

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

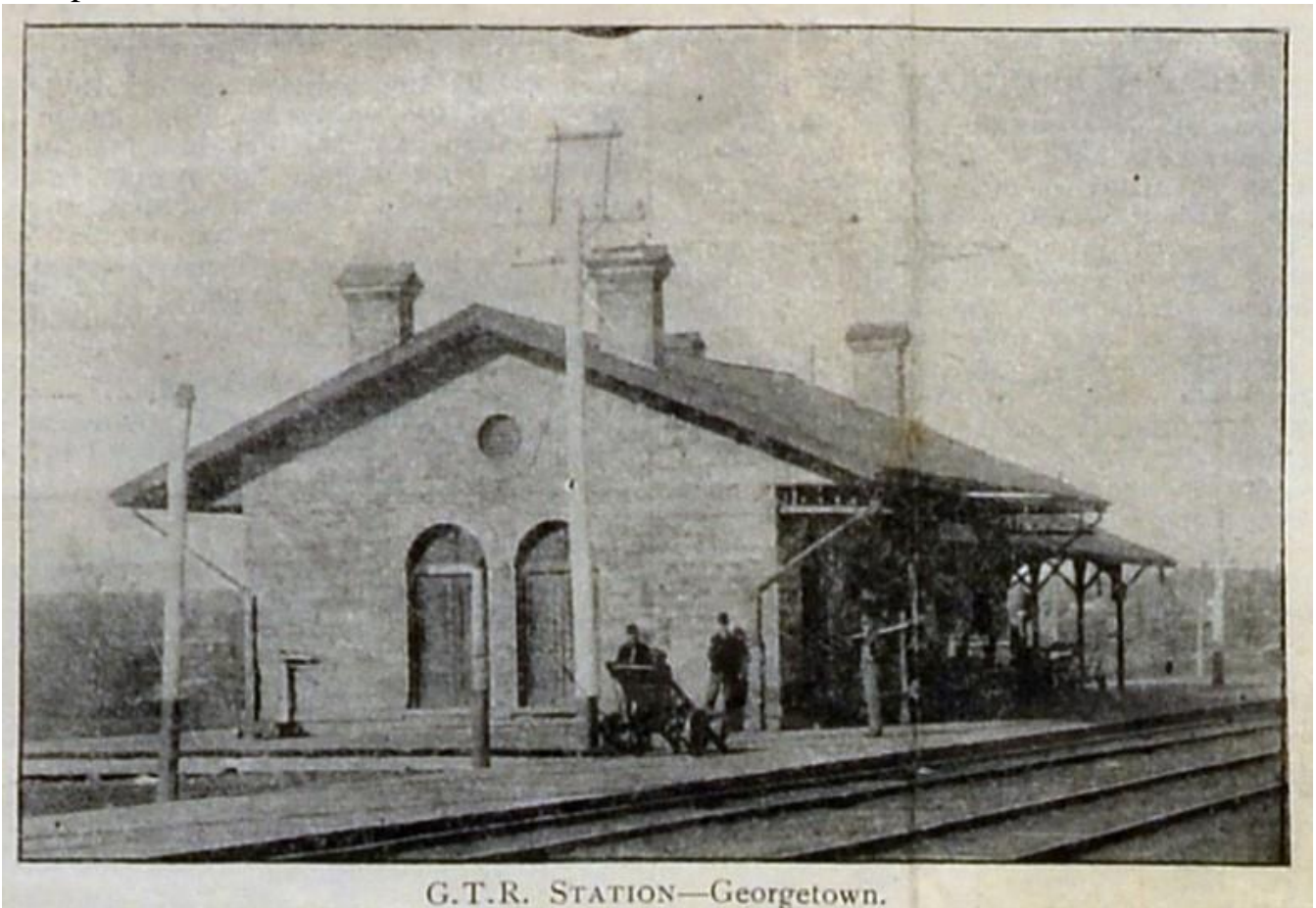
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Vol. 47 No. 3

September - October

QUEEN STREET, GEORGETOWN

In preparation for September's walking tour of Queen Street, a few excerpts from the *Toronto Daily Mail* of 24 June 1893 are presented. The gems of Queen Street, as the newspaper editor decided, relate to transportation and the magnificent homes of local entrepreneurs.



G.T.R. STATION

There are no less than five passenger trains each way daily on the G.T.R. (Grand Trunk Railway), and two each way on the H. & N. W. (Hamilton & Northwestern Railway) division of this railway. Yearly commutation tickets between this point and Toronto, are sold at the rate of twenty-two and a half cents the round trip. The rate is exactly the same between here and Hamilton. There are twenty-four arriving and departing daily mails. The scenery hereabouts is exquisitely romantic, and artists and tourists delight to "wander

o'er the semi-wooded hills and through the shady dells," bordering the pellucid waters of the sparkling streams, in which the gamy speckled trout makes its home.



RESIDENCE OF G. S. GOODWILLIE.

THE RESIDENCE OF G. S. GOODWILLIE, ESQ.

This, one of the most imposing residential structures in Georgetown, is of brick, two tall storeys high, with mansard roof, and stands on the crest of the east ridge overlooking the west branch of the River Credit. It was erected in 1880, at a cost of about \$6,000, exclusive of site. Mr. Goodwillie is "native and to the manor born," and was ushered into this troubled world in 1842. He was educated by a private tutor, the Rev. Charles Dade, and graduated at Toronto University in 1865. For several years thereafter he was classical tutor and registrar of University College. He began practice here as solicitor-at-law in 1876. In Dec., 1878, he was appointed clerk and treasurer of the village of Georgetown, and has held both positions ever since.

The walking tour will commence at 7 p.m. at the train station. The tour will end at Guelph Street.



“GREY VERNON”—Residence of E. McCannah.

GREY VERNON

One of the most desirable residences in this village is that of Mr. E. McCannah, station agent of the Grand Trunk railway. Grey Vernon is an attractive stone building, picturesquely situated on the sloping grounds facing Queen Street, and was erected in 1889. Mr. McCannah is a native of the Empire State, having been born in Ogdensburgh in 1852, but came to Canada in early childhood. In 1870 he entered the service of the G.T.R., and in 1879 was appointed station agent at Georgetown.

EXCHANGE HOTEL

This photo quilt depicts the history of the Exchange Hotel at 37 King Street by the train station in Georgetown. It represents the timeline of the historic structure from its construction in 1855 to the demolition in 2017. The hotel and tavern was first owned by the founder of Georgetown, George Kennedy and served travelers and locals for close to 150 years.



EHS17102

Created by Doris Burfind - “This work is dedicated to my husband Neil who discovered the beauty of Georgetown while working on these tracks as a conductor for CNR 30 years ago when we were looking for a place to raise our family.”



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2022

- Wed. 14 Sept. **THE QUEEN OF WALKING TOURS**
Queen Victoria, arriving at the Grand Trunk Station, would have enjoyed this tour of the historic street named in her honour! Join EHS historian John Mark Rowe as we explore the architecture and people that helped shape Queen Street since it was laid out in 1854.
Georgetown GO Station, 55 Queen Street, Georgetown, 7:00 p.m.
- Wed. 12 Oct. **TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT AND PROHIBITION IN HALTON COUNTY**
The evils of drink and the prohibition victory of the Temperance movement in Halton County will be explored by local historian John McDonald. The benefits and consequences of this period will be examined.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 9 Nov. **THE TOWN OF GEORGETOWN**
The centenary of the Town of Georgetown and the eve of Georgetown's bi-centennial will be explored by local historian John Mark Rowe.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- December No public meeting is held in December.
- Wed. 11 Jan. **HERITAGE HALTON HILLS**
Updates on the recently designated buildings in Halton Hills will be given by Heritage Halton Hills members John Mark Rowe and Ray Denny.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!

- All Meetings are FREE to attend -

MEETING UPDATES: Visit <http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com>

INQUIRIES: esquesinghs@gmail.com

Society Notes

EHS EXECUTIVE

Stephen Blake	President
Steve McNamara	Treasurer
Karen Hunter	Secretary
J. Mark Rowe	Archivist
David Borrett	Membership
Ray Denny	Publications
Brandi Gillett	Library Liaison
Jan Raymond	Social

Send all inquiries to: esquesinghs@gmail.com

EHS website:

<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.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 79 paid 2022 members. 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 were a beneficiary of Heritage Halton Hills student Dawn Chan this summer. Part of her duties, once a week, was to scan selected items from the EHS archives. All of the accession sheets from 1983 until 2019 have now been digitized. In addition, select files are now digitized including Police services, Ambulance and Fire services. Business files were added from Wm. D. Johnston Lumber, William Watson, Apple Products and North Halton Golf & Country Club. A detailed listing of our archival are available at

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

Halton Hills Public Library

Associate Kaitlin Sonneveld completed the scanning and stitching of an 1868 *Halton Herald* over the course of two weeks. The full process took 10 hours (2-3 hours per page). The physical copy obtained by the Esquesing Historical Society consisted of 32 photocopied pages that did not seamlessly align or connect. To correct this and stitch the document together into something that was legible Kaitlin scanned the pages separately and then edited the pages, column by column, using a photo editing software to properly align the pages making them readable.

Have a look at the 2 April 1868 edition of the *Halton Herald* at

<https://news.haltonhills.halinet.on.ca/3770131/data?n=3>

The Archives in the Halton Hills Public Library are open during regular library hours. Requests for digital files can be sent to the Archivist at our EHS Gmail address.

EHS HISTORY PRIZE WINNERS

Your Historical Society once again sponsored the history award at our local schools in June. The winners were -GDHS: Adele Trunecek; ADHS: Jaden Vandenberg; CTK: Haley Campigotto. Each received \$200 for excellence in history.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

HHH summer student Dawn Chan worked from May to July on various HHH projects. She also scanned parts of the EHS Archives.

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

HERITAGE SERVICES IS OPEN FOR RESEARCHERS

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions across the province, businesses are opening up and welcoming visitors back. Heritage Services is accepting onsite researchers again by appointment only.

The facility is at the former Museum in Kelso Conservation Area. To book a research time, please get in touch at

<https://www.halton.ca/The-Region>

CULTURE DAYS TOURS

The Town of Halton Hills is once again sponsoring Culture Days which includes two free public walking tours. You must register for these tours on the culture Days website.

Sunday 25 Sept. – Walking tour of Main Street, Glen Williams at 2 p.m.

Sat. 8 Oct. – Walking tour of Main Street, Georgetown at 1 p.m.

Both tours are led by Mark Rowe of the EHS.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

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

Sept. 25 – Oakville Cemeteries by Elaine Eigl

Oct. 23 – Writing your Family History by Lynn Palermo All meetings are VIRTUAL

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 Museum is preparing to launch their long-awaited education kit on Lucy Maud Montgomery's life in Norval, Ontario.

Friends of the L.M. Montgomery Museum have resumed their monthly meetings.

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

Sept. 8th – *Streetsville Historical Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary* by Anne Byard, Streetsville United Church meeting room @ 7:30 p.m.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Sept. 15 -*Jonathan Scotland*, The Dictionary of Canadian Biography -online

Oct. 20 – Show and Tell.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street, Milton. Sept. 15th – To be confirmed

Oct. 5 – *John McDonald*, Temperance and Prohibition in Halton County.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sept. 21 - *Carolyn Van Slightenhorst and Susan Schappert*, Oakville Heritage Services

Nov. 16 -*Rick Barrett*, History of Oakville Fire Department

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sept. 16 - Open Archives @ 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 24 – Heritage Fall fair 10-2 p.m.

Oct. 21 -Open Archives @ 1:30 p.m.

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

ANTIQUÉ APPRAISAL EVENT

Treasure Antiques will be at Joseph Brant Museum on September 17, from 12:00pm to 4:00pm to appraise your items at a cost of \$10/item. Pre-payment is required.

Please note that military items and books will not be appraised.

RAG RUG WORKSHOP

Joseph Brant Museum Oct. 23rd @ 1:30

Participants will make an 8-inch piece that can be used as is, as a trivet or potholder, or as a starter for a larger project. All supplies, including fabric, will be supplied by the instructor. COST: \$50

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/>

MARGARET O'ROURKE PASSES

EHS member Margaret Ruth (née Wilkins) O'Rourke died peacefully on May 9th, 2022, shortly after celebrating her 98th birthday and Mother's Day. The Georgetown resident's celebration of life was held May 18th.

Georgetown and Acton **Fall Fairs** return this September! Get out and support these community workers.

Spirited disagreement: protesters swarmed Queen's Park 74 years ago to oppose the sale of alcohol

By Jessica Dee Humphreys Special to the Star
Sun., March 13, 2022



In 1946, the Star published this photo of some 1,500 temperance advocates opposing the relaxing of restrictions, specifically a bill to legalize the sale of liquor in public houses (bars and cocktail lounges) in Ontario.

Prohibition against alcohol, which began in 1916, had been somewhat relaxed by 1927, when LCBO stores were first established. Further, 1934 saw the legalization of “beverage rooms,” where patrons could purchase, in any Ontario city with a population over 100,000, a single glass of beer to consume, while seated, sexes segregated.

“Beverage rooms could only sell beer,” says alcohol historian and Star contributor Christine Sismondo, “and we’re talking the

worst, weak, watery beer that they served in tiny little glasses around four or six ounces at a time.”

This was the only option for public drinking in Ontario until 1947, when bars were finally permitted to sell liquor. “It is striking to think that you couldn’t drink a glass of whiskey in a bar from 1916 to 1947,” says Sismondo.

While there was much public resistance to the repeal of prohibition, many citizens were strongly in favour of tippie. In her PhD research on Toronto’s public houses, Sismondo stumbled upon a box at the LCBO archives labelled “Petitions to Close Women’s

Beverage Rooms.” “There were a lot of Christian ladies, and some men,” Sismondo says, “who would write regularly to say these (places) are bad for children, destroying families and bringing about the end of society.”

But among these petitions, Sismondo discovered a 1945 letter by Toronto journalist Gordon Sinclair. “He’s writing to say we need cocktail lounges,” she says, “that beer should be sold in steins, not four or five tiny glasses at a time, and he’s making fun of the people who are saying that we can’t be trusted with hard liquor.”

Sinclair’s letter objects to the characterization of “vulgar guzzling” in beverage rooms and decries provincial restrictions: “Surely those sour-faced professional gospel shouters ... the breed who oppose everything from A (for adultery and alcohol) to Z (for zest and zoot suits) ... surely they are outmoded now.”

Sismondo admits she is somewhat sympathetic to the temperance groups. “The original intent was very much about protecting women from domestic violence,” she says, “and I think that there’s misogyny involved in making fun of them.” But her research also revealed that the protest movement was fuelled by “anti-immigrant and anti-modern sentiment,” which is why, she says, “I ultimately side with Gordon Sinclair.”

The Benefits of Sobriety

By Richard E. Ruggle, *Georgetown Herald*, 27 March 1985

...H.P. Moore, [editor of the Acton Free Press,] was an ardent champion of the temperance cause....

Moore was no lonely crusader, and many like-minded people shared his outlook. This was particularly so in the churches. Georgetown Baptists had been pressed to take the pledge in 1875. Although Archbishop Lynch opposed the movement for prohibition; a Catholic Temperance Society was active in St. Patrick’s church in Georgetown in 1876.

An Acton branch of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, meeting in the Baptist and later the Methodist churches, was organized in 1882. Canon Caswall organized a Church of England Temperance Society in Stewarttown the following year.



Sons of Temperance, Hornby Division.
1898 EHS11546

There were secular groups as well. The Royal Templars expanded rapidly in the area, and lodges were formed in Acton, Milton, Georgetown, Oakville, Rockwood, Brampton and Streetsville.

The local interest was part of a movement that stirred all of North America. When the Canadian government passed the Scott Act, allowing municipalities the option to vote themselves dry, Halton became, in 1881, the banner county to implement the act – the only municipality in the province to do so.

The municipality hired men to police the Act, and hotel-keepers were repeatedly hauled before the magistrates for selling liquor. Though one of the early charges, against Robert Bennett of Georgetown, was quashed for lack of evidence; the case upheld the power of the local government to appoint police magistrates. Bennett would appear before the courts on other occasions, and be found guilty; as would Thomas Clark of Georgetown.

During each of the first two years of operation, there were 33 convictions in the county...



To mock prohibition, ten men (members of the Glen Williams band) gathered to drink on an embankment. They each hold bottles and/or glasses. Note the various different styles of hats and the dog in the centre of the back row. 19 August 1919 EHS00010

The inspector from the LCBO is anxious to meet the two characters who sign themselves into the local [Legion] Branch guest book as “Chub” and “Sharkey.” He says he’ll bet they are a real pair of dandies! (In case you’re interested boys, he wants FULL signature in future.) -*Georgetown Herald*, 7 April 1954

Liquor Store Asked for Georgetown

Georgetown Council, at the request of a petition from local merchants, has asked the Liquor Control Board of Ontario to establish a liquor store in the municipality. A petition

presented at Monday’s council meeting by Al Norton on behalf of the merchants, bore 99% of local businessmen’s signatures, said Mr. Norton.

Deputy Reeve Goodlet reported that, Acton Council had recently passed a similar motion and he heard that Milton was following suit... Oakville, which possesses the only store at

present, has a decided asset according to Oakville merchants with whom Mr. Goodlet has talked... -*Georgetown Herald*, 20 July 1949

Local Liquor Store Opened Saturday

Georgetown's new liquor store opened last Saturday. The store is located on Mill Street in part of the Tom Hewson building... A similar petition about the same time from Acton was turned down. -*Georgetown Herald*, 18 January 1950

Council learned the liquor store would be possibly opening this weekend. -*Acton Free Press*, 25 Oct. 1962



The constable (in rain coat) examines the smashed kegs of contraband beer in the ditch in front of Acton Town Hall, while men and boys look on. This supply was from the Dominion Hotel. Gov't officers destroying 100 gallons of beer at the town hall, Acton, after the trial on May 6th 1911, when the proprietor, his sons, and bartender of Dominion Hotel were fined \$1,120.00 and costs. EHS11390

Our October Speaker: **John McDonald**

John McDonald was born in Milton and is a lifelong resident of Halton. He graduated from Ryerson Polytechnic Institute and has served as a Member of Council on both Halton Hills and the Region of Halton. John has conducted extensive research throughout the Halton area since the early 1970's including numerous presentations and walking tours. This work has resulted in the publication of three books *Halton Sketches*, *Halton Sketches Revisited* and *Halton's Heritage*. He is a founding member of the Esquesing Historical Society. John was awarded the Ontario Heritage Community Recognition Program "Certificate of Achievement" and recognized for his community efforts and historical research when presented with the "Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal".