



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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March-April 2019

NOTABLE TREES IN HALTON

W.D. McIlveen



Large White Oak, Bronte Creek Provincial Park (DBH 217 cm)

Like many other things such as building or other items created by humans, some trees can also have an exceptional value.

Admittedly, this is a value that exists in the human scheme of ranking importance. Trees can be notable because of their physical characteristics (e.g. age, height, diameter, or other feature) or because the trees have a special cultural

significance (e.g. history, other cultural value). Perhaps, none of

the trees in Halton reaches the highest level in the Province for any particular characteristic. Nevertheless, some are notable in their own right.

The existence of extremely old White Cedars on the Niagara Escarpment was first recognized in Halton by Doug Larsen at the University of Guelph. While some even older trees were discovered further north, three of the ten oldest White Cedar trees were found in Halton. These are listed below.

Oldest White Cedar Trees in Halton [after Kelly and Larson, 2007]			
Tree Name	Location	Date of Birth	Age (in 2007)
The Cliff Giant	Crawford Lake	1717 AD	291
The Amputee	Mount Nemo	1134 AD	874
The Hunchback	Rattlesnake Point	1411 AD	597

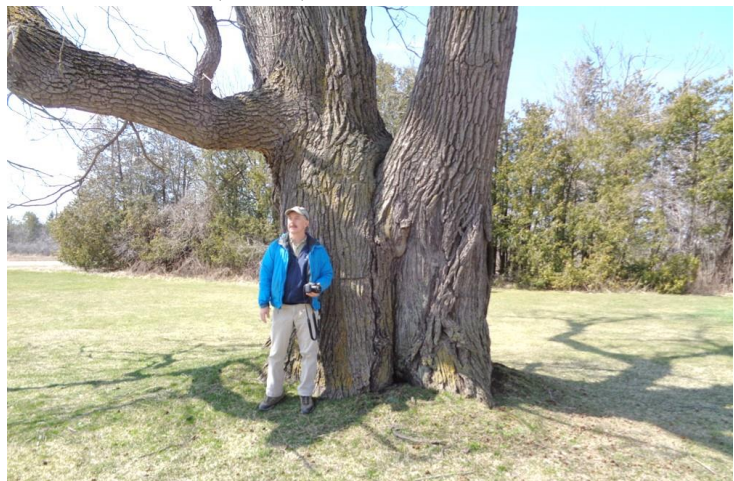


White Oak, Allview Avenue, Dec. 2009

A tree with a notable history is the Allview Oak. It is located on Allview Avenue on the north shore of Burlington Bay. It is designated as an Ontario Heritage Tree because it is believed to have served as a surveyor's bench mark when Brant's Block was first surveyed. It is claimed to be over 300 years old but is also said to have been planted in 1789 by the surveyor Adrian

Marlet. The tree is a White Oak with a diameter (DBH) of 162 cm.

Two of the most impressive trees are a Black Walnut (DBH 214 cm) located on the 5th Line Esquesing but the biggest is another White Oak in Bronte Creek Provincial Park. It has a diameter of 217 cm. It is claimed to have started in 1685 but it is uncertain how this date was determined.



Large Black Walnut, 5th Line Esquesing (DBH 214 cm)

The one tree in Halton Hills that has been designated as a heritage tree under the Ontario Heritage Act is an English Oak. It was grown from an acorn distributed throughout the British Commonwealth to commemorate the coronation of H.M. King George VI and



Queen Elizabeth. The acorn came from the Royal Park in Windsor England. It has been recognized as the Royal Oak owing to its connection to Royalty. Initially, the tree was planted at the public school located just south of Speyside but when that school closed in 1960, the tree was moved the new school at Highway 25 and

Sideroad 17. The tree has also outlasted that replacement school which in turn was closed in 1986.



The Bronte White Oak is an impressive 250-year-old tree located on Highway 25 just north of the Queen Elizabeth Way. The tree was originally saved due to the action of George Atkins who owned the relevant land where the tree was growing. It was threatened by utility installations but through his actions, the tree was saved by an agreement with the Province. The tree came under threat in 2006 when it became necessary to expand Bronte Road. The road could not be moved westward because of the ravine for Bronte Creek. The tree appeared doomed until public pressure forced the planners to reroute the road slightly to pass around the tree. Among others, the main players in the effort to save the tree included Joyce Burnell, Regional Councillor Allan Elgar, Sarah Harmer along with a \$150,000 donation by Meagan McLellan, forced the planners to re-evaluate their plans. Today, the tree sits in the median of Bronte Road just outside the Region of Halton Regional Centre where it helps to enhance the local landscaping. The tree has since been designated as a Heritage Tree in Oakville.

Individually, roadside trees may only be large trees without being of record size but, collectively, they offer a classic look to rural roadsides in Halton and other parts of Ontario. These trees largely derive from the Ontario Tree Planting Act of 1883. Because of their age, many are in a declining state. Unfortunately, there is no obvious plan in place to replace the trees as they die. To some extent, this kind of tree planting has been replaced by trees that are planted in memoriam of individuals or a particular event. In some cases, the plantings are done by dignitaries at a particular event. In other cases, members of the public are invited to participate in tree planting events.

In some cases, trees become notable on an *ad hoc*, unexplained basis in contrast to planting done at formal events. An example of this is the ‘Shoe Tree’ at Norval. Halton Hills actually has a second such tree on the 10th Line near Sideroad 5. Neither of these trees on their own is noteworthy with respect to size, species or such classifications or even that they are shoe trees. They are by default a kind



The Shoe Tree, Winston Churchill Blvd, Norval.



of cultural icon that any passer by may see and recognize as a kind of landscape marker. In some cases, trees are recognized as important only after they are gone. Among the oddity trees in Halton there are historic trees with unusual shapes or that once grew in the middle of the road. All of these different characteristics and stories demonstrates that Halton has an interesting heritage with respect to its woody flora.

The Royal Oak at the Speyside Public School, 12 June 2008.



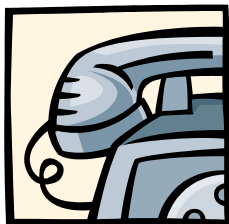
ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2019

- 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.
- Wed. 8
May 2019 **LOST HERITAGE TREASURES**
Esquesing has been prosperous and growing throughout its 200-year history which means many buildings have come and gone. EHS executive members have selected several properties in our photo collection that have been demolished. Reminiscences on these properties scattered across the township, will be welcome!
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 116 Main St., S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 12
June 2019 **WALKING TOUR OF ACTON**
A section of downtown Acton will be explored on foot under the direction of historian John Mark Rowe. Highlights will include the Town Hall Centre, McKinnon Funeral Home, Acton Optical, *Moorecroft*, St. Joseph's Church and the post office. Wear walking shoes!
ACTON TOWN HALL CENTRE, 19 Willow Street North, Acton, 7:00 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
Steve McNamara	519 856-1242	

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 53 members for 2019. 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 archives received 35 donations last year. The donors are listed in the Archives Report for 2018, which can be found on our website. It also contains an interesting list of inquiries we received over the course of the year.

The Archives continues receiving inquiries and donations. The inquiries are often to do with family history.

Sometimes donations are not relevant to our collection. If the donor does not want it back, we seek the proper home for the item. We recently donated items to the Burlington Historical Society and to the Archives of Canada.

The EHS has applied for a summer student once again through the federal Young Canada programme.

Look for our display at the Georgetown Mall at the community open house on April 27th.

2019 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

All of last year's executive members were returned to office at the February AGM along with a new member, Steve McNamara. A list of executive members appears on page 5.

Karen Hunter presented her annual financial statement which was discussed and approved by the members present.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

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

Mar 24 -Coral Harkies, *My Vincent Family from Cornwall and Cumberland*. -Brampton Public Library, 2 p.m.

Apr 28 -Guylaine Petrin, *Land Petitions*. - Oakville Public Library, 2 p.m.

DEVEREAUX HOUSE

Ann Lawlor at ann@deverauxhouse.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.

Apr. 11 -Judy Suke, *Let Laughter Lighten the Load* at Streetsville United Church; 7:30

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7:15.

Mar. 21 -AGM and Heritage update

Apr. 18 -Lynne Golding, *"The Innocent - Beneath the Alders Series."*

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

March 21 -Adam McDowell, *Crawford Lake History*

April 18 -Halton's Historic Joseph Brant

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

April 17 -Gurth M. Pretty, "*The Forgotten Squadron – the Royal Navy on Lake Ontario, during the war of 1812*"

BURLINGTON HIST. SOCIETY

Burlington Public Library at 7 p.m.

March 11 –AGM

April 8 -Rob Green, *Black History*

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com

Mar 12 -Irish Stew Dinner \$15 at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church, 3097-15 Sideroad, Haltonville.

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

CANADIANA ON-LINE

On January 1, 2019, sixty million pages of Canadian digital documentary heritage became available at no charge to users. The Canadiana collections are the largest online collections of early textual Canadiana in the world. The Canadiana collections include three flagship collections: Early Canadiana Online, Héritage, and Canadiana Online.

Explore this resource at:

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

LOCAL DIGITAL RESOURCES

Our Digital World, host of Halton Hills newspapers, Halton Images and Halton News, has announced the addition of new on-line collections for newspapers from Weston, Waterloo and Timmins. Oakville upgraded the quality of their newspaper scans. A book on Newmarket's history has been added as well as 90,000 Tweedsmuir Histories! You can start searching at:

<https://ourdigitalworld.net/>

EHS MEMBER MARJ ALLAN DIES

Marjorie Thelma (McEnery) Allan died 13 February peacefully with her family, at the Bennett Centre in Georgetown. Marj, in her 86th year, wife of the late Kenneth Allan

and mother of Connie (Dave) McMenemy, Larry, Gayle and Gwen (Hessel) Faber. Many will remember Marj and Ken at Carroll's, then Superior Food Market in Georgetown. Following that, she worked for 20 years in the insurance business. She enjoyed curling and golfing at North Halton. A private funeral was held.

BOB WRIGGLESWORTH

Robert F. (Bob) Wigglesworth, 73, of Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, USA died on January 17, 2019. He was born June 20, 1945 in Georgetown, Ontario, Canada to Howard and Ruth Giffen Wigglesworth. Surviving are his wife of 24 years, Phyllis Byrd Wigglesworth and daughter Sydney Godfrey, step-children Celeste Cantrell and Scott Cantrell. A celebration of Bob's life will be held in Murrells Inlet on Saturday, March 2, 2019.

JOSIE SARGENT DIES

Mary Josephine "Josie" Sargent passed away peacefully on 19 February 2019 at the age of 96 years, wife of the late Doug Sargent, at Georgetown. Loving mother of Chris Briggs (Bill), Jody, Bob (Jacqueline), John (Lynn) and Paul (Lori). She was predeceased by sisters Ellen Saxe (Dave), Marnie Cleave (Walker), Alice Walker (George) and Teresa Williams (Dave).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

This will be your final EHS newsletter unless you renew your membership. Our year begins in February. Please send your payment of the \$20 to P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, ON L7G 4T1.

ACTON FREE PRESS 13 MARCH 1919

On Tuesday evening the Boy Scouts met at the band hall to reorganize the bugle band troop which had been let drop this last few months for obvious reasons. Scoutmaster Nelson F. Moore

Mr. Gordon Hayward, Toronto has sold his residence on Bower Avenue, which has been used as a Baptist Parsonage for several years, to Mr. Leonard Worden.

THE ARTISTRY OF PETER JONES



LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER DIES IN CRASH

Albert George (Peter) Jones, 63 years old, was killed in a car crash in Brampton on 12 April 1993. He was a photography teacher at Humber College at the time and had previously taught at Sheridan College.

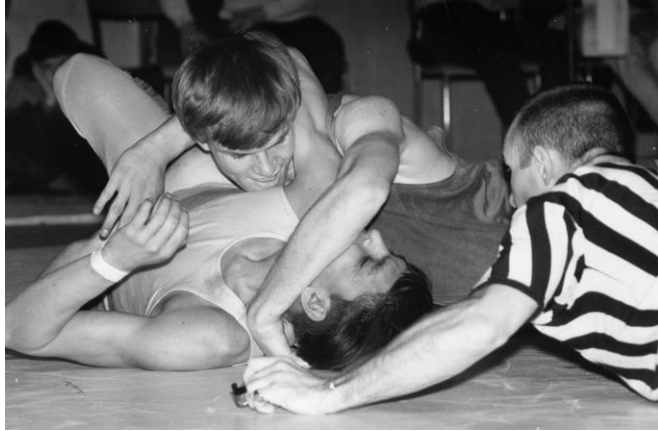
“Jones was well known in the Georgetown area, having worked locally as a portrait and wedding photographer in the early 1960s, as well as a press photographer for the now defunct *Georgetown Herald*. In recent years he was often called upon to judge local photography shows and exhibited a number of photography displays himself in the Gallery of the Halton Hills Cultural Centre.” (*Independent*)

Peter Jones was married to Elizabeth Pilcher who died of cancer on 15 October 2015. They had four children, Chris, Marke, Robin and Tim Jones and by 2015 had eight grandchildren.

EHS00238 Orange Parade 1961

EHS00237 Aerial view of Mill and Main 1961

EHS01353 Georgetown Council 1962



EHS002412 Wrestling at GDHS 1963

EHS02425 Fong brothers celebrate year of the Dragon, 1964



EHS02404 Irwin Noble, Fred Steen, Marion Hunter and Cal McIntyre, 1963



ABOVE: EHS00239 Tony Martin removes maple tree on Main Street, 1963



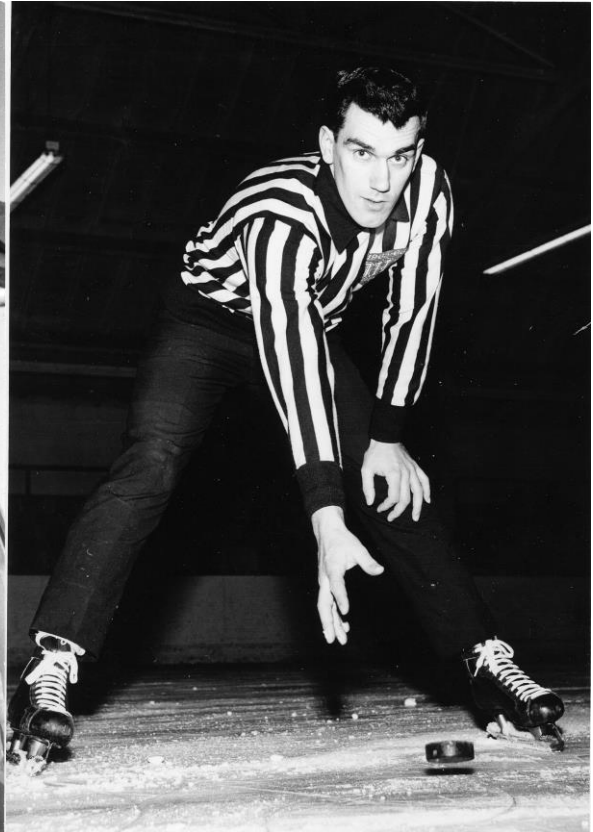
EHS02414 Outdoor pool lifeguards Brenda Bell, Pat Barrager, Bob Bingham, Sandra Scott, and Lynn Persons, 1961.

RIGHT: EHS02323 Norval flour mill, 1961





EHS00250 Howard Koehler in Avian gyrocopter, 1963



EHS02357 Referee Bryan Lewis, 1967



EHS03652 Cub Philip Buck and Scouts Steven Grace and Bill Magnusson practice BBQing, 1969

EHS24292 Walter "Red" Asseltine, 1961

