

# ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1  
www.hhpl.on.ca/signs/ehs/home.html

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## HISTORY OF POSTCARDS

The first postcards appeared around 1869 in Austria, proposed by Dr. Emanuel Herrmann. They were government issued and were meant for brief communications. The idea was that they would be cheaper than mailing letters. European Countries quickly adopted them.

Not until 1893 did the US also begin issuing Postal Cards. Privately (non government) printed cards in US were charged a higher standard mailing rate; where government issued cards had the luxury of the cheaper rates. These government cards were called "Postal Cards" because the postage was printed right on the card. The Private cards needed to have postage paid for and affixed, therefore were more costly to mail.

In 1898 the Private Mailing Card Act eliminated the difference in private cards and government issue cards. Though writing was not allowed on the address side or back of these cards. The term "Postcard" was not allowed until December 24, 1901 to private printers.

From 1902-1907 Undivided Back postcards were most common. The back or address side was limited to only the address. Any message or greeting had to be on the front. Also very popular were Real Photo cards. (These Real Photo type were common during many later Postcard Eras as well.)

March 1, 1907 divided back postcards were permitted. This allowed messages to be written on the address side. An easy way to date cards is by looking at the type, and where writing was.

The most prolific and inventive years of postcard design were from 1902-18, this period is commonly referred to as "The Golden Age", but the last two decades have seen a huge revival in postcard publishing.

Prior to World War 1 many postcards were printed in Germany. Up to that time, Germans led the



Reverse of EHS p11612



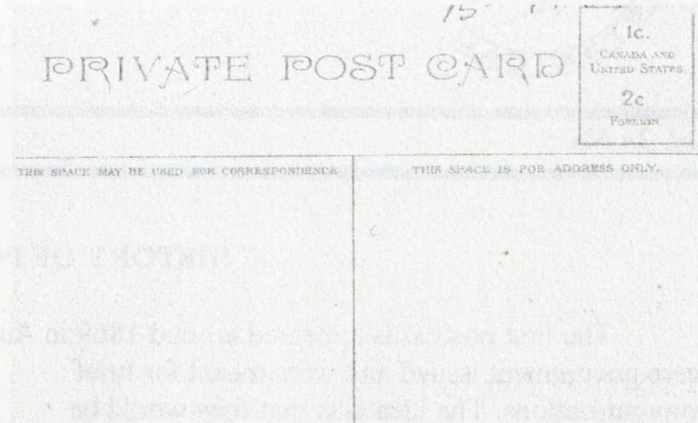
EHS p11612

world in postcard production. They used a lithography processes to create images of photographic quality. This German industry never recovered after the war.

- After World War 1 and up until around 1930, the demand for postcards was still great. With the loss of a major source from Germany, the US and England had to make up the difference by printing their own cards. As the US built up its postcard printing abilities, the White Border card appeared as a cost saving measure. The American postcard industry was new, inexperienced and had high labour costs. This extra white space on the front of cards saved ink, and gave senders more room for messages. These cards were usually mass produced and of inferior quality.

- As processes became better and or cheaper, a Linen type card was developed. This allowed cheaper inks, and different paper that had a cloth like finish. These lasted until after World War II when the Kodachrome film process was perfected. They are very common.

- Today, the Chrome process of reproduction is the most popular type. It is very much like processing photographs, thus allowing



Notice the name of the German factory stamped in the bottom right-hand corner. EHS p11611

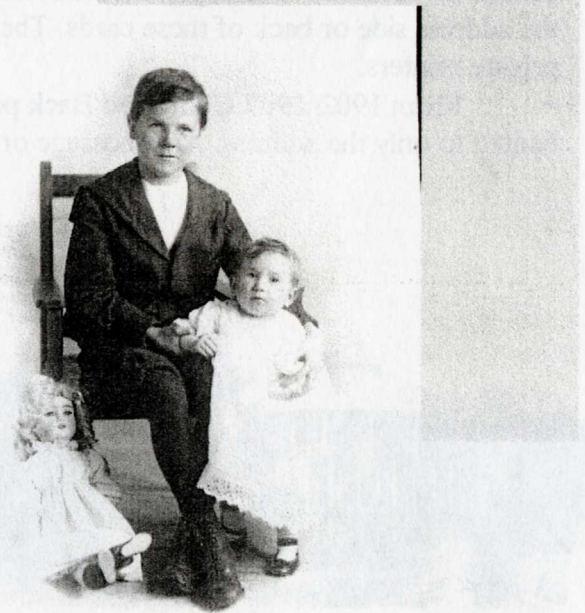
colour real pictures, and just about anything else you can imagine on postcards!



EHS p11611



Right: p11204  
Below: p11223



### The Age of Postcards

Archivist Mark Rowe will give a brief outline of the history of the postcard with examples from the Archives of the Esquesing Historical Society. Join us at Knox Church, Georgetown on January 9<sup>th</sup>, as computerized images of postcards in our collection are shared.

## MOORE - RUDDELL FARM HOUSE TO BE REPLACED BY NURSING HOME



Ruddell Home 21 Dec. 2001

On 27 December 2001, members of the Esquesing Historical Society joined Heritage Halton Hills in a tour of the former home of Jean Ruddell and Ken Kirkwood. Heritage Halton Hills has prepared a report for Council which will recommend either moving the house or allowing demolition. Unfortunately, it appears that the former decision will be the recommendation to Council due to the poor state of the house and its unremarkable architecture. Jean Ruddell told us about her home at the May 1995 meeting of the EHS:

### Transcription of Esquesing Historical Society Meeting of 10 May 1995 on Georgetown Homes Tape One Side B

[Jean Ruddell on her Main Street property]

This Lot 20 Concession 8 from Trafalgar Road to Main Street, was bought in 1832 by George Murray and he sold this property to somebody by the name of Frederick H. Little and he died before he could take possession of it. So his mother Sarah and his wife Hannah owned the property in the meantime and his wife Hannah gave the promise of the west half, one hundred acres, to Mr. William Appelbe in 1845. Now I believe that in 1847 this part of the property was sold to James Young. This is the east half. No he didn't buy the whole half, he bought the southerly fifty acres which is right next to Carruthers road, right beside the Creelman House and half way up the street. And James, but Mr. Barnes rented it lot by lot. We haven't yet found the instruments to tell about this area, the half acres, but we suspect that James Young's partner or friend who was William Barber, owned it and bought it from James Young, the fifty acres, as well as the northern fifty acres because I believe James Young had a bit of difficulty financially.

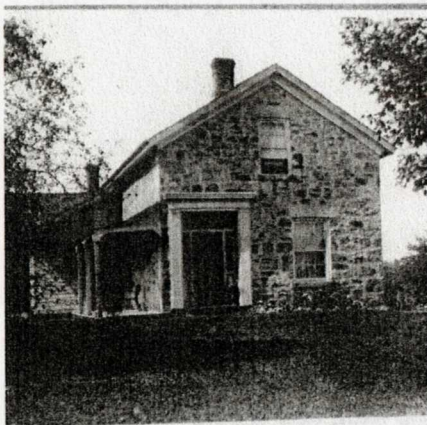
Now this comes from 1952, but about early 1950' and late 1940's, the Women's Institutes asked their members to write a log what they could tell about the house in which they were. So my aunt sat down and she wrote this in 1951.



Painting of Moore farmhouse. EHS  
Slide20.17

We bought this place in 1896, but we did not move into town until

between Christmas and New Years' of that year. The place was owned by Fred Barber ( who I presume was the son of William). and as far as we know the Barbers built the house ( but we're not sure about that. My Aunt did not realize there was one former owner before the Barbers - George Murray. However when they bought the house from the Barbers they were given the Crown Deed.



Undated photo of Moore  
farmhouse. EHS Slide20.5

The house had been occupied, at the time when Mr. Barber owned it, by Sam McDoel and Mrs. Ken McMillan's mother was a daughter of Sam McDoel. There have been quite a few changes made in the appearance of the house. (NEXT SLIDE) That long window there was actually the door into the back kitchen. This part was the back kitchen. This is an updated picture after we remodelled in 1937. (NEXT SLIDE) Instead of having a frame porch... This is it now, there was a frame porch between the back wing and the front wing and with the

veranda out front and when we changed over the house this back part was ... the door into the wood shed was built in long before that, but this part of the house was raised three feet and there was a stone porch put between the two wings when they put them together. Also in the back part of it there was a cellar dug, because there wasn't a cellar there before and there was a hole knocked in the stone wall here so we could get from upstairs in this house to upstairs in this house. And with the new basement we were able to have a bathroom and furnace in the back part of the house.



Moore - Ruddell House in May 1995.  
EHS Slide20.21

KAREN: Can I Ask you a question? So with the raising of the back half of the house, a full three feet, it made it a full two stories rather than a storey and a half?

Yes, it wasn't finished off, it was just open in the back and used as the back wood shed. I think I missed a hunk in here. Now that's the old house as it was. That's the frame porch that was put in between the two wings. That my Grandfather put in quite early and got rid of the door into the back kitchen and this was made into the summer kitchen. Then we had the veranda here. When we changed... up about three feet... this was stone and this was just straight patio.

Now when they first came to this property they couldn't see Main street from the house because at that time..I'll get the right names here....Anyways there was a railroad track came from junction at the corner of... well, behind where Creelmans were, and the railway track went from in front of the house as far as the top of Main Street where No. 7 Highway is, and there used to be the remains of the old railway bridge over the river bed at the top of Main Street.

They couldn't see Main Street so Grandfather took down the embankment. The station for this railroad was the other side of the embankment between the embankment and the road. And the house with white vinyl on it now, at the corner of Ewing and Main, was the Station Hotel.

KAREN: Kennedy Street

Yes, Kennedy.

STEVE: That was the Hamilton and North-western Railroad?

Ahhh, no, that's not what she called it. Yes it was. Hamilton North-Western Railroad, (papers rustling) I found it.

KAREN: They abandoned that stretch of track?

Yes, there was no track on it, it was just the embankment in '96.

KAREN: The new line was out from the station by Smith and Stone...

Yes, that's right. But they still had a , they called it the junction, and there was a little station there. Because I remember they used to say that if Grandpa wanted to go to Toronto, he would whip down over the fence, through the orchard and down the embankment and hail the train and they'd stop for him.

**ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

- Wed. 9 Jan, 2002     **The Age of Post Cards** - Join the Society as we recall the popularity of post cards early in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The evening will feature a show of many of the post cards in the EHS collection.  
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 13 Feb, 2002     **Acton: The History of Leathertown** - An exclusive preview of the latest publication of the EHS - our book on the history of Acton. Author Mark Rowe will highlight the features of the first book to explore the history of Acton from 1819 to 2000. This is also our Annual General Meeting.  
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 13 Mar, 2002     **Bookbinding and Restorations** - World-renown bookbinder Keith Felton will return to the EHS to share his talents and knowledge about binding, repairing and restoring books. His latest major project, binding a 30 lb book, will be highlighted.  
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 10 Apr, 2002     **Northern Nursing** - Local resident Karen Scott will share her experiences as a nurse in Northern Canada. She has just published a book on the same title and will have them available for sale at the meeting.  
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 8 May, 2002     TBA
- Wed. 12 June, 2002     **St. Joseph's, Acton - 145 years of Catholic Worship** - On 18 March, 1857 work began building the St. Joseph's Church, Dublin - the first centre of Catholics in Esquesing. Join the Society for a pot luck dinner followed by a tour of St. Joseph's Church and a discussion of the history of the parish.  
St. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, Acton, Dinner at 6:00 p.m. / Tour at 7:15 p.m.

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

Please bring your own cup for refreshments to help protect our environment.

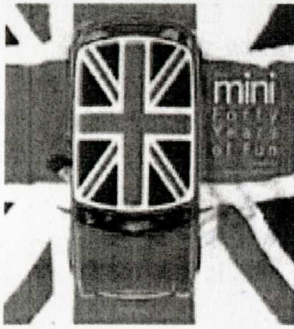
**PHOTOGRAPH REPRINTS**

Besides the cost of printing a photo, an Archives user fee of \$5 will apply for the first photo and a \$2 fee for each subsequent photo, ordered at the same time. Postage and handling charges will also be applied. Orders require three weeks for processing.

**RESEARCH REQUESTS**

The EHS charges \$5.00 for the initial fee, and \$1.00 per photocopied page. Postage and handling charges also apply. Requests can be made by e-mail or regular mail, but we cannot guarantee a delivery time.

The following story is printed as a tribute to the private historical obsession of our President, Steve Blake!



## Photos tell the Mini's story best

by Glen Konorowski

There are only a few cars that can brag of a real international cult following, and the Austin/Morris Mini is one of them. With

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### **The Mini: Forty Years of Fun**

Brian Laban

HarperCollins Illustrated, 159 pages

\$40.

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BMW's reintroduction of the Mini in the new year, the interest in the original Mini is on the rise.

So it's timely that Brian Laban has written a history emphasizing the fun side of this

car.

Without being too technical, the book looks at all major variations of the Mini throughout its 40 years in production.

Laban also attempts to explain how the Mini made its mark on the world by looking at the culture of the times, which is no easy task.

What I really like about the book are the great pictures - there are 102 photos and illustrations.

They range from the first Mini through to the last car made, along with all the variations in between. Included are great shots of celebrity Mini-owners, such as Mike Nesmith of *The Monkees*, Paul McCartney, Twiggy and Peter Sellers.

Among my favourite pictures are some of John Lennon's customized Minis. There is one period picture of Lennon in the car in the 1970s and another of the car under restoration today.

If you're not into a lot of jargon and are just looking for a light look at the Mini, with a great bunch of pictures, you'll enjoy this interesting book.

Available at Autophile (416-425-1555) or directly from Motorbooks International at 1-800-862-6600.

-*Toronto Star*, Saturday 22 December, 2001.

## **PIONEER CEMETERY FORMALLY RECOGNIZED**

The executive of the EHS were pleased to receive a reply to our letter concerning the pioneer cemetery on the Humberstone property, north of the Civic Centre. Mayor Kathy Gastle explained that the site has been surveyed and mapped, including placement of iron survey bars, to ensure future development of the site recognizes the cemetery location. She went on to assure the EHS that budget monies will be allocated to fence the site. Eventually the Town also promises to erect a sign or cairn in consultation with the Esquesing Historical Society.

The Society had asked for these assurances in 1987 and in 1997, but had not received any reply from the Town. This reply dated 30 Oct. 2001 is good news for the future of all burial grounds in Halton Hills.

## *Society Notes*

### **EHS EXECUTIVE**

Stephen Blake 877-8251 President  
Karen Hunter 838-2109  
Dawn Livingstone 877-6506  
Doug Cole 877-3657  
Sherry Westfahl 873-7145  
J. Mark Rowe 877-9510  
Carol Wood 873-0792  
Don't forget to add 905 when dialling the above listed numbers.

### **ARCHIVAL NEWS**

Many new images of Acton were added to the Archives after Heritage Halton Hills sponsored a day to copy old photographs at the Acton Arena. Several local people brought their old photos to be copied by both HHH and the EHS. These have been added to the Archives, but the images are not yet available on the internet.

### **INTERNET CONNECTIONS**

The Esquesing Historical Society has an official web site on the World Wide Web. You can visit us at

[www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html](http://www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html)

Send your e-mail to [rowem@aztec-net.com](mailto:rowem@aztec-net.com) or [dlvngstn@stn.net](mailto:dlvngstn@stn.net)

### **EHS NEWSLETTER**

This newsletter was prepared by John Mark Rowe with assistance from Karen Hunter and Dawn Livingstone. Submissions are welcome.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

This is your final newsletter unless you renew your membership. Please rejoin the EHS and support our efforts to preserve and share our local history. 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 gladly accept your fees at the next meeting.

### **TALES OF THE LORNE SCOTS!**

Rev. Richard Ruggle entertained the EHS in November with tales of the Lorne Scots and their long history. He also brought along several images stored on his computer.

### **GRAVE SITE UNCOVERED**

In December 2001, while excavating the footings for the new nursing home next to the "McCullough" Cemetery at Lindsay Court and Trafalgar Road, a grave site was uncovered. Work stopped immediately while workmen extracted a coffin sized box and handles. Absolutely no bones were found. We assume the original occupant of the grave had been moved to Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown, as many in this cemetery were.

### **HERITAGE BUILDINGS PARK???**

The Mayor of Halton Hills, Kathy Gastle has initiated a process to plan the future of threatened buildings within the Town boundaries. Town staff, Heritage Halton Hills, Esquesing Historical Society, Heritage Acton and the Limehouse Kiln Society have met to discuss ideas to formulate a municipal policy. If you are interested in representing a group or your own interests, please call the Mayor at 905-873-2600 and chat with her about it. Please note that this is currently an informal process.

### **NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS NEEDED!**

The Esquesing Historical Society needs you to help out! We can use a few new members to help out with the executive of the Society. Please consider running for office at our Annual General Meeting in February. Please contact Karen or Steve for further information.

### **RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Any long-time members of the EHS know that we often receive requests for information from people who live outside this area. We try to verify that Esquesing is the right place for their research and provide references for their future research. We do not research family or local history. Nevertheless, coupled with our internet resources, this is a valuable service to these people. Available time is always an issue, but if you would like to be contacted when a request arrives, please give your particulars to Karen Hunter or Dawn Livingstone. A note or an e-mail is satisfactory. If you have a particular area of interest, please identify it in your note.

## McCULLOUGH'S CEMETERY

*The following article appeared in the September 2000 issue of the EHS Newsletter. The historical information comes from a short history written by Elaine Robinson. In light of recent developments on the site, we have reprinted the article.*

As many readers are aware, a proposal is before the Town to allow construction of a Nursing Home on the triangle of land south of Highway 7, west of Trafalgar Road and north of Lindsay Court (part of Lot 21, Con. 8). An archeological dig in 1992 established the exact whereabouts of the Methodist Meeting House, where the Halton Region Pump House now stands. This report confirms the contention of the EHS that graves remain in the Cemetery, in spite of reports that some were moved to Greenwood Cemetery when it opened.

This property, on the southwest corner of Lot 21, Concession 8, is the site of a pioneer cemetery known as the McCullough Cemetery. The property originally belonged to Charles Kennedy. In 1821, it was reported that "Kennedy's Meeting House" had been erected by the Wesleyan Methodists. The last burial there was in about 1898 and although some families have chosen to move the remains of their relatives from there to the Greenwood Cemetery in the years since it was closed, there are still some bodies buried on the site. Greenwood Cemetery opened in 1869. There are no grave markers or stones visible today but as late as 1963, an article in the Georgetown Herald documented the presence of stones on the property. Finally, the Ontario Department of Health sent a questionnaire to the Township of Esquesing in 1956, which was filled out by K. C. Lindsay, the Township Clerk. He clearly estimated that there are 12 to 15 graves in the cemetery.

"A.F.B.Y. Archaeological and Heritage Consultants supervised the mechanised stripping of topsoil from areas within the bush lot to establish whether any graves might be present in that area which was tentatively marked for development. A seven metre wide trench was exposed through a clearing along the northern and eastern margins of the main bush stand. Following this an additional area of 800 m<sup>2</sup> was exposed to ensure the cemetery did not extend beyond the expected boundaries.

In all, seven graves were identified along the western margin of the property. The location of each grave was recorded and photographed. The shafts were then re-covered to prevent further disturbance. ... Based on the appearance of the margins of the grave shafts, it is entirely possible that the graves identified as part of the survey still contain human remains. Although this can only be verified by excavation of the grave shafts such activity is unwarranted given that the property owner has made it explicitly clear that a policy of strict avoidance of any graves will be adhered to.

For the remainder of the area within the bushlot no further graves have been encountered. Based on this examination... it is our belief that there are no further graves present in the area to be affected by development."



The six graves close to the woodlot, are undisturbed, while the seventh grave to the north-west, does seem to have been disturbed. This may be one of the burials exhumed and moved to Greenwood Cemetery late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

-Originally published in the *EHS Newsletter*, September 2000.



## ACTON: THE HISTORY OF LEATHERTOWN

The Story behind the Story!

Join EHS Archivist and author Mark Rowe at the Knox Church, Georgetown on February 9, 2002 as he explains the reasons behind the writing of a history on Acton and the process involved. Highlights from the book will be shared, including visual images. The book will not be available at this meeting. Release of *Acton: The History of Leathertown* is expected in March, 2002. The book launch will take place in Acton.

### RIDING GLOVES TO DRIVING GLOVES

Acton in the high Victorian and Edwardian period was a proud village with growing leather-related industries, a strong commercial sector and a bustling social life. During this period of unbridled capitalism, owners became very wealthy and benevolent towards their employees. The spirit of invention was the rage in society as Actonians benefitted from the latest developments. People went on with their lives, as inventions changed the lives of first the wealthy and eventually the labourers themselves. Politically the village was consumed by first the Town Hall, then the cemetery, followed by electricity.

The question of building a Town Hall was raised in print by H. P. Moore, editor of the *Acton Free Press*, in an editorial January 13, 1881. After a public meeting, it was decided to progress forward by borrowing \$5,500 through public debentures. William H. Storey, glove maker and councillor changed his support for the project and resigned in protest. Nevertheless, a vote by all free-holders on 26 August, resulted in a 50:14 victory. After considering five lots, Council chose the property of Josiah Adams on the south-east corner of Bower and Willow, for \$500.

In March, 1882 the construction was tendered to William McCulla of Brampton, for completion in October. However, the construction of the new hall was to be a trial for the Village. In June the workmen started excavating and laying the foundations. They decided to mortar the stones with water and lime mixed with the excavated loam. The architect, upon inspection, condemned the almost completed foundations, saying they had no more strength than mud. The entire foundation was torn up and relaid.

In August the same mortar problem caused the back brick wall to be taken down and rebuilt. Everything was behind schedule and costs were climbing! The plasterers did not begin until October, while old-timers shook their heads at the thought of anyone hoping plaster applied in cold weather would hold. The bell arrived from Troy, New York in November. When the bell finally crowned the new structure, a new debate over when the bell should ring erupted.

Council finally moved into their chambers on March 1, 1883. Between 300 and 400 people filled the upstairs auditorium to enjoy the Acton Glee Club, dramatic sketches, a quartet, string orchestra and soloists. The verdict was that the hall was second to none in the province for beauty and acoustics. It had been worth the struggle.

Council was glad of this victory, because they had been embroiled in another controversy even longer! The question of a municipal cemetery had plagued councillors since 1879. It started off well with a committee reaching a conclusion in two weeks....

# HERITAGE WEEK QUIZ CONTEST

Our heritage is celebrated every February in Ontario. To celebrate, the Esquesing Historical Society offers this "pamphlet quiz"! Using the published pamphlets of the EHS name each community referred to by each question. Pamphlets are available at meetings for 25 cents each, from the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce or on our web site.

PRIZES: Three prizes will be awarded: 1. A year's membership in the EHS with newsletters; 2. Your choice of one free publication of the EHS; 3. A 50% discount on your choice of publication.

Winners will be drawn at the February AGM. Prizes must be claimed by June, 2002.

Your NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  member  
 non-member

1. Thomas C. Watkins, founder of the Right House, Hamilton, got his start in this Esquesing hamlet.
2. A log cabin school marked the centre of this hamlet from 1825. A general store later opened across the road.
3. Tolton's flour mill started in this hamlet until fire destroyed the structure in 1882.
4. The general store still operates in this hamlet named for a Scottish river.
5. Township fathers once made political decisions where actors practice their parts today in this village.
6. Salmon abounded in the waters around Simon Plewes' mill in this village.
7. A disastrous fire in 1893 destroyed the woollen mill, paint factory and lumber mill in this thriving village.
8. Three different railways came through this village, which grew rapidly after World War I.
9. Main Street is no longer the main street in this town built on leather.
10. This village, founded by Alexander McNab, had the same postmaster for 50 years.
11. William Alexander's 1848 hotel still stands in this village.

✂ \_\_\_\_\_ ✂  
Yes! I am interested in local history and support the work of the Esquesing Historical Society in collecting and preserving our past. Please renew my membership in the Esquesing Historical Society.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find attached \$10 membership fee for the year 2002.

Please bring this form to the next meeting or post it to EHS, P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, ON L7G 4T1