

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 48 No. 4

November - December 2023

www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

THE LORNE SCOTS REGIMENT



...The experience of action [Fenian raids] proved the Volunteers to be poorly trained and equipped, leading the government once more to reorganize the militia. The 20th Halton Battalion of Infantry was formed in 1866. At their annual training they showed keen interest in rifle shooting, and in 1872 they were designated the 20th Halton Battalion of Rifles.

William Allan of Acton, who assumed command in 1881, instilled the regiment with the flavour of his native Scotland. In the year they became the 20th Halton Battalion Lorne Rifles [1900],

the Marquis of Lorne was Governor-General of Canada. The pipes and drums accompanied them to camp, where they wore tartan trews and diced glengarries. A number of men from the regiment served in the Boer War.

Early in the 20th century, the unit began to recruit more from Toronto than from the local area, and there was a danger of losing the local association.

During the First World War, they became part of the 4th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force. As casualties grew, the government tried to encourage recruiting by raising battalions on a county basis, and the 164th battalion was raised in Halton and Dufferin counties. Their colours are now

The Duke of Argyll gave permission for the regiment to wear his personal tartan, [ancient] ordinary Campbell, and his crest, the boar's head.



Lorne Scots Band at Camp Niagara. Left to Right, Back Row - Standing - Art Herbert, Winston (Curly) Wheeler (Euphonium), Ian Emslie, Joe Carter (Alto Horn), Ray Agnew, unknown, Bruce McKerr, unknown in behind believed to be from Acton, Charlie Landsborough, Bill Emslie, Doug Mabelston, Ken McDonald (Bass Horn). Front Row - Kneeling - "Bip" King (Clarinet), Nino Braida, Reuben Eason (Coronet), Norm Braida, unknown from Milton, Jim Yates. Seated - Ollie Stapleton, ? Spielvogel.. EHS01140

placed in St. Jude's Church, Oakville.

Following the War, they became (1920) The Halton Rifles, with headquarters in Georgetown and companies in Milton, Oakville and Burlington. The Scottish connection was revived to stimulate recruiting, and in 1931 they became The Lorne Rifles (Scottish). The Duke of Argyll gave permission for the regiment to wear his personal tartan, [ancient] ordinary Campbell, and his crest, the boar's head.

The final amalgamation took place in 1936, when they became part of The

Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin and Halton Regiment), with a company in Oakville. During the Second World War, Lorne Scots served with distinction in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and North West Europe, from Dieppe to the occupation of Germany. Many also served



in staff appointments and training establishments in Canada, England and Europe.

In Georgetown, C Company of The Lorne Scots continues the long military tradition of the area.

-excerpt from "Long Military Tradition Continues with Lorne Scots," by Richard E. Ruggle, *Georgetown Independent*, November 1983.

Lorne Scots (Peel, Halton and Dufferin Regiment) Officer's Ball at the Riviera in Norval, May 1963; Lt Col John R Barber, Bruce Beer (MP for Peel), Lt Col Ted Conover, Mrs. Conover. EHS06721



Queen Elizabeth II inspecting Guard of Honour of the Lorne Scots regiment at Malton Airport on evening of Tuesday June 30 1959. EHS04695

Captain Ian Kirkwood (L), new commanding officer of "C" Company of Lorne Scots with former commander Major Orville J. Ketcheson in October 1969. EHS03796



Seated recruits R.J. Smith and Fred Taylor watch Sergeant Jim Martin assemble a Sten gun. Standing beside Sergeant Martin is Corporal Gerry Howson in March 1971. EHS03908



Lorne Scots Band at Remembrance Park, Georgetown, November 1990. EHS10417





ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2023-2024

- Wed. 08 Nov. **A SHORT HISTORY OF THE LORNE SCOTS REGIMENT**
The Lorne Scots (Peel, Dufferin, & Halton Regiment), the local Militia (Army Reserves) regiment has served Canada and the local community since before Confederation. While its official birthday is in September 1866, its history predates the War of 1812. A company of the regiment has been in Georgetown since 1863 and has included many residents who have served in war and peace. Charles Veale will present the history of the regiment starting with the 1793 Militia Act and continuing to the COVID-19 Pandemic and will touch on a few more recent developments.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00
- December The EHS does not hold a public meeting in December.
- Wed. 10 Jan. **HALTON HILLS: THE SUM OF IT'S PARTS**
Although the Town of Halton Hills was formed 50 years ago, it was a marriage of disparate communities. Historian Mark Rowe will examine the several communities throughout the new municipality and how they responded to the growth and challenges of regional government.
Helson Gallery, 8 Church Street, Georgetown, ON 7:00 p.m.
- Wed. 14 Feb. **HERITAGE HALTON HILLS**
Prompted by Provincial legislation, Heritage Halton Hills has had a busy year writing reports and suggesting designations to the Halton Hills Town Council. HHH members Ray Denny and Mark Rowe will review the several new designated properties.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00
- Wed. 12 March To Be Announced

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
Charles Veale	

Send all inquiries to: esquesinghs@gmail.com

EHS website:

<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com>

EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter.

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 2023 members.

Our membership year runs from February. The individual membership rate is \$20. The family or institution rate is \$25. Payment can be made via Interac transfer to

EHS.etransfer@gmail.com

The EHS will accept personal cheques from our members. Please note that all cheques must be made payable to “Esquesing Historical Society”, fully spelled out. Cheques can be mailed to our post box, dropped off at the home of any executive member or at one of our meetings. Exact change can be accepted at meetings.

EHS ARCHIVES

The recent bankruptcy of Metroland Publishing and the subsequent closing of many community papers across the province, including our own *Independent Free Press*, has created many concerns about archiving local history. The executive is looking for solutions to the problem.

Roseanna Helson recently donated a large collection of slides taken by Fred Helson.

They will be duly processed. Anyone care to volunteer? Contact Mark.

A detailed listing of our archives is available at <https://www.archeion.ca/esquesing-historical-society>

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

One consequence of the IFP closure is the need to publish legal notices in another paper. The Toronto Star published Notice of Designation for 10996 Trafalgar Road, St. John’s Anglican Church, Stewarttown; 4 Stewarttown Rd., Harrison-Brown house; 533 Main St., Glen Williams, St. Johns United Church; 514 Main St., Glen Williams, Williams-Beaumont house; 517 Main St., Glen Williams, Williams-Wheeler store; 9920 Regional Rd 25, Halton Hills, *Towercliffe*, Bate-Hampshire house; 116 Main St. S, Georgetown, Knox Presbyterian Church; and 26 Guelph St., Georgetown, H.T. Arnold Glove Factory (Carpet Barn). Work has started on another seven properties.

HALTON HERITAGE SERVICES

To book a research time with Heritage Services at Kelso, please get in touch at <https://www.halton.ca/The-Region>

HALTON-PEEL OGS

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

LIMEHOUSE MEMORIAL HALL

Nov. 2 -Beef Dinner 5:00 and 6:30 pm at 12389 Fifth Line, Limehouse. All funds raised support the Limehouse Hall.

Nov. 15 – AGM @ 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2 -Light Up the Garden @ 6 p.m. followed by sweets and Santa at the Hall.

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

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

L.M. MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

The L.M. Montgomery Museum website is now live at

<https://lmmontgomerynorval.com/>

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

Nov. 9th -*Benjamin Pierce*, Streetsville Royal Canadian Legion.

The Leslie Log Cabin at 4415 Mississauga Road is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Nov. 16 -*Jonathan Scotland: The Life Expectancy of Canada’s Great War Veterans*

Meetings are at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. \$5 fee for non-members.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street, Milton.

Nov. 16 – *John Duignan*: Milton Postcards, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 2 – Christmasfest Extravaganza @ 12

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

<https://www.oakvillehistory.org/speakers-nights.html>

Nov. 13 -*Alan Norton*: Tracing the Norton Family Tree at 7:30, St. John's United Ch.

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

TRAFALGAR HIST. SOCIETY

<http://tths.ca/>

Nov. 17 -Open Archives -1:30-3:30. Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas St W, Oakville, ON

CANADIANA ON-LINE

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

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

www.archives.gov.on.ca

REMEMBRANCE DAY



Nov. 5th – Glen Williams Cenotaph @ 10:30 a.m.;

Remembrance Park, Georgetown @ 1 p.m.

Nov. 11th - Remembrance Park, Georgetown @ 10:30 a.m.; Acton Cenotaph @ 10:45 a.m.

EHS ON-LINE!

Besides our long-standing website, at <http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com> managed by Ray Denny your Society is now on Facebook. Search for the Society and follow us. Our finances are also automated with money transfers now available at EHS.etransfer@gmail.com. Members can send their renewals (due in February) electronically!

NEW LIBRARY SCANNER

The Georgetown branch of Halton Hills Public Library purchased and installed a large format (11x17) scanner at the creativity centre in September this year. The regular size scanner with attachments for slides and negatives is still available. You can use them both with your library card.

CREDIT VALLEY TRAIL UPDATE

The Town of Halton Hills in partnership with Upper Canada College has completed construction on a 1.7 km trail that is the newest addition to the Credit Valley Trail. The Town of Halton Hills reports that it was completed this Fall and hikers can park on MacFarlane Drive or Armstrong Avenue to access the trail.

SCOTSDALE FARM ARCHEOLOGY

Local historian John Mark Rowe recently wrote an article on the indigenous village site uncovered some years ago at Scotsdale Farm. It has been published in the Autumn issue of



Niagara Escarpment Views.

BRYAN LEWIS INDUCTED



Bryan Lewis

(pictured left at Oct. 2017 EHS meeting) was inducted into the Ontario Sports Hall of Fame on Oct. 26th as an NHL referee. “Lewis took the job as a supervisor under NHL director of officiating and

fellow Georgetown resident John McCauley. ... When McCauley died suddenly in 1989, Lewis was asked to take over as director of officiating. ... Lewis stayed in the role for 11 years, ushering in video review for determining goals and the two-referee system.” -excerpt from *Halton Hills Today*.

FIRE DESTROYS ACTON HOME

The house at 109 Mill Street East, Acton was completely destroyed on 7 October 2023.



109 Mill Street East, Acton -Google Photo

A cooper shop was operated at 109 Mill Street East for years. H.P. Moore wrote, “I do not remember whether John Coates was the first owner of the business. Perhaps he learned his trade there. At any rate he did a big business there in flour, lime and apple barrels, and occasionally a few hundred “light work” oak barrels, for vinegar or something stronger. Thos. McMackon came from Rockwood about seventy years ago (1866) to work there and later his sons, David, Tom and Will all learned to set up barrels there. Jim

Butler and Levi Lambert were also employed there for a long time, and after John Lighthart gave up his shop he worked for John Coates. Levi Lambert was a Frenchman, but he married an English wife here and they and their family spent many happy years here.

It was a well-known superstition among coopers that it was unlucky to start any work on a Friday. One Friday an order came for a hundred flour barrels, which were to be delivered to Salmonville (now Terra Cotta) on Saturday. At once there was trouble, not a man of them would start on the order before Saturday. “Now, now I have no luck if I make dose barls on Friday,” says Levi, and the others joined in the chorus. The barrels failed to reach Mr. Plewes’ mill at Salmonville until Monday afternoon.

Eva Coates, one of the brightest and most popular young ladies of the day, kept house for her brothers, John and Frank. But John got married one day and Frank ran off with another man’s wife, and then Eva went and got married herself. They lived in the house (109 Mill E) which stands on the lot, and is now occupied by Charlie Holmes and family.

John Vincent and his wife Martha, his son George, and his daughter Mary, lived there for some years. John was janitor of the school, sawed wood and went fishing. He could land more trout from Acton creek than any boy who ever went there.” -*Acton’s Early Days*, Dave Dills, 2006, p31. It first appeared in *Acton Free Press*, 30 April 1936, p6.



109 Mill Street East, Acton on Oct. 7th. -Halton Hills Today photo

How to Preserve Your Digital Legacy (and Why You Should)

You can't take your Twitter account with you to that infinite scroll in the sky.

By **Jeff Somers** 5/10/22 Excerpts from article on [Lifehacker.com](#)

Over the last few decades an increasing amount of our lives has been moved online. With the advent of social media and cloud storage, things that were once analog or physical have become digital. In most ways, this is terrific: we can share and communicate effortlessly, creation has become simpler and more powerful, and we can represent ourselves with a few mouse clicks or taps of our finger. The days of mailing out paper resumes on fancy paper are long gone, for example—nowadays we spend our time building awesome LinkedIn profiles and portfolio web sites.

But as more and more of our lives winds up online, the question of what will happen to it all when we move on from the earthly realm begins to loom. ... Here's what you need to think about when it comes to preserving and controlling your digital legacy after you've passed on to the next level.

The first step to dealing with your digital legacy is to understand the scope of it. It's so easy to add devices, accounts, and services you may very well be unaware of just how much of a digital life you've amassed over the years. So, first things first: Make a list of all of your digital assets ... Things you probably want to think about include:

- websites or blogs you've maintained
- your social media accounts
- the emails you've archived over the years
- photos, music files, eBooks, and videos
- cloud storage files
- games on platforms like Steam
- health records
- digital subscriptions

The key thing to think about is that there's very little law or tradition surrounding your digital legacy because it's such a new concept. First, choose someone to be your "digital executor" and discuss what that means with them... If you're designating someone as your digital executor, make sure they will be able to access your phone, desktop, laptop, tablet, or any other device they might need. Make sure you keep your passwords and account information up to date for your executor. Finally, as part of your discussion with your digital executor and the instructions you leave them, be very clear what you *want* to happen. ...put those wishes into clear language and don't make your executor guess.

LOCAL NEWS FROM A CENTURY AGO

Acton: All Hallowe'en Carnival – At eight o'clock last Wednesday evening, Acton Citizens' Band came out of the band room...The band's costume was unique, members were dressed in white sheets with tall white Mother Hubbard dunce caps, decorated with replicas of the fabled black cats. They were followed by hundreds of masquerading citizens, young and middle-aged, in costumes versatile and various... (*AFP*, 8 Nov. 1923)

Georgetown: A large number of our local golfers took part in the mixed foursome held on the Willoughby course last weekend and on Thanksgiving Day. All interested in the re-organization of the Hockey Club are requested to attend a meeting at the Arena tomorrow, Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. Firemen's Ball New Year's Eve. Mrs. Pankhurst will be the speaker at the Council of Women luncheon on Thursday.

Limehouse: A box social and dance will be held in the Community Hall, Limehouse, Thursday evening Nov. 15. (*Herald*, 14 Nov. 1923)

Glen Williams: Our enterprising bakers are having their shop renovated and everything put in first-class condition. We now have a town hall that is a credit to the community. A piano has been installed and everything is now up-to-date.

Terra Cotta: Mr. Harry Haywood purposes moving to Georgetown shortly where he has been engaged in the coating mills. (*Herald*, 21 Nov. 1923)

Limehouse: We are glad to learn that our school master, Mr. Jolly, is on a fair way to recovery after his serious illness. On account of his illness, it has been decided not to hold the parent and child banquet of the school section until after the first of the year.

Norval: Don't miss the annual Xmas concert of Norval Public School which will be held in the school on Thursday evening, Dec. 20. (*Herald*, 28 Nov. 1923)

Glen Williams: Miss Jennie Norton (stone quarries) is confined to the house with measles. Mr. Charlie Norton has accepted a position as teamster for Rogers & Co., coal merchants, Georgetown. Mr. McCarl, the only radio fan in the Glen, is now receiving the latest and best with his radio outfit.

Stewarttown: The Stewarttown Sunday School and Public School combined will hold a Christmas concert in the Hall, Stewarttown, Dec. 18th at 8 o'clock. (*Herald*, 5 Dec. 1923)

Acton: Library Room at Town Hall is now inadequate. The radio fever is growing and numbers of homes are installing equipment for wireless receiving outfits. Radio owners who have not paid the license fee of \$1.00 are advised to pay it promptly.

Crewson's Corners: Mr. John Bennett has just received a new evaporating outfit for his sugar bush. (*AFP*, 6 Dec. 1923)

Toronto Suburban Railway have purchased additional cars and will double the service commencing Saturday. Acton to Toronto return for \$1.45. (*AFP*, 13 Dec. 1923)



Netflix's first big holiday movie of 2019 is "*Let It Snow*". A snowstorm hits a small town on a cold Christmas Eve, affecting the friendships, love lives and futures of several high school seniors. Union Presbyterian Church on 22 Sideroad near Glen Williams is an important setting for the movie. EHS25807



Nancy Geissler and her painted yard decoration of Christmas mice. c. 1986. EHS26954



Acton Trinity United angels in 1960. EHS27614

John Sommer lights a candle on a traditional German Christmas tree on Christmas Eve

2008, at his home on Charles Street, Georgetown. Photo by Kathy Gastle. EHS25549

