



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1
www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

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January-February 2019

DESIGNATED HOMES

Many properties are worth saving for various reasons. Heritage Halton Hills must consider if a property meets the requirements of Ontario Regulation 9/06 by



Rolling Hills Farm, 10th Line, Ballinafad

identifying several criteria that determine its cultural heritage value or interest. The areas to be considered are:

- DESIGN OR PHYSICAL VALUE
- HISTORICAL AND ASSOCIATIVE VALUE
- CONTEXTUAL VALUE

ROLLING HILLS FARM: Rolling Hills Farm's design or physical value is reflected in several aspects of the property. The 1883 house is crafted of stone, likely quarried on this property. The house is unique in the inclusion of an ice house attached to the main building. (Photo by Amy Douglas, Left of Centre Studio)



Craiglea, 3rd Line, Scotch Block

Historical or Associative Value:
 The Craiglea House is associated with the Stewart family. John Stewart Sr., for whom Craiglea House was built, was born in Perth, Scotland and came to Canada with his family in 1817. His father received the land as a Crown Grant in 1819. Stewart soon became involved in local affairs and was

made a town warden at the first township meeting in 1821. He took an early interest in politics and was an active supporter of William Lyon Mackenzie's Reform Party. Mackenzie is said to have held a meeting on the Stewart farm, where he spoke to the rebels from the steps of Craiglea House.

Waldie House, McNabb Street, Georgetown

The house's design or physical value are reflected in the elements of Edwardian Classicism employed in its construction as a full two-storey red brick house on the corner of McNabb and King Streets.

Waldie House's contextual value is its place as a cornerstone of McNabb and King Streets with similar or matching structures on either side. As one of three Edwardian era red-brick homes it is a landmark in a streetscape of smaller frame homes of various vintages.





Alexander Homestead, Prince Street, Glen Williams

The Alexander Homestead has contextual value because the schoolhouse, as the original building on the lot, was as an obvious landmark on the steep descent into the Credit valley on Prince Street and has always been a source of interest by visitors to the village. Alexander House, set back at an angle from Prince Street, has been a landmark residence since its construction, maintaining its original look throughout the decades.



**Perkins House,
Bower Street,
Acton**

The Design or physical value of the Perkin’s House is its unusual “T” layout, in a Gothic Revival style and the fine condition of the exterior is matched by several original interior elements that are also well-preserved.



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2019

- Wed. 9
Jan. 2019 **DESIGNATED HOMES IN HALTON HILLS**
Drawing from the Heritage Register compiled by Heritage Halton Hills, John Mark Rowe and Ray Denny will give a pictorial history of the designated buildings currently used as private residences throughout Halton Hills.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 13
Feb. 2019 **THE EXCHANGE HOTEL**
Local railway historian Jim Waldbusser will share his extensive research into the Exchange Hotel, across from the Georgetown VIA Rail/ GO station. Come and hear about the long and illustrious history of this landmark and the planned future for the 165-year-old structure.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 13
March
2019 **NOTABLE TREES IN HALTON**
Bill McIlveen will take us on a tour of notable trees scattered throughout Halton that have noticeable physical characteristics, special cultural significance or a combination of both.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 10
April 2019 **THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF PETER JONES**
Peter Jones was a free-lance photographer in Georgetown who provided photographs for *The Georgetown Herald* for many years. EHS Archivist John Mark Rowe will share a selection of his pieces from our own photo archives.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!

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
Ray Denny	905 877-3890	Publications

Society Notes

INTERNET CONNECTIONS

<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com/> Note the new website address. Send your e-mail to esquesinghs@gmail.com

EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter. 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 currently have 75 members for 2018. Our membership year runs from February. Please encourage others to support the EHS by purchasing a membership. The individual membership rate is \$20. The family or institution rate is \$25. The EHS is still very happy to accept personal cheques from our members. Please note that all cheques must be made payable to "Esquesing Historical Society", fully spelled out. They 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

EHS ARCHIVES

Hundreds of photographs taken by freelance photographer Peter Jones for *The Georgetown Herald* have been added to our collection over the last couple months. They mostly cover the 1960s.

The Georgetown Kinsmen Club have donated their large scrapbooks and some memorabilia to the EHS Archives.

The Town of Halton Hills have transferred their copies of all by-laws passed by the municipalities of Esquesing, Georgetown and Acton up to the advent of regional government to the EHS Archives.

Karen Hunter has been diligently working away at cataloguing all the photo subjects represented on the DVDs the Society received from the Independent Free Press.

They cover digital images taken by the reporters beginning with the switch from film to digital about 1997 up to 2007. If you are interested in a particular picture, they are organized by the newspaper issue date.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

<https://haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca/>

DEVEREAUX HOUSE

Ann Lawlor at ann@devereauxhouse.ca

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

<http://haltonhillssportsmuseum.blogspot.ca/>

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

The Society Library and Archives are open Wednesdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Leslie Log Cabin at 4415 Mississauga Road.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:15.

Jan. 17 – *Show and Tell*.

Feb. 21- Paul Willoughby, *Haggert Brothers Manufacturing Company*

Mar. 21 -AGM and Heritage update

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society meets in the Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street at 7:30 p.m.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.oakvillehistory.org/>

BURLINGTON HIST. SOCIETY

Jan. 14 -AGM @ Burlington Public Library

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com

TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

TERRA COTTA HALL

Terra Cotta Community Hall rentals:

Contact Kathy Atkinson at

terracottaeventbooking@gmail.com

BARBER PAPER MILL PLAQUE

Karen Hunter noticed the blue Ontario Heritage Trust plaque was missing at the River Road paper mill site and informed the Trust. They were not aware that the plaque is missing. The Trust have contacted the Town of Halton Hills to see what they know about this. In the meantime, it has been

removed from the OHT on-line plaque guide.

HISTORY SHARED AT INAUGURAL
Local historian and EHS member Mark Rowe shared a little Esquesing history with the newly elected Town Council, staff and invited guests at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown on December 3rd.

Town of Halton Hills

The Mayor and Members of Council

Cordially request your company

on Thursday, January 3rd, 1974

at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon

at the Esquesing Municipal Offices

for the occasion of its

Inaugural Meeting

*R.S.V.P. by Dec. 27/73
to 877-5247
Mrs. C. Bouskill*

*Reception at
St. Alban's Church Hall*

Unfortunately, the invitations were digital so this invitation to the very first Halton Hills Inaugural will not have a corresponding addition to the Archives.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS NEEDED

The EHS needs your ideas! Please consider sitting on the executive of your Historical Society and help make decisions about our meetings and projects. Let any executive member listed on page 4, know your intentions before our February meeting.

EMPTY DEALERSHIP RAZED

An empty lot now sits at 15 Mountainview Road North after the empty building was razed in November. The photo on the left



was taken in 1973 when it was Georgetown Chrysler. The second photo was taken in 2017, long after Georgetown Toyota had moved to their new location. They are EHS01918 and EHS24011.

NEW JOSEPH BRANT MUSEUM

The Joseph Brant Museum is Burlington's community museum. It is a 1937 replica of the original homestead of Joseph Brant, Thayendanegea (1742-1807). In 1798, King George III granted the Mohawk and British captain 3450 acres at the head-of-the-lake (Burlington Bay), for his services to the Crown during the Seven years War and the American Revolution.

The dream of expansion became a reality in 2017 when \$11.4 million was pledged by governments of Canada, Ontario, Burlington and the Museums Foundation. Joseph Brant Museum into Burlington's Community Museum and Heritage Centre.

The 17,000 square foot expansion includes four exhibit halls, two multi-purpose rooms, lobby, shop, resource centre and storage for over 25,000 artifacts and historical treasures. The current Joseph Brant Museum will undergo renovation. Its opening is planned for the summer of 2019.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It is time to renew your 2019 membership in the EHS. While our year begins in February, payment of the \$20 fee will ensure your newsletter subscription will continue to arrive on time! Payment can be made at our meetings or by post to P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, ON L7G 4T1.

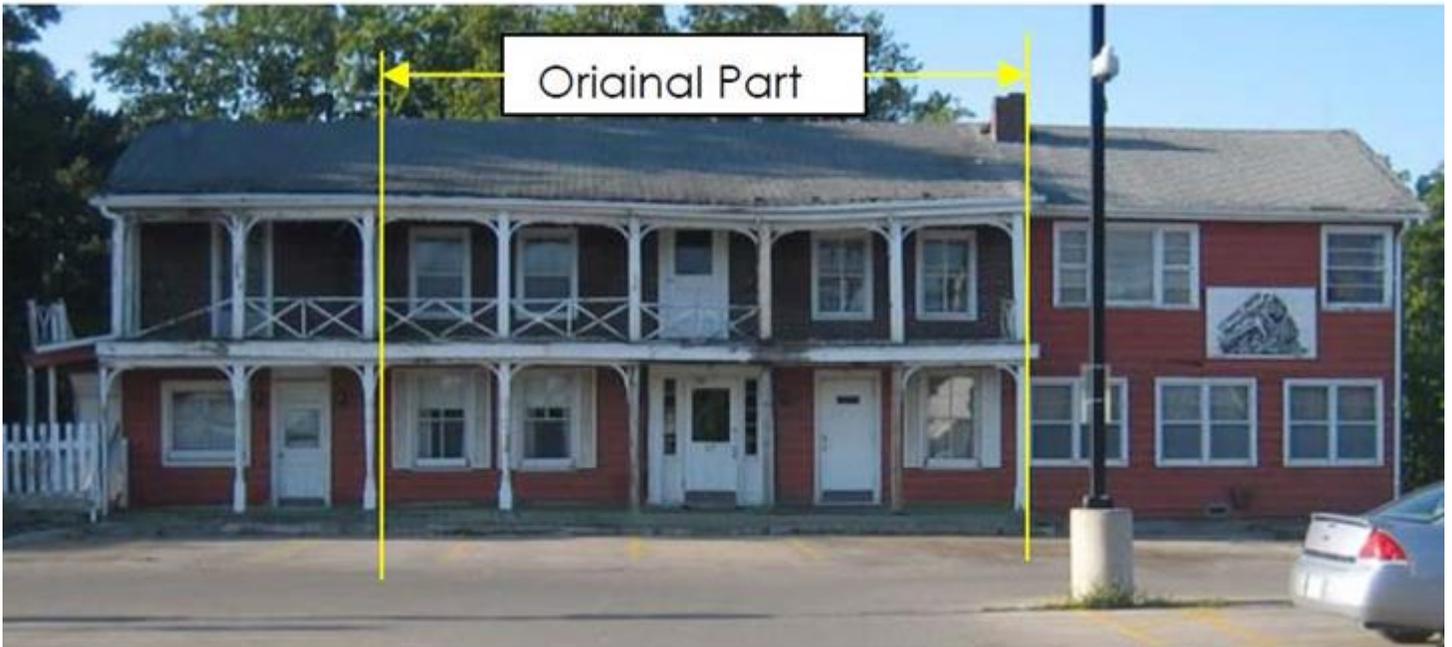


RAILROAD EXCHANGE HOTEL

Harry Wright, Prop.



Under Mr. Wright's management this is the right house, all right, for the traveler who wants a comfortable stopping place, most conveniently situated to the railway station. Every one of the Grand Trunk's eighteen daily trains stop within a hundred yards of the front door of the hotel. Mr. Wright came here from Nobleton in June of the present year, succeeding Mr. J.E. Kaiser. He is a comparatively young man but has been associated with the hotel business for twenty-seven years. Mr. Wright's parents were Somerset people, but were living in Wales at the time he first began to make a noise in the world. Welshman though he is, by the accident of birth, Mr. Wright has had much of the advantage that we Canadians think belongs to us in this respect, for when he was but eight years of age the family came to Ontario County, and settled there, and Harry has hardly been out of the Province since that time. The Exchange hotel has comfortable and well-kept bedrooms, a dining room in which only good meals are served, and stabling accommodations in keeping with the other appointments of the house. There is a well-stocked bar, and those who are in need of liquid refreshments are served with ales and liquors of all the standard brands. *The Georgetown Herald, December 17, 1913*



The Exchange Hotel and Tavern has been non-functioning since 2003 but remained occupied afterwards until 2013. The last owner was Dorothy Hillock (1915-2010), Her estate sold the hotel to Habitat for Humanity.

The hotel is an important fragment of the history of Georgetown. Contextually, in its relationship with the nationally designated Georgetown



Railway Station, the hotel is a rare remaining example of a railway hotel. It is one of the first buildings a traveler by rail sees when arriving and, in that sense, should be considered a landmark building. The community would have developed around this important focus at the corner of King and Queen Streets.

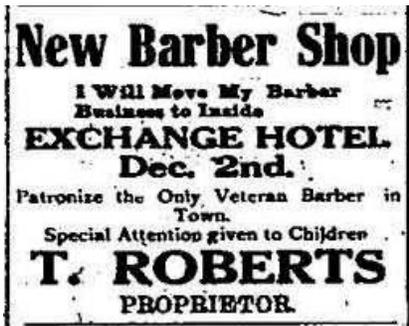
Historically, the property was initially owned by the founder of Georgetown, George Kennedy and the hotel may have been built by his son-in-law John Higgins about 1855 who ran it for many years. The building is thus around 158 years old. This building is linked with the earliest days of the railway and may have served as lodging for those constructing the railway. The design is reminiscent of the early stagecoach hotels.

Excerpts from a report written by Ian McGillivray of McGillivray-Architect -2013



EHS11814
The Exchange Hotel in 1999.

The photo below was taken about 1970 of the west-end before the addition was built. EHS21615



Herald advert 30 Nov. 1921



A barber shop was once situated in the east portion of the hotel. This shop was later converted to a butcher market by George Granger ... The shop later became a grocery store operated by two of Wright's daughters, Dorothy and Kay. -*Halton Sketches*, John McDonald



The Herald, July 1971

Annie (Porter) Hubbard died June 5th in her 84th year at the home of Mrs. A. Wright, King and Queen Streets...after her husband's death she lived with the Wright family at Richmond Hill. When they moved to Georgetown 28 years ago to become proprietors of the Exchange Hotel, Mrs. Hubbard came with them... *Herald* 11 June 1941

Mrs. Arvilla Wright, proprietor of the Exchange Hotel suffered a severe stroke last week and is under doctor's care at her home. -*Herald*, 19 Dec. 1951

ESQUESING TOWNSHIP NEWS – 1832

- January 2nd Esquesing Township Council Minutes: Meeting held at the house of Thomas Thompson with John McColl as clerk. Wardens for 1832 are Donald McKinnon and Malcolm McNaughton. Pathmasters were appointed. The Township has 4 grist mills, 6 saw mills and 3 merchant shops. Total population is 1720.
- March 5 Death of the wife of William Kent of Esquesing, in the 48th year of her age, formerly of Ireland. –*Christian Guardian*, Toronto, *Reid's Death Notices*
- March 20 The CROWN transferred the east ½ of Lot 20, Concession 7 Esquesing to Richard Moot.
- April 6 William Armstrong sold the east ½ of Lot 14, Concession 9 Esquesing to George Laird.
- April 11 Rev. Peter Ferguson inducted as first minister of Boston Presbyterian Church.
- May 8 Alexander, son of Robert & Elizabeth Jones, born 8th May 1832; baptized by Rev. Adam Elliot 19th January 1834. Sponsors: Sarah Grier & the parents.
- May 30 Ann Isabella, daughter of John & Mary Burns, 2nd child born 20 April 1832; baptized at 1st Presbyterian Church in Esquesing on 30 May 1832.
May, daughter of Paul & Catherine Kennedy, 1st child born 9 November 1831; baptized at 1st Presbyterian Church in Esquesing on 30 May 1832.
- June 11 Patience Adams, 78 years of age dies at Adamsville (Acton) and is buried there.
- July 2 Jane Sarah, daughter of William & Ann Thompson, born 2nd July 1832; baptized by Rev. Adam Elliot on 19th January 1834. Sponsors: Elizabeth Thompson & the parents.
- July 2 Spoke at M'Nabbs village, a new place thirty-four miles from York. I had invitation to this place by some of the principal persons in it to preach a sermon on temperance. The inhabitants are chiefly English, Irish and Scottish, many of whom were very wicked with regard to drunkenness, unequalled perhaps by any other place of its size. We have formed a society of eight members. – “Journal of William Summersides,” *Primitive Methodist Magazine*.
- July 30 Walter Young sold Peter Fergusson the west ½ of Lot 12, Concession 5, Esquesing.
- Oct. 10 Isa Adams, wife of Rev. Ezra Adams of Adamsville (Acton) dies at Muncey Mission.
- Oct. 11 The people of Trafalgar Post Office are now being sent to Esquesing viz. Peter Scott, Thomas Thompson, John Robinson, Thomas Barbour, John Brown and Thomas Joyce and also ones for Streetsville viz. John Starret, Alexander McNab, James McNab, George Thompson, Alexander Burns and Edward Leonard. -*Western Mercury*, Hamilton, 11 Oct.
- Nov. 2 The following new Post Offices have been established in Upper Canada and are now in operation: Esquesing -14 miles east of Trafalgar, Henry Fyfe PM; Chinguacousy -16 miles north of Credit, W. Johnson PM. –*the Liberal*, St. Thomas, 2 Nov. 1832
- Dec. 11 David Smith sold the east ½ of Lot 22, Concession 9, Esquesing to Luke Carroll.
- Dec. 20 The Township of Caledon (Home District) has for some time past been infested with mad wolves. One man has seen seven of his cattle bitten, which run mad. Another lost in the same way six, another 4... -*The Liberal*, St. Thomas, 20 Dec. 1832
- Dec. 29 Birth of Benajah Williams at Glen Williams, second son of Joel Williams and Adeline Bedford and grandson of Benajah Williams.

