

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

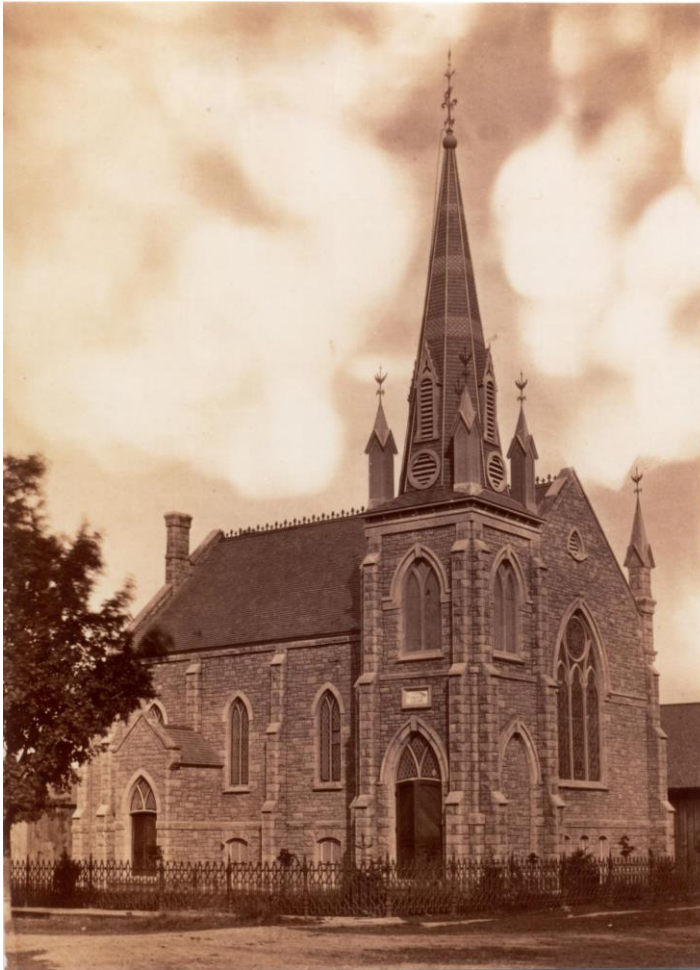
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www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

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November - December 2021

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS PRESENTS...



Heritage Halton Hills summer student Chirag Patney worked with Heritage Planner Laura Loney and committee members John Mark Rowe and Alison Walker to create a presentation on the former Congregational Church, now part of the Georgetown Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library at 9 Church Street.

The video is on the “Let’s Talk Halton Hills” page of the website of the Town of Halton Hills. Alternately, the video was posted to YouTube in Feb. 2021 under the title, “Heritage Halton Hills presents the Georgetown Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library.”

Congregational Church, in 1890 EHS11509

Below is EHS00692 looking north up Market Street. From the right are: Church Street townhouses, the Congregational Church, Knox Presbyterian Church, the stables and finally the house torn down to allow for the 1980 expansion of the library.



WILLIAMS MILL

Heritage Halton Hills summer student Kylie Robins worked with Heritage Planner Laura Loney and committee members John Mark Rowe and Alison Walker to create a presentation on the Williams Mill at 515 Main Street, Glen Williams.

The video is on the “Let’s Talk Halton Hills” page of the website of the Town of Halton Hills. Select the “Heritage Planning” photo. Alternately, the video was posted to YouTube in Sept. 2021 under the title, “The Williams Mill Property.”



Former saw mill in June 1987. EHS10149



**Former saw mill in October 1989. At centre is the former apple warehouse and on the left is the corner of the former hydro-electric plant.
EHS00498**

**The stone building, yellow mill and lower parking lot of the Williams Mill property, October 2009.
JM Rowe photo**



The Williams Mill property consists of three buildings – the c. 1852 saw mill, the c. 1893 hydro-electric power plant and the c. 1968 apple warehouse.

The complex was designated by Heritage Halton Hills in 1988, allowing owners Doug and Mary Lou Brock to access funds to restore the yellow mill.

DESIGNATED PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT

The two properties highlighted above were selected by Heritage Halton Hills, a committee of the Town of Halton Hills. A summer student worked with committee members to prepare a narrated slide show about the Halton Hills Public Library at Georgetown. Then the committee posted a survey on “Let’s Talk Halton Hills” to determine the first three properties that they should spotlight on the Heritage Planning page of *Let’s Talk Halton Hills*. The three chosen properties were the Acton Town Hall, the Williams Mill and Craiglea House. Only the Williams Mill has been completed to date. Visit the page on the Town of Halton Hills website at <https://www.letstalkhaltonhills.ca/heritage-planning> to see the video links.

The Williams Mill at 515 Main Street

The Williams Mill at 515 Main Street is a former saw mill constructed by the Williams family in 1826. The Williams Mill also was the first commercial power plant in the area to supply hydro-electricity.



Craiglea House at 9722 Third Line

It is a two-story frame Classical Revival residential building constructed circa 1827. William Lyon Mackenzie, the first Mayor of Toronto and leader of the Upper Canada Rebellion in 1837, stayed at Craiglea House in August 1837 and reportedly addressed crowds from the front steps of the home.

Acton Town Hall

The Acton Town Hall at 19 Willow Street North is a two-storey Italianate building constructed in 1883. The Town Hall for the former Town of Acton was the centre of cultural and administrative activity in the town.

PHOTOS courtesy of Heritage Halton Hills





ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

2021 - 2022

Wed. 10 Nov./21 **RECENTLY POSTED LOCAL HISTORY**

The November newsletter will feature links to several on-line presentations featuring local history. You may, of course, view these items at your leisure or on our usual meeting date! We will not meet in person. *Your place!*

December 2021 The EHS does not hold a meeting this month.

Wed. 12 Jan. 2022 **LIMEHOUSE HERITAGE**

Heritage Halton Hills members John Mark Rowe and Ray Denny will update members on the latest Heritage endeavours and will focus on heritage in Limehouse, especially recent designations.

-Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:30

Wed. 9 Feb. 2022 **TO BE ANNOUNCED**

-Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:30

NOTICE: In-person indoor meetings will require proof of vaccine, ID check and the wearing of masks during the meeting.

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

All inquiries can be sent
to:

esquesinghs@gmail.com

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!

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 with help from Karen Hunter. 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 59 paid 2021 members. We are accepting memberships now for 2022. Our membership year runs from February. 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, dropped off at the home of any executive member or at one of our meetings.

CANADIANA ON-LINE

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

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

www.archives.gov.on.ca

EHS ARCHIVES

The Archives in the Halton Hills Public Library are open during regular library hours.

Karen and Mark have been continuing their slow dogged pace in processing new donations as well as making inroads with outstanding large donations. Mark has continued to support Mohawk College students by providing images to add to the Halton Images website.

OCTOBER MEETING

Our second meeting of 2021 was held on 13 October in the plaza in front of the Georgetown Library. It was a beautiful night and John Mark Rowe spoke on Training Homes for Juveniles

EHS PHOTOS FEATURED

A few photos from the EHS collection were featured in an on-line presentation on Canada's history by Nathan Hiller of the Halton Hills

Camera Club on 6th October.

ENLARGED EHS PHOTOS

During renovations of Georgetown's former bowling alley into offices, Trevor Buttle of GBA, Chartered Professional Accountants, ordered enlargements of several iconic Georgetown scenes. On 21st July, Archivist Mark Rowe was given a tour of the offices by Trevor and Tim Dixon. The 2-metre-high photos are impressive!

FILM STUDENTS

Two film students at Humber College brought their crew to the History Room at the Georgetown Branch of Halton Hills Public Library in October to interview John Mark Rowe on the Barber Paper Mill. Parker Weames and Nick Mongillo contacted the Society for a chance to do this film for a school assignment. It was professionally done – a crew of five, and a copy has been requested for our Archives.

SOCIAL ASSISTANT WANTED

Jan Raymond, our faithful refreshment coordinator is looking for an assistant this season. Let her know if you're available.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

Heritage Halton Hills has continued to meet virtually over this year and a number of designations and plans for the Cultural Heritage Master Plan have progressed. Two of the Limehouse designations will be featured at our January meeting.

The EHS is pleased to continue our partnership in providing images for use in the *Independent Free Press*.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

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

Nov. 28 – The Curious Case of Dr. Henry Gray by Jane McNamara -3p.m. virtual presentation.

DEVEREAUX HOUSE

Ann Lawlor at ann@devereauxhouse.ca

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

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

The Museum is currently closed.

L.M. MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

The L.M. Montgomery Museum & Literary Centre, Norval, has been awarded

a grant by the Retired Teachers of Ontario to produce a children's book about L.M. Montgomery in Norval. Details to follow.

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

The Leslie Log Cabin at 4415 Mississauga Road is closed until further notice.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Nov. 18 -Members Show and Tell on Zoom.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street, Milton. They offer eight YouTube videos on local history.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nov. 17 – Alanna Bray-Lougheed, *History of Burl-Oak Canoe Club*, 7:30 p.m. via Zoom

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

Check the website.

TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nov. 19 – Open Archives @ 1:30 p.m.

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

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/>

MEMBERSHIP

Consider renewing your membership now.

Although the new year doesn't begin until 1 February 2022, it doesn't hurt to get renewal out of the way!

IMPROVED INTERSECTION

The intersection of Maple Ave. and Guelph Street, in Georgetown, was improved over the past summer, including a new set of traffic lights. The *Herald* noted that the first set of lights at this intersection commenced operating on 16 February 1972.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

The collage on page 9 uses photos from the EHS Archives to highlight the 100th anniversary of the poppy this year. The words are from the Legion website at:

<https://www.legion.ca/remembrance/poppy-100-anniversary>

ACTON FREE PRESS -17 NOV. 1921

The third anniversary of the signing of the Armistice was fittingly observed Friday. The wearing of the memorial poppy was general. Promptly at 11 o'clock all work ceased in town. Every wheel stopped. Upon the stroke of eleven Mrs. John Kennedy, president of the Women's War Veteran's Auxiliary, approached the soldiers' monument on the lawn of the Soldiers Home and deposited at its base a beautiful wreath. Other wreaths were placed by Mrs. L. B. Shorey, regent of the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the IODE, and Miss. Laura Scott, president of the junior IODE.

Just at 11 in the Free Press office Private David Conbrough, an Imperial soldier of the 51st division, stepped in to have his passport endorsed by Police Magistrate editor H. P. Moore. He remarked, "Three years ago I spent this day at La Boisselle, near Lens." Private Ernest Brown of the Free Press staff who was in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces stepped up and said, "Shake hands comrade: I was at Valenciennes." They had never met before but had been with brigades which were closely allied to each other on Armistice Day - a coincidence both interesting and pathetic.

A letter to council from the Provincial Secretary requested their views on the question of extension of franchise to wives and daughters of property owners. The council unanimously endorsed the proposal.

The Corporation and Mr. Amos Mason of Alton are getting together in the matter of opening a knitting mill in Acton.

Limehouse Boys' Club re-organized last week with the following officers: D.M. Gowdy, Arthur Benton, Sam Gisby and Arthur Lane.



DIGITAL ESQUESING / HALTON HILLS

A VIRTUAL HIKING TOUR

Toronto member of the Bruce Trail Association John Goddard prepared five YouTube videos of walking on the Trail through Halton Hills. He contacted the Society to clarify some points of history. They can be found by searching for *Goddard's Hinterland*.

Bruce Trail Toronto Section #1: Solo hiker John Goddard ascends the Niagara Escarpment to explore the first 11.4 kilometres of the Bruce Trail, Toronto Section. He passes the spot where Philip Gosling painted the first blaze, recounts the Bruce Trail's origins, crosses the Sixth Line to a Ghost Bike, skirts the Niagara Escarpment edge, crosses the stunning Dufferin Quarry Bridge, and reaches Pear Tree Park to view the Marlis Butcher plaque.

Bruce Trail Toronto Section #2: Solo hiker John Goddard takes his second hike on the Bruce Trail, Toronto Section, getting there by public transit and bicycle.

From Georgetown GO Station, he stops by historic Devereaux House, cycles to the abandoned village of Speyside, and after a restorative hike through the woods cycles to the 1868 Boston Presbyterian Church outside Milton.



Hiking to Limehouse on the Bruce Trail, #3: Hiker John Goddard advances to the Hole-in-the-Wall and Limehouse Conservation Area on his third trip to the Toronto Section of the Bruce Trail,

getting to and from the trail by GO Transit and bicycle. He finishes by touring the ruins of a 19th century lime-making operation.

Mill ruin at Limehouse, 2016

EHS24856

Bruce Trail Hike to Scotsdale Farm, #4: From Limehouse, hiker John Goddard advances through the Toronto Section of the Bruce Trail to the Todd Bardes Meadowland Side Trail, a featured 200-year-old maple tree, a stretch of boardwalk through swampy terrain and the Cedar Springs Motel, where he spends the night before exploring Scotsdale Heritage Farm. It is his fourth hike in the series, getting to and from the trail by GO Transit and bicycle.

Bruce Trail Toronto Section, Hike #5: In the final hike of the series, he walks from Fallbrook Heritage Farm, in Silver Creek Conservation Area, to the overnight camping spot at Terra Cotta Conservation Area, and past the Spirit Tree Cidery to end at the Cheltenham Badlands tourist attraction. To and from the trail, he traveled by GO Transit and bicycle.

CANADIAN HISTORY EHX

Canadian History EHX Craig Baird, host of a podcast on Canadian history contacted Heritage Halton Hills to gain some feedback for his podcast on Halton Hills. On his website, Baird writes, "I love Canadian history and have since I was a child. Too often our history is not known because we are



Mill Street, Acton about 1949

EHS11658

Halton Hills. His webpage describes his

experience. “Over the course of many episodes

about small towns, I can honestly say that Halton Hills has one of the most unique histories of any community I have come across. It isn’t just the story of one town, but of several hamlets and towns that came together into one community in 1974. Due to this, as I go through the history, I will jump between the communities at first as each was founded at different points in the 19th century, and will circle back to talk about the other communities as we go through the years...”

The podcast can be accessed at <https://canadaehx.com/2021/09/25/the-history-of-halton-hills/>

Alternately, a link is available on the “Let’s Talk Halton Hills” page of the website of the Town of Halton Hills. Select the “Heritage Planning” photo and the link to Canadian History EHX is on the right side of the page.

HENRY THOMAS SHEPHERD MBE

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. It uses text, photographs, newspaper clippings and audio files with external links as well, to tell his story. You can access the exhibit at: <https://images.halinet.on.ca/558/exhibit/1>



Georgetown Park named for Town's First Black Fire Chief, military Veteran

By Herb Garbutt, *Independent Free Press*, Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Halton Hills recognized and paid tribute to an important part of its heritage Saturday (Oct. 2), re-naming the park on Dayfoot Drive in honour of Henry Thomas Shepherd.

Shepherd was Georgetown’s first Black fire chief, a position he earned after a being a long-time member of the volunteer fire brigade. Shepherd was also a founding member of the Georgetown Legion.

“They lived in a time when the colour of your skin was the sole measure of your worth. The Shepherds faced obstacles and barriers I could never begin to name, yet they thrived,” said Melissa King, Shepherd’s great granddaughter. “The measure of their worth is the legacy of strength they carved out for future generations.”...

<https://www.theifp.ca>



100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE POPPY

Madame Anna Guérin, later christened "The Poppy Lady from France", inspired by John McCrae's "In Flanders Fields", had an idea: to adopt the distribution of the Poppy on Armistice Day as a way to raise money for Veterans' needs and to remember those who had given their lives during the First World War.

In July of 1921 the Great War Veterans Association (which in 1925 would unify with other Veteran groups to form the Canadian Legion) adopted the Poppy as the flower of Remembrance.

