



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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November-December 2018

LEST WE FORGET



The Great War ended on 11 November 1918 and our communities became concerned about the way in which those brave lads that gave their life in the great war for freedom and the rights of all, should be commemorated. As the boys trickled home after demobilization they brought with them the “Spanish Flu”. This pushed most activities in 1919 and beyond.

Local historian John Mark Rowe, with the assistance of some EHS executive members, has put together a history of the quest to honour our war dead in the best possible manner. There were many ideas and over time many came to fruition, but the enduring memorial has been the community cenotaph.

In Esquesing township and today’s Halton Hills, there are three cenotaphs that are the

site of an annual Armistice Day ceremony. The oldest is Acton's Mill Street simple granite columns, unveiled in 1920. It was followed by Georgetown's plinth mounted by a bronze lion representing the Imperial power of the British Empire, accompanied by the figure of winged Victory herself holding the laurel wreath of victory over the names of the warriors who served and suffered in her just cause and in her left hand grasping the sword of state encased in its sheath, forming a cross and wrapped in trappings emblematic of peace. It was unveiled in 1924.

Finally the village of Glen Williams decided that their large contribution to the two world wars needed a memorial separate from Georgetown's where their war dead had always been commemorated. Their beautiful stone monument was unveiled in 1971.

The November presentation will also look at several other ways in which the war dead were commemorated. These include mantel clock presentations, bronze plaques on various public buildings, buildings themselves like Memorial Arena and framed hand-written lists of members of various Church congregations.



Welcome Home Boys

Heroes from Overseas Are Now Arriving Almost Daily

There were several glad homes in Georgetown and vicinity during the past week caused by the arrival of beloved soldier sons from overseas. A hearty welcome was accorded all in one way or another, the form depending upon the notification previous to arrival.

On Friday evening Ptes. Orby Herrington and Gordon Hainer arrived and were met by numerous friends and citizens. Addresses of welcome were made by Reeve Grant and Rev. J. Truax.

On Saturday Ptes. Thomas Dobbie, Alf Stull, Harold Bell, Georgetown, and Pte. Hartschke, of Glen Williams, arrived. On Sunday Pte. A. McGinley got back to town, and on Monday Sgt. Frank McDonald, Pte. Alf Toone and Pte. H. Hill, arrived.

The boys are all looking well and everybody was delighted to see them safe home again.

Welcome home boys, we're proud of you all.

Lieut. Carey Warren and Gunner Roaf Barber arrived at their homes in Toronto on Sunday.

-Our soldier boys will soon be arriving home and we should be prepared to give them a royal reception.

-Have you noticed that a lot of our soldier boys who have been fighting for freedom have now gone and got married.

PUBLIC MEETING – All citizens are requested to meet in the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening, December 10th, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of making arrangements to have a suitable monument erected in memory of our boys who have fallen during the war. Also, to form a committee for the purpose of tendering a reception to our soldiers on their return home. -H.H.

Heartwell, Reeve.

SUGAR BAN MODIFIED – The ban on iced cakes and biscuits and on the manufacture of Scotch shortbread, puffed and fancy pastry has been lifted by the Canada Food Board...

-*Georgetown Herald*, 4 Dec. 1918

EDITORIAL: There is a movement throughout the country favouring the establishment of Children's Peace parks in the towns and cities of Canada as war memorials. No better method could be adopted to perpetuate the noble and heroic deeds of our soldiers in the great war

for freedom and the rights of all.... -*Acton Free Press*, 13 Feb. 1919

Esquering: At the April meeting of Esquering Township Council a by-law was passed to provide grants to officers and men, residents of the municipality who have returned from active service overseas with the naval and military forces of the British Empire. The grant was fixed at \$20 per man. (AFP, 1 May 1919)



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

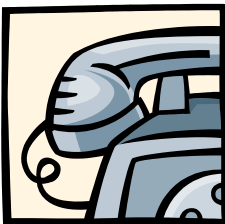
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2018 - 2019

- Wed. 14 **LEST WE FORGET**
Nov. 2018 One hundred years have passed since Armistice Day. Like countless Canadian communities, we built memorials and cenotaphs and placed plaques to honour the largest loss of life in war ever. John Mark Rowe will visit our local places of remembrance. A display table will be available to share your own memories.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- December The Esquesing Historical Society does not hold a public meeting in December.
- Wed. 9 **DESIGNATED HOMES IN HALTON HILLS**
Jan. 2019 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 **THE EXCHANGE HOTEL**
Feb. 2019 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 **LOCAL HERITAGE TREES**
March
2019 Bill McIlveen will explore unusual trees and their stories in our area.
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



The shield shown was donated to the EHS Archives by the Milton Historical Society. It was awarded to the winners of the Esquesing Rural Schools Fair. SS#1, Ligny (now a private home on 5 Sideroad) kept the shield after winning it in 1935, 1936 and 1938.

The Library continues to add items from our Archives to our on-line finding aid operated by the Archives Association of Ontario. When it becomes available the link will be provided in this newsletter.

The EHS and the Library (HHPL) have inked a new agreement ensuring the Archives collection remains in Halton Hills if the EHS should ever fold. It replaces a similar 1982 agreement.

HERITAGE GRANT

The Esquesing Historical Society is pleased to receive our annual Heritage Organization Development Grant from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport in the amount of \$739.00. The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is an annual, statutory-based operating grant designed to promote public awareness of Ontario's rich and diverse heritage. The program provides historical societies, museums and other heritage associations, located throughout the province, with a portion of their annual operating support.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

Nov. 25 – *Maiden Aunts of the 20th Century* - Brampton Public Library, 65 Queen St. E., 2-4 p.m.

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. Nov. 08 -Jean Robinson *Echoes of the Past: Old School Houses* -also the AGM -

Streetsville United Church, 274 Queen St. S.
@ 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 1st – Christmas Open House at the
Leslie Log Cabin -noon to 4 p.m.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:15.

Nov. 15 – Martin Howard, *The Typewriter
Industry*. No Dec. meeting

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Nov. 15 – Ray Peacock, *Polar Explorers*

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are at St. John's United Church,
Randall Street, at 7:30 p.m.

BURLINGTON HIST. SOCIETY

Nov. 12 –at 7 p.m. at Burlington 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

CHELTENHAM BADLANDS

For the past three years, the Cheltenham
Badlands has been closed to the public
because high visitor volume had caused
accelerated erosion. On Saturday, September
22, the site will re-open to the public. The
site now has a viewing platform and paid
parking.

VISITOR FROM AFAR!

The audience for the October meeting of the
EHS included Silvia Philipps, visiting her
sister Bev Blake of Georgetown. Silvia
hails from Winnipeg, Manitoba. She
enjoyed John McDonald's presentation.

MRS. SILVER DIES AT 100 YEARS

Lucille Silver (nee KALANT) passed away
peacefully in her home, with her children on
Friday, August 31, 2018 at the age of 100.
Beloved wife of the late Sidney Silver, sister
of Dr. Harold Kalant and the late Dr.

Norman Kalant. Mother of Arthur Silver,
Dr. Elaine Silver-Melia, Stephen Silver and
Jane Silver. There was a private funeral for
family.

SILVER'S NEW ADDITION

Mr. Hymen Silver erected a new building in
1930, enlarged it in 1934 and his son Sid
Silver added the current frontage shown in
the photograph below, in 1947 (currently
Young's Pharmacy). The photo was donated
to the EHS by Marion Burns.



In October, 1947 Silver's Department Store
officially opened its new addition, doubling
its floor size. The local staff included
manager Sid Silver, Miss Lillian Watson,
Jack Watson, Mrs. Tost, Mrs. Jourdain, Miss
Fryer, Miss King, Ken Hulme and Mrs. Ken
Davidson.

MERRY CHRISTMAS from the EHS!

The Last 100 Days - August 8th until November 11th

The Hundred Days campaign was a series of battles unleashed by the Allied forces from August 8, 1918, to the end of the war on the Western Front in France and Belgium on Nov. 11, 1918. They came on the heels of German offensives that started in March, marking a return to open warfare. In a half dozen slashing offensives, the Germans had penetrated the Allied lines, but they had not been able to break through. The 800,000 casualties suffered by Germany over four months of battle fell on the best trained and most aggressive combat formations. And now the Allies were ready to counterattack.

As part of the Allied offensive co-ordinated by French General Ferdinand Foch, the British planned to strike to the east of Amiens. Fourth Army commander Henry Rawlinson selected his two best fighting formations, the Australian Corps and the Canadian Corps, to spearhead the assault. Both units had proven themselves in battle.

The 100,000 Canadians who formed the Corps came from across Canada, from all regions, all classes and almost all religions. And they would fight, under Canadian-born Lieutenant-General Arthur Currie, through the Hundred Days campaign, starting at Amiens on August 8 in a secret operation, moving northward to the Arras front for a series of battles against the Hindenburg Line from August 26 to Sept. 2, and then to the crashing of the Canal du Nord and fierce fighting to capture the key logistical city of Cambrai in early October. A final push drove the Germans back to end the war on Nov. 11, 1918, with the capture of Mons. These titanic battles saw the Canadian Corps punch far above its weight, leading crucial attacks, meeting and defeating elements of more than 50 German divisions, and forging a reputation as an elite fighting force.

-excerpt from "Four Soldiers, Four Battles" by Tim Cook, *Legion Magazine*, July/August 2018.



EHS02893

Influenza: The centenary of the 20th century's worst catastrophe

“Spanish flu” probably killed more people than both world wars combined

The Economist Print edition | Science and technology Sep 29th 2018

ON JUNE 29th 1918 Martín Salazar, Spain's inspector-general of health, stood up in front of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Madrid. He declared, not without embarrassment, that the disease which was ravaging his country was to be found nowhere else in Europe.

In fact, that was not true. The illness in question, influenza, had been sowing misery in France and Britain for weeks, and in America for longer, but Salazar did not know this because the governments of those countries, a group then at war with Germany and its allies, had made strenuous efforts to suppress such potentially morale-damaging news. Spain, by contrast, was neutral, and the press had freely reported on the epidemic since the first cases had appeared in the capital in May. Before the summer was out, the disease Spaniards knew as the “Naples Soldier”—after a tune from a popular operetta—had been dubbed the “Spanish illness” abroad, and that, somewhat unfairly, was the name which stuck.

Spanish flu was probably the worst catastrophe of the 20th century. The current estimate is that it killed at least 50m people and perhaps as many as 100m. At minimum, therefore, it ended the lives of three times as many as died in the first world war (in the region of 17m). It was probably also more lethal than the second world war (60m), and may well have outstripped the effects of both wars put together. The death toll was so high partly because Spanish flu was truly pandemic (some 500m people, more than a quarter of those then alive, are believed to have been infected), and partly because of its high mortality rate (5-10%, compared with 0.1% for subsequent influenza epidemics).

Understanding what happened is therefore important. Two questions in particular need answering. One is: what made this outbreak of influenza so much more lethal than both previous and subsequent ones? The other is: given that knowledge, what defences need to be put in place to nip any similar outbreak in the bud?

Origin of a species

The first cases of the 1918 flu to be recorded officially as such were at Camp Funston, a military base in Kansas, on March 4th 1918. That morning, Albert Gitchell, a mess cook, reported sick. By lunchtime the camp infirmary was dealing with dozens of similar incidents. The highly contagious nature of the Camp

Funston outbreak suggests, however, that Gitchell was not the real “patient zero”. An emerging flu strain tends not to infect people very well at first. Researchers hunting for the individual Gitchell caught it from have therefore scoured records for an earlier, more localised outbreak of respiratory disease that quickly petered out.

At the moment, there are three theories as to where the 1918 flu first manifested itself. John Oxford, a British virologist, has long argued that it was in a British army camp at Étaples on the northern French coast, not far from the Western Front. Here, an outbreak of “purulent bronchitis”, characterised by a dusky blue hue to the face, was reported as early as 1916. Such blue faces were also characteristic of fatal cases of Spanish flu.

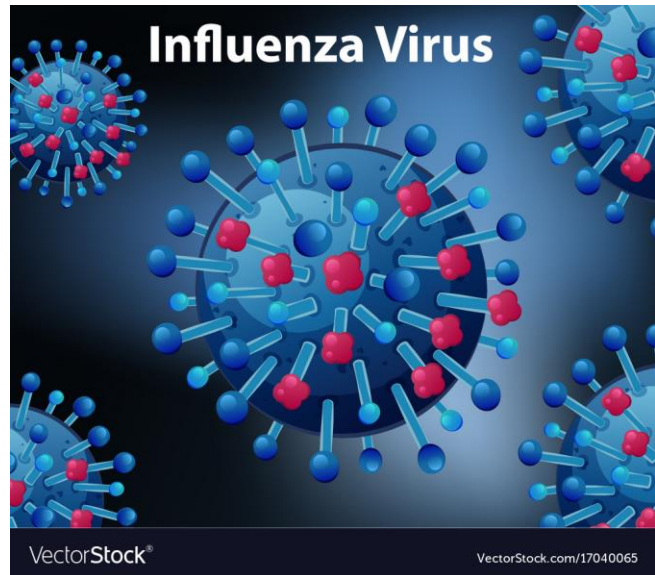
In 2004 John Barry, an American journalist, put forward a rival theory. He claimed that a small but severe outbreak of flu-like disease in Haskell County, Kansas, in January 1918, could have seeded the later one at Camp Funston. The camp’s catchment area for recruits included Haskell.

In 2013 a third hypothesis joined these two—or rather was revived, since it was fleetingly popular in the years immediately following the pandemic. According to Mark Humphries, a historian at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, the 1918 flu began in Shanxi province, China, where an epidemic of severe respiratory disease in December 1917 had doctors squabbling over its identity. Some thought it was pneumonic plague, a respiratory variant of bubonic plague to which China was distressingly prone. Others suspected a form of influenza.

The Blue Death

Whatever its origin, once Spanish flu got going it spread rapidly. It traversed the world in three waves, of which the second—that of the northern-hemisphere autumn of 1918—was the most severe. For that reason, the autumn of 2018 is marked by many as the epidemic’s centenary.

That second wave was preceded by a milder one in the spring of 1918 and succeeded by a final wave, intermediate in severity between the other two, in the early months of 1919. The disease lingered on, though, until at least March 1920, with cases being reported that month in Peru and Japan. Indeed, Dennis Shanks, an epidemiologist at the Australian Army Malaria Institute, in Queensland, recently



reported that the epidemic continued on some Pacific islands for another year, with cases still being reported in New Caledonia as late as July 1921.

In the mind of Paul Ewald, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Louisville, in Kentucky, the 1918 virus's global reach and its particular virulence were shaped by a common factor. Both were a consequence of the trench warfare of the Western Front.

Historians confirm that the virus did indeed race through the trenches, killing as it went. Those soldiers who survived then took it home with them when they went on leave. This process was exacerbated by the demobilisation which followed the armistice of November 1918 that ended the fighting, with American, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand troops returning home, and also soldiers from the European combatants' colonies in Africa and Asia.

Most of those who fell ill from Spanish flu experienced nothing more than the symptoms of ordinary flu—a sore throat, fever and a headache. The unlucky, however, began to have difficulty breathing. Their faces took on a mahogany hue and they bled from their noses and mouths. Mahogany deepened to blue, an effect doctors dubbed “heliotrope cyanosis”, and before long their entire bodies turned black.

The actual cause of death in most cases was pneumonia brought on by opportunistic bacteria. This made diagnosis complicated—for in 1918 the concept of a “virus” was a newish one. Most of the world's doctors therefore thought they were dealing with a bacterial infection. The 1918 influenza thus appears in historical records under a kaleidoscope of labels ranging from the common cold to pneumonic plague. That is one reason why estimating the death toll accurately is hard.

Troops demobilised after the first world war went home by railway and ship. Now, passenger airliners mean that a virus in one part of the planet could cross to that place's antipodes in a day. Moreover, though humanity at large is not as crowded together as were the troops in the trenches, the world's population has quadrupled since 1918. About half of it now lives in cities, with a proximity between neighbours unknown to the far more rural world of a century ago. Monitoring systems are much better than they were in 1918, so the chances are that a threatening influenza outbreak would be picked up quickly. But the conditions needed for a pandemic to happen do exist. As with liberty, so with health: the price of retaining it is eternal vigilance.

Excerpts from: <https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2018/09/29/the-centenary-of-the-20th-centurys-worst-catastrophe>

-Lay in an extra stock of flags for use when the boys come home from the war. Acton should be in a blaze of glory then. -AFP 21 Nov. 1918