



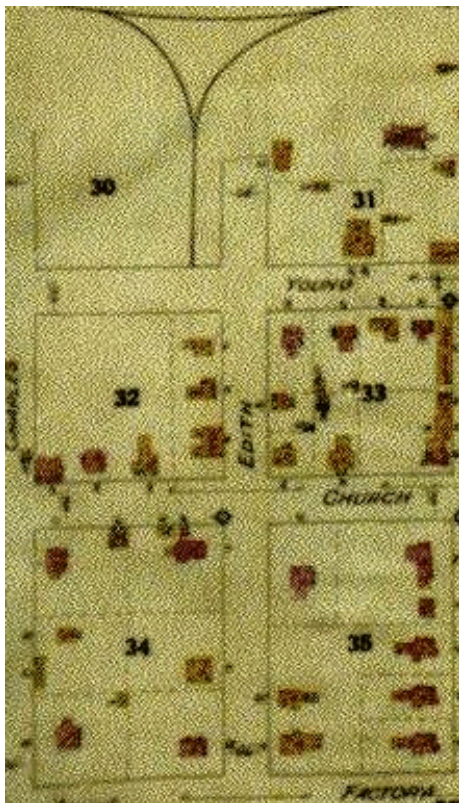
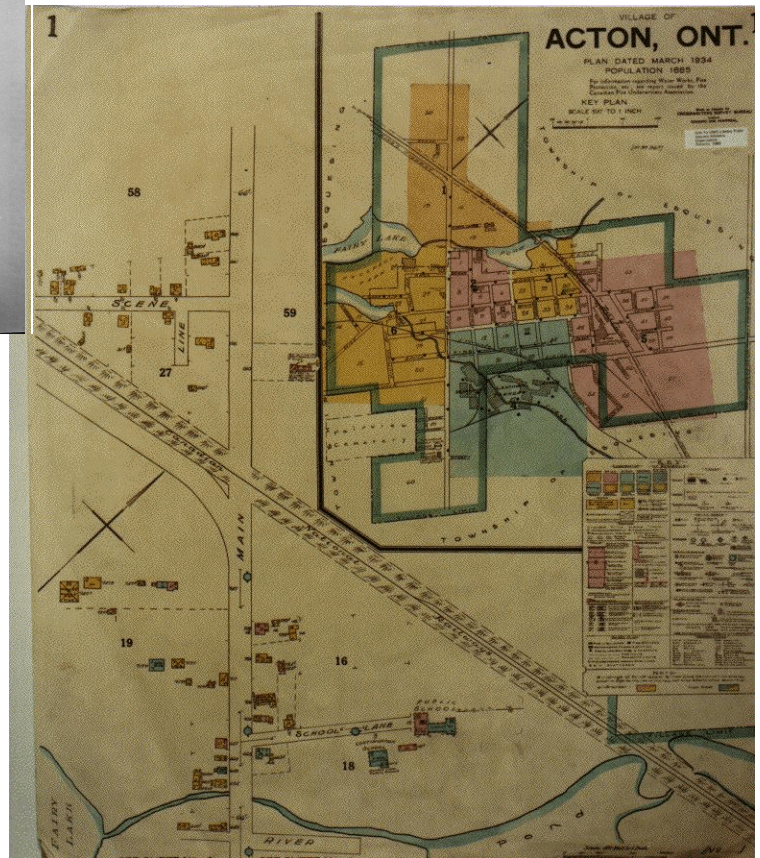
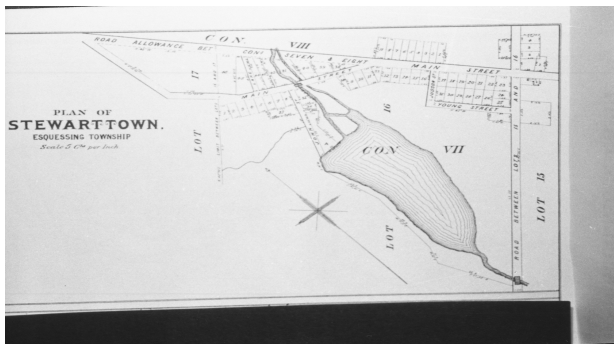
ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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



MAPPING OUR COMMUNITY

The 1854 map of Georgetown which shows each existing building in the village, is one of the gems which the Archives of the Esquesing Historical Society houses. Brave the elements to come out to our January meeting at Knox Church, Georgetown and view the maps which lie hidden in drawers, away from public view 364 days of the year! Our map collection covers Esquesing maps, Acton and Georgetown maps, village maps such as Speyside, Glen Williams and Norval, right up to modern Halton Hills maps which give street numbers and assessment rolls. The confusing method of recording your lot number will be explained and how to match century old surveys with your modern assessment number. See you there- if you can find the way!



ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- Wed. 14 Jan, 2004 **Mapping Our Communities** - The interesting map collection of the EHS will be the subject of this hands-on meeting. Surveys, street maps, township maps, fire insurance maps are some of the categories of maps we will have for you to touch and examine. Our latest map of Georgetown in 1854 will also be there for close inspection.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 11 Feb. 2004 **Kennedy Family of Georgetown** - family historian Elaine Robinson will speak to the Society about the extensive Kennedy family, which includes our own George Kennedy, namesake of Georgetown. This interesting family was pivotal in the settlement of this area and in the cultural life of the communities in Esquesing Township.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 12 Mar. 2004 **Rockwood: A Mosaic of Memories** - Deborah Quaile has published a new book on Rockwood. Join her as she uncovers the stories behind hardy settlers, travelling medicine shows, ghost folklore, strange street names and Callithumpians. Deborah promises a new perspective on Rockwood's history.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Acton, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 14 April 2004 **Friends of the Dominion Gardens** - The extensive landscaping and work involved in re-shaping the ground of the former Dominion Seed House on Guelph Street, Georgetown will be the topic of a slide presentation by Sue Balough.
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 12 May 2004 **Silvercreek!** - The hamlet, the creek, the tavern, the *murder* - all will be exposed at this meeting about a bustling boom town, now relegated to history or paved over by Trafalgar Road. Join Mark Rowe as he brings the history of this village to life!
KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 9 June 2004 **Syndicate Housing Heritage Conservation District** - Join the Society on a walking tour of the first Heritage District in Halton Hills and other properties on Bower Avenue. This event will begin with our annual pot luck dinner at the old Acton Town Hall.
ACTON TOWN HALL, Willow Street, Acton, 6:00 / 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.

Society Notes

EHS EXECUTIVE

Stephen Blake	905 877-8251	President
Karen Hunter	905 838-2109	
Dawn Livingstone	905 877-6506	
Sherry Westfahl	905 873-7145	
J. Mark Rowe	905 877-9510	
Carol Wood	905 873-0792	
Marj Allen	905 877-9985	

ARCHIVAL REPORT

Sherry Westfahl continues to work away at the summer project of re-numbering and re-describing the items in the Archives in preparation of re-launching our finding aid on our web-site. Karen Hunter is looking for volunteers to help in the physical re-numbering of the items at the library.

Kay Dills recently sent the EHS several Limehouse photographs and news clippings for our Archives. The Society purchased a 1955 Georgetown Fall Fair prize list for the Archives.

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>

Send your e-mail to rowem@aztec-net.com or dlvngstn@stn.net

Canadian Council of Archives web site:
<www.CdnCouncilArchives.ca>

EHS NEWSLETTER

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

MEMBERSHIP

Our paid 2004 memberships stand at 23. Be sure to renew at the January meeting. Please encourage friends and family to join 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.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

*Acton book signing at The Olde Book House on 8 November 2003.

*EHS executive Christmas get-together at an Georgetown pub in a heritage building!

*Syndicate Housing Heritage Conservation District passed by Halton Hills Council in principle in 15 December 2003.

* Executive members answered several family history related enquiries.

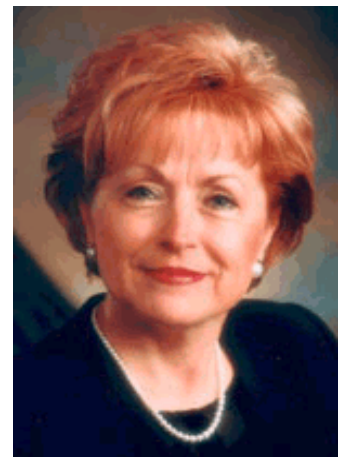
ELECTIONS ESQUESING!!!

The annual elections for the Esquesing Historical Society are fast approaching! If you would like to volunteer for any of the positions available on the executive of the EHS, please let us know. We always welcome an extra pair of hands and your great ideas to make our Society serve our community better. Contact Karen Hunter to make your intentions known!

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur

Minister of Culture

Madeleine Meilleur was elected in 2003 after more than a decade in municipal politics. Since 1991 she has held office in the City of Vanier and the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and as councillor in the new City of Ottawa. As the new Minister of Culture she took the unprecedented step of sending a letter to the EHS, introducing herself.



PUBLICATIONS

The EHS has acquired some recent heritage inventories commissioned by Heritage Halton Hills. Queen Street, Georgetown is available at meetings for \$12 while Bower Avenue, Acton can be obtained for \$8. Unfortunately, the EHS members discount does not apply to these items. Books can be purchased at regular meetings or by contacting Publications Officer, Carol Wood. She can e-mailed at <hobo@globalserve.net>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please consider supporting your Society by offering time. Contact Stephen Blake, Karen Hunter or any executive member to offer your help. Absolutely no experience is needed. We have fun and learn while we go along.

IMAGES HALTON

The Halton Hills Public Library has launched Images Halton. The images of the EHS will be available here in connection with images of the other Halton areas, allowing a single search for all related Halton images. Visit the site at <http://images.halinet.on.ca>

MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

They usually meet the third Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Waldie Blacksmith Shop, 16 James Street, Milton.

January 14 - The Archives and history of Milton Royal Canadian Legion. Meet at 7:30 at the Legion Hall on Charles Street.

Sunday 15 Feb. - Heritage Awards at Hugh Foster Hall.

BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 7:15 p.m. at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth Avenue, Brampton. There is a \$5 admission fee.

January 15 - Former BHS President Michael Seaman on **Brampton=s CPR Station.**

February 19 - James Douglas speaks on **Heritage in Belfountain.**

March 18 - AGM; Paul Willoughby speaks on **Walter Rolling: A Man Before His Time.**

STREETSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our February meeting will be Thursday February 12. We will be focusing on AItems of Endearment@ in honour of Valentine=s day.

ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

January 25: AMore Brick Walls - Sharing your Genealogical trials and triumphs: an interactive workshop@

February 22: Joe MacDougall on AGenealogy in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia@

All the above meetings are at Chinguacousy Branch Library, 150 Central Park Drive, Brampton.

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS!

The Society is planning a meeting on aerial photographs and would like to know who has aerial photos of their properties or any place in Esquesing township that we could use for the meeting! Please send us an e-mail or contact Karen Hunter to let us know. We=ll keep a list and remind you when the meeting date has been set.

NEW LOCAL HISTORY

Janet Duval, author of the history of Georgetown Hospital, has completed her latest book, *North Halton Golf and Country Club*. The 112 page history offers glimpses of the history, geography, the people and activities associated with the Club over the past 50 years. Books are available from North Halton or from the author.



**Excerpt from *The Kennedys*
What brought them to this area?
by Elaine Robinson-Bertrand**

...John Kennedy (grandfather of George) according to family tradition, was born in Scotland but moved to

In The Early Days

Ireland with his parents. Sometime before 1750 he came to the United States and settled in New Jersey. He served with the British forces during the Seven years War was captured by the French and eventually ended up in London, England, in an exchange of prisoners. He married in London and returned to New Jersey to live.

His son John was born on May 8, 1761, in New Jersey and was still a student when the American Revolution broke out....During the Revolution many had not fought for religious reasons, and others did not wish to side with either group. Unfortunately, once the fight was over the Americans made life extremely difficult for anyone who had not actively supported their cause. John Kennedy and his wife Charity Wurtz were part of this group and so they and their five children joined the migration north.

They arrived in Niagara on June 8, 1795, and settled on Lot 19 Concession 5 in Gainsborough Township (near St. Ann's) on June 24, 1795. John had become a teacher after the war.... Charity Wurtz Kennedy died in 1799 and John married Barbara Slough. They had five sons and four daughters, but it was the children of John and Charity who were destined to become some of the first settlers of Esquesing. They were John born 1787, Elizabeth 1788, Anny 1790, Charles 1792, Morris 1794, and George 1799....

At least four of the Kennedy sons fought in the War of 1812. Charles took part in the Battle of Lundy's Lane, John was at Queenston Heights and Morris was with the 4th Lincoln Regiment. George, a boy of 13, served with the Royal Artillery and was later granted a pension for permanent injury; partial blindness in both eyes. Boys of his age were often given the job of loading the heavy artillery. The flash of fire when they ignited made blindness a common injury, along with deafness....

Morris Kennedy ...claimed the West half of Lot 20, Concession 9, on the 24th of March 1819. George Kennedy was given the east half, Charles all of Lot 21, Concession 8, Samuel the east half Lot 22, Concession 8, John the west half....

In order to obtain a Crown Deed, "Settlement Duties" had to be completed and Patent fees paid. Settlement duties varied but those prescribed in 1818 were "To clear and fence 5 acres for every 100 acres granted, to build a dwelling house 16 feet by 20 feet, and to clear one half of the road allowance in front of each lot." These duties were to be performed within two years of the date of the location ticket...Morris Kennedy completed his duties on Oct. 17, 1822, but George obtained an exemption because of his disability.

(Collections 1, Esquesing Historical Society, 1984)

Excerpt from: **Georgetown's Oldest Church**

by Richard E. Ruggle

...Charles Kennedy(1792-1854) was a leading supporter of the cause [Methodism] around what was to become Georgetown. The Kennedy's were active in a variety of churches. One brother, John (1787-1874) was an elder of the Presbyterian Church at St. Ann's in the Niagara peninsula for over fifty years.

Another brother, George (1799-1870), after whom Georgetown would be named, joined the Congregationalist church. A third brother, Morris (1794-1886) was to be a leading supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Charles had been converted to Methodism in 1817; in 1818 he married Elizabeth Williams (1796-1855), whose family gave its name to Glen Williams; and in 1819 he was surveying the northern part of Esquesing Township.

His survey work may have been a factor in the 1819 order-in-council which granted him a mill seat on the Credit, where Georgetown was to develop, on condition that he have a saw mill in operation within twelve months.

Charles was influential in local politics, being named at the first town meeting in 1821 as one of the two wardens; and becoming one of the first justices of the peace in the area....

- **Halton Hills Herald**, 13 February, 1985



...There were four families of Kennedys drew land in 1820: they came from New Jersey like so many U.E.L.who preferred living under the British rule. The one that this town was named after was George Kennedy and his land was to be the future Georgetown. I do not remember of any boys in that family. There were two girls, the oldest being the first child born here. She married John Higgins, the younger one married Louis Heartwell. Charles Kennedy J.P., the oldest of the brothers and a land surveyor, was the most outstanding character for many years. I quote from an old record, "...possessing great talents for public duties as J.P., interested in any movement for the betterment of the people, and as the early settlers were without regular preaching of the gospel he officiated or acted as a local preacher. His house was the home of the ministers and a place of rest and refreshment to poor travellers." He left to take up his work, a son in the person of the late George H. Kennedy, who faithfully and well discharged any duties that involved the furthering the cause of religion and temperance, and of course the Methodist Church. His only son now living is our townsman, John W. Kennedy, and grandson Major Mervin Kennedy now of Acton. This family located on 21 in 8th Con. where three generations were born. - L. Grant

The Georgetown Herald, April 16, 1924

HERITAGE DAY
17 February 2004
Defending Canada: Our Military Heritage Sites and Buildings.



