

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

HERITAGE COMMITTEE ADDS 40 NEW PROPERTIES IN 2025

There will be many properties to choose from for the January 2026 Heritage Properties in Halton Hills presentation by Ray Denny and John Mark Rowe. Heritage Halton Hills designated 42 properties between 1988 and March 2023. Since then, 84 properties have been designated, with 40 of them granted designation status in 2025 alone.

There were six former schoolhouses designated this year.



Former Gibraltar Schoolhouse SS#9, Limehouse 2016

EHS22670

Gibraltar School - The two-storey school was constructed in 1864, and features stone construction, multiple flatheaded window openings along the side elevations, and a front vestibule. The schoolhouse was originally one-storey, but a second storey was introduced in 1875. The existing building remains a representative example of a rare, two-storey limestone schoolhouse that is unique in the community of Limehouse and in the Town of Halton Hills.



Former Dufferin School SS#10, Speyside 1995 EHS12502

Dufferin School / Swan House - The one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse at 10454 Regional Road 25, is one of the oldest frame schoolhouses in Halton Hills (1873) and features a gable roof with brick veneer cladding, multiple windows along the side elevations, and a datestone indicating the year brick veneer was introduced (c.1903). Despite the contemporary additions along the rear and side elevations, the extant building is a representative example of a one-room schoolhouse.



Former Blue Mountain School SS#14, Ballinafad 2024 HH

Blue Mountain School – The one-room schoolhouse at 13802 Trafalgar Road is in the Gothic Revival Style with elements such as dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, central vestibule with an entrance and transom, two windows along the front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, two double stack chimneys, and a date stone inscribed “School Section No. 14 A.D. 1871.”

Waterloo School - The one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse at 10421 Fourth Line features design elements in the Italianate architectural style such as a gable roof, segmentally arched window openings with limestone sills, voussoirs, and hood moulds, as well as two

ESQUESING SCHOOLHOUSES		
SS#1	LIGNY	X
SS#2	QUATRE BRAS	X
SS#3	ASHGROVE	X
SS#4	PINEGROVE	X
SS#5	WATERLOO	2025
SS#6	STEWARTTOWN	D
SS#7	NORVAL	D
SS#8	DUBLIN	D
SS#9	GIBRALTAR	2025
SS#10	DUFFERIN	2025
SS#11	GLEN WILLIAMS	2018
SS#12	LORNE	2025
SS#13	BANNOCKBURN	X
SS#14	BLUE MOUNTAIN	2025
SS#15	CLAY HILL	D
SS#16	STONE SCHOOL	D
SS#17	MILTON HEIGHTS	D
SS#AE	HORNBY	2025
Year designated; D=destroyed		
X = Not designated		

flatheaded entrances with solid course lintels. The schoolhouse also features decorative brick work, including the brick “cherub” statue along the front elevation, which displays a high degree of craftsmanship and artistic merit.



Former Waterloo School SS#5, Scotch Block 2025 HH



Former Hornby School SS#AE, Hornby 2025 HH

Hornby School - The one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse at 13029 Steeles Avenue features Gothic Revival design

elements such as dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, central entrance, two windows along the front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, brick buttresses, dichromatic brickwork, buff-brick quoins, and a date stone inscribed “Erected A.D. 1870”.

Lorne School - The one-and-a-half storey schoolhouse at 14021 Regional Road 25 features design elements in the Gothic Revival style such as dichromatic brickwork, a gable roof, two windows along the front elevation with multiple windows along the side elevations, two dichromatic brick chimneys, and a date stone inscribed: “Lorn S.S. No. 12... A.D. 1882”. Lorne School originally featured a cupola and bell.



Former Lorne School SS#12, Acton 2025 HH photo

Miss Anderson at Lorne School SS#12, Acton about 1925 EHS23473





ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2026

- Wed. 14 Jan. **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 2025 designated buildings in Halton Hills.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00
- Wed. 11 Feb. **FROM KENSINGTON PALACE TO GLEN WILLIAMS**
Historian Mark Rowe will highlight his new book, *Kissed by Two Kings*, the story of his 3x Great-grandmother and extend the story to his branch of the family and how he ended up in Glen Williams. This presentation will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting.
Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00
- Wed. 11 March - To Be Announced –
- Wed. 15 April - To Be Announced –

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 77 paid 2025 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.

Renewals are now being accepted!

EHS ARCHIVES

The Archives continues to grow with continuing donations big and small. A full report will be presented at the February AGM. Alicia da Silva has volunteered to help with the Archives -in person when in Georgetown, and remotely when away. Her tasks will include adding more EHS images to Halton Images. Halton Hills Sports museum recently had a tour of the Archives.

EHS AGM

The annual general meeting of the Esquesing Historical Society will be held on Wednesday

11 February 2026 at 7 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church, Georgetown. If you are considering joining the executive of the Society, please contact any member of the executive or send a note to our email address, listed above.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

The committee continues to work towards designating as many heritage buildings as possible before the deadline imposed by Bill 23. The committee noted that prior to March 2023, 42 properties had been designated. Since that date 84 properties have been added to the register. Four more properties were added at the 12 December Council meeting, but will not come into effect until 2026.

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

A new website is under construction. 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

<https://streetshistoricalandsociety.ca>

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

Jan. 15 - Member Show & Tell

Feb. 19 -Tom Tran, Heritage Planner, City of Brampton; *Modernist Architecture in Brampton*

Meetings are at Cyril Clark Library, 20 Loafers Lake Ln, Brampton at 6:30 p.m.

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James, Milton

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Coach House, 8 Navy Street.

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

Jan. 16 – Burns Supper

-advance ticket sales only

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

March 18 -Irish Stew Dinner @6 pm

TRAFALGAR HIST. SOCIETY

Jan. -AGM. at Palermo Schoolhouse

LORNE SCOTS REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

55 Queen St E, Brampton.

Jan. 24 -82nd Annual Robbie Burns Dinner

EHS ARCHIVE LOAN FEATURE OF OAKVILLE EXHIBIT

Oakville Museum at Erchless Estate will feature the record book for beer sales for Brain Brewery, Hornby in their new exhibition – *Good Libations – A History of Alcohol in Oakville*. OPEN Tues. to Sunday 1- 4:30



Image courtesy of the Esquesing Historical Society

On display at Erchless Estate, 8 Navy Street Alcohol stirs up complex dynamics in every community - Oakville included. Balancing personal freedom with the fallout of overconsumption is an ongoing challenge that dates to our community’s earliest days. *Good Libations* dives into Oakville’s boozy backstory, spotlighting its people, businesses, and the policies and movements that continue to shape its drinking culture.

HALTON HERITAGE SERVICES

Halton Region wrote the EHS in Nov. They said, “While public-facing heritage services will conclude as of January 1, 2026, the deaccessioning process will continue beyond

that date to ensure it is carried out thoughtfully and with care. Our shared goal remains clear: to keep as many items as possible that relate to Halton Region under local stewardship.” Mayor Lawlor has convened a group to help with the deaccessioning of Halton Hills related items.

HELSON GALLERY

The Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour celebrate their 100th anniversary with a member’s exhibition in the Helson Gallery and lower Sisnett Lobby until 1 February 2026. Marlene Madole, past-president will talk on the history of the CSPWC in the gallery on Jan. 24th from 1 until 3pm.

NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM

Halton Hills Public Library is launching a new library website in April 2026.

However, beginning last October, changes are already evident. The program calendar has moved, as well as the library catalogue. To keep up to date visit:

<https://www.hhpl.ca/en/about-us/new-library-system.aspx>

FRIENDS OF THE HH LIBRARY

Finished some good books over the holidays? Do your bookshelves need a tidy? Consider donating your books to the Friends of the Halton Hills Public Library. Books can be dropped off at the front desk in the Acton and Georgetown branches and they will appear in the Friends kiosk in each library. The funds raised from the re-sales assist the library in many ways, beyond the Town Library budget. They even once paid for archival shelving for the EHS Archives in the Georgetown branch.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR EHS MEMBERSHIP

KISSED BY TWO KINGS

The Story of the Beautiful Miss Croker



Sir Thomas Lawrence (British, 1769-1830). Portrait of Miss Rosamond Croker, 1827. Oil on canvas. 32 x 25 inches (81.28 x 63.5 cm). Collection Buffalo AKG Art Museum. Seymour H. Knox Fund, through special gifts to the fund by Mrs. Marjorie Knox Campbell, Mrs. Dorothy Knox Rogers and Mr. Seymour H. Knox, Jr., 1945 (1945:2.5). Photo: Brenda Bieger, Buffalo AKG Art Museum.

Rosamund Hester Elizabeth Pennell was born in 1810 as the 18th child of William Pennell and Elizabeth Carrington. ... Rosamund was adopted by her sister, Rosamund Carrington, born in 1788, and her husband John Wilson Croker and raised as Miss Rosamund Croker. The painting of her by Sir Thomas Lawrence, by that name, was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1828. Miss Rosamund Croker had a pet name that was used by the family throughout her life. Indeed, the King himself uses the name— ‘Nony’, to refer to her.

In 1832, Miss Croker married George Barrow, son of Sir John and Lady Anna Maria Barrow, becoming Mrs. George Barrow.

When her father-in-law, Sir John, died in November 1848, the title of Baronet of Ulverstone passed to her husband, making her Lady Barrow...



The Pennell family had a long tradition of cod fishing on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The Pennell, Follett and Carrington names are old Newfoundland families dating from the 1750s to early 1800s.

Julia, Lady Peel as she is always referred to in literature, even before her husband became the 2nd Baronet, was a good friend and support for Rosamund Croker and became rather like another mother or even elder sister to Nony. Indeed, she offered to present Nony to the King in 1828.

Lady Peel had her portrait painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence, along with Nony, from November 1826 until April 1827. In Lady Peel's case, that was no mean feat since she was pregnant with her 5th child, John Floyd Peel, born 24 May 1827. Both portraits appeared in the 1827 Royal Academy exhibition...

...These two-defining works of Sir Thomas Lawrence were quickly compared with each other when the exhibition opened. The *Examiner* of 24 June 1827 called Mrs. Peel (Julia, Lady Peel) 'a little peacock-like'. However, they referred to Miss Croker as "chaste: the fashionable and the natural, the polished and the affable, here equally charm."

The comparison of Julia, Lady Peel with Miss Croker mentioned in *The Examiner* of June 1827, may have been inspired by the May 1827 comparison in *The Morning Post*. "If the last picture [Mrs. Peel] gives us the delicacy of matronly grace, this exhibits all the candour and naiveté of a beautiful girl. It is impossible to imagine a more living picture; the eyes absolutely sparkle—the lips almost breathe, and the colour seems absolutely to deepen at our gaze. We have never seen, even from the President's [Sir Thomas Lawrence] pencil, anything finer in execution than this face, and of the face, we should particularly say the forehead and eyes. The outline of the head and shoulders, and what is technically called the contour, seems admirable, and there is an air of nature and reality about every detail which satisfies us that, to its other merits, it adds—the greatest of all—that of accurate resemblance."

Sir Thomas Lawrence painted Nony dressed in the height of fashion, in a white satin dress, wearing a gold bracelet and brooch, and holding a quizzing glass on a gold chain. When the portrait was shown in the Royal Academy exhibition of 1827, Allan Cunningham wrote: "Men stand before it in a half-circle, admiring its loveliness."

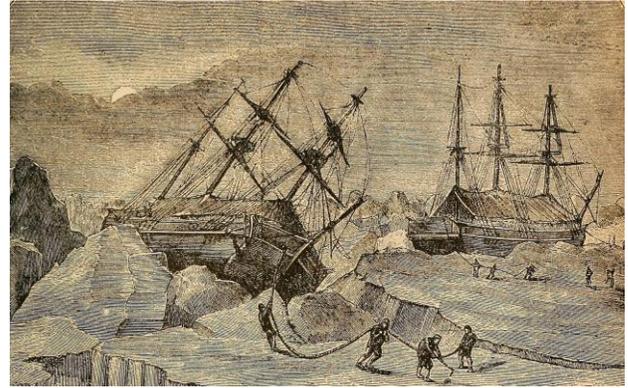
Biographer of Sir Thomas Lawrence, D.E. Williams, a few years later, observed, "Youth, beauty, and intellectual vivacity seem to live upon the canvas, in their freshness of gaiety and fashion, and of joyous health."



Julia, Lady Peel by Sir Thomas Lawrence –
The Frick Collection, New York



Sir John Franklin was sent out by Sir John Barrow in 1845 to find the North-west passage on HMS Erebus and HMS Terror. He never returned. HMS Erebus was finally discovered by Parks Canada, following Inuit instruction, in September 2014 off Adelaide Peninsula. HMS Terror was located across Queen Maud Gulf, off King William Island in 2016.



PLACE NAMES

Georgian Bay (named for King George IV) -**Barrow Bay** named for Sir John Barrow, Second Secretary of the Admiralty and **Croker Point** named for John Wilson Croker, First Secretary of the Admiralty.

Barrow Strait, Nunavut -the shallowest section of the North-west passage.

Admiralty Islands, Gananoque, Ontario: **Croker Island** is now called Lindsay Island and **Barrow Island** has reverted to its indigenous name of Mudlunta Island.

Point Barrow, Alaska, USA; **Barrow**, Alaska, USA; **Cape Barrow**, Alaska, USA

Barrow Canyon, Arctic Ocean – The Barrow Canyon provides a conduit for fresh warm water from the Pacific Ocean into the Arctic Ocean. This establishes a route for regional bowhead, gray and Beluga whales to summer feeding off Point Barrow and eastward into the Beaufort Sea.

Cape Barrow, Antarctica – Named by John Ross in January 1841.

Barrow Creek, Northern Territory, Australia -is 1250km south of Darwin and is known as a centre for Death Adders!

Barrow Island, Western Australia -is an arid island 56 km from the coast and is a nature reserve today.

Barrow Point, Queensland, Australia – On Princess Charlotte Bay.

Barrow Point language or Eibole / Mutumui was an aboriginal language that became extinct in 2005.

Barrow's Goldeneye Duck *Bucephala islandica* This duck was named by William Swainson in honour of Sir John Barrow, secretary of the Admiralty and co-founder of the Royal Geographical Society.



Kissed By Two Kings; Is Dead

Kissed by Two Kings, “Beautiful Miss Croker,” as Rosamund Lady Barrow was known when the last century was young, has died at East Molesey, England, after just entering her 97th year. She was painted at the age of 17 by Sir Thomas Lawrence, and the portrait was exhibited in the Royal Academy. From that moment she became famous as the most beautiful girl in England... *Daily Whig*, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, 5 February 1906

1826- NEWS FROM ESQUESING -1826

Meeting of the Inhabitants of Esquesing held 2 January 1826 at home of Joseph Standish (lot 13, Con. 6); Wardens – David Darling, Christian Barnes & Charles Kennedy; Pathmaster from the burnt bridge to 26 on the line of 7&8 concession – Peter Ackert. -Hugh Black, Clerk

Dreadful Accident – Robert Robertson, a young man, was killed on Thursday last in the twp. Of Esquesing, near the River Credit. He was employed in chopping timber with two other men, when a large tree fell upon him... He died instantly. (*Montreal Gazette*, 21 Jan. 1826)

Esquesing, 8 April 1826 TO: William Lyon Mackenzie, *Colonial Advocate*
 ...Mr. Griffin of this place has called on his way to York – I think it right to send this small pittance which I have got – namely 5/ from Jas. Macqueen, 5/ on Mr. Whetham’s note & York sixpence from Thos. Fyfe...I hope you are all well, Remr. Me to Mrs. Peter Baxter. My not coming to York for her, among other caus was the want of roads – here we are now buried – I was ill with what they call Influenza – Amid haste and Inconveniency for writing,
 I am Sir Your &c. Thos. Fyfe

An Aggregate Statement of the Population of the District of Gore for the year of Our Lord 1826

TOWNSHIPS	Males < 16	Females < 16	Males > 16	Females > 16	TOTAL
Trafalgar	228	160	196	149	733
Nelson	321	268	403	204	1201
Esquesing	252	230	163	204	849
Nassaguya (sic)	39	33	27	36	135

11th June, 1826 George Rolph, Clerk of the Peace, G.D.

- *Journal of the Legislative Council of Upper Canada*, third session, ninth provincial Parliament ...: 1826/27

We select the following from a list of Members already returned -...Mr. **Croker**, Secretary to the Admiralty, for Oldborough... -*Kingston Chronicle*, 11 August 1826

Agreeably to the order of the day... the petition of James McNabb, of the township of Esquesing praying for a grant or a loan of money to enable him to erect in said township, flax and hemp mills, were read. -Saturday 23rd December 1826 -*Journal of the House of Assembly*...3rd Session, 9th Parliament, 7th George IV page 26