



# ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1  
[www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca)

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*November - December 2015*

## ABSENT FRIENDS

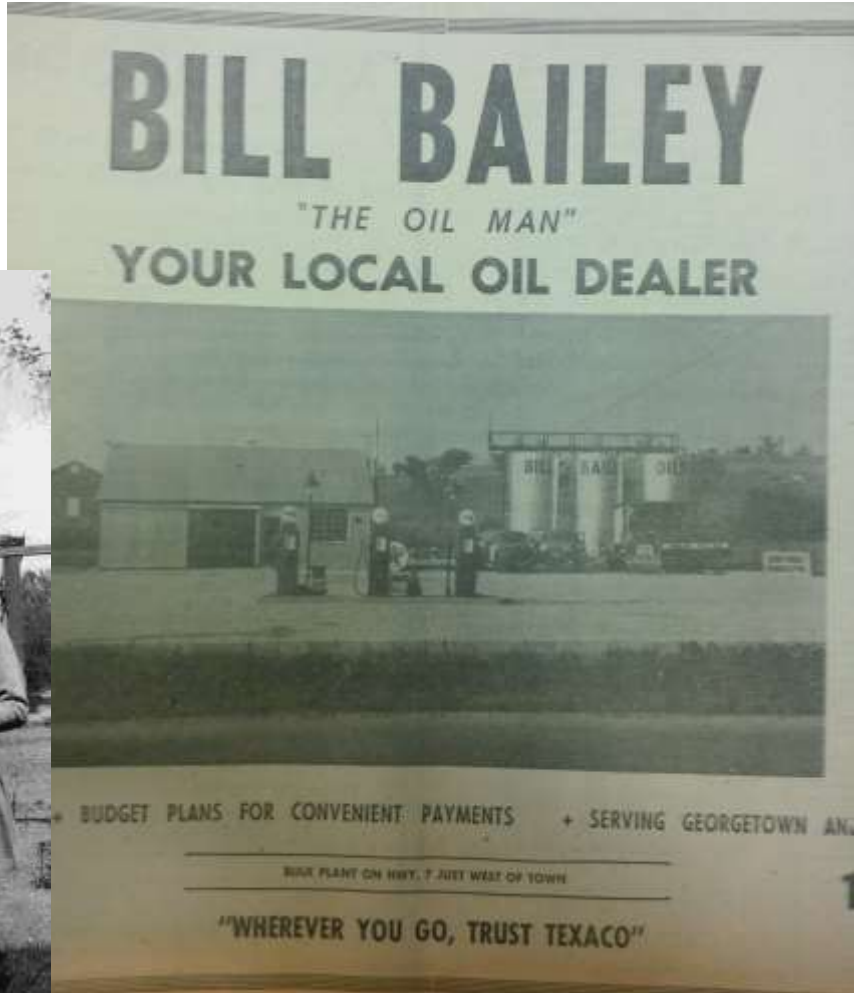
We want your memories! The November meeting of the EHS is a trip down memory lane through the courtesy of the EHS photo archives. A selection of photographs will harken back to buildings which no longer exist or businesses which thrived in another era. While we can tell you what the photo catalogue states, we're hoping personal reminiscences will enliven proceedings. Perhaps you might have a photo or two of your own from days gone by you'd like to share? Bring them along (labelled) and add them to our display table.

Our selection of photos will cover Georgetown and Acton of course, with appearances from Ashgrove, Dolly Varden, Glen Williams, Henderson's Corners, Hornby, Limehouse, Norval, Silver Creek, Terra Cotta and Wildwood!



The fuel truck of Bill Bailey "The Oil Man", who serviced Georgetown, Brampton is the backdrop for a display of canned oil products by two men. He started his business in 1928.  
EHS13852

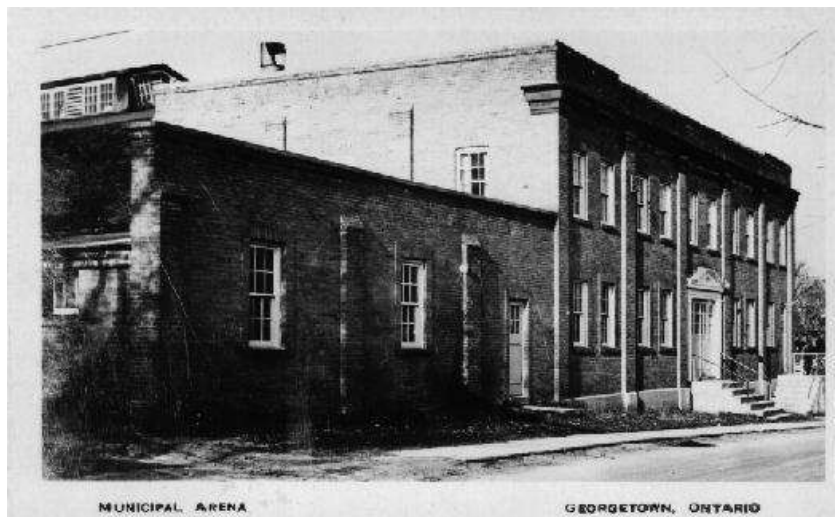
This advertisement from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1959 edition of *The Georgetown Herald* recalls the large operation on Highway #7, near Henderson's Corners. Have you noticed the building going on there today?



**NORVAL:** Connie Greenwood, Patsy Robinson and Doris Greenwood pose with their dolls in the back yard at 4 Adamson Street. The burnt-out shell of the Norval Flour Mill is in the background. Doris and Connie were

the daughters of Leonard F. Greenwood, the last manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Norval. EHS20 698

This postcard of the Memorial Arena, Georgetown, speaks for itself! Built in 1922, it served as the hub of Georgetown sports. It was demolished in 2014, after being decommissioned the previous year. This postcard is circa 1933. EHS08527





The dedication of the World War II wings on the Acton cenotaph on Mill Street took place on 11 November 1949. The Acton United Church stands in the background. The 1875 church was demolished in August 1961. The site is currently the parking lot for Acton Mews. EHS11336



Four drawn kilns are shown at Dolly Varden in May 1921 from the John Boyd Collection of Archives Canada. EHS16447



## ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

**2015-2016**

Wed. 11 **ABSENT FRIENDS**

Nov. 2015 Join us to share memories of buildings and businesses that have disappeared in Esquesing over the years. Our Archives will be searched for images that will offer us a glimpse of by-gone days. We're hoping attendees will share memories connected with these places.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

December The EHS does not hold a public meeting in December

Wed. 13 **ROOM FOR THE NIGHT**

Jan. 2016 Hotels and their attendant bar rooms have been a feature of settlements from the beginning. Local historian Mark Rowe will take us on a tour of the "Hotels" of Esquesing, exploring the history of road-side watering holes to the finest establishments in town.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

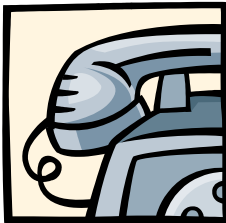
Wed. 10 **HISTORY OF ONTARIO FENCES**

Feb. 2016 Local historian Rob Burnett will survey the fields of Esquesing and beyond in his history of fencing in the farmers' fields in Ontario. Rob will speak after our brief Annual General Meeting reports and elections.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

### RENEW YOUR 2016 MEMBERSHIP

Refreshments served from 7:00 p.m.



Stephen Blake	905 877-8251	President
Karen Hunter	905 877-7363	Treasurer
Dawn Livingstone	905 877-6506	Secretary
J. Mark Rowe	905 877-9510	Archivist
Jan Raymond	905 877-9172	Social
David Borrett	905 702-0737	Membership
Ron Raffan	905 457-7696	Webmaster
Ray Denny	905 877-3890	Publications

## Society Notes

### INTERNET CONNECTIONS

<[www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca)>

Send your e-mail to [mrowe6@sympatico.ca](mailto:mrowe6@sympatico.ca) or [dawn.livingstone@sympatico.ca](mailto:dawn.livingstone@sympatico.ca)

### EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter with assistance from Karen Hunter, and Dawn Livingstone. Submissions welcome. Please consider an electronic newsletter sent to your e-mail address. Not only will you save the Society postage, you get to see the colour pictures!

### MEMBERSHIP

We have 94 memberships this year. While membership runs from February to February, we are now accepting renewals for 2016. The individual membership rate is \$20. The family or institution rate is \$25. Cheques payable to the Society can be mailed to our post box or payable by cash or cheque to our membership secretary, David Borrett at a public meeting.

### ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)

### EHS ARCHIVES

It was a quiet summer for the EHS Archives without a summer student. Processed photograph donations were slowly added to the collection bringing our total to over 21,000 images. Requests for information were also down this summer, which your executive didn't mind in the least!

### EHS HISTORY PRIZE

The EHS annual history prize was awarded again this year to students demonstrating excellence in history in our three secondary schools. The Christ the King award was given to Mikayla Ellis. The Acton High School prize was awarded to Andrew Hilson while the Georgetown High School prize was presented to Hailey Zanth.

### HALTON-PEEL OGS

Meetings are at Brampton Library, 65 Queen Street, East at 2 p.m.

Nov. 22 -*Matthew Wilkinson* - "A Call to Arms : Historic Mississauga and the War of 1812"

### DEVEREAUX HOUSE

Open Thursdays 1-6 p.m. at 11494 Trafalgar Road, Georgetown.

### STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

Archives are open Sundays and Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. at 4415 Mississauga road, Streetsville.

Train Off Tracks! –Leslie Log Cabin has a display on the Mississauga train derailment of 1979 until November 11<sup>th</sup>. Visit [museumsmississauga.com](http://museumsmississauga.com) for info.

Dec. 16 –Jane Austin's Tea at Benares House, 7:30 to 9 p.m.

### BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:15.

Nov 19 - *Ron Metcalfe, Horologist*, will be discussing the science of measuring time.

Jan. 21 - *Cathy Willoughby* - Come explore the Historic Bovaird House quilt collection up close to see how they were made.

### MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society meets at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street on the third Thursday at 8p.m.

### NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

[info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com](mailto:info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com)

### TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

All events at former Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas Street West, Oakville.

Nov. 11 –Guest Speaker TBD

<http://www.tths.ca/events.html>

### HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

OPEN: Sat. 7-9 p.m. & Sunday 1-4 p.m. at Mold-Masters Sportsplex.

### TERRA COTTA HALL

Terra Cotta Community Hall rentals: Contact Jen Lusby at 905-702-1056.

### NEWS ABOUT TOWN

GLEN WILLIAMS - Jasper and Janet Martin purchased the Copper Kettle Pub, Glen Williams in January of this year and are carrying out an amazing heritage renovation to this lovely building. Much of

the work they have engaged in is in keeping with the age of the structure and as so, they required an abundance of brown egg shells for the restoration plaster work that began in November. Brown egg shells are used to add colour and texture to the plaster. How cool is that!

The Copper Kettle was the former General Store and Post Office for Glen Williams, built in 1852 by Charles Williams.

Meadows in the Glen subdivision, off Prince Street, are now linked by a staircase with the Glen Ball Park in the Credit Valley. It is a well-constructed link for walkers and hikers through the village.

GEORGETOWN – They are “raising the roof” at 294 Maple Avenue by adding dormers to the historic house. The Rev. Joseph Unsworth came to Georgetown to minister to the Congregational Church (now the Library) and in 1854 this house was built on 5 acres of land, which served as a glebe for Unsworth. The house is recognized by an oval sign from Heritage Halton Hills.

### **CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM EHS**

Consider buying an EHS publication as a Christmas gift this year. A selection of our publications will be available at the November meeting. A discount applies to all purchases by EHS members.

If you want to purchase *Acton: The History of Leathertown*, *Georgetown: Reflections of a Small Town*, *Glen Williams: An Oasis in the Credit Valley* or *Bats, Balls and Sticks*, they may be available for \$24.95 from **What the Dickens** book store in Acton, **Indigo Books** at Georgetown Mall and **Reeve & Clarke Fine Books** in Glen Williams.

### **EHS SUPPORTER SHIRLEY CLEAVE**

Shirley Margaret Cleave, a long-time supporter of our Society died peacefully on Thursday October 8, 2015 at the Bennett Health Care Centre, Georgetown. Shirley (nee Muckart), was in her 87th year, the wife of the late Jim Cleave. Shirley was the loving mother of Christine and her husband

Randy Waters, proud grandma of Joel and Jamie and dear sister of Jack Muckart, Jean (Bill) McEnery and Helen (Glen) Dance and sister in law of Barry (Sharon) Cleave. A private family service will be held.

### **ANZAC BISCUITS**

An Anzac biscuit is a sweet biscuit, popular in Australia and New Zealand. Anzac biscuits have long been associated with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) established in World War I.

It has been claimed the biscuits were sent by wives to soldiers abroad because the ingredients do not spoil easily. Biscuits issued to soldiers by the Army, referred to as "Anzac tiles" or "Anzac wafers", differ from the popular Anzac biscuit. Anzac tiles and wafers were hard tack, which had a long shelf life and was very hard.

150g (1 cup) plain flour

90g (1 cup) rolled oats (see Notes)

85g (1 cup) desiccated coconut

100g (1/2 cup, firmly packed) brown sugar

55g (1/4 cup) caster sugar

125g butter

2 tablespoons golden syrup

2 tablespoons water

1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda

- Preheat oven to 160°C. (320°F) Line 2 baking trays with non-stick baking paper.
- Combine flour, oats, coconut and combined sugar in a large bowl.
- Stir the butter, golden syrup and water in a small saucepan over medium heat until the butter melts and the mixture is smooth. Stir in the bicarbonate of soda. Add to the oat mixture and stir until well combined.
- Roll level tablespoonfuls of the oat mixture into balls and place, about 5cm apart, on the prepared trays. Flatten until about 1cm thick. Bake, swapping trays halfway through cooking, for 15 minutes or until light golden. Set aside for 10 minutes to cool slightly before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

[www.taste.com.au](http://www.taste.com.au)

## PLAYBOY TO END PUBLISHING NUDE FEMALE PHOTOS

Newspapers around the world ran headlines similar to the Toronto Star, featured above, to ask the question “if you take nudity out, what’s left?” On October 13<sup>th</sup> Playboy Enterprises said that from March next year *Playboy* will not publish full nudity any more, though it will continue to show “sexy, seductive pictorials of the world’s most beautiful women”. It will go on publishing long-form journalism, interviews and fiction. So the timeless claim of buying the magazine for the articles will finally be true!

Changes were inevitable for a magazine which now has a museum in Chicago. The magazine had also been losing \$12m a year.

The iconic playboy bunny will remain. They were celebrated locally in 1965 when a teen bunny club opened in the Riviera night club at Norval. Soft drinks and hamburgers were served by “bunnies” in the *Playboy* style, while “Lavon and the Hawks” performed from 7:30 until 11 p.m.

Riviera Teen Bunny Clun waitress Carol Fournier carries her soft drink orders to waiting customers at Norval. EHS 8171



### *Literary References to Places In Esquesing*

“Irvine Lake was a short distance from the centre of town. Jonette and I had often followed Willow Creek from the bottom of the hill at school to where it turned into a marsh with grasses and bulrushes before widening into the lake...” *Midnight at the Dragon Café*, Judy Fong Bates, 2004 p96 (Fiction)

Author Judy Fong Bates uses Acton, where she grew up, as the setting for her fictional novel *Midnight at the Dragon Café*. The Historical Society would like to collect titles and even excerpts from fictional and non-fictional books (other than histories) that reference places in Esquesing. Please seek them out and share them with us in person, mail or e-mail. Perhaps a meeting theme may emerge or perhaps you may set your next book in Limehouse or Dublin!

“To collect, preserve and publicize the history of Esquesing”

## THE HOME FRONT

Local News from 10 November (*Herald*) & 11 November 1915 (*Acton Free Press*)

### THE GALLANT 76<sup>th</sup>

The officers and men of the 76<sup>th</sup> Battalion, C.O.E.F., passed through town this morning on their way to winter quarters at Barrie, Orillia and Collingwood. Lieut.-Col. Ballantine, who is in command of the Battalion, and his officers and men were royally greeted at the station here where they remained for about fifteen minutes. The ladies of town provided cakes and apples for the men while the excellent band of the 76<sup>th</sup> rendered several selections. It took two trains to carry the Battalion and the boys were heartily cheered as they pulled out for the north.

**GEORGETOWN** –While being driven through town on Friday last, about 30 head of cattle got onto St. George's church lawn and caused considerable damage. Care should be taken that further damage is not caused in the same way in the future.

Mr. H. P. Lawson is erecting a saw mill on his property at the foot of Mill Street.

**NORVAL** –The siding to the Robert Noble Milling plant is ready for the steel. The apple barrel factory has had a busy season and still the barrels go out. The Norval boys have donated the sum of \$8 to the Red Cross, the proceeds of their last dance. The Norval Women's Institute has sent a bale {of night shirts, towels, etc.} to the Red Cross... also \$43.75 to the British Red Cross.

**STEWARTTOWN** –The members and friends of the Esquesing Women's Institute sent two barrels containing preserved fruit, honey, maple syrup, marmalade and jam to Shorncliffe Hospital, England, last week.

**GLENWILLIAMS** –The new Sunday School and Church hall of St. Alban's parish was opened with a social gathering on Friday evening, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>. The building is substantial and commodious, bright for day service and fitted with electric lights, has a good platform and fully equipped kitchen for social purposes. The hall was used as a Sunday School for the first time on Sunday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, and was found suitable in every way with specially good acoustic properties. A piano has taken the place of the organ, which has been in use since the organization of the school. The parish has taken a distinct step forward in the building of this hall at a time when there are so many calls upon the purses of the people, and it is hoped that it will greatly strengthen and increase the church activities.

**TERRA COTTA** –We regret to announce the sad news of the death of Pte. Will Sanderson, of Terra Cotta, which occurred in Belgium on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. The sympathy of the entire community is extended to the family in their bereavement.

**ACTON** –A communication from the Militia Department was read [at Council] requesting that a list of all soldiers who have enlisted in Acton be prepared, a copy to be sent to Ottawa and another formed into an honour roll and hung in the Council Chamber.

Acton High School Growing –Principal Stewart reports a registration of 65 students in Acton High School. This is the largest attendance since Acton High School was opened.

Joseph Kennedy, son of Mr. John Kennedy, Church Street, has enlisted in the Queen's Own regiment in Toronto. The new stone road on the second line, through the Dublin swamp, is completed and is a very fine piece of road building. There was evidence on our streets on Tuesday that the Acton bars are not "Out of Bounds" to a man wearing a King's uniform. (AFP)

**LIMEHOUSE** – Messrs. Wm. Osborne, Roy McGill, Wes McDowell and Herb Scott arrived home from the west on Friday all looking well and report a pleasant trip. Mr. Alex Mino has responded to his country's call and now wears a soldier's uniform. That he may be spared to return when the cruel war is over is the sincere wish of his many friends. (AFP)



## The Christmas Santa Claus got the flu...

By Dawn Livingstone

Originally written for Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown

The fall and winter of 1918/1919 was a bad time in the history of Knox Church, as it was in the history of the whole world. Over that period of time, 40,000 Canadians died from what has been labelled "The Spanish Flu" so named, because it was brought into the country by soldiers returning from the war. The epidemic had begun in Spain.

The Christmas of 1918, then, was both a happy and a sorrowful one... The war was over, and there was much rejoicing, but the flu was taking a toll on our population, and life was far from normal.

And so it was in our own church. It is not known how many people from the congregation may have died from the flu, but it did impact the life of the church and the town. There were no thanksgiving services in any town churches that fall, all being closed for several weeks, by the department of health, as were schools and social gatherings.

Christmas is an important event in the life of a Christian church, and even those events had to be curtailed. The Sunday School had prepared for a Christmas entertainment and tea, but it could not be held until February 21<sup>st</sup> of 1919. At that affair, tea was served at 6:30, followed by a programme, and it was advertised that "Santa Claus having recovered from the "flu" will be present." Admission was charged to that Christmas entertainment - 25¢ for adults, and children, other than of Sabbath School were 10¢.

The annual congregational meeting for the year was held on Monday evening, January 27<sup>th</sup>, with a good attendance. It was reported that all the organizations of the church were doing well, and the congregation was going to introduce the New Book of Praise on Easter Sunday of that year. The total income for the year had been \$8,907.00, and \$1,513 was given to missions, but it was stated that "The financial report would have been much better than it was had it not been for the fact that *the Church was closed all October, our anniversary month, and then part of December and January*, the months for getting in all arrears, we were partially closed again. But on the whole, it was a very good year and we have good reason to thank God and take courage."

As we enter into the time of Christmas Celebrations once again, it wouldn't hurt to pause and remember the hardships of Christmas's past, and the year that Santa Claus got the flu.. and hope that this year he will get a flu shot!!!

Women employees gather around the Christmas tree at Smith & Stone on 20 Dec. 1991. The Georgetown firm closed the following year. EHS10070



# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!



Santa calls at the Acton Legion. Left to right are Mrs. Bob Anglel, Mrs. McKnight, Santa, unidentified child, Mrs. Joan (Art) Ford, and Elsie Roach in 1957. EHS13825



Santa uses his globe to plan his trip on Christmas Eve, 1993! EHS21491

Children receive gifts from Santa Claus, perhaps at the Beardmore Christmas Party. EHS14560



Santa in the Acton parade, passes the CIBC on Mill Street in November 1993. EHS16010