



# ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1  
[www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca)

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## United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada



THE SPINNING WHEEL

Join Fred Hayward as he speaks about the unique role of UELs in the formation of our communities and our government.

### United Empire Loyalists

In the main, the United Empire Loyalists were those who had been settled in the thirteen colonies at the outbreak of the American Revolution, who remained loyal to and took up the Royal Standard, and who settled in what is now Canada at the end of the war.

Perhaps as many as 50 000 or more individuals were Loyalists - estimates range from 30,000 to over 100,000. To be a Loyalist, one had to have been:

\* Either male or female, as of 19 April 1775, a resident of the American colonies, and joined the Royal Standard prior to the Treaty of Separation of 1783, or otherwise

demonstrated loyalty to the Crown, and settled in territory remaining under the rule of the Crown; or

- \* a soldier who served in an American Loyalist Regiment and was disbanded in Canada; or
- \* a member of the Six Nations of either the Grand River or the Bay of Quinte Reserve who is descended from one whose migration was similar to that of other Loyalists.

However, there were others who qualified too -- for example, if a Loyalist was killed in action, and his family then moved to Canada and settled around the time of the Treaty of Separation in 1783, they might qualify.

An objective of the UELAC is to develop a directory of people of the Loyalist era, and to categorize them, especially those who met the qualifications as a United Empire Loyalist and who earned the right, along with his heirs forever to the designation or post-nominal U.E., standing for Unity of the Empire.



1934 stamp



1984 stamp

The above information came from: <http://www.uelac.org>

### Excerpts from the Diaries of Elizabeth Simcoe May 13th, 1793

"Coll. Simcoe returned from Toronto & speaks in praise of the harbour, & fine spot near it covered large Oak which he intends to fix upon as a site for a Town."

### August 4th, 1793

"We rode on the peninsula opposite Toronto, so I called it the spit of land, for it is united to the mainland by a very narrow neck of ground. We crossed the bay opposite the camp, and rode by the lake side to the end of the peninsula. We met with some good natural meadows and several ponds. The trees are mostly of the poplar kind, covered with wild vines, and there are some fir. On the ground were everlasting peas creeping in abundance, of a purple colour. I am told they are good to eat when boiled, and some pretty, white flowers like lilies of the valley. We continued our ride beyond the peninsula on the sands of the north shore of Lake Ontario till we were impeded by large trees on the beach...

...We then walked some distance till we met with Mr. Grant's (Lewis Grant, the surveyor's) boat. It was not much larger than a canoe, but we ventured into it, and after rowing a mile we came within site of, what is named on a government map, the highlands of Toronto. The shore is extremely bold and has the appearance of chalk cliffs, but I believe they are only white sand. They appeared so well that we talked of building a summer residence there and calling it Scarborough."

- Taken from <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/simcoe/>



# GEORGETOWN: Main Street Reconstruction 1961

Here are a few photos from our collection showing the reconstruction of Main Street in 1961. They were taken by John Sommer.



Main and Church Street – The Herald office has the awning out.



Main Street looking north.



Main and Mill, outside the McGibbon.  
A Simpsons truck is parked beside the bank.



Main Street looking south with Cotton  
Brothers on the corner with Mill Street.



## **ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2007**

Wed. 9 May 07 **Honouring our Loyalists** - Fred H. Hayward, Senior Vice president of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, will travel to Georgetown to inform and educate the Society on the unique role the Loyalists played in the formation of our modern communities and our form of government.  
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

Wed. 13 June 07 **Acton's Lake District** – Local historian Mark Rowe will lead a walking tour around the neighbourhood which shares the shores of Fairy Lake, recounting the history of the lake and the buildings which surround it. The evening begins with our annual pot luck dinner. Bring a dish to share and enjoy old-fashioned community fun!  
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Knox Ave., Acton 6:00 p.m. or 7:15 p.m.

01 July Walking Tour of **Glen Williams** – 10:30 a.m. Williams Mill

28 July Walking Tour of Downtown **Georgetown** – 9:00 a.m. Knox Presbyterian Church

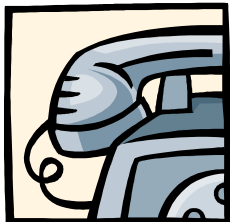
25 Aug Walking Tour of **Limehouse** – Memorial Hall - Time TBA

Wed. 12 Sept 2007 **Georgetown Lawn Bowling Centenary** – Bob Marshall, President of the Georgetown club will lead the Society on a walk to the Lawn Bowling Club on Edith Street for a short tour and a walk back to Knox Church to hear the story of lawn bowling in Georgetown over the past 100 years. Meet Knox Church at 7:00 p.m for the walk.  
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Main Street, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT NO CHARGE!**

Refreshments served from 7:00 p.m.

### **ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**



Stephen Blake	905 877-8251	President
Karen Hunter	905 838-2109	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

## Society Notes

### INTERNET CONNECTIONS

The Esquesing Historical Society has an official web site on the World Wide Web. <[www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.ca)>

Send your e-mail to [mrowe6@cogeco.ca](mailto:mrowe6@cogeco.ca) or [dlvngstn@sympatico.ca](mailto:dlvngstn@sympatico.ca)

### EHS NEWSLETTER

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

### MEMBERSHIP

Our 2007 paid memberships stands at 98. The individual rate is \$10. The family or institution rate is \$12. Cheques payable to the Society can be mailed to our post box.

Marj Allen, membership secretary, will accept your 2007 fee at the meetings. Our membership year runs from February.

### ARCHIVES

We have recently had donations of a minute book for the Georgetown OddFellows from 1898-1917. We also received a ledger of a more recent nature. A call for farm pictures resulted in several from the Esquesing-Erin area, including Mundalls Saw Mill in Erin.

### ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

77 Grenville Street, Toronto 416-327-1600

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)

### HALTON-PEEL OGS

Chinguacousy Branch Library, Lower Level, 150 Central Park Drive, Bramalea.

Call Betty Cameron at 905-792-0907

Genealogical Research in Quebec by Gary Schroder on 27 May, 2007 @2:00 p.m.

### STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

The Society meets the 2nd Thursday of the month (Feb, Apr, Oct, Dec), 8:00pm, at Streetsville Village Hall, 271 Queen Street South. Call Norm Potts at 905.858.0070.

Walking Tours on May 27 1-4pm; June 23 10-1pm; July 15 1-4pm; Aug.31 8-11pm.

Walking Tours begin at Streetsville Florist, 265 Queen Street, South.

### BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

The Society meets at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth Ave. at 7:15

May 12 -History for Newcomers in Council Chamber of Peel County Courthouse on Wellington Street East.

May 17 -Peel County and the Underground Railroad - Karolyn Smardz-Frost 7:15 pm

June 21 -Ontario Barns -Dr. John Carter.

### 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.

May 12 - Flower, Flags & Bunting sale

May 17 -Queen Victoria & AGM

June 16 - Bus trip to Port Hope

June 21 -Pot Luck at 6 pm

### OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Admission Free \* Donations Welcome

For information about the Oakville

Historical Society and the collection, please telephone (905) 844-2695.

### 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 Eli Daigle

905-854-2628 \*June 10 Spirit Walk of Kean & Cove Chapel Cemeteries.

### DEVEREAUX HOUSE

The architect is currently working on designs for the restoration of the house. In March two consultants from Willowbank School came to view the property and to make recommendations. The property has been a subject of a film from the History Channel - before and (hopefully) after!

### WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR!

Thank you one and all for either renewing your membership or taking one out. Your support keeps the EHS active and involved! Perhaps you'd like to consider becoming involved with the running of the Society?

Contact any member of the executive to find out how you can contribute!

*Excerpts from: Archaeological Investigation of Unmarked Pioneer Cemetery, Lot,18, Concession 8,Former Township of Esquesing, now in the Town of Halton Hills, Ontario.*

First; an investigation of the land use history of Lot 18, Concession 8 failed to reveal deed instruments or other official documents to corroborate the personal accounts of a cemetery on the property. Secondly, it was determined that no cemetery had ever been registered at this location with the Registrar of Cemeteries Regulation, Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, and thirdly, as the physical location of the study area, on a flat-topped knoll overlooking a branch of the Credit River, did indeed suggest the high potential for a pre-contact aboriginal archaeological site, it was decided to subject the area to a routine Stage 2 archaeological assessment.

The next two phases of the project, archaeological: assessment and testing began on September 17, 1998....

The entire plateau area was test pitted at five-metre intervals, requiring a total of 25 test pits. Each unit was hand-excavated to subsoil at a depth of 20-25 cm. The sandy loam soils from these units were screened through six millimetres mesh in order to facilitate the recovery of artefacts. All test pits were back-filled and their locations recorded on a field map. No archaeological remains were encountered during this assessment programme.

At this point, under the close supervision of Mr. Martin Cooper, Dr. Shaun Austin and Mr. Keith Powers, a Gradall was employed to remove all topsoil from the plateau in order to reveal grave shafts in the subsoil. By this means 19 grave shafts were identified in tight rows near the centre of the plateau...

On September 29, 1998, Mr. Cooper returned to the property and exposed the contents of the small grave at the far northeast. Coffin wood and machine cut nail were encountered at 40 cm below the level of the subsoil surface. At a depth of 50'cm were found the skeletal remains of a, newborn or fetal infant. Upon completion of his investigation, Mr. Cooper backfilled the shaft.

In conclusion, 19 clustered grave shafts with in situ human remains have been identified within a discrete location on the top of the plateau, and no evidence' of a pre-contact aboriginal archaeological site has been recovered. It is therefore recommended that:

- 1) The plateau area poses no archaeological concern with regard to pre-contact aboriginal artifacts or settlement patterns.
- 2) All construction activities in the vicinity of the plateau should be designed so as to avoid the 19 grave shafts, preferably leaving a five-metre buffer around them.
- 3) The Town of Halton Hills should now contact the Cemeteries Branch of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations in order to register this cemetery.

**This cemetery is on property owned by the Civic Centre, Maple Avenue, Georgetown.**

# PROSPECT PARK AND FAIRY LAKE

Excerpts from *Acton's Early Days*

And now to get to the Park. It's between fifty and fifty-five years ago that the land now known as Acton Park was purchased from the late William E. Smith, and became Acton's Fair grounds. The first exhibition held here was in a big canvas tent. That was before the drill hall was moved from Bower Avenue... The drill shed went to the Park about forty-five years ago. It occupied a place where the Arena now stands until that building was erected, about ten years ago.



For years the only entrance to Acton Park was by way of Park Avenue. Until 25 or 30 years ago that avenue, known as Knox Avenue, stopped at the entrance to the church sheds.

This property was a big pasture field and owned by the late John R. Kennedy. About twenty-five years ago Mr. Kennedy subdivided the property into building lots and where it is thought that the late John Hugh Wallace was the first to erect a residence there which is still owned by his daughter today, Miss Hannah Wallace. Then Alex Bell built a fine brick residence next and Jeremiah Bell built a comfortable home for his mother, when she came to town from out in Nassagaweya. ...

But how I've wandered from the Park. The opening of Knox Avenue had a bearing on the Park, for now there were two entrances, and the Knox Avenue way was popular for all those west of Mill Street, and a bit shorter.

About twenty years ago a very successful celebration was held in the Park, commemorating Acton's fifty years of incorporation as a village. Strange as it may seem, a good bank balance was left after the affair was over and it was decided the Park entrance should be improved. The fences were set back to their present location and the band stand and ticket office and stone pillars were erected. Further celebrations supplied the balance of funds necessary to complete the work....



But the story of Acton Park is not complete without something about Fairy Lake, which forms such beautiful surroundings for this fine ground. It's just 109 years ago this past summer since the mill dam was completed that made this splendid body of water. The dam backed up water until it covered 88 acres, as it does today. The flour mill, built by the Adamses, stood where Lindsay's mill is today, and the saw mill – discontinued-

seventy years ago was just below where the present cement waste-way and overflow is situated.

For about fifty years Fairy Lake was always referred to as "The Mill Pond". Eventually, Mrs. Sarah Augusta Secord, who settled here in the sixties, an educated woman of an aesthetic temperament, gradually succeeded in persuading our citizens that an expanse of such clear crystal spring water, with the environment of wooded hills, and cultivated farms, and pretty village homes and home surroundings, should drop its commonplace name and be honoured with a more dignified cognomen. Mrs. Secord christened it "Fairy Lake", and Fairy Lake is the euphaneous name it has carried for the past sixty years....



In those early days there was fine trout-fishing in the old mill pond. Speckled trout, and no amount of other fish abounded there. There were a number of boats and punts on the pond and these facilitated the sport of the fisherman when in quest of "speckled beauties".

Photos of Prospect Park Shown Here:  
 EHS11371 Band stand and entrance  
 EHS10401 Acton Boat House  
 EHS00386 Acton Rowing Club  
 EHS16615 Eyes skyward in awe!





# LIMEHOUSE CELEBRATES 150 YEARS – AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>

Excerpts from *The Historic Village of Limehouse*, by Jean Ruddell

Esquesing township was surveyed in 1818. The first settler in the Limehouse area was Adam Stull. He obtained the Crown deed for Lot 22, Concession 6 (200 acres) in 1820. John Meredith (Maradith) secured the patent for Lot 23, Concession 6 in 1822. The northern part of Limehouse



is built on the west part of John Meredith's 200 acres.

On July 5, 1832, for the sum of 2 pounds and 10 shillings, Meredith sold two acres to the Trustees of the Presbyterian congregation for the purpose of a burying ground and a church. Before this date, one grave was located on the land. The church was not built until 1861. The building was a joint effort of the Presbyterians, Episcopalians

and the Methodists and was first known as Limehouse Union Church. The first minister, Rev. Ewing and his family are buried in Limehouse cemetery.

In 1876, Mr. Gowdy Sr. donated land to the local Methodists. A fine stone church was built. The Church closed in 1930's. Through the efforts of the local Women's Institute, the building was reopened as Limehouse Memorial Hall.

About 1840 the Stull property was sold to Mr. Clendenning, who named the community Fountain Green. Ninian Lindsay bought the property and some of the Meredith land and started the lime industry. Soon there were two companies burning a large quantity of lime - "Lindsay and Farquhar" and "Bescoby and Worthington." Mr. Farquhar also operated a freestone quarry. Limehouse grew slowly. Lots were not surveyed until 1856. Then changes of ownership in the kilns occurred. Mr. Farquhar bought out Mr. Lindsay and operated four kilns. In 1856 Gowdy and Moor bought the Bescoby kilns. Gowdy and Moor had six kilns, a water lime mill and a saw mill.

Limehouse grew slowly.  
Lots were not surveyed  
until 1856.

The Grand Trunk Railway, now Canadian National Railways, was built through Limehouse in 1856. A long "cut" had to be blasted through Limehouse, earning it the affectionate name of "The Rock." During the construction of the line, a temporary settlement of two hundred workers and their families was located in the village.

Mr. John Newton built a mill and ground all the water lime in the construction of the GTR main line. In the water lime mill, lumps of burnt lime were ground fine, "Slaked" with water, then mixed with sand and cow hair to make mortar; or mixed with water only to make a "puttycoat" for interior wall finishing.

John Newton became the first postmaster when the Post Office was opened in 1857. At that time Fountain Green was renamed Limehouse. Limehouse Post Office was closed in 1988.

John Newton started a woollen mill, known as the Empire Blanket Company in 1852 and also operated a saw mill.

On October 12, 1893 disaster struck! A fire broke out in the woollen mill. That mill, the paint factory, the lumber mill and 100 cords of wood belonging to the water lime mill, went up in flames.

For a time it was feared that the whole village would be lost, but the rapid arrival of the horse-drawn fire engine from Georgetown saved the day. The fire was a severe blow to the economy of Limehouse because sufficient insurance to rebuild had not been carried.

Changes in the lime kiln ownership occurred until 1917 when lime operation ceased. Blasting for quarrying was discontinued about the same time.

In 1917, the Toronto Suburban Electric Railway (the Radial) opened a station on the 5th Line at the foot of Gibraltar Hill. This service enabled the villagers to travel to work or school and to ship and receive goods at stops between Toronto and Guelph. The company encountered financial difficulties and "the Radial" ceased to run in 1931.

Education was not forgotten. The first Limehouse school was of log construction, built about 1845 on Lot 20, concession 6 on the 5th Line, 1 mile south of Limestone. It was replaced by a one room stone building in 1862. An upper room was added in 1875 during the prosperous years. The upper room was closed in 1890. However it reopened in 1954. The school, SS. No. 9, Esquesing or "Gibraltar School" was closed in 1962 when the present Limehouse School was



opened in the centre of the community.

Photos shown:  
EHS00309 Limehouse village from the Railway.

Limehouse Memorial Hall,  
Photo by J. M. Rowe 25  
June 2005.

EHS12498 Former  
Gibraltar Schoolhouse