

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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January - February 2025

www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com



The Village Tavern by John Lewis Krimmel, 1815

BRITISH UNION HOTEL, STEWARTTOWN.

A. RYAN, PROPRIETOR.

HAS recently refitted this Hotel, at a considerable cost, and is now prepared to furnish every accommodation to the travelling public. He hopes that by keeping only but what is first class, to merit as large a share of public patronage as he has heretofore received. Terms moderate.
Stewarttown, April 4th, 1867. 481f.

A Few Plain Directions for Persons Intending to Proceed as Settlers to His Majesty's Province of Upper Canada (1820)

... At inferior boarding-houses the accommodations are not comfortable, or convenient, or good. The company consists of all classes, from the man of independent property to the mechanic. The beds are indifferent, and from four to ten are crowded in one room, destitute of curtains, and swarming with fleas and bugs. In such houses there is no such thing as comfort or privacy.

Inns of the second class bear a great resemblance to the latter kind of boarding-houses. A person may either board at them for so much as a week, or pay for each meal separately; in that case the charges are extremely high; 2s or 2s 6d for breakfast; 2s 6d for dinner, and 2s or 2s 6d for supper, without beer or liquor; besides sixpence or a shilling a night for a bed in a room where [there] are half a dozen others.

It must, however, be acknowledged, that the tables here are far more plentifully furnished with provisions than in England, and of good a quality. The innkeepers in this country are too independent in their principles to pay the least attention to the comfort or convenience of their guests. They do not behave even with common curtesy. An Englishman who expects to find that ready compliance with his wishes and wants to which he has been accustomed in England, will be greatly disappointed. There are no *bells*, as there are no *servants* at the inns in this country. The traveller finds himself solitary, unnoticed, and left to supply his own wants. If he is loud or peremptory, or remonstrative, he is treated in return with insolence or contempt. The chief aim of the host is to get the stranger's money; generosity and benevolence are not ingredients in his composition....



Stewarttown Hotel (detail of EHS00471)

CANADIAN HOTEL,
OAKVILLE.

Every attention is paid to the travelling community.
N. B.—Railway Travelers can rely upon Omnibus Conveyance to and from the Cars.
JOHN WRAY, Proprietor.
Oakville, July 26th, 1866. 8-6m.

BRITISH HOTEL
Ballinacrad. By J. MOOTE.

THE Proprietor will be happy to wait on the travelling public. Good accommodations for both man and beast. An attentive hostler in attendance.
Ballinacrad, Jan. 1, 1864. v3.32-1y

HORNBY HOUSE.
East Hornby, C. W. By Geo. Sparling.

THIS House has been neatly fitted up for the comfort and accommodation of visitors. Every attention paid to the wants of guests. Good stabling, &c.
Hornby, July 30, 1862. 2.13 1y

TYRONE HOTEL.
HORNBY EAST, BY THOMAS McCALLUM. This is a New House, and is fitted up in a comfortable manner as any Hotel in the county. Good stabling. Every attention paid to visitors.
N. B. There is a Store in connection with this Hotel. Dry Goods, Groceries, &c., kept constantly on hand 2.1y

PRESTON'S HOTEL,
Silver Creek. Every convenience for the Travelling Public. An attentive hostler in attendance. 1-ly.

STEWARTTOWN HOTEL,
BY
A. RYAN.

THIS HOUSE has been thoroughly refitted and much repaired. The Subscriber takes this opportunity of inviting the patronage of the traveling public. Every attention paid to the comfort of guests.
Good Stabling and attentive hostlers
Stewarttown, Aug. 31, 1863. v3n15-1y

Drumquin Hotel.

THE subscriber having lately taken possession of this Hotel, respectfully solicits a share of public patronage. The best brands of liquors and cigars kept, and every attention paid to guests.
25-ly JAMES MASON.



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

2025

Wed. 08 Jan.

TO MARKET VIA THE TAVERN

Before the advent of rail, farmers had to team their wheat to Oakville harbour to get the best prices. The long, lonely drive was brightened by a stop, or two, at taverns lining Trafalgar Road. Mark Rowe will travel Trafalgar Road and stop at every tavern on the way, regaling us with stories and tales. Hop on the wagon and enjoy the journey!

Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00

Wed. 12 Feb.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

Heritage Halton Hills has continued their designation work throughout Halton Hills. Heritage Halton Hills members John Mark Rowe and Ray Denny will provide updates on the 2024 designated buildings in Halton Hills. This is also the Society AGM.

Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00

Wed. 12 March

RUN AND GET A QUART OF MILK!

If you've heard that before, you know about corner stores or the village shop. Join us for an interactive meeting about convenience stores throughout Esquesing over the years. The EHS photo collection will be used to prompt memories of Becker's, Mac's Milk, Speyside store, Wheeler's store, C.K. Browne's, King Variety... The list goes on! Bring along any memorabilia you'd like to share.

Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00

Wed. 9 April

THE BICENTENNIAL OF LEATHERTOWN

- Celebrating 200 years of history since Acton's Settlement

Be sure to join Scott Brooks of Vintage Acton as he takes you on a historical journey back in time to when the Adams Brothers settled the area of Acton in 1825. Historic photos of the past will accompany the presentation. A perfect way to celebrate and honour Acton's bicentennial!

Acton Town Hall Centre, 19 Willow Street, Acton, ON, 7:00

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!

- All Meetings are FREE to attend -

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	Social Media

Send all inquiries to: esquesinghs@gmail.com
<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com>



Follow us on Facebook

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 62 paid 2024 members. Payment for 2025 can begin now, to ensure continued newsletter delivery. 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 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM for the EHS takes place at the beginning of our February meeting. The financial statement will be presented as well as an Archival report. Elections for executive members will be held. If you're interested in being on the executive, contact one of the current members before the meeting.

Membership dues are payable in February.

EHS ARCHIVES

Halton Hills Library has hired a new Local History & Digital Archive Coordinator, Cheryl

Cousins-Reid. She will be our connection for all things archival at the Georgetown branch going forward.

Karen Hunter has completed a complete updated inventory of the EHS Archives and it is available to be consulted on the *Halton Hills Images* website. Search the Archives at home and note the finding aid number. When you attend the library, present the number(s) and the staff will find it for you to use in the History Room. All file numbers begin with MG.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

Heritage Halton Hills designated 26 properties in 2024 – the topic of our February meeting. Designation of The Olde Hide House has been appealed by the owners, with a hearing planned in 2025. The Society supported a Heritage Halton Hills recommendation to name the bridges in Glen Williams.

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

<http://haltonhillssportsmuseum.blogspot.ca/> The Sports Museum are currently working on plans for a virtual museum in the lobby of the Moldmasters SportsPlex.

L.M. MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

<https://lmmontgomerynorval.com/>

CANADIANA ON-LINE

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

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

www.archives.gov.on.ca

HALTON-PEEL OGS

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

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

Leslie Log House, 4415 Mississauga Rd. Streetsville

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

16 Jan. Steve Collie, BHS President
20 Feb. *The Toronto Book of Love & The City's Romantic Past*, Adam Bunch
Meetings are at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. \$5 fee for non-members.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

30 Jan. Mike Miller, *Photography, Part 1*
20 Feb. Mike Miller, *Photography, Part 2*
Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James, Milton at 7:15 p.m.

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

17 Jan. -Burns Supper \$50 p.p.

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

TRAFALGAR HIST. SOCIETY

17 Jan. -Open Archives at Palermo

Schoolhouse 1:30-3:30

4 Feb. AGM at Palermo Schoolhouse 7 p.m.

LORNE SCOTS REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

55 Queen St E, Brampton.

GLEN WILLIAMS' 200th

31 Dec. – St. Alban's Bell Ringing

27 Jan. -Scavenger Hunt Historical tour @
12:30 – St. Alban's Church

8 Feb. – Winter Historical Slide Show @ 2
p.m. at Glen Williams Town Hall

EHS 50th ANNIVERSARY

Librarian Betsy Cornwall organized the first meeting of the Esquesing Historical Society. Her notes say, "A meeting of people interested in Georgetown's past will be held in the Public Library on Monday January 20, 1975 at 8 pm." The first president was John McDoanld, who is still a member of the Society.

SPEYSIDE STORE

The September newsletter noted a fire in an out-building at Speyside store, so we featured Speyside in our last newsletter. The store itself was demolished on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

GLEN BRIDGES ARE NAMED

Halton Hills Council has officially named the three bridges in The Glen. Bridge #1 was named Inglis Bridge in honour of the stone masonry evident throughout the area carried on by Gerry, Ike, Dave, Bob and Ryan Inglis. The cenotaph beside the bridge was built by Gerry Inglis in 1971 and the stone cross was added in 2010.

Bridge #3 was named Forster Bridge, as it sits at the base of Forster Street, named for Rev. James Forster who built his retirement home beside the bridge and the Credit River. His grandson was Norval's J.W.L. Forster, a famous portrait painter.

Bridge #2 was named Williams Bridge in 1996 on the recommendation of the Historical Society. It is opposite the site of the Williams Woollen Mill which operated from 1839 to 1949.

DOUG WRIGGLESWORTH DIES

Members may remember Doug's Sherlock Holmes presentation to the EHS in 2011 and know of his family connection to Esquesing. He died Dec. 1st in his 85th year. Doug was a chemistry teacher in North York and a voracious reader. He was one of the founders of the 'Friends of Arthur Conan Doyle Collection' at the Toronto Reference Library. In his memory, Doug requested you support your local library.

POSTAL DELAYS

The following is an opening paragraph of a letter written to Adam Sproat of Trafalgar in February 1824 from Wellingborough, England.

*My Dear Nephew,
Your letter dated the fourth of February 1823 (a year ago) is come to hand only a few days ago. Where it has been travelling to, I cannot conceive. I am rather inclined to suppose that you sent it by some private hand who must have forgotten it as the postage was only eight pence. However, though late in coming, it was very welcome, and I feel much pleased to find that you and your brother were so happy and comfortable and that your health and prospects are good. May they go on and increase.*

-Sproat Family Letters 1821-1848, Paul, John and Elizabeth Sproat.

MEMBERSHIP FEE IS DUE

Membership fees are due in February. Be sure to pay so that your subscription to this newsletter continues uninterrupted. The fee is \$20 individual or \$25 for a family or corporation.

SELECTED PROPERTIES DESIGNATED IN 2024



St. Paul's Anglican, 12-16 Adamson St. S., Norval (1973)
EHS13500



Norval Presbyterian Church, 499 Guelph St.,
Norval (1997) EHS23705



Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S.,
Georgetown (1994) EHS10951

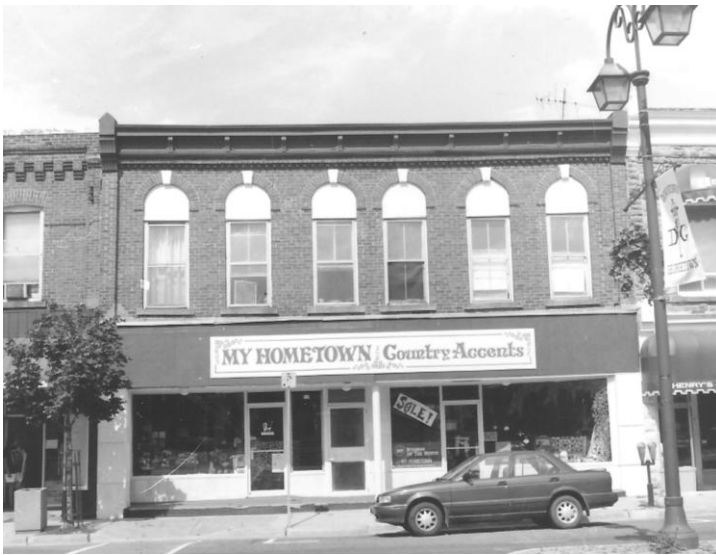


Sunderland Villa, 55 Mill St. E., Acton (1994)
EHS18539

John Morgan House	129 Main St. S., Georgetown	-effective 12 February 2024
Sykes & Ainley Worker's Cottage	14 Tweedle St., Glen Williams	-effective 12 February 2024
McKinley Dentistry	52 Main St. S., Georgetown	-effective 15 April 2024
Barclay Block (section)	87 Main St. S., Georgetown	-effective 15 April 2024
Perryman-Mainprize Building	46 Mill St. E., Acton	-effective 15 April 2024
J.B. Mackenzie Lumber	8 James St., Georgetown	-effective 27 May 2024
Chisholm Homestead	9094 Regional Road 25, Scotch Block	-effective 8 July 2024



Roe Block, 19-57 Main St. S., Georgetown (2023) -J.M. Rowe photo



Armour Block, 61-65 Main St. S., Georgetown (1994)
EHS10898



Barraclough House, 25 Mountain St., Glen
Williams (c.1910) EHS00666

Currie Farm House 9156 Trafalgar Road, Ashgrove
 Bailey-Thompson House 50 Queen St., Georgetown
 Arnold House 91 Mill St., E., Acton
 Wright Family Home 14-16 Queen St., Georgetown
 UENI 22 Queen St., Georgetown
 ILLAHEE 24 Queen St., Georgetown

-effective 8 July 2024
 -effective 26 August 2024
 -effective 26 August 2024
 -effective 26 August 2024
 -effective 26 August 2024
 -effective 26 August 2024



James Moore House, 13 Frederick St., N.,
Acton -Town of Halton Hills Photo



Grey Vernon, 5 Albert St., Georgetown (1985)
EHS18529



United Church Parsonage, 29 Bower St., Acton
(2015) -EHS23029



Clark House, 35 Bower St., Acton (1996) -
EHS23635



Henderson-Mason House, 41 Bower St., Acton
(2015) -EHS23030



Noble House, 10 Noble St., Norval (1997) -
EHS23852

END OF AN ERA: Hide House closing after 165 years in Acton

HaltonHillsToday Staff

Oct 30, 2024 2:45 PM



Exterior of the (Olde) Hide House. | Mansoor Tanweer/HaltonHillsToday



NEW LEATHER FACTORY OUTLET SOON ACTON TOURIST ATTRACTION -1 Oct. 1980 (AFP)

“Acton could soon be known as Leather town right across the province if ambitious plans for a leather outlet in the Frank Heller and Co. Ltd. Eastern Avenue plant bear fruit.

Don Dawkins unveiled plans for a unique Acton tourist attraction in the factory after Heller’s moves into

Artist’s sketch 1920 -EHS00674

“To collect, preserve and publicize the history of Esquesing”

Disston, Monday night for Halton Hills general committee...

The Eastern Avenue plant was built in 1899 as a hide house for Beardmore and is brick wall with Douglas Fir trusses with 48-foot spans. There are a number of solid wood columns up to 18 inches thick in building."



the olde Hide House A Unique Experience!

- a **unique** presentation of natural leather and natural wood products!
- a **unique** combination of good prices, wide choice and first rate quality!
- a **unique** 19th century building as a setting!
- a **unique** and extensive collection of leather items!
- a **unique** line of pine and oak furniture made to order on the site!

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Ladies' Full Length Coat
- Popular pigskin suede trimmed with an elegant racoon collar.
\$249

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- A classic western look so suitable for 1980-81. Stay warm this winter.
\$229

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(519) 853-1031
Just Minutes From 401 On Highway 25, North

All types of leather garments, shoes, boots, slippers, handbags, belts, billfolds, clutches, attaches, gloves, luggage, Jewellery, crafts, skins, rugs, from well known names such as Dacks, Greb, Cougar, Pony, Bee Jays, Celebrity, Boulet, Brown, Renwick, Rolfs, Mimmo Sacs, Tandy, Etc.

• STORE HOURS •
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday 12 Noon - 6 p.m.

CANADA'S LARGEST LEATHER STORE

CHARGES ACCEPTED: VISA, MASTER CHARGE

PHOTOS: Interior view in 2024 -Ray Denny Photo
Jack Tanners Table EHS13030
Opening Advertisement -Acton Free Press, 14 Nov. 1980
BELOW: Exterior in 1994 EHS18491



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