

Halton Hills History

# Whaley's Corners is home to five generations

By J.M. ROWE  
Esquesing Historical Society  
Whaley's Corners at Winston Churchill Blvd. and Steeles Avenue may just be another gas station on a country corner to the passing motorist. But to five generations of the Whaley family, it is home.  
Whaley's Corners, in the extreme south-east corner of F... Hills, actually includes a co... the Townships of Esquesing, Trafalgar, Toronto and Chinguacousy.

William Coulson Whaley, an Irish immigrant by way of Delaware, U.S.A., located on Lot 1, Concession 11, Esquesing in 1819. He also acquired Lot 15, Concession 5W, Toronto Twp. in the same year.  
His brother, Thomas Whaley, settled on Lot 2, Conc. 11, Esquesing. They both worked hard, clearing the brush and planting crops, often in isolation from their neighbours.  
It soon became evident,

however, that the Base Line (now Steeles Ave.) was becoming a well-travelled road.  
The farmers in the area naturally looked to this crossroads as a gathering place.  
In 1834, William Whaley became the first master of Loyal Orange Lodge #62. This lodge was built on the Toronto Township corner.  
A log schoolhouse served the area from about 1832. In the early years it served all within walking distance, when a teacher could be found.  
With the formalization of school boundaries in 1842, this corner of Esquesing was unofficially united with Chinguacousy as School Section BC.  
In 1851, J. Black taught 32 students there. However, this school was drawing students from Pinegrove School (SS #4). In fact in 1852, Pinegrove didn't even bother to engage a teacher.

A Wesleyan Methodist Church completed the hamlet in 1867 when it opened on the Chinguacousy corner. The church was later moved away, leaving behind a burial ground to mark the site.  
On the Toronto Township corner, farmers had a weigh scale erected so they could weigh their cattle on their way to market in Brampton. They would be weighed again in Brampton, but knowing the weight gave them something to argue about.  
Lot 1, Conc. 11, Esquesing has been home to the Whaley family since William cleared the property in 1819. His son John continued the farms, followed by Robert and finally Gordon. After Gordon's death, his wife rented out the farm

until 1976, when it was sold, reserving large lots for their children, Ken, Ray and Lorne. There are still many Whaley's at Whaley's Corners.  
Today, many other families call this place home and in spite of the two busy roads which cross here, the people are striving to maintain their sense of community.  
Whaley's Corners is just as much a modern community as it is a historical one.

Information for this article was gathered from Bernice Whaley, Ken Whaley, Arthur May, land records, Esquesing Township School Superintendent Reports, Gore District Council Minutes, Halton County Atlas of 1877, Peel County Atlas of 1877, and the Streetsville Review.

## Laila Smith honored on her 80th birthday

Laila Smith was honored by many relatives, friends and neighbours on Sunday, July 22, 1990, on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

An Open House was held at the home of her son and daughter-in-law Don and Elsie Smith, assisted by George and Marilyn Smith, all of R.R. 2, Norval.

Refreshments were served by her grandchildren Mike and Diane Taylor, Jeff and Laurie Kent, Paul and Lisa Smith and Stephen Smith. Laila is also blessed with four great grandchildren.

Relatives and friends were in attendance from New Liskeard, North Cobalt, North Bay, Tara and Smithville.

Mayor Russ Miller presented Mrs. Smith with a certificate honoring the occasion from the Town of Halton Hills. Certificates were also received from Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada through the offices of Garth Turner, Julian Reed, a friend of the family, representing Walt Elliot M.P.P., presented a certificate from the Premier of On-

### Norval News

By KAY WILSON  
Norval Correspondent

ario, David Peterson.  
The festivities ended with a family dinner at the Chateau Restaurant in Georgetown. Congratulations again are extended to this fine lady.

#### Get well wishes

Get well wishes to two Norval men - Bill Brander, is home now, from Peel Memorial Hospital following surgery for a gall bladder operation. Chester Early is recuperating at home after spending a few days in Brampton Hospital.

#### Thanks offered

Ethel Webb would like to thank the Pinegrove Community club and neighbours for the box of goodies and card following her surgery.

In addition to this squabbling, Esquesing Township complained to the Gore Council that Chinguacousy wasn't bearing their share of the school costs. Accordingly, Esquesing united Pinegrove and Whaley's Corners on Jan. 1, 1855.  
Toronto Township created a union school section with Trafalgar Township and eventually built the brick schoolhouse in 1888. It closed about 1959 and is a house today.

Besides the Orange Lodge and school, William Whaley opened a tavern about 1844 on his Esquesing corner. A blacksmith shop also operated on the property.  
Travellers could slake their thirst inside while the horses were looked after outside.

It is hard to say when the Inn closed, but we do know Whaley left control of the tavern to his second wife in a pre-nuptial agreement, dated 1860.

Watch The Kids Around Hot Tubs  
Hot tubs, spas and whirlpool baths are high-risk drowning sites for children mobile enough to escape supervision but not agile enough to get out of one on their own. Avoid these risk factors: failure to fence off the hot tub, not using a hard pool cover, and allowing kids access to a tub without adults watching.

FDA May OK New Contraceptive  
A new contraceptive choice is expected for Wyeth-Ayerst's Norplant, a removable subcutaneous implant that can protect women against pregnancy for up to five years. It has been available abroad since 1983.

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