

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

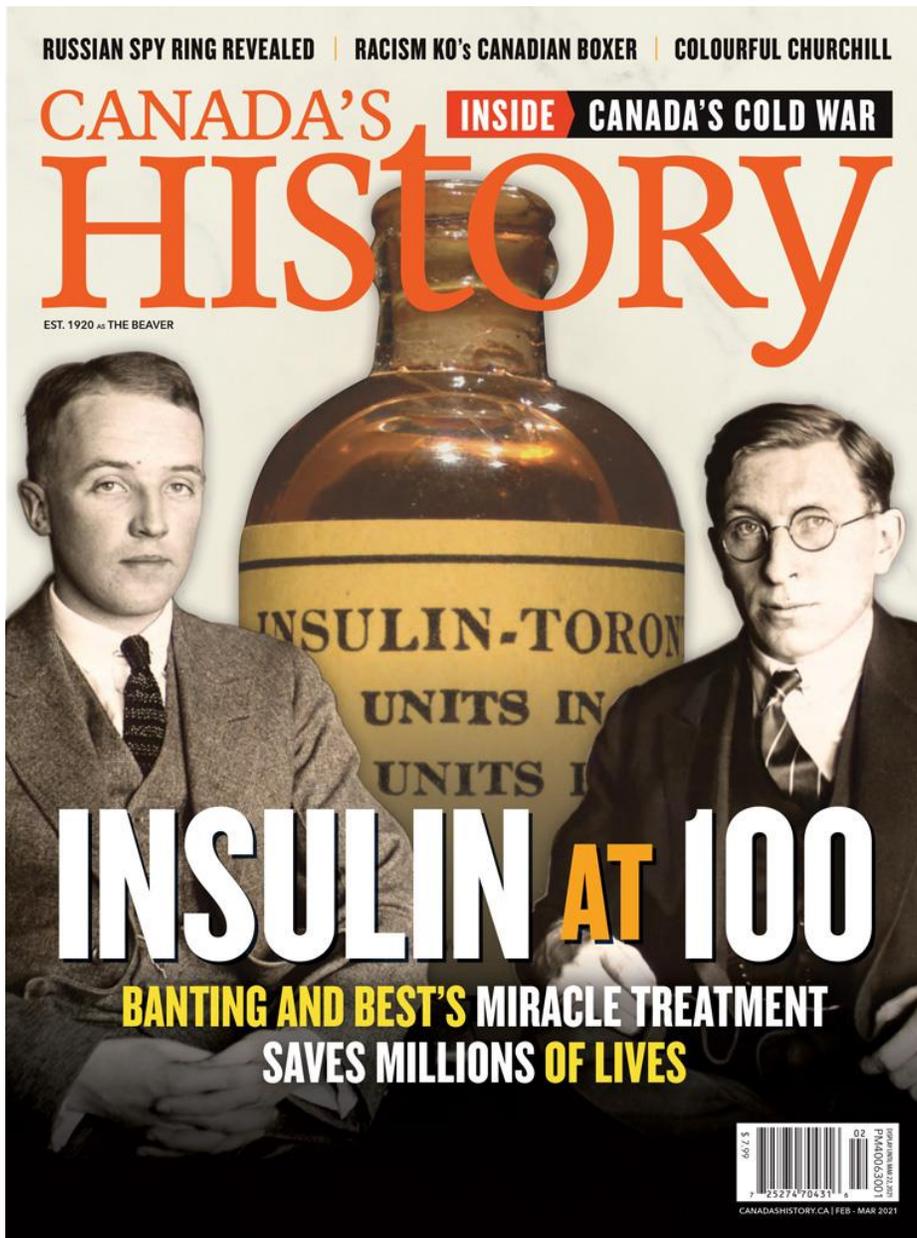
P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1

www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

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INSULIN DISCOVERED 100 YEARS AGO



MANUFACTURING HOPE

By John Lorinc

One mild day in the middle of May 1921, two men entered a small, filthy upper-floor room in the University of Toronto's imposing medical building, on King's Circle, and began to scrub every surface. The elder of the pair, Frederick G. Banting, was a twenty-nine-year-old orthopedic surgeon, then based in London, Ontario. The other was Charles H. Best, a twenty-two-year-old physiology and biochemistry student who had just finished his fourth year at the U of T. They had met just days before – introduced by John J.R. Macleod, one of Best's professors and

an eminent U of T scientist... This interesting story is chronicled in the latest edition of *Canada's History* and is well worth reading. For members of the Esquesing Historical Society, it is Charles Herbert Best's connections to our township that is of further interest. Our Archives has many interesting pictures connected to the Best family history.

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

Charles Herbert Best (1899-1978) was born in Maine, USA and came to attend the University of Toronto in 1915. He ended up with a farm at Stewarttown and participated in Georgetown social life. He is pictured with the Georgetown team as Halton-Peel Baseball League champions for 1920 (EHS00084). He also attended the 1927 Old Boys Reunion (EHS00191). In a photo taken on Labour Day 1920 he is pictured with the leaders of the community and Ontario Premier “Bud” Drury at a community picnic (EHS01372). His interest in politics was passed on to his eldest son Charles Alexander Best (1931-1978).

SOCIAL and PERSONAL

The sympathy of the community is extended to Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Best, summer residents of Georgetown, in the death of his father, Herbert H. Best, M.D., in Coboconk, Ont., on Thursday, August 30th.

-Georgetown Herald, 26 August 1942, page 5.

Charles H. Best married Margaret Mahon (1900-1988) in 1924 and they would spend their summers in a log cabin he built overlooking the Willoughby Golf Links (North Halton Golf & Country Club). They had two boys -Charles Alexander and Henry Bruce Macleod Best (1934-2004).

Charles Alexander Best, known as Sandy Best, became the Conservative member of Parliament for Halton 1957 and again in 1958. He married Eileen Jane Thompson in 1958 and they had five children. Besides his brush with politics, Best was a farmer, nurseryman and scientist.



Halton's Member of Parliament, Alexander "Sandy" Best of Georgetown greets visiting U.S. President John F. Kennedy, while Prime Minister John Diefenbaker watches. See *Georgetown Herald*, 1 June 1961

EHS04762



Sandy Best died of a heart attack at Sunnybrook Hospital, Toronto in March 1978 at the age of 46! Hearing of his son's death, Dr. Charles Best collapsed at his home, and even after surgery at Toronto General Hospital died within the week at 79 years of age.

Charles Herbert Best ploughing at the Noble farm in Norval about 1920. EHS18079

An election family portrait of PC candidate Charles Alexander (Sandy) Best with his wife Eileen (Thompson) Best and boys Charles and Alexander with their dogs. Winter 1962
Photo by Peter Jones EHS16364



Who to vote for? *Herald* 31 March 1962.
EHS07743

The Charles Best cottage was purchased in 1965 by Peter and Pat Kurylłowicz. When the property was sold in 1998 for the 207-home subdivision of Stewart's Mill, the house and some property were retained.

Former summer home of Dr. Charles Best. Sketch by Bob Law. EHS22768



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



Alexander "Sandy" Best (centre), the former MP for Halton was granted his PhD at the University of Toronto, His father (left), Dr. Charles Herbert Best (1899-1978), the co-discoverer of insulin received an honorary degree from Chancellor Dr. Francois Jeanneret, This photo appeared in the 29 Nov. 1962 issue of *The Georgetown Herald* on page 5. PHOTOGRAPHER:

In 2006, the Town of Halton Hills opened Dr. Charles Best Parkette.



The Dr. Charles Best Parkette on Arborglen Drive in Georgetown was opened on 6 July 2006 with a ribbon cutting. On hand were (L to R) Councillor Moya Johnson, Rakesh Mistry, Halton Hills parks design co-ordinator; Aaron Wisson, project manager of Mattamy Homes; Mayor Rick Bonnette, Councillors Mike Davis and Jane Fogal. This photo appeared in the 26 July 2006 issue of *The Independent Free Press* on page 17. PHOTOGRAPHER: Ted Brown EHS26600



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

EHS meetings for 2021 have been cancelled for the winter and Spring.
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!

Ontario Township Papers Now Available at FamilySearch

Through an agreement with the Archives of Ontario, FamilySearch is making Ontario's Township Papers available on their website for free.

They are filed alphabetically, and can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/185567?availability=Family%20History%20Library> (Abinger to Haldimand)
- <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/2759321?availability=Family%20History%20Library> (Hallowell to Zorra)

In order to access them, you must sign into or create a free account with FamilySearch. Please note that these records have not yet been indexed or transcribed, but hold a wealth of information, so is worth it for any researcher to check them out!

• Patent Plans (the original grant from the Crown to a property owner) can be found at <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/about/patent-plans.aspx>

• County atlas maps from the 1870s – 1880s can be found at <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/CountyAtlas/searchmapframes.php> The Halton County Atlas can also be found in the History Room

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 68 members for 2020 and 39 paid 2021 members. 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 dropped off at the home of any executive member (see previous page).

CANADIANA ON-LINE

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

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

www.archives.gov.on.ca

EHS ARCHIVES

The Halton Hills Public Library had been closed for the second lockdown, but reopened in mid-February. That means the Archives are once again accessible to the public. The public can search the EHS Archive Finding Aid at:

<https://www.archeion.ca/esquesing-historical-society>

Be sure to read the 2020 Archival Report to find a summary of our activity.

EHS EXECUTIVE

The executive of the EHS have not physically met since our March 2020 meeting. Nevertheless, the volunteers have continued to carry on the business of the Society. An internet vote passed the following motion

unanimously: Moved by Mark Rowe, Seconded by Ray Denny, That the executive of the Esquesing Historical Society, elected in February 2020, have their term extended by one year due to the extraordinary pandemic restrictions. CARRIED
Society treasurer Steve McNamara has prepared the annual statement. It can be accessed on the EHS website. Steve provides an overview in this newsletter. Archivist Mark Rowe has prepared an Archival Report and this is also available on the EHS website.

Jan Raymond, our faithful refreshment coordinator is looking for an assistant this year – it won't be until the September meeting, at the earliest. Let her know if you're available.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

Heritage Halton Hills student Chirag Putney has recently been working on making the EHS map collection accessible to the Town planning department. Quite a number of map links were discovered and shared and the EHS has added them to our webpage.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

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

All winter 2021 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 Museum has cancelled the 2021 Hall of Fame Awards and Gala.

L.M. MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

The L.M. Montgomery Museum & Literary Centre, Norval, has a consultant preparing a feasibility study on constructing a visitors' centre next to Manse in Norval.

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

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

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

All activities are suspended.

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

All meetings are postponed.

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

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/>

OSCAR PETERSON HERITAGE MINUTE

The *Heritage Minutes* collection is a bilingual Canadian legacy project comprised of 60-second short films, each depicting a significant person, event or story in Canadian history. They are produced by [Historica Canada](#), a not-for-profit organization. First released in 1991, the *Heritage Minutes* have been shown on television, in cinemas and online, and have become a part of Canadian culture. Today, the collection includes 90 episodes. The Oscar Peterson Minute was released in February 2021.

BLACK HISTORY ON-LINE EXHIBITION

Be sure to visit the excellent on-line exhibit about a Georgetown citizen, assembled by the Halton Hills Public Library. RSM Henry Thomas Shepherd MBE (1895-1960) explores the life of this outstanding citizen. You can access the exhibit at:

<https://images.halinet.on.ca/558/exhibit/1>

A park at Dayfoot and Main Street will be named in his honour.

REQUEST FOR ARBOR DAY INFO

Although there are claims from other places as to being the first site to celebrate Arbor Day, the one started in Nebraska in 1872 seems to be the one that got the activity really started. Arbor Day has been replaced by Earth Day. Next year (2022) will mark 150 years) since the event got started. It took some time before the movement reached Ontario and elsewhere. By the 1920s, Arbor Days seemed to be a common action for Ontario Public Schools each April. Although the details of what happened at each school are no longer available, a small bit of the impact of those activities may still remain. That is most likely in the form of trees that would have been planted along the edge of the old school yards. If any of the EHS members can recall spending an April school day involving Arbor Day, we would like to hear about that. We would like to know if any trees were planted, any shrubs or perennials were planted, or was it just clean-up of the school yard? We are mainly interested in the local schools of Esquesing and Chinguacousy but recollections from anywhere are welcome. We would like to know what places were involved and the year(s) if possible. Please contact Bill McIlveen at wmcilveen@sympatico.ca if you can add any information. All information would be welcome. In due course, we would like to check the sites to determine what became of the efforts from those old school day activities and plantings.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



EHS Treasurer's Report for 2020

Steve McNamara

Membership fees and donations totalled \$1,512, and accounted for fifty percent of cash received in 2020. Thank you all for your continued support.

EHS was again fortunate to receive \$739 from the Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant program in 2020. This funding has been made available by the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries under the leadership of Minister Lisa MacLeod.

Archive photo sales for the year were \$425, and publication sales brought in another \$241. Receipts from Jan Raymond's tea and baked goods were \$103. Total cash receipts for the year were \$3,020.

On the expense side, hall rental costs of \$150 and supply spending of \$20 were down significantly resulting from Covid-19 cancellations.

High School History Awards of \$200 each were presented to Alyssa Firth from Acton District High School, and Gabrielle Costello from Georgetown District High School. Due to Covid-19 disruptions throughout the school year, a recipient from Christ the King High School has not been named at this time.

The EHS insurance premium for 2020 was \$648; \$162 for director and officer liability, and \$486 for general liability coverage. The total insurance premium amount was unchanged from the prior year.

Membership fees paid in 2020 were \$155; \$95 to the Archives Association of Ontario, and \$60 to the Ontario Historical Society.

Covid-19 didn't stop Mark's newsletter from going out. Expenses for the year were: Printing \$217, and Postage \$189. The newsletters are always interesting and informative. Wrapping up the expense items are \$195 for our post office box renewal, and \$125 in honorariums paid to speakers back in January and February.

Total expenses for the year were \$2,100. Our year-end bank balance stands at \$7,758.97.

Please reach out to me by email or phone with any questions you may have.
Steve McNamara, CPA/CGA (Retired),
Treasurer
steve.mcnamara@execulink.com (519)
830-8866

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



APPLE PRODUCTS OPERATED IN WILLIAMS MILL

John Mark Rowe

A canned fruit business once provided employment in the Williams Mill, 515 Main Street, Glen Williams. Apple Products, processors of apples and fruit for commercial use started operations in the Glen 95 years ago.

John F. Lindner (1887-1965) rented the empty saw mill and shuttered power plant in 1926 to operate a seasonal apple processing business in connection with the food processing business his father started in Brampton in 1915. It was known as The Glen Company and he purchased the property after two years of operation. Alas, the Depression soon reduced demand until bankruptcy ensued in 1935. However, a local backer was found -William Mullin and the company name became Lindner & Mullin Apple Products.



Irene McMaster watches her machine shave the skin off the apple at Apple Products in Nov. 1962
EHS04939

Demand for apple pie filling returned and in 1944, Lindner bought out Apple Products, returning it to his family. By 1949, the company operated from September 1st until mid-March with an average of 35 employees, processing 20,000 barrels of Ontario apples each season. John Lindner and his son Bill had invented a paring and coring machine for the apples, after four years of work, which could process 120 apples a minute! They processed 75% Northern Spy apples with the balance being Rhode Island greenings or Baldwins.

They opened a Norval facility to slice apples in 1951. Apple Products grew during the 1960s making two additions to the former power plant. By 1969 manager John Wagstaffe had between 80 and 90 employees producing over 4 million pounds of product per year. Modern refrigeration allowed the company to expand to year-round production, adding a block building to the complex on Main Street.

An example of the fine employers the Lindners were was the company Christmas party with carol singing, piano solos and square dancing!

Mrs. Frankruyter and Mrs. K. Bouwman work at the labeler at Apple Products in Nov. 1962 EHS04938





Apple Products president Fred Lindner inspects the PerfecPy product with Mrs. Herb Preston and manager John Wagstaffe. in Nov. 1962 EHS04937

When a walk to support Oxfam came through the village in 1969, Apple Products provided apples for the 5000 walkers at the Glen checkpoint.

William and Marion Lindner continued to operate the business until Marion sold Apple Products in 1985 to Rinehart Vinegars in Stayner. The buildings had become decrepit by that time, but were fortunately rescued by Doug and Mary Lou Brock. While the Williams Mill has been used for many creative projects since then,

food is once again featured in the Glen Tavern Restaurant, located in the Williams Mill itself.

Apple Products in March 1968 EHS03128



This article was modified from the original which appeared in Neighbours in the Glen magazine in April 2015.