

ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

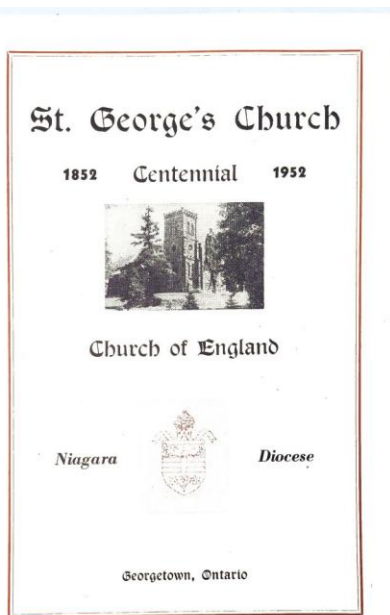
Vol. 51 No. 2

May-June 2026

www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com

St. George's Anglican Church

Georgetown



“The Site of St. George's Church and Rectory was a gift from Georgetown's first citizens, Mr. and Mrs. George Kennedy.”

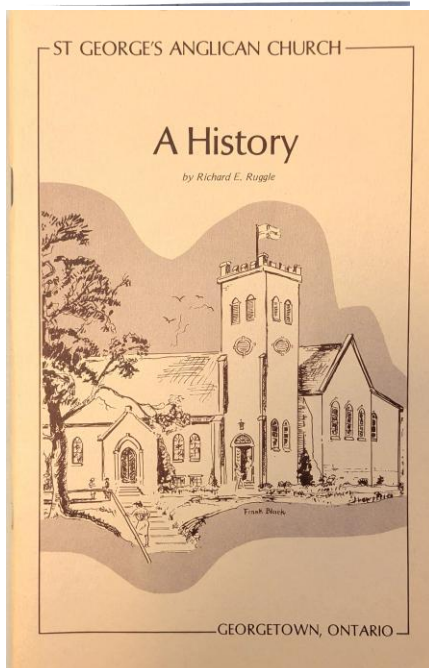
-*St. George's Church Centennial*, W. F. Bradley, 1952.

“...Soon a small log church was built at Stewarttown, and a large frame one in Georgetown. St. George's had a tower with spires, and large windows. Its square pews would seat 200 people. The singing was led by a small melodion and in the centre was one large square pew for the choir: in the early years most of the choristers came from the Young and Phillips families. One young boy who sat in them remembered the box pews as being very uncomfortable. The original church was never consecrated...”

The old frame church was starting to run down. Besides, it seemed to be the time for building churches. The Wesleyan Methodists had dedicated a new building (Inkwell Montessori), and the Congregationalists laid the corner-stone for theirs, in 1877 (Georgetown Cultural Centre). The Presbyterians in Norval adapted the Congregationalists' plans for their own building the following year (St. Gregorios Indian Orthodox Church). And in 1880 the Methodist Episcopalans would open their new edifice (St. John's United Church).

So, in 1878 the vestry requested [Rev.] Mr. [Arthur] Boulton to visit members, and see what they would pay towards the construction of a new church... A building committee was chosen, consisting of Dr. John Standish, T.J. Wheeler, Thomas Ruston, William Harding and James Bradley....

On July 25th, 1878 the corner stone was laid by George Elliott, a prominent benefactor of the church in



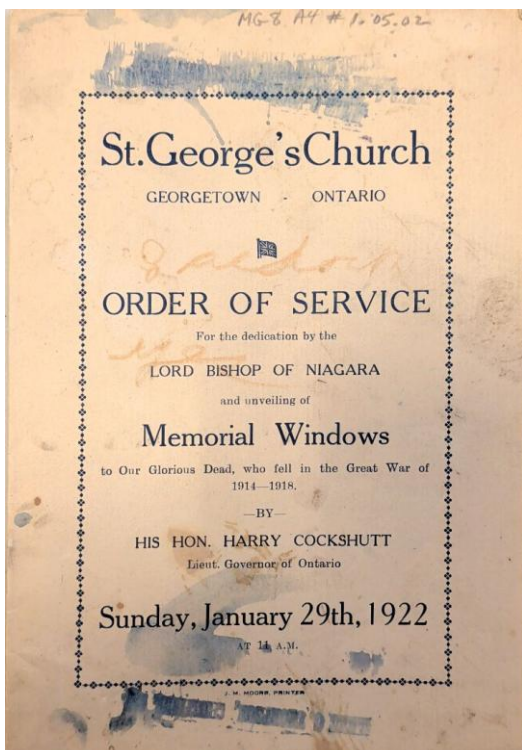
Guelph. The service was conducted by the Venerable William McMurray, rector of Niagara-on-the-Lake...

There were many local stonemasons, like Robert Clyde, Henry Cowan and William Taylor, as well as men like Alexander Stewart of Hamilton, whose talents were used in erecting the structure....

The urgency of paying... led the wardens that month to take out a thousand dollar mortgage on the parsonage. The work was finished, and on December 29th, Bishop Fuller travelled out to open the new church. James Bradley went with friends to the opening, but it was too crowded, so they went instead to the Baptist Church to see Wesley Bessey dipped...

As there was no encumbrance on the church itself, the congregation petitioned the bishop to consecrate the church, ‘and set it apart for Ever, for the worship of God, according to the Rites and Discipline of the Church of England in Canada.’... Bishop Fuller came out to consecrate the church...

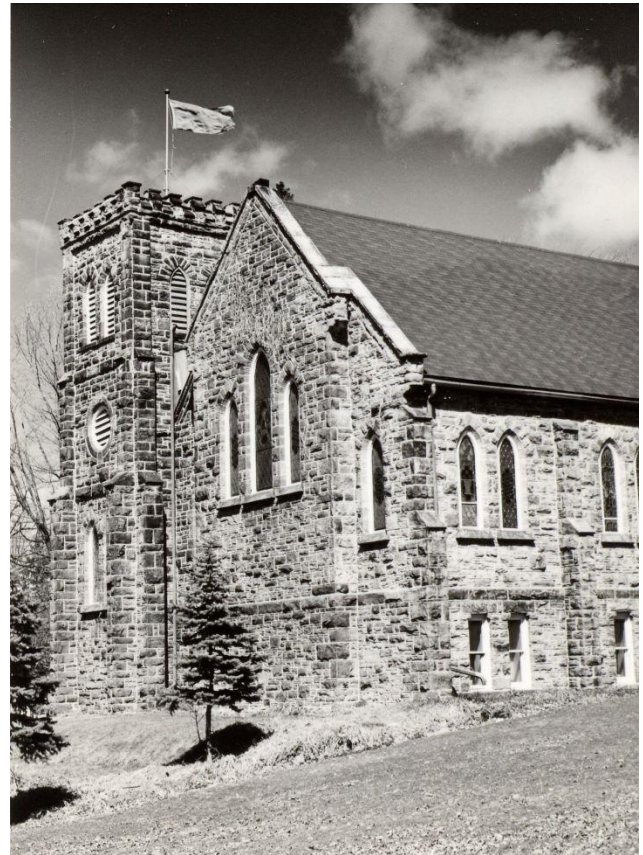
In 1879 [the rector's] eldest child, Mabel, died and [Rev.] Boulton placed a



stained glass window of a young girl in her memory in the church. When the youngest child, Oswald Hoste Boulton, died at the age of 29 in a sailing accident (1909), his mother (now a widow) had an accompanying window (St. John) put in St. George's. The Boultons probably gave the decorative windows at the west end of the church...

Other windows marked the passing of the young and the old. John D. Mathieson [and] his wife Rebecca... placed a pair of decorative windows at the back of the church. One pictures a font, and the other bears the text, “And Jesus called a little child unto him.” The actual font would be given later, by Frederick Cline, who was a stone cutter in Georgetown 1900-10.

The large west window, showing the Good Shepherd, also proclaims faith in the resurrection:



EHS08654

‘As in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.’ It is a memorial to John Corry (pronounced Curry).

-*St. George’s Anglican Church – A History*, Richard E. Ruggle, 1982.



EHS30160

For a complete virtual tour of the stained glass windows at St. George’s Anglican Church, watch the video at this link: <https://stgeorgesgeorgetown.com/video/>
The covers of St. George’s histories and the 1922 Order of Service for the memorial windows are all from the EHS Archives MG8 A4.

The cemetery at St. George’s Anglican Church at 60 Guelph Street, where Rev. Charles Dade is buried. This photo appeared in the 4 November 1971 issue of the *Georgetown Herald* on page 25. EHS04174

EHS00615





ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2026

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. Refreshments will follow.

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

Wed. 10 June

HALTON HILLS TOWN HALL & BARNES CEMETERY

Mayor Ann Lawlor 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, where Mark Rowe will recount the story of this cemetery.

Halton Hills Town Hall, 1 Halton Hills Drive, Georgetown, ON 7:00

Wed. 1 July

WALKING TOUR OF GLEN WILLIAMS

Mark Rowe will lead his annual tour of Main Street Glen Williams on Canada Day, before the start of the community parade. Come early for breakfast in the park or stay for the parade and festivities.

Williams Mill, 515 Main St., Glen Williams, ON 10:00 a.m.

Wed. 9 Sept.

MEET ME AT THE STATION

The arrival of the railway to Halton changed the face of the county and the everyday lives of the people in Acton and Georgetown. Local historian John McDonald returns to relate the struggles and share the fascinating stories associated with our local railways.

Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St., S., 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 68 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. Encourage others to join the EHS!

EHS ARCHIVES

Mohawk College student Alice Parent has begun placing photos on the Halton Hills Images website to achieve volunteer hours.

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 HALL OF FAME

The Halton Hills Sports Museum have officially changed their name to Halton Hills Sports Hall of Fame. The Induction Gala will

be held on 28 May at the John Elliott Theatre. This year's inductees are: **Sara Aggiss** (gymnastics), **Kris Barber** (figure skating), **Cameron Flint** (lacrosse), the **Georgetown Aetnas 1895–96** (lacrosse), **Angela Hrkac** (basketball) and **Tyler Renton** (track and field).

Details are on the new web page at: <https://haltonhillssportshalloffame.ca/>

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

May 30 -Tour of St. Catharines Museum and Welland Canal Centre.

Leslie Log House, 4415 Mississauga Rd. Streetsville

<https://streetshvillehistoricalsociety.ca>

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

May 21 -Gregory Klages, *Brampton Centennial School Shooting*

June 18 -Pamella Houston, *Estelle Blackburn*

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

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

May 21 -Mike Miller, *Photography Part 3*.
May 23 -John McDonald, *Halton Hamlets and Villages*. \$5

May 30 -John Duignan, *Milton: A History Through Artifacts*. \$5

June 30 -Patrick Gallagher, *Restoration of Historic Homes* \$5

David Bartlett, *Milton Area Dairy and Creamery Industry* \$5

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

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Coach House, 8 Navy Street.

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

June 7 -Mayor's Historical Picnic, Lakeside Park: 144 Front Street, 12 noon.

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com

May 13 -Alan Ackman, Nassagaweya's Famous Animator @ 7:30

June -Cemetery Visit at Campbellville.

TRAFALGAR HIST. SOCIETY

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

LORNE SCOTS MUSEUM

55 Queen St E, Brampton.

<https://www.lornescots.ca/museum>

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

At this time, Regional staff have had preliminary meetings with partners from all four municipalities, and continue to work towards deaccessioning the initial 2020 list as outlined in [Report No. LPS83-20](#). The Region has also retained Know History Inc. to assist with the development of a consolidated deaccessioning and dispersal plan for the rest of the Historic Collection. An update was provided to Regional Council April 15th which can be found in the Meeting Agenda and Minutes page [here](#).

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.

VINTAGE ACTON EVENTS

Sunday, **May 31st**, 2026 at 2 PM: Historic Walking Tour with Scott Brooks. Tour starts by Acton BMO. Rain Date: June 7th

Sunday, **June 21st**, 2026 at 7 PM: Historic Presentation - The Vanished Historic Communities of Halton Hills. Rotary Bandshell in Prospect Park.

Saturday, **July 18th**, 2026 at 7 PM: Historic Walking Tour It starts at Mill-Main Parkette. Rain Date: July 26th

Sunday, **August 16th** at 2 PM: Historic Walking Tour of Fairview Cemetery - Part 4. Join Scott Brooks as he tells the life and times of those buried at Fairview Cemetery.

Rain Date: August 23rd

More events to be added as the season progresses. For updates and details, visit vintageacton.com/upcoming-events

OUR NEXT \$20 BANK NOTE

The new note will be polymer, predominantly green and vertical in orientation. It will feature a portrait of King Charles III on the front. The back will continue to feature the Canadian National Vimy Memorial.

We expect the new \$20 note to begin circulating in early 2027. In the meantime, our current \$20 note featuring Queen Elizabeth will continue to circulate.

RURAL MAIL COURIERS



The annual convention of the Rural Mail Couriers' Association of Canada was held in the Acton YMCA on Labour Day, 1944. Dinner was provided by the Limehouse Women's Institute. -AFP 7 Sept. 1944

The latest news out of Ottawa is that Canada Post will phase out home delivery across Canada. When did urban areas in Halton Hills get door-to-door mail delivery? When did it stop in Halton Hills? See page 10 for some dates and archival pictures.

RENEW YOUR EHS MEMBERSHIP!

Have a look

If you were one of the 600 men, women and children who turned out to have a look at Halton Hills' new civic centre on Saturday you probably came away with the opinion that your tax dollars were well spent.

When it was first announced that the town would build a new civic centre, and that the price tag would top the \$6 million mark, there were certainly some grumblings among the taxpayers - and the media.

There were no grumblings on Saturday.

The new circular building is esthetically pleasing, practical and in a good location.

Halton Hills couldn't afford to make the same mistake Halton Region did. Regional councillors built the big green complex in Oakville just 10 years ago, yet it's now set to undergo a \$30 million expansion.

It's obvious Halton Hills is soon going to see a boom in housing like it hasn't seen since the construction of the Delrex subdivision in the 1960s.

Until Halton Hills employees moved into the new building they were spread out in six buildings throughout the town.

As one recent story in the Herald's commemorative edition for the civic centre noted, the town's 75 workers "came from trailers and garages" throughout the town.

Politicians often foot the blame for not planning ahead. This time they did. They took some heat. Councillors approved the complex unanimously in October, 1987.

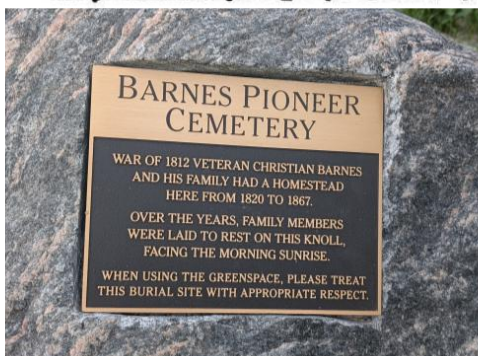
In retrospect, it was a wise decision.

But planning and construction of the civic centre didn't come completely without controversy. There was the choice of architect, which eventually led to a stormy debate at council. And there were strikes during construction which pushed back the moving-in date a few months.

But politicians, engineers and administrators were able to overcome these problems.

With the opening of the new civic centre Halton Hills is now ready to properly handle the complex problems that accompany growth.

If you haven't seen it yet, drop by. Have a look and judge for yourself if you got your money's worth.



The Barnes Pioneer Cemetery is on the land owned by the Town of Halton Hills.
-JM Rowe

-Georgetown Herald, 30 August 1989



EHS12630 -2003



EHS12634 -2003



EHS25035 -2018



EHS25036 -2018



Opening of Halton Hills Civic Centre on 26 August 1989. Holding the ribbon are (L) Bill Smith and Peter Pomeroy (R). From the left to right are Rob Heaton, the Architectural Company representative, Steamer Emerson, _____, Bill Hunter, Doug Sargent, Russ Miller, George Barbeau, Benny Rachlin and Al Cook. EHS12684



Opening of Halton Hills Civic Centre on 26 August 1989. Cutting of the cake with Pat McCartney, Ann Currie, Rob Heaton, Marilyn Sargentson, Alf Spence, Al Cook, Russ Miller, Joe Hewitt, Rick Bonnette, Pam Johnston, Gerald Rennie, Peter Pomeroy and Bill Smith. EHS12685



Kingsville artist Denitza created the artwork on the windows of the Town Hall. Photo by Herb Garbutt / Halton Hills Today.

Contemporary painter Denitza was chosen for the project, selected from a pool of applicants to produce an artwork responding to the theme of 'Connected Communities: celebrating the people, places, nature, environment, and the urban and rural areas that make up Halton Hills.'

The 52.5x14-foot piece was created by Kingsville artist Denitza. Working off the theme Connecting Communities, she incorporated instantly recognizable landmarks including downtown Georgetown, Acton Town Hall and the Williams Mill. But a closer look also reveals the stone bridge from Limehouse Conservation Area, flowers from the Lucy Maud Montgomery garden in Norval and sunflowers from Andrews Farm and other local landmarks.

"This work is truly beautiful and reflective of the many communities that that define Halton Hills," said Mayor Ann Lawlor. "The Town Hall is a very appropriate place for this piece that complements our award-winning building."

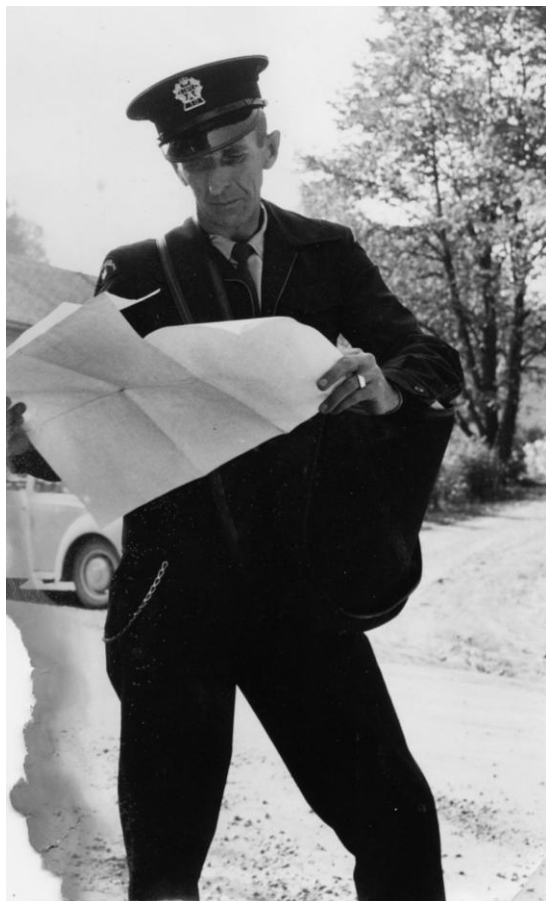
Artist Denitza noted that the intent was to create a visual tribute to Halton Hills, celebrating the diverse and interconnected elements that define the Town. -*Halton Hills Today*, 5 / 12 Oct. 2024

DOOR-TO-DOOR MAIL DELIVERY

1959



Door-to-Door Postal Delivery began, in Georgetown, on 28 Sept. 1959. Standing on the steps of the Post Office are Left to right, Cliff Culbert, Jim Bradley, Jim Williams, Albert Turner, Teo Wittekeok, who delivers parcels, Les Dickenson, Edgar Scott, Ron Ovenden and Gordon Inglis. (EHS04620)



Mailman Leonard Malenfant on Glen Williams house to house mail delivery which began on 2 October 1967, after street signs were installed by the Township. (EHS02974)



Learning to sort mail are new carriers with Dan MacDonald of London. They are (LtoR) George Forrest, Gerry Lamarche, Rod McEachern, Margaret Bedard and Dan Arbic. Acton mail delivery began on Monday 9 September 1974.

A timeline of Canada Post's contentious community mailboxes

By Tania Kohut Global News 26 October 2015

December 2013	Canada Post announces plans to phase out door-to-door delivery
October 2014	Phase one of community mailboxes implemented
Spring 2015	Communities fight back over community mailbox locations
October 26, 2015	Canada Post suspends the community mailbox program
September 2025	<i>Ottawa allows elimination of door-to-door mail delivery</i>