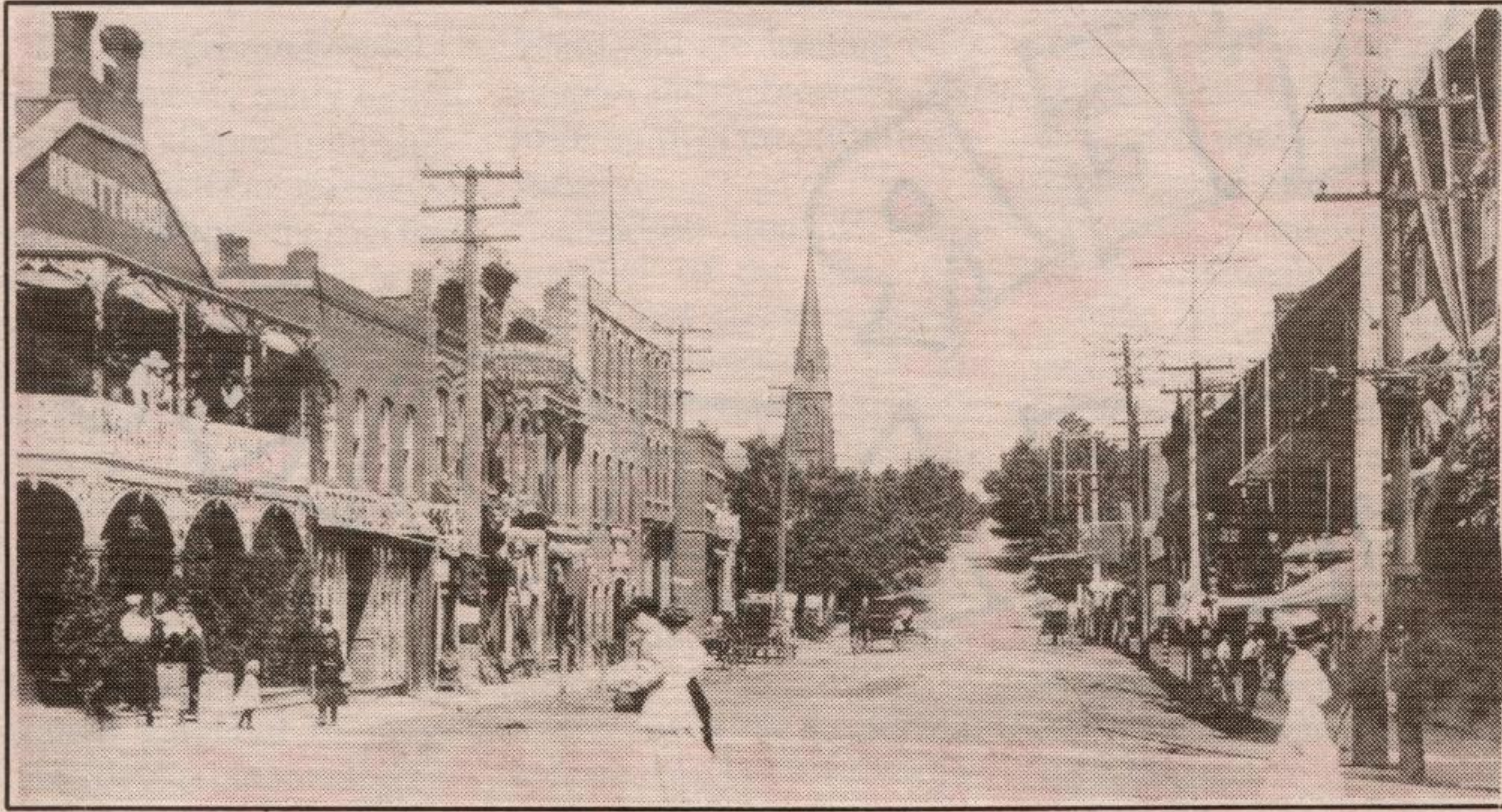


# Revisiting Sketches of history of Halton Hills



CHANGES: Looking north from Main and Mill Streets in Georgetown in the early 1900s. (photo submitted, used by permission)

BY NORMAN HOLT  
Special to The Gemini

Remember when Georgetown had a railway station on Main Street? Canoeing on downtown Georgetown's Wilber Lake was a favourite summer recreation? Tanneries dominated the Acton scene? Or when springtime floods from the Credit River were a regular feature of life in Glen Williams?

And did you know that Timothy Eaton first lived in Georgetown after arriving from Ireland in the 1850s? That Glen Williams hotel keeper T.J. Hill was so fond of horses that he invited one into his bar? Or that most of North Halton's communities started with names different from the present ones? That Georgetown was originally called Hungry Hollow, Glen Williams was Williamsburg, Norval was McNabville, Limehouse was Fountain Green and Acton was Danville?

Stories about earlier days

in North Halton are to be found in John McDonald's newly published book, *Halton Sketches Revisited*. McDonald concentrates on our local communities, each with a map identifying points of interest referred to in the book. There is also an introductory section on the history of Halton County and an overview of each settlement.

The 40 articles include: Limehouse's last blacksmith; Robert Little, an early educator in Acton; Noble's flour mill in Norval (destroyed by fire in 1929); early settlers such as the Kennedy's and Barbers; and the old lime kilns of Limehouse.

At 128 pages and with over 130 photographs, *Halton Sketches Revisited* is a revised and longer edition of McDonald's original *Halton Sketches*. A third of the book is completely new. The author is a former Georgetown and Regional Councillor who lives in Milton. He grew up in Dolly Varden, a now-dis-

appeared hamlet between Limehouse and Acton.

"The name intrigued me as a youngster and sparked my continuing interest in local history," McDonald said.

McDonald will be in town this Saturday at 2 pm, chatting over old times and signing copies of his book at Oxbow Books on Main Street.

The book is the ninth in two years for Moulin Publishing of Norval. With retirement approaching, publisher Ed Boyce - who was for many years in the public sector and, more recently, was in charge of organization dynamics and human relations for the MDS Health Group - was not about to sit back. His outlook? "There are too many meaningful messages that can't get published."

Hence Moulin.

Ed's wife Margaret is active in the business and nephew Chris Boyce is general manager.

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RIDING THE RAILS: 'Meet me at the station' was often heard in Georgetown after the railroad line was built through the village in 1856. Traveling salesmen, visiting relatives and Sunday School picnics arrived and departed from the station. (photo submitted, used by permission)

## Correction

In last week's edition of *The Gemini* we inadvertently left out the information and credit for the historical photo which appears on Page 7, above Mike O'Leary's column.

*The Gem* regrets the error. So, giving credit where credit is due, here is the information that should have run under the photo.

HOLY HISTORICAL! Looking south to Guelph Street, with old Georgetown High School on left, St. George's Anglican Church on right. Wilber Lake Park, foreground, was drained to make way for a railway line. The railway closed operations in 1931 but the lake remained a casualty. (photo courtesy of Esquesing Historical Society)

## "HALTON SKETCHES REVISITED"

128 pages packed with local history

\$16.95

Author JOHN McDONALD  
signs at Oxbow 2 p.m. Saturday

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