

## ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

[www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com](http://www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com)

Vol. 44 No.4

November-December 2019

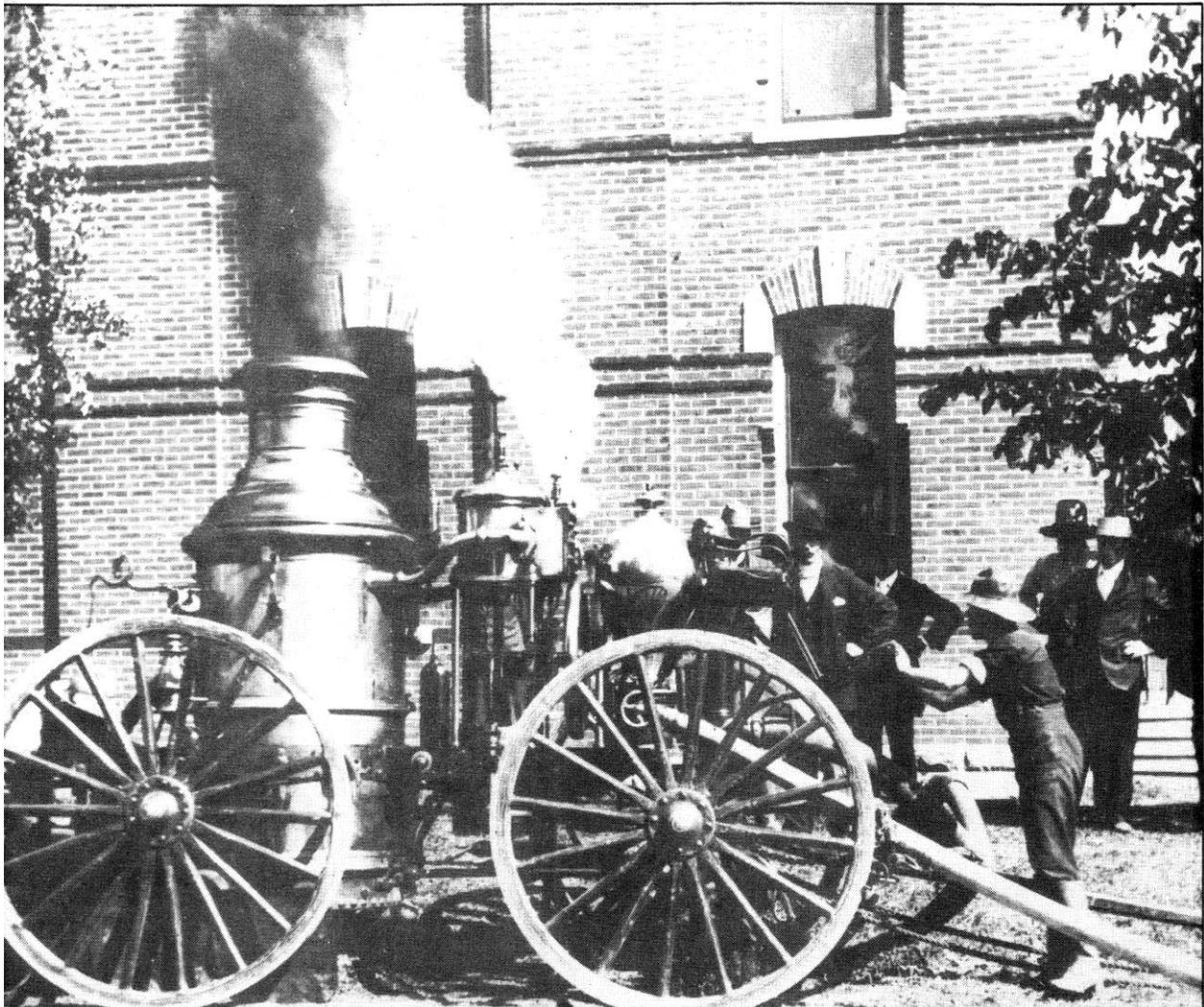
### CHANGES IN ESQUESING TOWNSHIP



**MAIN STREET, GEORGETOWN:** Changes to downtown Georgetown abound compared to this muddy street about 1865 with only part of the McLeod's store still standing today!



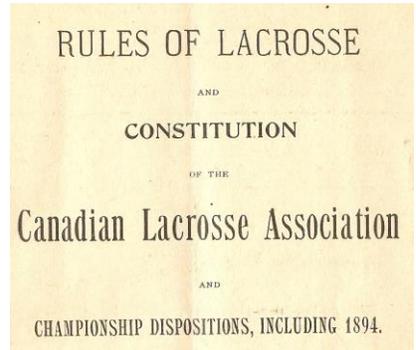
**BALLINAFAD HOTEL:** A warm welcome and a good drink awaited travellers at the Commercial Hotel on Trafalgar Road up until 1912.



**ACTON FIRE BRIGADE:** The finest fire protection available was this steam-powered water pump! It was melted down in World War I.



**ACTON GTR STATION:** Times change -demolished in 1973, but it would be used by commuters today!





ELECTRIC TRAINS!



PROHIBITION: These Glen boys didn't hide their opinion of prohibition in 1919!



TOWN HALL, STEWARTTOWN.

HEATING WITH COAL!

NUMBER PLEASE!

**WHICHEVER WAY YOU LOOK AT IT..**

Quality - Value - Heating Satisfaction - whichever way you look at it, it pays to buy 'blue coal' because the colour GUARANTEES the quality. Order a ton now.

**J. WATKINS**  
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THE COLOUR IS YOUR POSITIVE GUARANTEE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST ANTHRACITE

**'blue coal'**





## **ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

**2019-2020**

- Wed. 13     **CHANGES IN ESQUESING TOWNSHIP**  
 Nov. 2019   Six executive members of the of the EHS will explore changes that affected the people of Esquesing over the past 200 years of our history. The topics will be government, transportation, communication, utilities, education and the Esquesing Historical Society!  
**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.**
- Dec. 2019   The Society does not hold a public meeting in December.
- Wed. 8     **YOUR CYBERSPACE HISTORICAL TOUR**  
 January     Catherine McLeod, Senior Arts and Culture Specialist with the Town of Halton  
 2020         Hills will present on the Town’s new self-guided tour program ‘Discover the Hills’. Pilot tours of Glen Williams and Acton will be presented for discussion and input.  
**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.**
- Wed. 12     **VINTAGE ACTON: THE CALENDAR COLLECTION**  
 February    Anne McIntyre will present slides and stories from a historical book published this year to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the naming of Acton. 'Vintage Acton: The Calendar Collection' was created on behalf of Heritage Acton drawing on the articles written for their annual historical calendar for the years 2003 to 2019. Anne is looking forward to the sharing of stories from those who are able to attend.  
 2020         **KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.**
- Wed. 11     **A SHADOW OF IT'S FORMER SELF: MONO MILLS IN THE 19TH**  
 March       **CENTURY** -Today Mono Mills is small hamlet that barely garners the attention of those who pass through, however, in the 19th Century Mono Mills was a busy village that played an instrumental role in the settlement of the Headwaters Region. This talk will trace the history of Mono Mills from its origins in 1819 to its decline in the 1890s, stopping at all the colourful moments along the way.  
 2020         **KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.**

Stephen Blake	905 877-8251	President
Steve McNamara	519 856-1242	Treasurer
Karen Hunter	905 877-7363	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
Dawn Livingstone	905 877-6506	

**INVITE YOUR  
NEIGHBOUR TO  
BECOME A  
MEMBER!**

**Refreshments  
served at 7 p.m.**

## Society Notes

### INTERNET CONNECTIONS

<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com/> Note the new website address. Send your e-mail to [esquesinghs@gmail.com](mailto: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 76 members for 2019. Our membership year runs from February. Renewals for 2020 will now be accepted. 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. Membership fees can be mailed to our post box or payable by cash or cheque to our membership secretary, David Borrett at a public meeting.

### CANADIANA ON-LINE

<http://online.canadiana.ca/search>

### ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

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

### EHS ARCHIVES

The 1856 School Section map has been sent for restoration. The project was described by Beverley King in the last newsletter. The restored map will hang in the History Room of the Georgetown Library.

We have been processing the many donations received this year – the Dills Family collection, items from Rose Anna Helson, the estate of Ruth McBride and Kathy Gastle. Items are added to our collection Finding Aid or the photograph collection.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, we received negatives taken at Smith and Stone in 1952, from the City of Toronto Archives. These have been processed and we're in the

process of taking them around town for identification. One has been added to Halton Images, featuring Jack Puckering, Jack Sunnecks, Roger Wilcox, Joe Wilcox, Harold Gilmour and Lloyd Dyers. It can be accessed by visiting this link at <http://images.halinet.on.ca/3612586/data?n=7>.

A series of 1955 street images of Acton, donated by the Bruce County Museum has also been added. The description for EHS25055 reads: **ACTON:** A policeman directs traffic at Mill and Willow streets. On the right is Gordon's Hardware, the post office, Baxter Drugs and the Bank of Nova Scotia. On the left is the Bank of Montreal and Cooper's Drugs. Printed on the image is "Mill Street looking East, Acton, Ont. 5"

A third interesting series are newspaper negatives of several movies filmed in this area. EHS25410 can be found on Halton Images with this description: **GLEN WILLIAMS** –A view of the Copper Kettle Pub remade into Pork Belly's General Store during the filming of the movie *The Legend of Gator Face*. The film, released in 1996 stars John White, Dan Warry-Smith and Charlotte Sullivan.

### HALTON-PEEL OGS

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

Nov. 24 -Janice Nickerson, *Genealogy and Games*, Check the website for location.

### DEVEREAUX HOUSE

Ann Lawlor at [ann@deverauxhouse.ca](mailto:ann@deverauxhouse.ca)

### HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

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

Open Sundays 1-4 p.m.

### 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. 21 -Ted Barris, *The Great Escape: A Canadian Story*, Streetsville Legion @ 7:30  
Nov. 10 -40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mississauga Derailment open house at The Grange, 1921 Dundas Street West from 2-4.

### **BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY**

Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:15.

Nov. 21 – Saul Svirplys, *History of Bramalea*.

No meeting in December

Jan. 20 – *Member's Show and Tell*.

### **MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

Nov. 21 -Lesley Anderson, *Researching Your Family History*

Nov. 23 -*Historic Homes and Buildings of Milton, Vol. III* goes on sale.

Dec. 7 -ChristmasFest Books and Curiosities Sale at Waldie Blacksmith Shop -Noon to 6

### **OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

Nov. 20 -Ray Peacock, *Polar Explorers*. St. John's United Church, Oakville, 7:30 p.m.

Speaker's Nights are hosted in February, April, May and November.

### **BURLINGTON HIST. SOCIETY**

Burlington Public Library at 7 p.m.

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> -Liz Benneian, *The Trumpeter Swan Coalition*.

### **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. 15<sup>th</sup> -Open Archives 1:30-3:30

### **TERRA COTTA HALL**

Terra Cotta Community Hall rentals:

Contact Kathy Atkinson at

[terracottaeventbooking@gmail.com](mailto:terracottaeventbooking@gmail.com)

### **LOCAL DIGITAL RESOURCES**

Our Digital World, host of Halton Hills newspapers, Halton Images and Halton News hosts newspapers from across Ontario.

You can start searching at:

<https://ourdigitalworld.net/>

### **ESTATE OF RUTH McBRIDE**

The funeral of EHS member Ruth McBride was attended by members Jan Raymond, Cathy Hunt, Mark Rowe and David Borratt. David offered to play his bagpipes at her

funeral and Hugh Hunter donated \$50 to the Society on her behalf.

### **NORAH ANN WILLIAMS**

EHS member Norah Ann Williams died at Georgetown on Wednesday October 9, 2019. A lifelong resident of Georgetown she was the daughter of Percy Cleave and Kathleen Davidson Cleave. Beloved wife of the late Trevor Williams and mother of Kathy Burt (Don), Hugh (Andrea), Jane Williams and Susan Greaves (Rick). A Memorial service was held at St. John's United Church on Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **DOORS OPEN 2019**

Doors Open was held in Acton on Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup> and the great weather encouraged a great turn-out! EHS member Scott Somerville lead a walking tour of Acton, focussing on its early days.



### **ACTON 175<sup>th</sup> GALA**

The Acton Town Hall Centre events committee hosted a gala dinner to celebrate 175 years since Acton changed its name from Adamsville. The gala also marks the launch of a capital campaign to raise funds to further enhance and protect the former Acton Town Hall. Peter Roe is the capital campaign chair.

### **EHS MARKS TOWNSHIP'S 200<sup>th</sup>**

The EHS have a display marking the township's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the History Room of the Georgetown Library this Fall.

Halton Heritage Services designed some background boards for us and supplied a couple items from their collection. The EHS have a box of Smith and Stone items, donated by Dorothy Hill many years ago and Ray Denny dug through his collection to supply several items. Our project inspired Doug Brock to dig out a broken china plate from the Bennett House Hotel and loan it for the display.

The display will be up for the remainder of the year, so have a look in the History Room

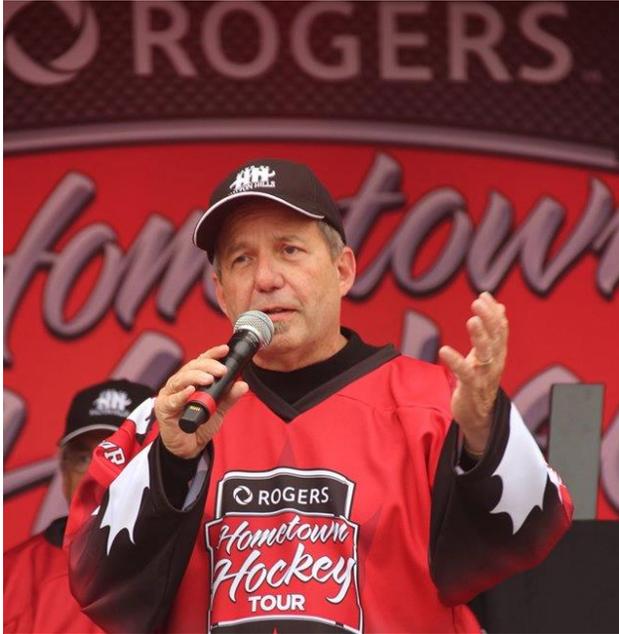


of the Georgetown branch of Halton Hills Library.

We have also created a pop-up banner for use at our meetings and other events. It is currently on display in the History Room.



# Rogers Hometown Hockey



Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette  
-Photo from Town of Halton Hills Facebook

Rogers kicked off Season 6 of Hometown Hockey™ right here in Halton Hills. Town of Halton Hills staff, residents and businesses came together with overwhelming community spirit and support. We made memories, shared laughs and broke records with 163 organizations participating in the Parade of Champions. It all came to a grand finale on Sunday, October 6 with a live broadcast with Ron MacLean and Tara Slone who highlighted the beautiful community of Halton Hills. Fireworks over Mold-Masters SportsPlex was the fitting end to a weekend of celebration.

The Esquesing Historical Society were asked to supply several historical photographs of hockey events and hockey greats from our history. These were used during the broadcast.

Main stage for Hometown Hockey entertainment in the parking lot of the MoldMasters SportsPlex.

-5 October 2019  
-Photo by J.M. Rowe



Displays for the Halton Hills Sports Museum and Hockey Heritage in the parking lot of the MoldMasters SportsPlex.  
-5 October 2019 -Photo by J.M. Rowe

# LOCAL NEWS

## 195 YEARS AGO

*“Lord, how delightful ‘tis to see  
A whole assembly worship thee.”*  
There was a Presbyterian meeting at James Laidlaw’s, in Esquesing, a few Sabbaths ago. Mr. King, the minister, was ill of the ague, and did not attend. The venerable host, cousin of the far famed Etherick Shepherd, and a contributor to Blackwood, opened the day’s service with one of the psalms and tunes which the old covenanters used solemnly to chant in adverse troublous times, under the concave vault of the heavens, and which offered a chastened pleasure to the soul, whether sung in a Scottish kirk, or a Canadian log barn. Mr. Wm. Robertson presented – he has a fine tenor voice. In homely tone, Mr. L. read a long, long lecture, and then proposed that “Sandy” who sat at his elbow, should read another, which, as it contained in eight or ten closely printed octavo pages, he \_\_\_ tied a *short* one. The audience which consisted of a number of well-dressed Scotch families, (some of the fathers, in the short *inexpressibles*, and in use of the large knee buckles of yore) and several Canadians, were very attentive. “Sandy” finished his *short* discourse, and a third emigrant from the land of cakes gave us sermon the third. The exercise then concluded with a very harmonious concert of voices, who joined in singing HIS praise in a psalm, till, as they lifted the stave, the dense and lofty forests by which they were surrounded echoed back their melody. There was no organ nor flute wanted there. -*The Colonial Advocate*, 14 Oct., 1824

## 180 YEARS AGO

**ESQUESING TOWNSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES**  
7 January 1839 -Mr. Thompson’s Inn  
Charles Kennedy, chairman; Edward U. Leonard, township clerk; James Collins, assessor; William Stull, collector; Wardens Francis Huston, Robert Shortreed and Samuel Kennedy; Poundkeepers John Stull (north), John McTavish (south, Frederick Watkins (east) and Graham Lawson (west); Overseers of Highways -Peter Fox, James Brown...

## 170 YEARS AGO

**Ploughing Match in Esquesing** – A ploughing match came off on the farm of Adam Sproat, Esq. of Esquesing on the 26<sup>th</sup> inst. There was a keen contest and the work was performed very creditably. First prize of £1 went to Francis Kent, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Thomas Gill and 3<sup>rd</sup> to John Stewart. Boys who won for their division were John Pickard, George Boomer and John Sproat jr. (*Spectator* 31 Oct. 1849)

## 160 YEARS AGO

**Cricket – Acton vs. Milton** – The return match between the Acton and Milton Junior Cricket Clubs, came off on the grounds of the latter, on Saturday last. The umpires, Messrs. Dunn and Thompson, pitched the wickets at 10 a.m., when the Captains B. Johnson, for Acton, and Jasper Martin for Milton, tossed for choice of innings... The game was a spirited one and went on very pleasantly until about 3 a.m. when the scorers announced...that the Miltonians had won. - *Halton New Era*, 11 Aug. 1859

## 150 YEARS AGO

**SACRED CONCERT** – According to announcement a Sacred Concert was given in St. Patrick’s Church, Georgetown, on the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. The affair was a grand success, the Church being packed to its upmost capacity with a very large and respectable audience. The vocalists performed several parts well, and all present were pleased with the entertainment. Miss Hannah Barber presided at the melodeon, in which her capacity her services were highly appreciated. The sum of \$50 was realized, which is sufficient to show that in a pecuniary point of view the concert was a success. *Halton Herald*, 7 January 1869

## CANADA DECLARES WAR!

Proclamation Issued Following Solid Vote in Parliament; Warsaw Defenders Hurl Enemy Back on City's Fringes; Germans Raid French Positions Under Heavy Barrage

*The Acton Free Press.*  
**Canada Declares War!**  
**Keeps in Step with Empire**

### THE KING SPOKE TO EMPIRE

"In this grave hour, perhaps the most fateful in our history, I send to every household of my people's, both at home and overseas, this message, spoken with the same depth of feeling for each one of you as if I were able to cross your threshold and speak to you myself.

For the second time in the lives of most of us, we are at war...



### 80 YEARS AGO

10 September 1939

World War II

Begins!

## THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

# Britain is at War

### CANADA WILL PLAY HER PART

The fateful hour has struck. Throughout the world, troops are marching, and the roar of cannon and the crash of falling bombs again terrorises Europe.

And once again, Canada has risen to answer the call. Throughout this Dominion today, troops are mobilising as they did in 1914, to answer the call of the Motherland, to join with the Empire in the effort to stamp out the monster which has risen in another land, and which threatens to crush the ideals which all of us hold.