

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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November-December 2020

The New **Tanner**

Your Hometown Newspaper



The late Ted Tyler - Ann Vanderlaan Adema
photo

“Community newspapers are repositories for local information and history; The New Tanner was a bastion for that. And now it's gone.” - John Mark Rowe, Halton Hills historian.

End of an Era: The New Tanner goes silent after 22 years

Harry Rudolfs

Tuesday 22 Sept. 2020

The last edition The New Tanner rolled off the presses on March 19, 2020. At the time, we don't think anyone realized this would be the last word from the Tyler family

After all, the paper had deep roots and had been dutifully serving the communities of Acton, Rockwood and the surrounding areas once a week for the past 22 years. In all that time, it had only missed one edition - during the ice storm of 2013.

This writer was one of the reporters working for The New Tanner located at 373 Queen Street, and we were all aware community newspapers

had been steadily closing and losing ad revenue to the free social media platforms. Yet, The New Tanner was still maintaining its 10,000-copy circulation, and could proudly claim each edition was read.

Iain Brennan started working full-time for the New Tanner as an ad compositor in 2013... In a letter to carriers and other effected parties, The New Tanner manager, Angela Tyler explained the decision to cease operations...

Newspaper journalism has a long and storied history in Acton and Halton Hills. The Acton Free Press had a distinguished run from 1875-1984. George Arlof Dills had the first linotype machine in the County installed in the print shop at 54 Mill Street East, ending the laborious job of hand-setting type. Notably, future Editor and co-founder of The New Tanner, Hartley Coles, began his career as a printer, apprenticing with the Dills in the 1940s.

The Acton Free Press' sojourn in Town ended a few years after the Dills family sold it and some other titles to Inland Publishing in 1978. The offices and print shop were eventually moved to Georgetown where it was eventually merged with the Independent.

“But there are large obstacles to bring a free paper to people, it's a struggle. Free newspapers are a dying thing.”

Next came the Acton Tanner, namesake and predecessor of The New Tanner,

Angela Tyler

founded in 1992 by native son and publisher Paul Nolan who also, at one time, worked at the Acton Free Press. Unfortunately, the publication eventually succumbed to financial difficulties and shut down in 1997. A telling quote by Nolan appeared in the first anniversary issue of his Acton Tanner, May 26, 1993: “It’s never easy. It’s never over. There is no finish line. You’re only as good as your last issue.”

According to Angela Tyler, The New Tanner was born in 1998, after a propitious meeting in a doctor's office between Hartley Coles, who by then had worked as an Editor for several publications, and Ted Tyler, the president of Tyler Transport.

Angela Tyler recalls, “Hartley told my dad, 'This town needs a newspaper and I can make it happen. If you back me, we can put news back in the community.’”

The first issue of The New Tanner appeared on January 29, 1998. “These were exciting times and the new start was warmly welcomed”, according to Tyler. “If people hadn't

received their paper by 6 or 7 p.m. our phone would be ringing.” ...

Dawn Brown was hired as a reporter in 2014 and assumed the role of Editor in 2017. “As someone who wasn’t born and raised in Acton, writing for the newspaper gave me an insight into the heritage, traditions and the sense of community in this town that I’m not sure I would have experienced otherwise.” she said...

Trish Bell was hired to write an opinion column to fill the void after the passing of Mike O’Leary. Her columns garnered a lot of Letters to the Editor and often raised eyebrows. She was never afraid to take a contrary stance...

“I hope somebody wants to carry on with it” added Tyler. “Not everybody is on social media, and if you are on the internet, you don’t necessarily want to go to Facebook or Twitter. But there are large obstacles to bring a free paper to people, it’s a struggle. Free newspapers are a dying thing.”



The New Tanners last meeting. L-R, Trish Bell, Dawn Brown, Harry Rudolfs, Vivien Fleisher, Alex Hilson, Iain Brennan - Samantha Shein photo

Lastly, Tyler would like people to know that closing the paper was a family decision. “It was sad, but the final decision had to be made. I’m just hoping people will understand and be supportive of it.”

The full article is available at:

<https://actonup.ca/news/end-of-an-era-the-new-tanner-goes-silent-after-22-years>



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

ALL EHS meetings for 2020 have been cancelled. We will try to re-book our speakers as soon as feasible.

Your EHS Executive:

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	Consultant

All inquiries can be sent
to:

esquesinghs@gmail.com

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!

Land Registry Records

As explained in the last newsletter, Service Ontario was scheduled to remove all land registry records across the province. Halton records were removed 20 years ago and were transferred to the Ontario Archives. The update below, issued by the Ontario Genealogy Society on 17 October, explains how to access all Ontario records going forward. A visit to the Ontario Archives at York University is still an option for Halton researchers.

Land Registry Office Closure UPDATE

Heather McTavish Taylor, President, Ontario Ancestors

The Land Registry offices across Ontario have now officially closed their doors to public access. The land records can now be accessed in several ways:

1. By visiting www.onland.ca to access abstracts and historical records. Be aware that this site is not easy to use and will likely require patience and multiple visits to the help pages in order to find the correct documents. And, there is a fee attached to accessing the actual land documents.
2. By visiting www.ogs.on.ca to determine what land records are being held at a local level. Our website lists the paper or microfilm documents that are being held by county across the province, along with the repository's contact information.
3. By visiting www.FamilySearch.org to search for any land records that have been digitized by the organization by township and county. As these were digitized separately, the scans may be of better quality and they are free to access and download.

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 51 members for 2020. Our membership year runs from February. It is time to renew your membership for 2021. 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

EHS ARCHIVES

The Halton Hills Public Library reopened, as many readers will know. The Archives can be accessed by visitors during library hours through the library staff. It is best to have the shelf numbers handy to give to the staff when you arrive. You can search our Archives at <https://www.archeion.ca/esquesing-historical-society>. The *Archeion* website is hosted by the Archives Association of Ontario, of which we are a member.

Heritage Halton Hills student Chirag Putney has been using the Archives from time to time for his work on the barn inventory for Halton Hills. He works from home the majority of the time.

Mary Baxter continues to add photographs to Halton Images, so be sure to visit and search for some interesting shots.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

Heritage Halton Hills continues to meet monthly on Zoom. Our student Chirag Putney has been working on an inventory of existing barns and noting barns of yesteryear for a Halton Hills database. The Heritage Register is now easier to find on the Town website.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

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

The remaining 2020 meetings will be virtual.

DEVEREAUX HOUSE

Ann Lawlor at ann@devereauxhouse.ca

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

<http://haltonhillssportsmuseum.blogspot.ca/>
The Museum is currently closed. The Hall of Fame Gala was cancelled. The Museum is considering cancelling the 2021 Hall of Fame Awards and Gala.

L.M. MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

The L.M. Montgomery Museum & Literary Centre, Norval, had a student this summer – Gavin Hughes – thanks to the University of Guelph and history professor Linda Mahood. Gavin started work on cataloguing the collection of the fledgling museum.

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

The Leslie Log Cabin at 4415 Mississauga Road is closed until further notice and all meetings for 2020 have been cancelled.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:15. All meetings are postponed.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society meets in the Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street at 7:30 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday of the month. No meetings are currently posted.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

All activities are suspended.

BURLINGTON HIST. SOCIETY

This website appears to be compromised.

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalandsociety.com

All meetings are postponed until further notice.

TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

TERRA COTTA HALL

Terra Cotta Community Hall rentals: Contact Kathy Atkinson at

terracottaeventbooking@gmail.com

LOCAL TIDBITS OF NEWS

-The St. George Pub, Georgetown has been re-shingled. -*Sunday 25 October 2020*

-Amico has purchased the stalled McGibbon Hotel project in Georgetown. *Oct. 2020*

-Support local eateries during this time by delivery, pick-up or dining on-site.

-The Senior's building on Mountainview and John Street, Georgetown has completed the underground parking.

-Mary Brown's Chicken is ready to open in the former doughnut shop in the Georgetown plaza parking lot.

-Townhouse construction has begun in Acton at the site of Hugh Mann's former cottage on Queen Street.

-Service Ontario has opened an office in the Market Place Mall.

-New construction of a building beside Living Lighting, Guelph Street is progressing.

-Georgetown is getting Bell Fibe

-TD Bank in Georgetown South plaza has reopened.

-A street light has been installed inside the recently extended John Street underpass.

LANDMARK DATE -18th OCTOBER

On 18 October 1929, Canada's highest court of appeal handed down the decision that women were 'persons' who could not be excluded from public office. It was an important policy shift that forever changed politics in Canada and allowed more voices into our political process.

COVID HISTORY

While I'm sure you're sick and tired of

reading about COVID, documenting history as it happens is very important. Luckily Halton Hills Public Library took on the task and has many photos available. Search "covid" on Halton Images or Halton Hills newspapers and you'll see their collection to date.

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/>

MONARCHIST LEAGUE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTOR OF NEW PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN OF CANADA

Order your own copy or copies of the new official portrait of HM The Queen of Canada at the Monarchist League store. The print, with shipping is \$17.00. The address is:

<https://store.monarchist.ca/en/products> . Free digital copies of this portrait and another with the Duke of Edinburgh are available from the Canadian Heritage Services website.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II
QUEEN OF CANADA

WEARING HER CANADIAN INSIGNIA, AS SOVEREIGN OF THE
ORDER OF CANADA AND THE ORDER OF MILITARY MERIT

OFFICIAL CANADIAN PORTRAIT 2021 | 04-11 RIGHTS RESERVED

SA MAJESTÉ LA REINE ÉLIZABETH II
REINE DU CANADA

PORTANT SES INSIGNES CANADIENS, À TITRE DE SOUVERAINE
DE L'ORDRE DU CANADA ET DE L'ORDRE DU MÉRITE MILITAIRE

PORTRAIT OFFICIEL CANADIEN 2021 | 01/10 DROITS RÉSERVÉS

Canada

PINEGROVE SCHOOL

Pinegrove School Section #4 was defined in 1842 by the Township of Esquesing when school sections were formalized. Students south of Norval went here and the union school section #BC at Whaley's Corners was abolished. Toronto Township established a Union School in its place. The original school was replaced in 1877 by this simple frame one-room building and it served the area until June 1963. PineVIEW School was opened at Trafalgar Road and 5 Sideroad to incorporate Pinegrove. Our roving photographer Karen Hunter



noticed the building has now been moved to the rear of the lot, behind the 1994 house on the property. Remaining rural school houses, adapted to other uses, are Ligny #1; Quatre Bras #2; Ashgrove #3; Waterloo #5; Hornby #AE; Gibraltar #9; Dufferin #10; Glen Williams #11; Lorne #12; Bannockburn #13; Blue Mountain #14; Milton Heights #17. Acton still has its first two schoolhouses.



Pinegrove School SS#4 teacher Mrs. Kathleen Lawson uses the water pump outside the school in 1962. EHS04534



A Union Jack flutters outside the Pinegrove School SS#4 reunion in 1994. EHS04535

Artist Captures Our Local Colour with Cards, Prints

Georgetown Herald, 25 March 1987

When Bob Law draws a house or building in Georgetown, he's often capturing a piece of our heritage on paper. The Georgetown artist uses a fine magic marker to sketch out some of the more familiar landmarks in Halton Hills. His works are available on greeting cards and are popular with local folk who wish to mail to friends or family a scene from the community.

Born in Toronto, Mr. Law was first encouraged to be an artist by a Grade 2 teacher in Peterborough where he was going to school at the time. "She ignored my doodles because I guess she saw that I have some potential," he said.

Mr. Law eventually took up teaching himself, but not before taking a number of artistic courses along the way. He has taken art programs at Sheridan College and also through the Parks and Recreation, as well as studying art at High School. The Ministry of Education hosted four summer courses for the visual arts and Mr. Law was enrolled there. He's also taken training as a media specialist.

A psychology major at Sir Wilfred Laurier University in Kitchener-Waterloo, he also attended teacher's college in Peterborough. The artist first began teaching in a two-room country school for grades 1-4 in a town near Tweed, called Kaladar. After two years he moved to Brampton in 1964 and has taught there ever since...

Despite all his training, Mr. Law says his work is 'mostly self-taught.' He has been a member of the Credit Valley



EHS22727



EHS05358



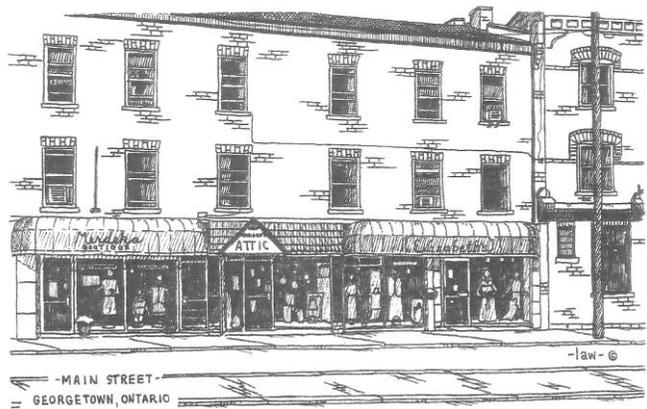
EHS05377



EHS16879

Artisans and Palette and Pencil Club since 1973. He moved to Georgetown as a resident in 1969...

When asked about people who have influenced his art he mentions his grade 2 teacher, former Georgetown resident Agnus Olive, local painter Frank Black and Sandy O'Connor of Whimsey's. Ms. O'Connor is a great promotor and she was helpful in marketing his art, he said...

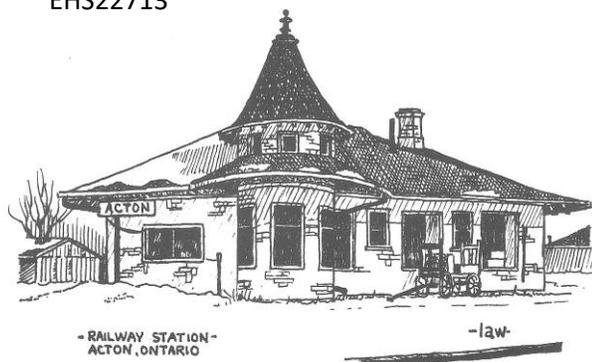


EHS22817

Locally, Mr. Law has drawn dozens of popular landmarks, too numerous to mention them all. Some examples of his sketches are: the Norval Presbyterian Church, the old and new Georgetown High School, Nature's Emporium in Glen Williams, the Georgetown Memorial Arena, the Limehouse General Store and the Limehouse Community Hall. His sketches are available as individual prints which are matted 6" x 8" and sell for about \$2.25. His hasty notes are very popular and they come with envelopes, selling for about \$2.75...

He has been doing greeting cards for about eight years. You can learn a lot about the community you live in just by talking to the locals about the buildings, he said...

EHS22713



As a teacher, Mr. Law said he enjoys giving his students the self-confidence with their artwork. "I teach them basic drawing, weaving and pottery," he said.



EHS01729

Mr. Law is married to Ruth who is a teacher and a convenor of the hospital gift shop. She is currently working towards a Master of Education. -Herald, 25 March 1987

Bob is currently a member of the EHS

LEST WE FORGET

Poppies are on sale from 30 October until 11 November.



The Acton Citizens' Band plays while marching in the 2005 Remembrance Parade. EHS24239

Wreath bearers Shel Lawr, Barry Timleck and Ed Culverhouse march in the 2005 Remembrance Parade on the Main Street bridge, Glen Williams. EHS24262

- PHOTOGRAPHER: Yves Dejadins



"To collect, preserve and publicize the history of Esquesing"