

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

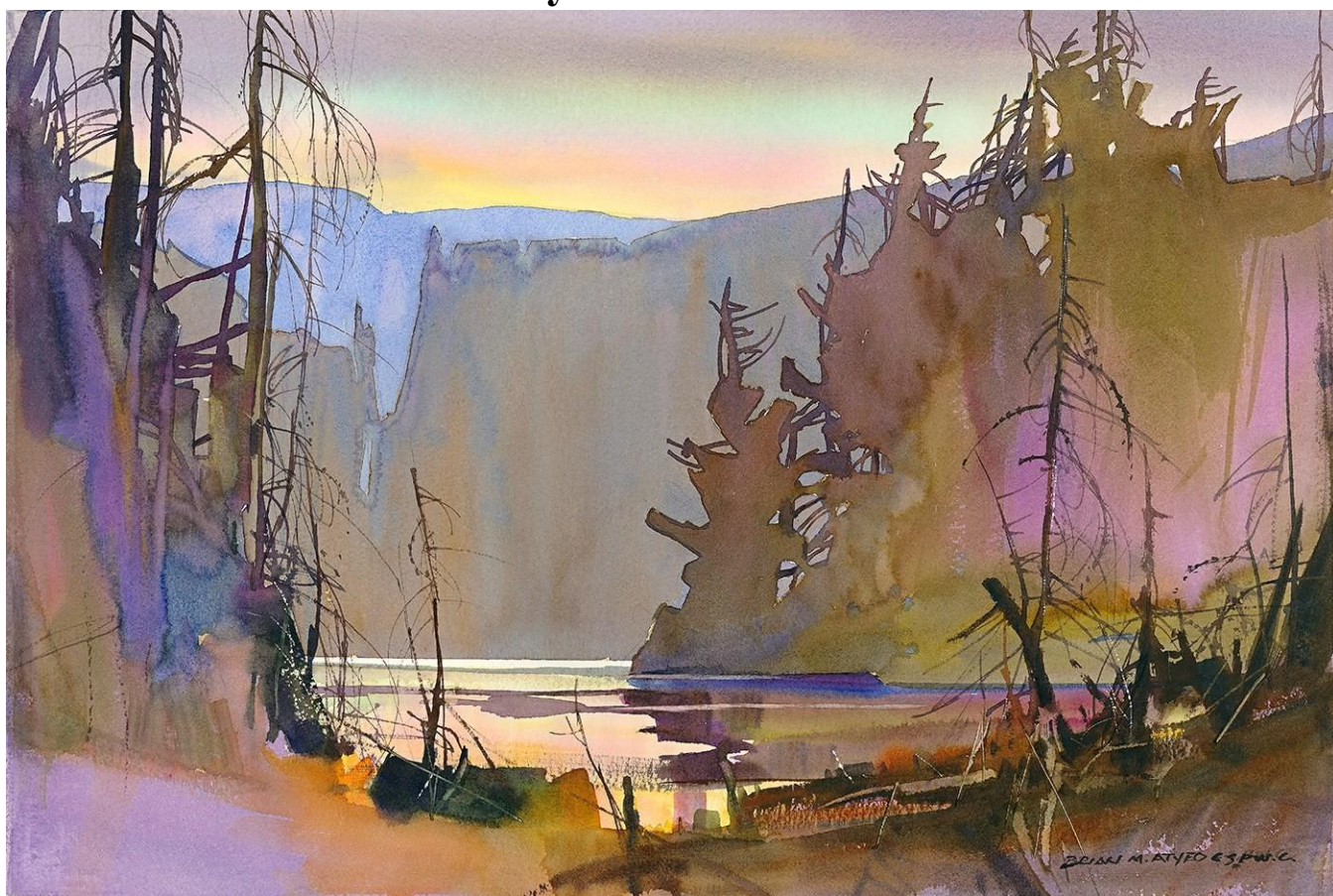
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www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

The Royal Collection Trust Project: Canadian Society Painters in Water Colours



Brian Atyeo, Evening - Killarney Bay, watercolour

The painting above is one of the final 25 contemporary Canadian watercolours that will complete the Royal Collection Trust Project, an initiative to create a body of 100 works within His Majesty King Charles III's Royal Collection. It was on show at the Helson Gallery from 4 February until 1 March.

The Royal Collection show was preceded by a juried exhibition in water-based media that was exhibited from Dec. 3rd 2025 until February 1st, 2026. Marlene Madole spoke on the Society's first 25 years at a special talk. Did you miss it? Luckily, Marlene Madole, past president, will speak to the EHS on March 11th. See the meeting schedule on page 4.

Centennial of the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colours How it All Started

Following the Remembrance Day ceremony on November 11, 1925, a group of artists met in the library of the Arts and Letters Club, a popular gathering place for practitioners in all the arts in Toronto. At that meeting 12 major Canadian talents, all passionately committed to the importance of watercolour as a medium, founded the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour.

The founding artists were: F.H. Brigden, A.J. Casson, Franklin Carmichael, C.W. Jefferys, Fred S. Haines, L.A.C. Panton, R.F. Gagen, Thomas G. Greene, Robert Holmes, Franz Johnston, Andre Lapine, and E.J. Sampson. Their aim was to recognize, encourage and nurture excellence of work in the medium of watercolour.



Marlene Madole is two-time CSPWC President, Life Member and Chair of the Diploma Collection of members' paintings.

By 1926 there were 26 members and an important connection had been made with the Art Gallery of Toronto (now the Art Gallery of Ontario). The annual exhibitions became a regular feature of the gallery's programme.

In 1932 the Art Gallery of Canada (now the National Gallery) began to promote the exhibitions of the CSPWC and over the years assisted them in organizing exchange exhibitions in the USA, Great Britain, Brazil, France and New Zealand.

For the 50th anniversary in 1975, the Art Gallery of Ontario agreed to curate a show of watercolours. The 60th anniversary in 1985 was a huge celebration highlighted by the Hot Water Colour show at Toronto's Harbourfront

and the acceptance by Her Majesty, the Queen of 60 paintings into the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle.

On their 75th anniversary in 2000 they had an unprecedented number of exhibitions. The CSPWC now has over 265 elected members and a similar number of associates.

Canadian Watercolours Added to King Charles' Art Collection



Calgary-based watercolour artist Brittney Tough with her work, *Royal HBC*. (photo courtesy of the artist)

The Canadian Society of Painters in Watercolour has chosen 25 watercolours by Canadian artists to be added to The Royal Collection of King Charles III. The 25 new works will bring the total to 100 watercolours by Canadian artists in The Royal Collection, which has more than one million objects, including artwork by Michelangelo, Da Vinci and Raphael.

Calgarian Brittney Tough is one of the artists whose work has been added to the prestigious collection this year. Her watercolour, *Royal HBC*, features the iconic Hudson's Bay Point Blanket. "I'm honoured to have my work recognized alongside so many distinguished peers and grateful that these 100 watercolours are now representing the largest Canadian component of the entire collection," Tough said in a news release.

<https://www.gallerieswest.ca/news/canadian-watercolours-added-to-king-charles/>



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2026

Wed. 11 March

SILVER TALK: OUR STORIES 1925-1951

Artist Marlene Madole will illuminate the first 25 years of The Canadian Society of Painters in Water Colour (CSPWC), now celebrating their 100th Anniversary: how they came to be, who was involved, where they met, what did their artwork look like. Meet members of the Group of Seven: Carmichael, Casson, Johnston, and Lismer with guest appearances by other Canadian art luminaries Emily Carr and David Milne. Stories will also include spicy tales (even fisticuffs). Meet some honorary members, hear about Royal connections, and a commemorative collection at Windsor Castle. Marlene Madole is two-time CSPWC President, Life Member and Chair of the Diploma Collection of members' paintings, currently numbering 470 artworks.

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

Wed. 08 April

FOCUS ON GEORGETOWN SERVICE CLUBS

Georgetown has had a long history of service clubs. Lions Club member Doug Penrice will be looking at that club and all of their various efforts to improve the lives of Georgetown residents. Georgetown Rotary president Charles Veale will take a look at the activities of this club.

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

Wed. 13 May

A TOUR OF ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Rev. Cheryl Barker, Kathleen Bellinger and Sharon Gorth-Huffman will recount the history of St. George's, as through 23 stained glass windows.

St. George's Anglican Church, 60 Guelph St., Georgetown, ON 7:00

Wed. 10 June

HALTON HILLS TOWN HALL & BARNES CEMETERY

A town staff member will give members an after-hours tour of the Town Hall. The spectacular stained glass-style mural entitled "Connected Communities" will be a focal point on the tour. This will be followed by a walk through the gardens on the way to the Barnes Family Cemetery.

Halton Hills Town Hall, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown, 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 52 paid 2026 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 due!

EHS ARCHIVES

The 2025 Archival Report was presented at the AGM. It is available for download on our website. Karen Hunter has completed an index to the newspaper negatives for *Halton Hills This Week*. After our January meeting on designated properties, we are adding all the relevant designation reports to the building histories in our archives.

Paul Sproat sent pictures of an 1836 report on the library at Quatre Bras School (SS#2). We shared the information that the first school was in a log cabin on Abraham Stark's farm, Lot 8 Con. 5, opened about 1830. The library was

started in this cabin. In 1838, a frame schoolhouse was built at Lot 6, Con. 5. The library was transferred there. By 1850 they had over 600 volumes.

EHS AGM

The annual general meeting of the Esquesing Historical Society was held on Wednesday 11 February 2026. The executive members (listed at left) were all re-elected. Steve McNamara presented the Financial Report and Mark Rowe presented the Archival Report.

HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

The committee continues to work towards designating as many heritage buildings as possible before the Ontario deadline of 1 January 2027.

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://streetshvillehistoricalsociety.ca>

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

March 19 -Charlton Carscallen, *Status and City Plan for Brampton Heritage*

April 16 - Rapinder Singh, *History of Sikh Diaspora in Brampton/Canada*

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

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 19 -Dr. C. Wilson, *Rural Diaries*

April 16 -John McDonald, *Meet Me at The Station*

Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James, Milton @7:30

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Coach House, 8 Navy Street.

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

March 18 - Jane Mulkewich, *Sophia Pooley - An Enslaved Woman* @7:30

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com

March 18 -Irish Stew Dinner @6 pm

April 8 -AGM @ 7:30p.m.

TRAFALGAR HIST. SOCIETY

Palermo Schoolhouse - <https://tths.ca>

LORNE SCOTS MUSEUM

55 Queen St E, Brampton.

March 7 -Boarspiel -family curling at The Club at North Halton @ 2 p.m.

April 18 -8th Annual Brampton Run for Veterans at Chinguacousy Park @ 9:30 a.m.

April 18 -AGM -Brampton Armoury @ 12 noon.

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 -on display at Erchless Estate, 8 Navy Street.

HALTON HERITAGE SERVICES

Mayor Lawlor led an investigative team to the former Halton Region Museum in February for a first-hand look at items that may be claimed by the Town. These items are meant to be distributed to several heritage-related groups that could house the items.

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>

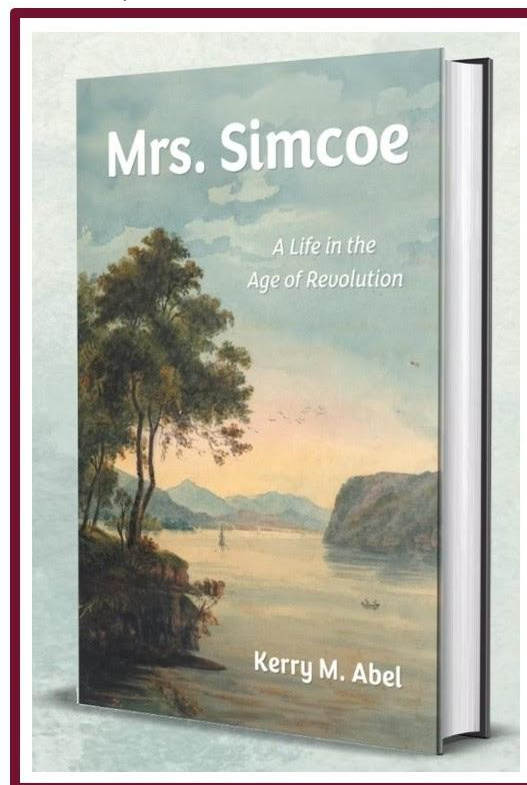
FRIENDS OF THE HH LIBRARY

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.

MRS. SIMCOE: A LIFE IN THE AGE OF REVOLUTION

The wife of the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, **John Graves Simcoe** (1752—1806), was **Elizabeth Posthuma Gwillum Simcoe** (1762—1850). An observant witness to events, she wrote about her experiences in a diary that offers a compelling window both on her time in Canada and on England following her return, including during her long widowhood – she outlived her husband by 44 years. Now **Kerry Abel**, retired professor of history at Carleton University, has produced a new biography, *Mrs. Simcoe: A Life in the Age of Revolution*, Friesen Press, Altona, Manitoba, 2025.



RENEW YOUR EHS MEMBERSHIP!

GEORGETOWN LIONS CLUB

It was a cold night that 6th of February, 1931, when 20 new Lions met at their inaugural meeting at the Georgetown Inn with their sponsors from the Downtown Toronto Lions Club. Special guest and presiding was Lion Joe Sheedy, commissioner of Lions Club International. The officers selected that night were Honorary President J.B. McKenzie, President W.V. Grant, 1st Vice President A.H. Feller, 2nd Vice President J.D. Kelly, and Secretary-Treasurer G.W. McLintock.



Former Presidents of the Lions Club of Georgetown are (Front, LEFT) Fred Zorge, Clarence Heslop, Ray Whitmee, Dick Riddall, Jack Gunning, Gob Collier, Lyn McLaren, Clarence Kennedy, Ernie Bodner, Bob Brick, Jim Jones, John Zorge, Clarence Benham, Dick Licata. They gathered above Stan's restaurant on 7 November 1967. This photo appeared in the 16 Nov. 1967 edition of *The Georgetown Herald* on page 1. The original has been damaged. EHS02907

1966 *A large parade organized by the Lions celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Little NHL in Georgetown. Attending were Georgetown's Bob Goldham, King Clancy of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Jim Roberts of the Montreal Canadians and Ron Stewart of the Boston Bruins.*



The History of Our Pool

A swimming pool in Georgetown has been a vision of the Lions Club of Georgetown for many years... While the fund raising was going forward, the contract was let to the company of Milne & Nicols... and the superintendent in charge of the project was Lion 'Ab' Tennant... The first swimmers started to use the facilities in 1956. At that time the Lions Club was asked to continue its interest and provide management. Lion Dick Licata accepted as chairman and Lion Jack Gunning as secretary-treasurer. An arrangement was made with the Arena Board so that Lion Ed Pries could act as manager of the pool during the summer season. Miss Mary Jones was selected as chief life guard for the first year while Miss Sandra Scott has acted in that capacity for the past two years... *Official Opening, 16 August 1958* (EHS Archives MG7 A49 #1.02.04)



Crowds gather outside the fence for the official opening of the Gus Ryder Lions Club outdoor pool behind Memorial Arena (42 Mill Street) on 16 August 1958. Mayor Jack Armstrong received the deed to the pool from Lion Dick Licata. PHOTOGRAPHER: Jake Livingstone EHS27962



2001 *In the spring of this year Anne Berko was the first lady to join our club as a full member. She was followed very shortly thereafter by Betty Dickson.*

Since 1972 The Georgetown Lions Club has honoured individuals, couples or organizations for their volunteer work in our community. They all have one thing in common, the desire to make Georgetown a better community for everyone.

CHOOSE JOHN GUNN AS ROTARY CHARTER PRESIDENT

John Gunn, Provincial Paper chemical engineer and president of Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, was named charter president of the Rotary Club of Georgetown Monday. Members met for their first dinner meeting at the McGibbon House to organize the club and elect officers who will hold office until a year this June.



The Club, a branch of the international organization which devotes a great deal of its effort to aiding crippled children, will have sale of easter seals as a main fund-raising activity. Members will meet for dinner each Monday evening at the hotel. It is Georgetown's second service club; the Lions Club having been here for over 35 years.

Five other officers

elected Monday are: John R. Barber, vice president; Alex Reader, secretary; Robert Burke, treasurer; Lorne Peters, James Ritchie, directors.

-*Georgetown Herald*, 12 January 1955

It is Georgetown's second service club; the Lions Club having been here for over 35 years.



A 25th Anniversary Rotary Club cake was cut by the current and first presidents of the Georgetown Rotary Club, at their celebration in the Holy Cross Church auditorium. From left to right are Rev. Peter Barrow, current president; Rotary District Governor Paul McKelvey and John Gunn, the first Rotary president. This photograph appeared in the 16 April 1980 edition of *The Georgetown Independent*.

DATE: 12 April 1980

EHS16386

THE EVENING TELEGRAM, TORONTO. FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1926

Norval and its Mills – Bits of Old-time Ontario

By Mary Dawson Snider

“Nothing could create excitement in Norval. It was always a lonesome spot that would give you the creeps to look at,” say engineers and brakemen of very early days. C.W. Mullen, city freight agent in Toronto for the C.P.R. for forty-three years, and probably the best railway historian in Canada, so describes it.

But railway men knew only the little lonely village station and not the village... Norval was originally McNab's Village, from the McNabs who built a mill on the Credit there shortly after 1820...

Norval, Ont., which has just been bereaved of its railway station agency through dwindling business, has a population of 250. It once had 400...

James dammed the Credit and built a flour mill about 1825.

Alexander blessed the Irish in the following prayer still recounted by old-timers: “the Lord banish the Irish to the wilds of Erin, and save the guid lands for His ain chosen people.”

The settlement was first known as McNab's village. Sawmills and a brickyard followed the flour mill, and there was also an ashery. Making potash from wood ashes for the use of soap manufacturers in Canada and in Europe was a pioneer industry – and the ashery is where it was done. Ashes were plentiful when, to clear their farms, pioneers were burning hardwood that would now be worth a fortune.

When my father drew ashes to McNab village, whiskey was only 20 cents a

gallon.” Said Robert Leslie, one of those who saw Norval's first train and was frightened at its whistle. His father settled four miles from Norval in 1823. “In those days you couldn't have a logging or get a neighbour to come and kill a pig without having whiskey.”... “My father has carried fiftyweight of flour on his back all the way from Streetsville...

-excerpts from EHS Archives
MG1 A2 #16.31



COL. ALEX. NOBLE, 20th Halton Rifles, until 1919 proprietor of the Noble Mills at Norval, who made “Noble” and Norval” synonymous with good flour.



Red brick home built by Alex. McNab, about 1820, for fifty years home of the Noble family of Norval.