



THE ESQUESING Historical Society conducted a walking tour of Limehouse, Sunday afternoon. Between 80 and 90 interested persons braved the chilly temperatures to hear John McDonald explain the history of the village. One of the first stops (above) was an old brick lime kiln.

**Limehouse**

**Tour, slides reveal Limehouse history**

by Mrs. A. Benton  
A good number turned out for the Esquesing Historical Society walk on Sunday. After slides of the neighbourhood in the Limehouse Memorial Hall, Mr. John McDonald, a former area resident, led all on a walk over the rocks. The W.I. ladies served a light lunch on their return. Fortunately the weather co-operated.

Along with them were nine parents who drove them around the area. Thank you to all the people in the Limehouse area who so generously contributed when the boys came to their door. Thanks also to the parents and to Steve Thompson who helped that day and to Lorna Thompson who brought us hamburgers and drinks for lunch.

first followed by an evening of games and wine and cheese. The executive this year will be Ed Ryan, chairman; Liz Coates, secretary; and Liz Rock, treasurer.  
On October 14, 15 and 16 most of the 1st Limehouse Brownie Pack had their first experience of going to camp. The girls were taken to Camp Wyoka, near Clifford, Ont. Participating in this event were Lori Little, Coralee Denny, Sabrina Papp, Kelly Lawrence, Karen Gregory, Wanita Phillips, Kendal Batchelor, Judy Thomson, Heather Brown, Sherie Willis, Margaret Olah and Monique Campbell.

**Voskamp dealer**

D. Voskamp was recently appointed the Superior Muffler Dealer in Halton Hills (Acton).  
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sible part of the exhaust system.  
In this area, Superior Muffler exhaust systems are available at Rich's Service Centre Limited, R.R. No. 2, Highway 7, East of town. Mr. Voskamp has been doing business in town for 14 years.

**Limehouse tour draws large crowd**

Between 80 and 90 persons showed up for the Esquesing Historical Society's walking tour of Limehouse, Sunday. It's the largest crowd the society has had for any of its events.

Tudor Beattie welcomed the group to the Limehouse Community Hall and John McDonald gave a slide presentation on old and new scenes around the village, before the walking tour began.

The history of Limehouse dates back to 1819 when the first land was sold. When a sawmill began operation in 1840, the area was called Fountain Green. In 1841 the limekiln industry was started by Mr. Lindsay.

The railway came through in 1856, a boon to local industry. In 1857 the first post office was opened by John Newton and the name of the place was changed to Limehouse.

In 1857 Mr. Gowdy and Mr. Moore purchased the Bescoy and Worthington lime works.

Where the escarpment land was once industrial, now it has become recreational land.

The escarpment features limestone of an excellent quality known as Credit Valley sandstone. It is used for the manufacture of lime, cement and plaster.

There are many natural caves which suggest smugglers and whisky stills.

The Moore and Gowdy lime works had six kilns capable of burning 35 thousands bushels of lime a year and the sawmill was capable of making 10,000 feet of lumber a day.

In 1850 John Newton built a water lime mill used in the construction of the Grand Trunk Railroad. In 1862 he took out the grinding machines and put in woollen manufacturing equipment. The Empire Blanket Company was later destroyed by fire.

In 1872 Michie and Newton started the manufacture of fireproof paints, known as the Canadian Paint Mills. By

1877, 500 tons a year were being made here, and the company won a medal at the Centennial Exhibition. The building was destroyed by fire in 1893, as well as the nearby lumber mill. This was a severe blow to the prosperity of Limehouse, as there was not enough insurance to permit rebuilding.

The 11 lime kilns in the village area date back to the 1840's. Each was about 10 feet high. This type of kiln was not the most efficient.

There were also three draw or shaft kilns, built in the 1870's, which operated on a 24 hour basis.

The adjacent quarry is now overgrown with brush.

In 1886 Limehouse was a hive of activity with over 100 men employed in the industry.

The lime industry closed about 1917 due to economic conditions and possibly the danger of blasting near the village. The last blasting at the quarry was in 1917 and a neighborhood woman was

injured. This resulted in a lawsuit.

The kilns were taken over by the Gypsum Lime and Alabastine Company of Paris in 1927 and later by Domtar.

There have been three hotels operating in the village, and the first post office was in one of them.

Thomas Gowdy deeded the land for Limehouse Methodist church which closed after church union in 1925. It was bought in 1945 by the Limehouse Women's Institute for use as a community hall.

The W.I. was founded in 1921.

Limehouse Presbyterian church history dates from 1832, but the building was erected in 1858. The oldest gravestone is dated 1826. It is that of a young girl. Part of the inscription "died as a result of neglect" was eventually erased from the stone.

The history of the Gowdy property is tied up with that of the area. In 1967 the Credit Valley Conservation

**Study traffic**

Authority bought 190 acres of the family property. The CVCA intends to restore the kilns as nearly as possible to their original state, although the lovely old Gowdy home has been demolished. The unique three-seater outhouse has gone to the Black Creek pioneer village.

The first log school was built in 1845 on the Sixth Line. The lower room of the stone school was built in 1862 and the second storey in 1875. The school closed in 1962 with a reunion, and the new school opened in September 1962.

in preparation for the month-long McLaughlin Ontario Municipal Board hearing in November, the town is going to have an expensive traffic impact study done.

Halton Hills works committee approved the engineering department request for the study at a meeting last Tuesday night.

De Leuw Cather will do the study and both town and region will pay the cost.

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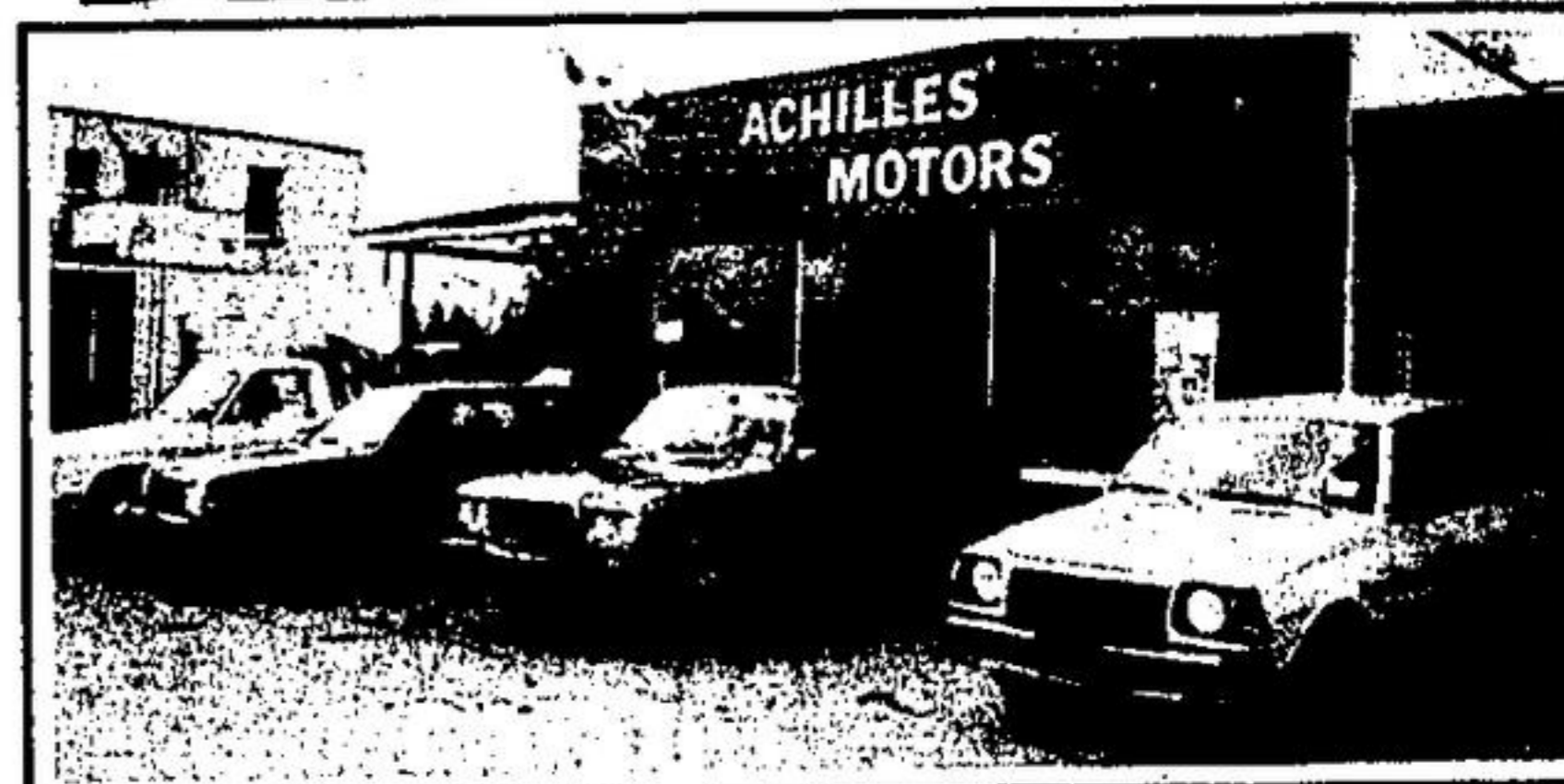
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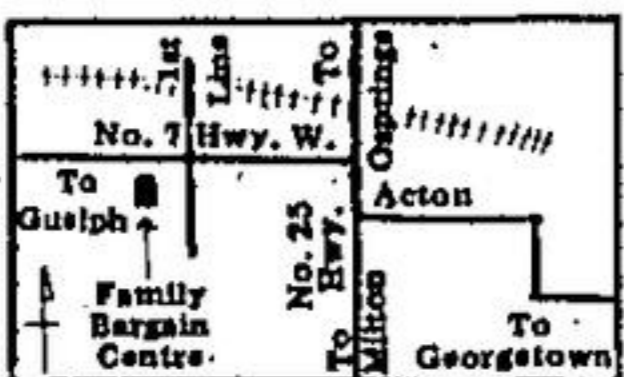
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