail, cedar snake fence, white picket fencing and stone paving reinforce historical references to early settlement in Richmond Hill.



Stone Pillar Entry Feature with Picket Fencing

### Symbology & Imagery

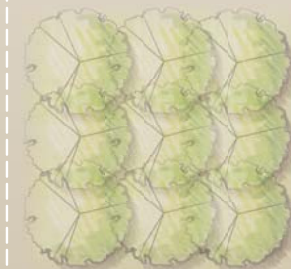
Symbolism and imagery found in the novel are portrayed throughout the park in the form of sculpture, art and built form. Such images include flowers, root vegetables, vines, jewelry and animals - can you find all of them? Quilt patterns that characterize each chapter of the novel are imbedded in the paving surfaces along Chapter Walk. These elements collectively reinforce park theming and establish a sense of place.



Bronze Motif Insets

### Period Plantings

Plantings found within the park have been selected to reflect the period plantings typical of the early rural farmstead. These plantings include an orchard, a linear planting of maples that define the main walkway of the park and a large perennial garden showcasing vivid, seasonal colour display.



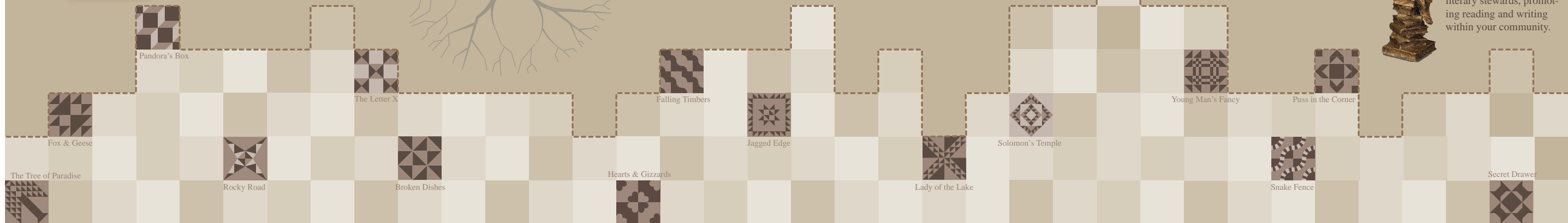
Orchard

### Reading Garden

The Reading Garden is defined by lush plantings, words of inspiration and a life-size bronze sculpture entitled *New Heights of Knowledge - A Bigger Picture* by artist Gary Lee Price. Read a book today! Put your own creative thoughts down on paper! We encourage and challenge all of you to become literary stewards, promoting reading and writing within your community.



New Heights of Knowledge - A Bigger Picture by Gary Lee Price



A Celebration of *Literature*

