

on the Heritage Committee with Rowe and has known him for more than 30 years.

"Mark 'lives' the history of the town," Johnson said.

"His gentle manner is a striking characteristic. He doesn't 'spout off' or sound like a know-it-all. He just talks very quietly and is a wealth of information.

"He is highly respected for his knowledge and integrity in the heritage field and for his volunteer commitment to the community," she said.

Dawn Livingstone is the current secretary of the Esquesing historical Society and has known Rowe for close to 25 years now. Livingstone said Rowe is a treasure to this town and community.

"Mark has had a very great influence on all the communities of Halton Hills, but especially Georgetown, Acton and the Glen.

"As a devoted and much loved teacher, I am sure he's had a great influence on the many children he has taught over the years.

"His research and writing has helped raise an awareness of our history, and through his work as archivist is helping preserve that history for future generations."

Adding to his impressive resume, Rowe is currently the President of the Glen Williams Town Hall. That keeps him busy on a day-to-day basis and he is glad to be heavily involved with his own immediate community.

After receiving the Ontario Lifetime Heritage Award in 2007, Rowe has rounded out an impressive career as a teacher, author and historian.

But for those looking to follow in Rowe's footsteps, he urges all residents to volunteer their time, and appreciate the history behind their community.

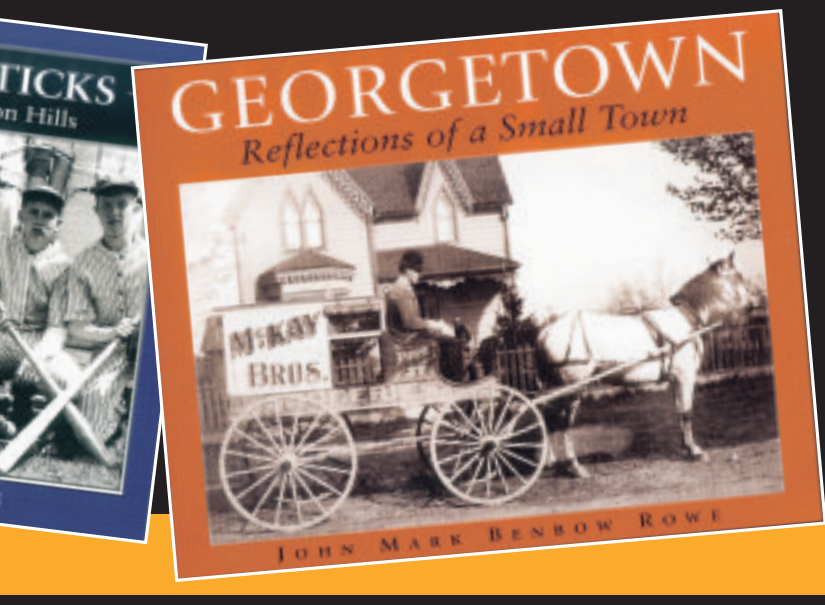
"Appreciate the town. Appreciate the history behind the town and all the families that contributed to make it what it is today. Appreciate your community and whenever possible help out.

"You need to get involved. That's what helps shape you as a person and gives you experience," he said.

Rowe has made the community his priority, and is determined to spend his life preserving and sharing the history of Halton Hills.

"Just like any history it helps to understand where we came from, and therefore who we are right now. History gives direction of where we should be going in the future."

"And really, that's the story," he said smiling.



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