



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

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November-December 2010



Clay Products Industry in Halton and Peel

“While the stone of the escarpment was quarried above the village, the very shale on which it sat attracted the brick making business in 1906. The Terra Cotta Pressed Brick Co. commenced operations on a large scale. An electric power house was erected where Mr. Plewes' grist mill stood and the power was transmitted to the brick plant near the train station. This provided a large number of jobs.

In 1911, Elijah Townsend sold land to William Flavelle and Robert Kennedy to form the Halton Brick Company. A third brick factory was opened on 27th Sideroad, Esquesing in 1914 by L. Plant. All three plants boomed until the Depression of 1929 began. They were closed and eventually dismantled.”

– *The Historic Village of Terra Cotta*, John Mark Rowe, 1993

The Terra Cotta Pressed Brick Co. are about to commence operations there. Both building material and machinery are expected here almost immediately. The power house will be erected where Mr. Plewes' grist mill stood and the power will from thence be transmitted by electricity to the brick plant near the station. A large number of men will shortly be employed.

-The Brampton Conservator, 20 April 1906

TERRA COTTA – Mr. B. Parr has sold his house and lot on Main Street to the Brick Co. We understand that the Company proposes building a block along Main Street which will add greatly to the appearance of our town. –The Brampton Conservator, 31 August 1906

UNION – Mr. Robert McMenemy of Georgetown, intends moving into R. Leslie's house this week. Mr. McMenemy will be manager of the new brick works. –The Brampton Conservator, 7 March 1907

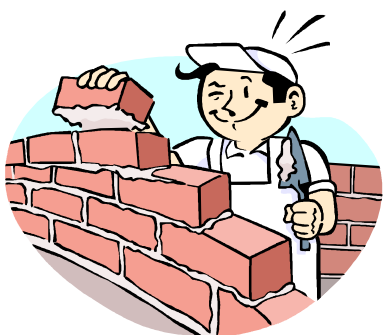
TERRA COTTA – There is talk of another brickyard starting on. E. Townsend's farm, to employ 60 hands. –The Brampton Conservator, 2 June 1910



A brick manufactured at Glen Williams, Ontario

Besides farming, John Leslie and John S. Fraser had brickyards on their property, on 22 Sideroad, supplying materials for the next generation of houses. William McClure on the 9th Line had three lime kilns working to produce mortar for those many bricks.

- *Down in the Glen*, Rev. Richard Ruggle, 1978



Bill McIlveen

W.D. (Bill) McIlveen received his B.Sc. (Agr.) and M.Sc. from the University of Guelph and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the Pennsylvania State University. After over 25 years with the Ontario Ministry of the Environment during which he attained the position of Senior Terrestrial Toxicologist, he has been employed by AMEC Earth and Environmental as a Senior Terrestrial Biologist since 2002. His professional career was mainly related to the investigation of effects industrial emission on vegetation and soil. He has authored or co-authored over 300 articles or reports relating to environmental matters ranging from naturalist club newsletters to government reports to refereed journals.

TOWN OF HALTON HILLS - THAT Report PDS-2009-0009, dated January 22, 2009, with respect to an update on the application by Brampton Brick to establish a quarry (the "Norval Quarry") located on the east side of Winston Churchill Boulevard, in the City of Brampton, directly on the border with the Town of Halton Hills, be received;

The Cheltenham Quarry produces the required 500,000 tonnes annually. However, the Company needs to acquire additional shale resources, located close to the plant, for supply security and new product line development. Brampton Brick began a search for a future quarry in 2001; participated on Brampton's Steering Committee, for its Northwest Brampton Shale Resources Review, 2001-2002; in Halton Region's Official Plan Amendment 25, 2004-2006; and the Peel and Brampton Official Plan Amendments 15 and OP95-245, 2005-2006. The Company has now acquired the 35 ha (86 ac) site northeast of the hamlet of Norval. The Norval shale is buff-burning with lower chlorides and sulphates than the Cheltenham deposit. The Company proposes to blend the Norval and Cheltenham shales to create a buff-burning body that will lead to the creation of a new product line and increased cladding market share.

Tuesday August 13, 1985

Dear Mr. French,

I am writing in reply to your letter of June 28th requesting a name for the roadway from Terra Cotta to Esquesing Township between the Town Line and Winston Churchill Blvd. We referred the inquiry to the Terra Cotta Women's Institute who provided helpful information for us.

It appears that the road began as a laneway for the Townsend farm. In 1911, Edward Townsend sold the property to William Flavelle and Robert Kennedy who began the Halton Brick Company. The laneway was the access to the Halton Brickyard and was known locally as the Halton Lane. The company ceased business in 1934. Mr. L. Plant also ran a brick company here as well from 1914 until the 1920s.

The important industry of brick-making out of our *Terra Cotta* cannot be overlooked and so we favour a name related to the industry as opposed to worthy tillers of the soil like the Townsend family. The old appellation of Halton Lane would only hold meaning for the locals in the know, other than the fact that it does end in Halton County!

Therefore, the Esquesing Historical Society would like to suggest Halton Brick Lane or Brickyard Lane. The term lane reflects how the road was created in the first place. I we have been of some assistance and would like to thank you once again for your continued encouragement of our attempt to preserve the history of our communities for future generations.

Sincerely Yours,
John Mark Rowe
President,
Esquesing Historical Society

Cc: Terra Cotta Women's Institute



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

2010-2011

Wed. 10 Nov. 2010 **Clay Products Industry in Halton and Peel** - Local geology in the form of extensive shale deposits throughout Halton and Peel has encouraged the development of a fairly extensive brick-making industry. Over a period of over 120 years, pits and manufacturing sites have prospered and faded at about a dozen locations. The presentation by Dr. W.D. McIlveen will review the comings and goings of the industry in our area.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main and Church Sts, Georgetown, 7:30p.m.

December No Public Meeting in December

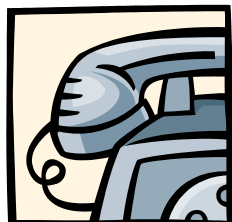
Wed. 12 Jan. 2011 **Dim The Lights!** – Following up on our Movies in Georgetown meeting, Mark Rowe and Karen Hunter will explore the movie houses that have served Acton and Georgetown from the first silent movie to the closing of the Georgetown Cinema.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main and Church Sts, Georgetown, 7:30p.m.

Wed. 9 February 2011 **Surveying the Land** – Lise Currie, Ontario Land Surveyor will examine the role of Land Surveyors in preparing Esquesing Township for settlement. Lisa, a member of the EHS will explore the challenges faced by the early surveyors , their means and methods, and their impact on Esquesing Township as we know it today.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main and Church Sts, Georgetown, 7:30p.m.

Wed. 9 March 2011 **Canada's forgotten Nation Project**- Marc Boileau of the University of Guelph will speak on the architecture of Public Works Canada by focusing the history of our Customs & Post Office buildings. He is the author of *Towers of Time: Ontario* which examines regionally important Post Offices and Customs Houses to illustrate their architectural and historical context.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main and Church Sts, Georgetown, 7:30p.m.

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE!

Refreshments served from 7:00 p.m.



Stephen Blake	905 877-8251	President
Karen Hunter	905 877-7363	Treasurer
Dawn Livingstone	905 877-6506	Secretary
Sherry Westfahl	905 873-7145	Past - President
J. Mark Rowe	905 877-9510	Archivist
Jan Raymond	905 877-9172	Publications
Marj Allan	905 877-9985	Membership
Cathy Hunt		Social
Lise Currie	905-877-0634	

Society Notes

INTERNET CONNECTIONS

<www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca>

Send your e-mail to mrowe6@sympatico.ca
or dawn.livingstone@sympatico.ca

EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter with assistance from Karen Hunter and Dawn Livingstone. Submissions welcome.

You may opt to receive your newsletter sent electronically to an e-mail address you provide.

MEMBERSHIP

Our 2010 membership stands at 112 members. Renewal for 2011 can now be paid. The individual membership rate is \$10. The family or institution rate is \$12. Cheques payable to the Society can be mailed to our post box. Membership runs from February to February. Marj Allen, membership secretary, will accept your 2011 fee at the meetings.

ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

www.archives.gov.on.ca

EHS ARCHIVES

The Georgetown branch of the Halton Hills Public Library will be closing sometime in early 2011 which means that our Archives will also be inaccessible to the public. We are very pleased to announce archival storage space has been offered by the new Wellington County Archives. However, this site is only for storage. We are looking for a couple of helpers to shift the Archive contents onto and off of trucks early in the new year. Please contact a member of the executive.

HALTON-PEEL OGS

Four Corners Branch Library, 65 Queen St.,
Brampton @ 2p.m.

Call Ann Logan at 905-845-7755

Nov. 28 – Brian Gilchrist, "*Canadian*

Immigration Records – An Introduction"

Dec. – no meeting

LIMEHOUSE KILN SOCIETY

Wanton Vandalism – Thousands of dollars of interpretive signs were stolen or damaged at the Limehouse Conservation Area in a weekend vandalism spree that has Credit Valley Conservation and Limehouse Kiln Society officials shaking their heads in disgust. – *The New Tanner*, 7 Oct. 2010

HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

Nov. 4-7 Georgetown Hockey Heritage Council 26TH Annual Oldtimers' Hockey Tournament www.hhsm.ca

DEVEREAUX HOUSE

It is located at 11494 Trafalgar Road, Georgetown, just north of Maple Avenue. The house is open at no charge to the public on Thursday afternoons. Call 905-877-1861 or visit devereauxhouse.ca.

November 18 - Walter Lewis of the Georgetown Public Library will talk about the Royal Visit to Georgetown at 7:30 pm. December 18 and 19 are Christmas Teas with carol sing-a-long afterward in the Victorian parlour decorated for Christmas. Tickets for \$12 will be sold in advance. Call Ann at 905-877-1861.

STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

PO box 598, Streetsville, ON L5M 2C1
Our General meetings are held, opposite the Leslie Log House, at the Specialty Care, 4350 Mississauga Rd. S. on the 2nd Thurs. of the month (Feb, Apr, Oct, Dec,) at 7:30
Contact: 905-814-5958

Dec. 9 – Benares house tour and tea at 7:30 - \$16.50 Register by Dec. 1st with Jean Watt at 905.826.1860

BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

The Society meets at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth Ave. at 7:15 on the third Thursday of the month.

Nov. 18 - *Garry Wilton* As a Platoon Chief with the Brampton Fire Department.

Jan. 20 - *Diane Allengame* Peel Heritage Complex

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society meets at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street at 8p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Nov. 18-Tales from the Alex Cook Archives
Nov. 30 – John McDonald – In pursuit of William Halton at Knox Church, Milton at 12 noon (luncheon)

Dec. 16– Christmas Pot Luck dinner

NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY

The Nasagiweya Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church in Haltonville at 7 p.m. President Audrey Allison 905-854-2378

Nov. 9- History of Brookville

Dec. 14 – Christmas pot luck dinner

OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For a list of walking tours and ghost tours of Oakville visit www.oakvillehistory.org and click on EVENTS or phone 905-844-2695.

Nov. 17 -Down to the Sea in Ships: Come on a Voyage of Discovery. Speaker: Phil Brimacombe, author of the Oakville and Bronte Harbour books.

TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nov. 30 – Built Heritage – When Buildings are Bridges with Elaine Eigl.

<http://www.trafalgartownshiphistory.ca>

TOLTON LAND TO BECOME PARK

The Tolton wrecking yard in Limehouse is no more. The car wrecks have been removed and the land sold to the Town after a \$125 000 donation by the Tolton family.

The next step is the assessment of the property by an archaeologist. It sits on top of the earliest lime kilns in the village.

THE WAR OF 1812 BICENTENNIAL

If you are interested in this important event in our history, a new website allows visitors to see primary sources and original artefacts from the time period. . The site is well worth a visit – www.1812history.com

If you have Esquesing ancestors who participated in the War of 1812, drop a line

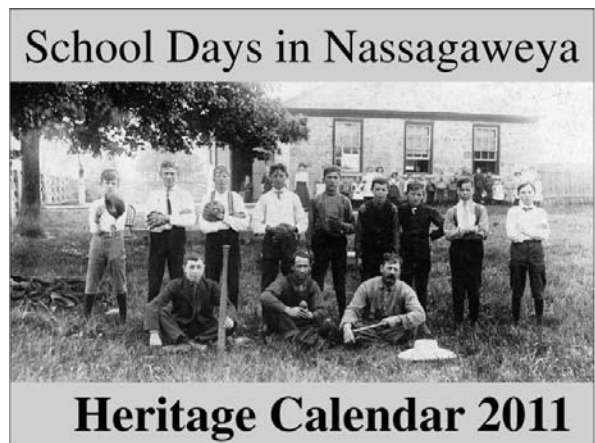
to Mark Rowe who is preparing our local contribution to the big anniversary.

PEEL HERITAGE COMPLEX

A new art gallery is under construction south of the old Peel County Courthouse. This will allow for a revitalized Archives and Museum. They will be limiting their hours through to March 1st, when the Reading Room will close for 15 months! The entire complex will be closed to the public until the Autumn of 2011.

NASAGIWEYA H.S. CALENDAR

The latest publication from the Nasagiweya Historical Society is its 2011 fundraising calendar, *School Days in Nassagaweya*, a heritage printing that offers images of all ten of the original one-room schoolhouses of the former township as well as select class photos. The schoolhouses were amalgamated into Brookville Public School on Guelph Line, north-west of the Town of Milton in 1960.



Along with the archival photos, Laurie Wells, creator of the calendar and a director with the Nasagiweya Historical Society, has added significant dates from the chronicles of the area that pertain to not only school life, but general history.

contact: Deb Quaile, Director

info@nasagiweyahistoricalociety.com

or Audrey Allison, President

905-854-2378



The EHS Needs You!

Do you enjoy our newsletter?

Do you enjoy our meetings?

Aren't our Archives and Photo collection
awesome!

All of these benefits are enjoyed by our members, but the EHS needs your help to maintain this great Society. Please consider joining the executive of the Esquesing Historical Society in February at our Annual General Meeting.

What do members of the executive do?

- *collect mail
- *answer inquiries
- *do research
- *collect memberships
- *maintain membership lists
- *print labels
- *print the newsletter
- *compose the newsletter
- *stuff envelopes
- *post the newsletter
- *provide tea & snacks
- *secretary
- *treasurer
- *president
- *process archival donations
- *organize archives
- *plan meetings
- *maintain archival finding aid
- *maintain website
- *advertise and publicize
- *fill photo orders
- *organize special projects
- *what next???



Merry Christmas to
All
From the executive of
the
Esquesing Historical
Society

HOCKEY! A Local Passion



Mayor Goy drops the puck at first intermediate hockey game at Acton Arena - 29 November 1962. (ehs18739)

6 March 1996 – THE ACTON TANNER

A PAGE FROM THE PAST

For those of us long in the tooth, it may seem like only yesterday, but 50 years ago last week, the Georgetown Raiders knocked off Acton Tanners in the Intermediate B hockey playoffs in front of an estimated 1500 fans at the old ice box in Prospect Park.

The gloom that descended over this hockey-mad, post-war burgh could have been cut with that proverbial knife. It was the first time in 16 years that a Georgetown team had been able to knock off the Tanners in the group playoffs. It rankled because the best Raiders were players from the Toronto Merchantile League, with a few local boys thrown in to add Georgetown content.

In those palmy post-war years, hockey was king in small towns during the long winters. There was fierce rivalry between the two towns that now comprise Halton Hills.

Most places only had natural ice in arenas. Schedules were short to accommodate the weathers vagaries. Nevertheless, 10 to 12 game schedules were usually managed, enough to have home games with each team in the league. Then, teams like the Tanners, mainly home-brew, were forced to play playoff games in places such as the old Galt arena, which had the luxury of artificial ice.

Acton was usually grouped with Georgetown, Milton, Fergus, Elora and Orangeville, with variations when teams from places such as Oakville or Guelph iced an intermediate squad. But for two decades the powerful Acton squad, fed by young players graduating from filter bed shinny, were group winners and eligible to pursue the coveted Ontario championship. Acton was successful in 1939 after many seasons of being knocked out on the threshold.

This success really rankled the sports fraternity in Georgetown, which usually iced a pretty strong junior team but couldn't get past Acton in intermediate hockey. They plotted for years to upset the champion Tanners, importing players and coaches, and clamouring for rule changes to allow them to use more than two imports.

Although players were supposed to be strictly amateur, there was a well-known custom of paying imports under the table or seeing they had comfortable jobs in an era when good jobs were scarce.

It changed after World War II. Hockey was only a skeleton of itself during the war years. When the boys shed their uniforms and came home to play hockey again, it was a sports-mad populace that welcomed them. Those old arenas were crammed for almost every game. Admission was two bits and a hot dog cost you 10 cents.

Before each game and between periods, the Acton Citizens' Band, from their perch in the old ice palace, kept spirits up with Sousa marches and rousing music designed to not only fan the flames of support for the locals but help keep the fans, huddled in blankets and parkas, warm. Those old ice boxes were not heated.

When the Tanners and the Raiders faced each other in the OHA group finals it was a promoters dream. First game of the two game total-point series was played in the Georgetown arena, where you couldn't have squeezed a shoehorn. It ended in a 2-2 deadlock, so the deciding game was in Acton where the Georgetown Club had been unsuccessful for two decades. Odds favoured the Tanners.

That game was like a tong war between two clubs, who were tied going into the final minutes of the third period. Strong goal keeping from Lorne "Dooney" Evans, who migrated to Georgetown from Milton, kept the Raiders in the game until they got a big break from referee Pat Patterson. He sentenced defenceman "Porge" Riddall, a Tanner who migrated from Georgetown, to two minutes for high sticking with less than five minutes to play.

Opportunists, the Raiders banged in the go-ahead goal past Acton netminder Herb Woods in the dying minutes. It cast a dark pall over the bulging Acton ice palace. Time ran out before the Tanners could knot the count.

Fans in Acton suspected skulduggery about that penalty. It was rumoured the ref, who was buddy-buddy with the Toronto Mercantile players in the Raider line-up, had actually rode up from Toronto with them for the game, a charge never substantiated.

The elated Georgetown club, having removed the jinx that had hampered their play-off hopes for decades, went on to bigger and better things after being taught some hockey lessons from Bucko McDonald's Sundridge Beavers. They captured the OHA championship in both Intermediate B and A before venturing into the Senior OHA brand of shinny in the ensuing seasons.

The Tanners had some good years after that too, but increasing commercial intrusions into the game and wholesale importing led to fan disinterest. The calibre of hockey also slipped badly.

Only centre Ilio Marzo and defenceman Ben Bayliss, who played on Acton's 1946 team, are still with us and enjoying retirement.

Those were palmy days in Acton before the advent of television. Hockey was the substance of almost every cold winter for young and old alike. There was a real pride in the Acton team and it led to pride about the town and its people. Hopefully, one day we will see a time like it again.

-Hartley Coles, editor



The Poppy Story

As we approach Remembrance Day on Nov. 11, it is worth remembering that the Flanders poppy which is the iconic symbol of remembrance for all Canadians, has a very interesting story.

The vast devastation caused by bombing on the battle fields in France and Belgium during World War I literally wiped out all visible signs of vegetation. Trees and shrubs were blasted out of existence. For the most part, the sub-soil was exposed and with ensuing rains, huge areas were converted to mud. Seeds of the Flanders poppy that existed under

the surface of the soil for generations were exposed. They germinated and grew on their own, independent, contrarian plants that they were, they put down roots and flowered where they stood.

The beauty and tenacity of the Flanders Poppy became symbolic of the men and women who fought with equal resilience and spirit.

While many Canadians know that the Flanders poppy was made famous by the poem written by Canadian John McCrae, few know that the survival instincts of this incredible plant reflect the fighting spirit of the people we pause to remember on November 11th.

-*Toronto Star*, 30
October 2010

An Honour Guard of
St. John's
Ambulance men
salute the Acton
cenotaph in 1960.
The United Church
is under
construction.
Ehs14636

