

ESQUESING  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1  
[www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html](http://www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html)

Vol. 27 No. 3

September - October 2002

**ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPONSORED**



Tour of the renovated  
**Halton Region Museum**  
in the grounds of Kelso Conservation  
Area, Milton, Ontario

Wednesday, September 11th, 2002  
7:00 pm

Tickets (call Karen Hunter at 905.838.2109)

\$7.50 each

The Alexander family and descendants would barely recognise their old farmstead beneath the Niagara Escarpment. Their property in the heart of Kelso Conservation Area, was founded in 1836, and has been the home of the Halton Region Museum (formerly Halton County Museum) since 1962. The museum has been closed the last few years, requiring extensive renovations, and is now open to the public once again.

Come out for this conducted tour.

(Provide your own personal transportation or make your own car pool)

Learn some of the interesting history of our county.

Tour includes light refreshments.



## Official Opening of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop Saturday 28 September, 2002 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) 16 James Street, Milton

The Waldie Blacksmith Shop in downtown Milton re-opens for business during Milton Historical Society's Silver Jubilee!

When the symbolic chain is severed and the blacksmith invites the public into the Waldie Blacksmith Shop on September 28, the restored 1865 building will take on an exciting new life. During its peak period in the early 1890's, the blacksmith shop employed a painter, trimmer, two woodworkers and five blacksmiths from dawn to dusk. Three generations of Waldie's (James Sr. 1832-1900; James Jr. 1871-1948; and Alfred 1905-1980) shoed horses, repaired wagons, manufactured farm implements and horse drawn carriages for the local farm community. During this time period the blacksmith's role was crucial in keeping horses, oxen and mules able to till the soil and draw wagons and carriages on the farm and in towns and villages.

Restoration of the Waldie Blacksmith Shop preserves an important link to one of the earliest and most vital businesses in the history of Ontario. The buildings have been lovingly preserved and restored on its original site over the past three years by Tom Murison, Restorationist; Peter Devine, mason; and a phalanx of volunteers. Mandy Sedgwick, Chair, has led a dedicated group through the funding and finding aspects of the project and will officially open the building. After months of digging, storing artifacts, felling trees, hewing new beams, recycling timbers from old barns, stabilizing a threatening roof, pouring new footings, milling replacement sheathing, white washing and even making nails, this major project by the Milton Historical Society is nearing completion. From the early investigations of the age of the wood (1820s) through the archaeological approach to the site, care has been taken to preserve, to strengthen and to prepare the site for the next century. Artifacts, original to the site and some quite unique, have been catalogued and will be displayed appropriately as the site develops.

The Waldie Blacksmith Shop, a member of the Ontario Artist-Blacksmith Association, is a working blacksmith shop with original tools and artifacts on forges that have been reconstructed by precision craftsmen. Three forges, one of stone, one of brick and one portable represent the ears through which the centrally located and popular shop was operated by three generations. A brick oven outside will be one of the unique features; it was used to make hardened iron tools before alloy steel was available. The shop is a post and beam timber structure with rubble stone infill walls built by James Waldie Sr. in 1865. It is rare that a blacksmith shop structure still exists in its original urban location as most shops have been lost or moved to a museum setting. This beautifully restored facility will now be the home of the Milton Historical Society and the Milton Archives and will also be available for special events and meetings. The shop welcomes local visitors and tourists interested in learning about the blacksmith trade and is available for school tours for educational trips. The gift shop features historical publications, photographs, artifacts, crafts and clothing.

The Milton Historical Society gratefully acknowledges corporate and individual contributions as well as the financial support provided by the Town of Milton's Community Fund and the Trillium Foundation. For more information call: 519.856.2432 or 905.875.7354 at <[www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca](http://www.miltonhistoricalsociety.ca)>

# ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- Wed. 11 Sept., 2002 **Halton Region Museum Unveiled!** - The newly renovated Regional Museum will be explored on a guided tour of the facilities and the current displays. Join us for a tour and refreshments. Tickets are available for \$7.50 each. Meet at the Museum. HALTON REGION MUSEUM, Kelso Conservation Area, Milton Heights, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 9 Oct. 2002 **St. George's, Georgetown - 150<sup>th</sup> year** - Join Rev. Rick Ruggle, author and historian as he recounts tales and lessons of St. George's Anglican Church, Guelph Street. KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 13 Nov. 2002 **Disasters of Esquesing** - Trauma, fear and loss of life, are all things we hope never to face, but humans have always been fascinated to hear tales of woe. Join several members of the Society as we recall natural disasters, tales of human tragedy and near misses. Be sure to bring your own tales! KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- December 2002 The Society will NOT hold a regular meeting this month.

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.

For the second summer in a row, highway #7, through the west end of Georgetown and over the white bridge, has been in a mess, and driving through it was more like driving a slalom course than a highway. This has happened in the past.....

"The Council notified the Grand Trunk that they would be required to furnish a roadway for public traffic during the time they were engaged in the re-construction of the white bridge. The street near Mr. D.S.Roy's was suggested and the necessity of a watchman was also pointed out. The company has agreed to act upon these suggestions." *Georgetown Herald, Wednesday evening, September 9, 1903.*

## 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	
Marj Allen	877-9985	
Judy Payne	877-7627	

Don't forget to add 905 when dialing the above listed numbers.

### ACHIVAL REPORT

The Society was fortunate this summer in hiring Tara Lesko. She attends Lakehead University, taking concurrent education, teaching and psychology. Tara scanned about 6000 photographs, bringing our digital collection up to National archival standards. She also took a break from scanning to do filing, labelling, clipping files and sorted out our growing collection of yearbooks from Acton and Georgetown High Schools.

The executive of the EHS had several working sessions at the Archives this summer to reduce and sort out the backlog of material. Archivist Mark Rowe was joined by Karen Hunter, Dawn Livingstone, Judy Payne and Carol Wood. Many thanks for all your help. We made quite a dent in the materials to be accessed.

### 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)

**Canadian Council of Archives** web site:

<[www.CdnCouncilArchives.ca](http://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

We currently have 90 members. 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.

### ACTON: THE HISTORY OF LEATHERTOWN SELLS WELL DURING THE SUMMER

The long-awaited publication of the history of Acton came out in June. The official launch was at the Acton Town Hall on a Sunday in late June, but the extreme hot weather kept numbers down. Nevertheless, the book continued to sell well during the summer months. As of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August, the EHS had sold or distributed 244 copies of the book. This has enabled us to pay off the printer - Boston Mills Press. The majority of profits, once they are realized will be used for Archival expenses.

The book sells for \$24.95 from the EHS, which does not charge taxes. Retail stores, like The Olde Book House, must add the necessary taxes. Card carrying members of the EHS can buy as many copies as they wish at \$20 each, directly from the Society. Books can be purchased at regular meetings or by contacting Publications Officer, Carol Wood. She can e-mailed at <[hobo@globalserve.net](mailto:hobo@globalserve.net)>.

### 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.

## BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

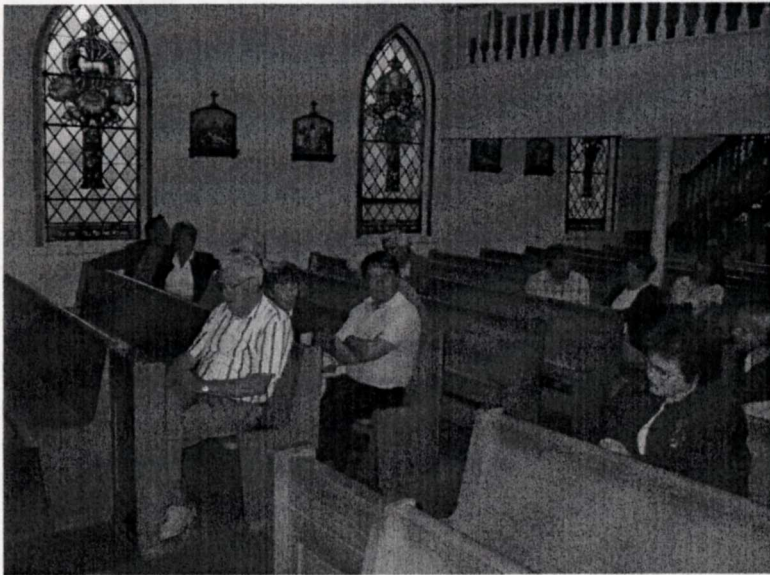
Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 7:15 p.m. at Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth Avenue, Brampton. There is a \$5 admission fee.

- Sept 19 Show and Tell by all BHS members.
- Sept Walking tour of Brampton Cemetery by Paul Webster. Call 905.457.0058 to confirm date.
- Oct 17 From Cumberland to Ontario: Brampton's First settlers, by Rowena Cooper.
- Nov 21 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Brampton Fall Fair in 2003, by Merle Middlebrook.

Visit: [www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.bramptonhistoricalsociety.com)

## "The Wonders of Shopping on EBay..."

A former Acton woman (who shall remain nameless, but whose initials are SW) is a big fan on the English TV soap, Coronation Street. She noticed a set of Coronation Street Magnets advertised in the Special Items on the EBay website, and thought she just had to have them. So she went to all the trouble of bidding on line for them, sending a money order to the UK, and then waiting six weeks to finally get them in the mail. She was delighted with her purchase. She was so anxious and excited to show them to her sister who promptly said "Dummy, they have them at Weatherby's in Acton!!!!" Which just goes to prove once again - "It's Worth The Drive to Acton!!"



June 2002 pot luck dinner and meeting at St. Joseph's Church, Acton



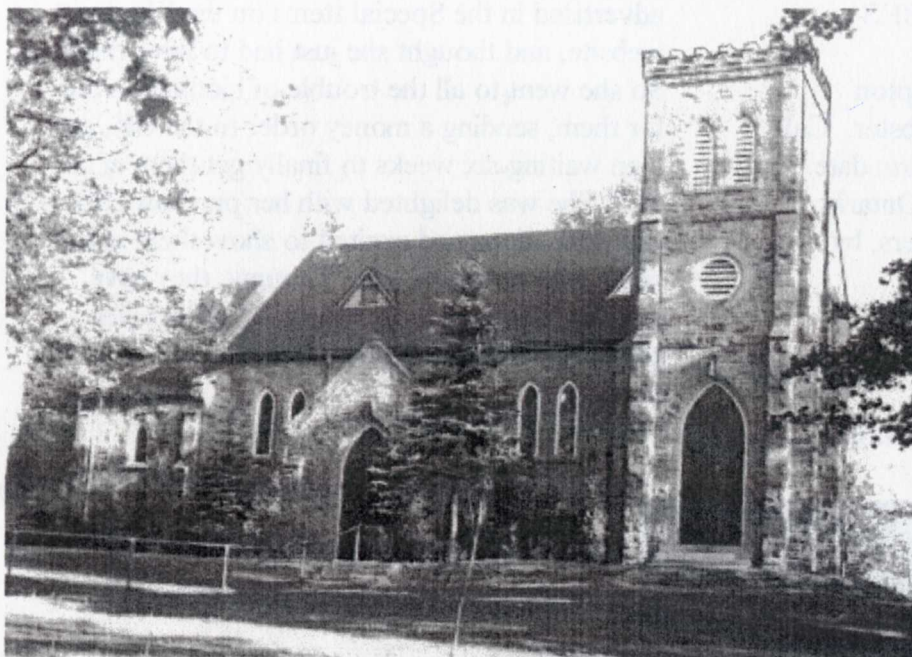
## A Corner of the Township...

### GLEN WILLIAMS TOWN HALL

Drinking in the Glen! The Glen Williams Temperance Society wanted to stop the flow of liquor so they approached Charles Williams for a piece of land for a community hall which they could also use for meetings. A meeting of community leaders was held in March 1870 at the home of Charles Williams where it was decided a Town Hall was a desirable objective. Charles Williams deeded the land to the first nine trustees to held in trust for the community. The red brick hall was opened on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1871 with a patriotic concert in honour of the Queen's birthday.

# ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH CELEBRATES SESQUI-CENTENARY

REV. RICHARD RUGGLE TO ADDRESS SOCIETY ON OCTOBER 9TH



St. George's Church in 1925. EHS p36

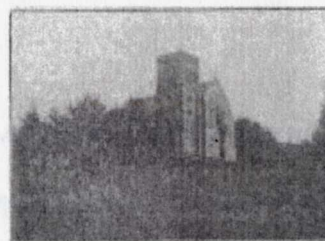
St. George's Episcopal parish was established in 1852. The first church occupied nearly the same site as the present one. The first incumbent was the Rev. Thomas W. Marsh, who died suddenly on his way to Europe. He was a man much beloved by the people, and was in charge here for four years. He was succeeded in a few months by the Rev. Charles Dade, formerly mathematical professor of Upper Canada College. Then followed in the order named: Rev. J.G.D. McKenzie, Rev. F.A. O'Meara, Rev. Johnston Vicars, Rev. C.C. Johnson, Rev. Arthur Boulton, Rev. G.B. Cook, Rev. Robert Caswell, and Rev. Graham Adams. The present incumbent, the Rev. Rural Dean Fennell, has

been in charge since 1887. It was during the incumbency of the Rev. Arthur Boulton that the beautiful St. Anne edifice, shown in the illustration, was built. St. George's church occupies a prominent position and commands a favourable view of the village. It is surrounded by extensive grounds, which could be made very attractive; and it is the intention of the congregation and incumbent to beautify them as soon as practicable.

*-Toronto Daily Mail, 24 June, 1893*

## ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

The first pastor of St. George's church was the Rev. Thomas W Marsh, who came to the parish in 1852. The congregation worshipped in those days in a frame church, which stood on a site behind the present structure. Rev. J.A.D. McKenzie followed for three years, then Rev. F.A. O'Meara, of Toronto, Principal of Wycliffe College. In 1870 came Rev. C.C. Johnson, and in 1875 Rev. Arthur Boulton. In Mr. Boulton's time the present fine stone church was built. It will seat 200 comfortably and has a fine large basement and some handsome memorial windows. After several ministerial changes, Rev. T.G. Wallace became rector, in 1900. It was in his time that the beautiful little church of St. Albans at the "Glen," was built. He was followed by Rev. J.A.R. Macdonald, and Rev. Rob. Atkinson, and in 1909, the present rector, Rev. A.B. Higginson, took charge. In the latter's time a large two manual pipe organ was installed. This has proven a splendid acquisition to the services. The organizations of the parish are in a flourishing condition. There is a surpliced choir of twenty-two voices,



ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.



the founding chairman of the Ontario Arts Council and served on the National Capital Commission, the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and other organizations. He was recipient of a Governor-General's Award, the Order of Canada and honorary degrees from Queen's University and the University of Windsor.

Above all, he was celebrated for his through knowledge of Ontario architecture of the premodern era. "You could bring him a piece of door frame from a building and he'd say, "That's from Wellington County about 1832" - he had that kind of knowledge," said Norman MacDonald, a St. Catharines, Ont., architect. "And he knew his mouldings. It's a compliment to say that of a restoration architect."...

He was born in 1906 as the second son of Colonel Algar and Mabel Cawthra Adamson. His father, whose family had arrived in Upper Canada shortly after the 1837 Rebellion, was an army captain in the Boer War and the First World War. His mother was one of the Cawthras, a wealthy, well-established Toronto family, sometimes described as 'the Astors of Canada.'...

He was predeceased by his wife, Augusta in 1997 and by his middle son, Inigo, in 1997. He leaves son Adrian, a retired teacher, and daughter-in-law Esther; son Jeremy, a curator at the US Library of Congress, and a daughter-in-law Ingrid; and numerous grandchildren.

- **Anthony Patrick Cawthra Adamson**; architect and writer. Born in Toronto, Oct. 7, 1906; died in Toronto, May 3, 2002.

-*The Globe and Mail*, 8 June, 2002

## DOCTOR'S HISTORICAL JOURNAL ACQUIRED

by Mike Funston

The Peel Heritage Complex has acquired the journal of a pioneer doctor who treated settlers, Mississauga Indians and troops stationed at Fort York. Dr. Joseph Adamson practised medicine in Toronto Township (now Mississauga) from 1822 until his death in 1852.

The journal, which is the only surviving record book from a series that Adamson kept, is regarded as "an important piece of Peel's history," said David Somers, curator of the Brampton complex...

Entries in the journal were made between 1851 and 1852. Adamson used Latin to record the treatments for each day's patients, long with his fees, which were sometimes paid by barter.

Born in 1786, Adamson left Scotland for Canada in 1822 and settled in Toronto Township. He was one of only 10 licensed physicians and surgeons in all of Ontario, then Upper Canada. He is buried in St. Peter's Anglican Cemetery in the Erindale area of Mississauga.

The journal was purchased from a private collection at auction for an undisclosed sum ...

-*The Toronto Star*, 26 August, 2002

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## ACTON FREE PRESS - 1921

One who has been a familiar figure on the streets of Acton for 65 years was laid to rest at Fairview cemetery. Peter McNab was born in Scotland in 1836, came to Canada in his 20<sup>th</sup> year and arrived in Acton in June 1856, just two months after Mr. Charles T. Hill and family had settled here. He was a tailor and was engaged for years by the late Adam Dickson in his little tailor shop on Willow Street on the corner of the lot now owned by Mr. Murray MacDonald, Customs Officer. In time he went into partnership as Dickson and McNab, then Fyfe and McNab. Mr. McNab went home periodically to Scotland. (AFP 25 Aug, 1921)



Frank Holmes, drover has been named to fill the vacancy on Council...(1 Sept, 1921)

Mr. J. M. Roszell, who has been principal of Acton's Public and Continuation Schools since the retirement of Inspector W.H. Stewart, has announced that he accepted the position of headmaster at Bradford..(1 Sept, 1921)

A reunion known as the Kitching-Watson reunion took place at "Blue Spring" park, the grounds so popular in this community... (1 Sept, 1921)

Last Sat. Morning Chief Edward Floody of Inland Revenue ... visited the site of a liquor still in the bush near Speyside about half way between the first and Second Lines. Ample evidences was found... operated by a Milton man... (15 Sept.)

Approx 200 attended the annual pic-nic of St. Alban's Church at Wallace Lasby's farm. (15 Sept,1921)

The Great War Veterans Association provided our citizens with a series of high-class entertainment last winter which were greatly enjoyed. There was not much remuneration for the veterans for their entertainment.

Nevertheless they have contracted for another series for the coming winter which will embrace five of the best entertainments of the Chautauqua Lyceum Bureau. (6 Oct, 1921)

The subject of Church union is evidently a live topic, judging by the discussion in the various churches affected... (13 Oct, 1921)

12 Real Estate Weekend Digest, Friday, June 21, 2002

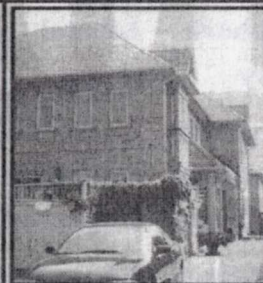
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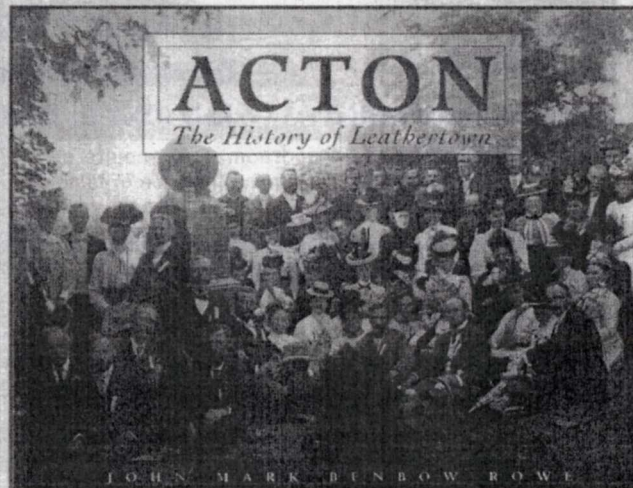
### BEAUTIFUL ROCKWOOD

Located within commuting distance to Brampton/Mississauga, this picturesque community is the place to be. A wonderful 3+1 bedroom bungalow with main floor family room, finished (pool table size) basement, gas fireplace and wood burning stove. There's a walkout to a lovely deck and pool, and the lot measures 66 x 132 ft. It's a real beauty. All being offered at \$231,900. Call Carol Wood\* for your personal viewing. MLS#X44703



### BRAMPTON QUAD

It's the starter home you've been waiting for. Conveniently located close to shopping, schools and transportation, this lovely unit faces the rear for privacy and quietness. There's 3 spacious bedrooms, large living/dining room, eat-in kitchen with walkout to fenced yard, and a full basement suitable for finishing. Parking for 2 cars. The perfect spot for first time buyers, singles or retirees. Affordable at \$186,900. and no condo fees. View it with Carol Wood\*. MLS#LX8942



## A NEW BOOK BY LOCAL HISTORIAN

John Mark Benbow Rowe

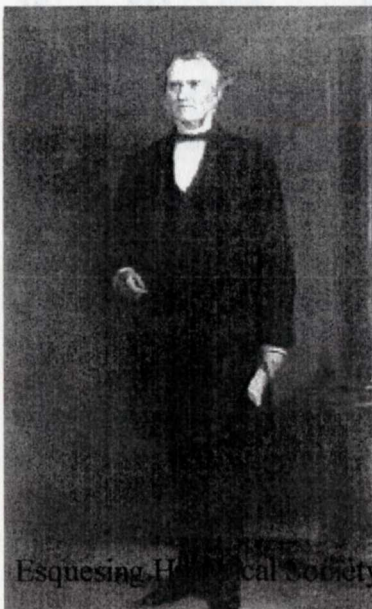
The Esquesing Historical Society with the assistance of the Trillium Foundation is pleased to announce the imminent release of the first comprehensive history of Acton! Filled with over 80 photographs, covering almost 100 pages, this book will delight visitors to Acton, inspire local youngsters, recall fond memories for old-timers and provide a myriad of reference points for historians and genealogists alike!



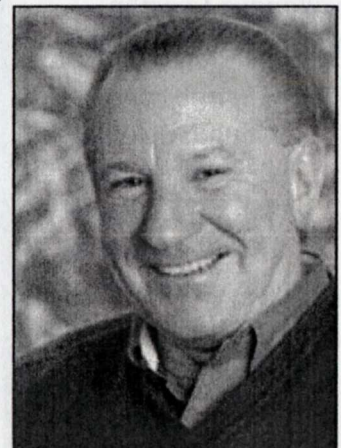
You are cordially invited to participate at the Official Book Launch on Sunday, June 23, 1-3 p.m. at the Acton Town Hall, Willow & Bower Streets.

## PREMIERS OF THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Premier	Political Party	Dates in Office
Ernie Eves	Progressive Conservative	April 2002 --
Michael D. Harris	Progressive Conservative	June 1995 to April 2002
Robert K. Rae	New Democrat	October 1990 to June 1995
David R. Peterson	Liberal	June 1985 to October 1990
Frank S. Miller	Progressive Conservative	February 1985 to June 1985
William G. Davis	Progressive Conservative	March 1971 to February 1985
John P. Robarts	Progressive Conservative	November 1961 to March 1971
Leslie M. Frost	Progressive Conservative	May 1949 to November 1961
Thomas L. Kennedy	Progressive Conservative	October 1948 to May 1949
Col. George A. Drew	Progressive Conservative	August 1943 to October 1948
Harry Corwin Nixon	Liberal	May 1943 to August 1943
G. D. Conant	Liberal	October 1942 to May 1943
Mitchell F. Hepburn	Liberal	July 1934 to October 1942
George S. Henry	Conservative	December 1930 to July 1934
G. Howard Ferguson	Conservative	July 1923 to December 1930
Ernest Charles Drury	United Farmers	November 1919 to July 1923
Sir William H. Hearst	Conservative	October 1914 to November 1919
Sir James P. Whitney	Conservative	February 1905 to September 1914
G. W. Ross	Liberal	October 1899 to February 1905
A. S. Hardy	Liberal	July 1896 to October 1899
Sir Oliver Mowat	Liberal	October 1872 to July 1896
Edward Blake	Liberal	December 1871 to October 1872
John Sandfield Macdonald	Liberal-Conservative	July 1867 to December 1871



J.W.L. Forster, *The Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald*, 1904  
Government of Ontario Art Collection, Toronto.



The Hon. Ernie Eves

Information from:  
<http://www.kids.premier.gov.on.ca/english/meet/default.htm>