

Buildings, Records Only Witnesses To Past

Georgetown is the kind of town that always has a lot of people in it but, the people who inhabit Georgetown are different from year to year.

People move to other places, other people move in. As a result many of the people who have lived in Georgetown or are living here now are unaware of the interesting and significant historical past Georgetown and the surrounding area possess. They are unaware that Georgetown became the huge

town it is now by mistake and that it was originally Norval that had been destined to be developed. (It would have had a railway surveyor helping to plan the route of a new line.) They do not know that Stewarttown was once proudly considered to be the capital of Esqueusing Township.

Although there are still many people who are aware of these facts, their number is decreasing. Soon the only surviving witnesses to the past of Georgetown and its surrounding area will be the scraps of information that local historians have been lucky enough to salvage, and the buildings which were born of historical times. With the "progress" of today's world, those witnesses may not survive to testify to the glorious history of the area.

STEWARTTOWN HALL
One such building is the Community Hall of Esqueusing situated in that township's capital, Stewarttown. One hundred years ago this building was entirely different in its appearance and twenty-five years before that it was just being built.
On February 20, 1849 when Richard Tracy, the first township clerk was in office, a poster appeared in Esqueusing calling the ratepayers to a meeting to discuss the building of a much needed township hall. (This poster hung on the office wall of John Tracy when he succeeded his father as town clerk, then was lost for a number of years. In the 1950's

the poster was recovered and can now be seen displayed in a frame on the wall of the building of the Halton Hills municipal offices.)
At that meeting, on Saturday, March 10, it was moved that the decision about building the hall be left over until the next nomination day.
It was a rather controversial issue as to whether the town hall should be built in Georgetown or Stewarttown and this resulted in the matter being shelved and left in abeyance for several years.
During that time David Cross, a tanner, and Messrs. Nevin and Jones, cabinet makers built a store with living quarters and a hall over head. They built this two story building with double decker

verandah and an outside staircase with the intention of selling it to council.

FIRST MEETING 1849
The building, which later came to be known as the Community Hall, was first used by council when its south side was rented for a council chamber. The other side was used as a store with living quarters at the back and the top floor was used for dances and other community events.
In 1948 the Esqueusing Community Hall was entirely

remodelled. An extension was later added to the rear, thus completing the alterations which so changed the hall's original appearance.
The first ratepayer's meeting was held in the building in 1849 with Reeve John McNaughton, Deputy Reeve Ninian Lindsay, Councillors James Young, Robert Hall, William Thompson and Richard Tracy and township Clerk Isaac Bennett in attendance.
This old building and many

others like it in the area of Georgetown bear silent testimony to the soon to be forgotten past.
If you would like to find out more about the fascinating past of where you live ask at the public library for books on the subject or ask at the Herald. We will gladly tell you where to look to find more information.

The real name of the American humorist Bill Nye was Edgar Wilson.



(Photo courtesy of John McDonald)

THE OLD BUILDING was a brick structure and originally had a two-storey verandah and an outside staircase. Unfortunately the verandah and the stairs had

to be removed in the interests of safety. The hall was built as a store with living quarters in the back and a hall upstairs. Later when part of the building was

rented as a council chamber only the north side remained to be used as a store. The last storekeeper who was also town clerk for over 10 years, was Isaac Bennett.



(Herald Photo)

IN 1948 the Community Hall was entirely remodelled to include council chambers and an office for township

clerk. After an extension was added to the rear it looked much as it does today. The building now houses a

library and the upstairs hall is still used for community affairs.

MAC'S MILK

MOORE PARK PLAZA STORE

FRESH MEAT DEPARTMENT

MOORE PARK PLAZA STORE

Blade Steaks 89¢ lb.

Bulk Wieners 49¢ lb.

LEAN **Ground Chuck 99¢ lb.**

"MAPLE LEAF" **WIENERS 79¢ lb.**

Values on Sale July 18-19-20

ESQUEUSING TOWNSHIP MEETING!!

A REQUISITION

Having been forwarded to me, signed by a number of the Freeholders residing within this Township, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of erecting a township hall (by donation or subscription) and determining the site of a

TOWN HALL

I hereby in compliance with said Requisition, appoint

Saturday, 10th March
At the Hour of Eleven o'Clock
AT MCKENZIE'S INN
IN THE VILLAGE OF

STEWART-TOWN

For a public Meeting to be held, to take into consideration the subject above stated.
RICHARD TRACY,
Town Clerk.
Stewart-Town, Esqueusing,
84th February, 1848.

TORN AND darkening, this original poster of 1848 still proclaims its message after 125 years. Richard Tracy's son John took over Richard's

office as town clerk and had this poster hanging on his office wall for a time. The poster was lost for a number of years then found again in

the 1950's. It now hangs, as seen here, in a committee room of the Halton Hills municipal building.
(Herald Photo)

Georgetown Site Readies

Halton region municipality hopes to make the sanitary land fill site self-supporting beginning in September by charging \$3 per ton and hiring a contractor to supervise the site.
Wm. Menary Contractors Ltd., of Brampton had the lowest tender bid for the job of operating and supervising the site. They bid 16 cents per capita per month based on a population of 50,000 which includes Milton and Halton Hills.

Regional director of public works, Bob Bailie noted that Milton was included because their garbage would be taken to the Georgetown site beginning in September, when the contractors take over.

"It works out to approximately \$8,000 per month, and hopefully the \$3 per ton charge will cover all of the expenses," he said. "However, there will be no charge for cars with trailers which bring garbage to the site."

Mr. Bailie explained that the idea behind the charge was to make contractors pay for using the site, which is owned by the taxpayers. He said that the money will be charged to trucks using the site.

"For half ton pick ups, there will be no charge on the first 300 pounds," Mr. Bailie added.



We fix Sunday dinner seven days a week

Colonel Harland Sanders fixes Kentucky Fried Chicken for about a million folks every day. His chicken goes home with more people more often than any other chicken in the world.
Must be pretty good? It is. Take some home tonight.

Take it from the Colonel
... "it's finger lickin' good"

COLONEL SANDERS' RECIPE
---Kentucky Fried Chicken---
chicken Villa

116A QUELPH STREET - 877-5241

HERALD CIRCULATION TELEPHONE 877-2201
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

COME TO SATURDAY, ERIN JULY 20

FIRST ANNUAL FOUNDERS' DAY

NO ADMISSION FEE FREE PARKING
PARADE AT NOON

Grounds Open 1 to 6 p.m.

MASS PIPE BAND CONCERT
Highland and Old Tyme Dancers

CONTESTS

Amusements
Barbequed Chicken
Antique Cars
Picnic Tables

FLEA MARKET

Pioneer & Historical Exhibits Arts & Crafts

AFTERNOON ENTERTAINMENT

Gala Ball — 9 p.m. — Show & Dance

"Join us in our community effort in recalling a good old fashioned family day"

ERIN AGRICULTURAL FAIRGROUNDS



Fun for the whole family