

Dig this!

(Part 2)



Some of the hobbit-like homes in Cappadocia

Story by Don Ablett
Photos courtesy Don Ablett



Don Ablett, a high school principal and a longtime resident of Glen Williams, has long been interested in archaeology. A member of the Ontario Archaeological

Society, he has participated in a dig on a pre-historic (before 1650) Iroquois village in Vaughn.

Setting his sights on a larger project, he connected with Karen Parker, a well-known artist at the Williams Mill in Glen Williams. She is also the primary illustrator for the largest dig in the Middle East, at ancient Sam'al, capital of an Iron Age kingdom in southeastern Turkey. Located in the town of Zincirli, just north of the Syrian border, this project was led by Dr. David Schloen of the University of Chicago.

Trip to Turkey for archaeological dig featured guns, flatbread and ancient homes built seven storeys underground

Below is the second part of Ablett's first-person account of the dig in Turkey. Part one appeared in the Spring 2011 edition of *Sideroads of Halton Hills*.

Chapter 6: Unusual sounds

Even though there was an air conditioning unit in our room (four sets of bunks, eight guys), it almost never worked- the infrastructure of the town couldn't support the power drain! And when the air didn't work, we needed the windows open. When the windows were open, there were a few distractions. To whit:

i. The weddings

Weddings go on for days at a time. You may think,

well, that's OK— it's just a celebration. The problem begins with the volume. The bands are always live, and there seems to be a competition to see which one is the loudest. One wedding was right next to the compound where we stayed. Did I mention that they go on for days? And that the music never stops? Never. Stops. I don't know if the players have mechanical hands, or if they just bleed all over their instruments, but I am sure that the Guinness Book of World Records would be chomping at the bit to see these folks in action.

If the local version of Battle of the Bands wasn't enough, most of the time we thought we were witnessing the Turkish version of Gunfight at the OK Corral. What back home would bring out the SWAT team is merely a part of everyday life in rural Turkey.

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