



James Easterbrook invites people attending the International Plowing Match to eat in the Ebenezer Tent, sponsored by the Ladies' Aid to raise funds for the church. Church members appearing in the photo include, left to right, Oscar Locker, Tom Richardson, Jessie Locker,

Freda Easterbrook, Helen Pickett, Florence Richardson, Bill Taylor, Ella Kitching, Laura Easterbrook, Ann Richardson, Bob Anderson, James Easterbrook, Milred Wilson, Jean Wilson, Ethel Simpson, Grace Norrish, Lil Thomas and Thenia Lamb.

Today at Ebenezer Church United Church Women celebrate 100th anniversary

Today, Sunday, Sept. 13, Ebenezer United Church Women will celebrate 100 years of ladies' groups serving Ebenezer with a church service at 11:15 a.m. and an afternoon ladies' tea, 1-4 p.m., at the church, Guelph Line, north of 20th Sideroad. All ladies of the community are invited to join this reunion of past and present friends and members.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1892 with Mrs. Abram Easton as its first president. Mrs. Easton lived on lot 32, concession 4, and would have had about five miles to drive to Ebenezer. In 1918, a second organization was founded, the Women's Missionary Society, and for years the two groups met for the purpose of study and service. During World War II, another group from the Town Line area affiliated with the WMS. With Church Union in 1925, the name became "The Women's Association" and in 1962 it became "The United Church Women."

The roll call of the early Ladies' Aid is closely woven to the history of early Nassagaweya - Easterbrook (namesake of Brookville), Marshall, Wilson, Diamond, Lamb, Picket, Walker, Elsley, Norrish. And more recently, Blyth, Taylor, Thomas, Moffat, Dunbar.

Today's UCW is a blend of old and new Nassagaweya. Many of the present members are descendants of past members. Jean McLean's great-grandmothers on both sides (Darby and Easton) were members, which means Jennifer McLean's membership traces back to great-great-grandmothers. Doris Moffat's grandmother (Elsley), and Marion Diamond's two grandmothers (Marshall and Trousdale) were also members. Audrey and Judy Kitching's association goes all the way back to grandmother and great-grandmother Ella Kitching. Some members, such as Diane Taylor, are a mere generation back. And Isobel McLean is an original member for 40 years or so. Other ladies have participated for a few months or a few years - the newcomers to the group.

In the early days, an annual

social and fundraising event was the Garden Party. Tables were set in an orchard or lawn and a sumptuous meal served, followed by a program, using a platform made of plank to present entertainment secured from the towns and cities around. After the current brick church was built in 1915, the Garden Party was moved to the church grounds. The ladies would consult the calendar for a date nearest the full moon to make night driving with a horse and buggy safer. The usual admission was \$.25. In 1942, receipts were \$103.27 with a profit after expenses of \$56.77.

In the 1930s and 1940s, the scarcity of money affected most segments of society, and in this rural area, food was more plentiful than money. The Minutes of February 7, 1933 are enlightening.

"Moved by Mrs. Ranshaw and seconded by Mrs. Trousdale that Mrs. Easterbrook and Mrs. Wilson make tea towels of the worn tablecloths, also look over the tablecloths in the cupboard and see if any new ones are needed. Carried. It was moved and seconded that the convenor of a social or supper see that tea towels are washed and brought back to the church within a week. Also that a note be sent to each society informing them of this. Carried. A discussion on a supper or social followed and it was decided that we have a meat pie supper on March 18... moved that we charge \$.20 for adults, \$.10 for children."

In 1940, owing to the difficulty of meeting the financial obligations of the church during the depression, the Women's Association with the assistance of the men of the church, decided to run a Lunch Tent at the International Plowing Match, and continued to load up equipment and food to serve at each Plowing Match through 1951. Today, the tradition continues with the Annual Beef Dinner. Other major UCW events include World Day of Prayer, Good Friday Brunch, Strawberry Social, and the Nassagaweya Art Show and Sale. Meetings and devotions are held the third Wednesday of each month and all are welcome.

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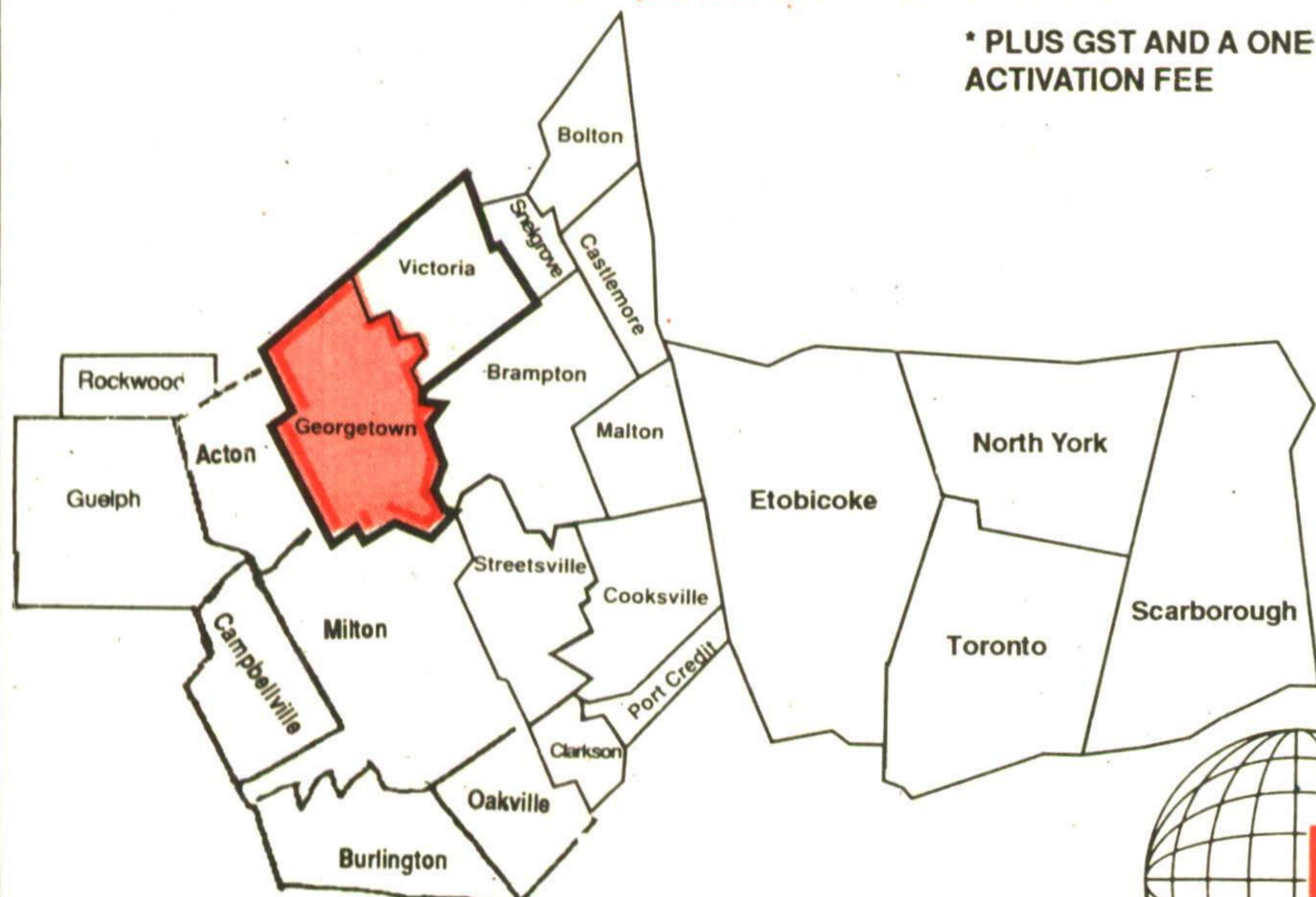
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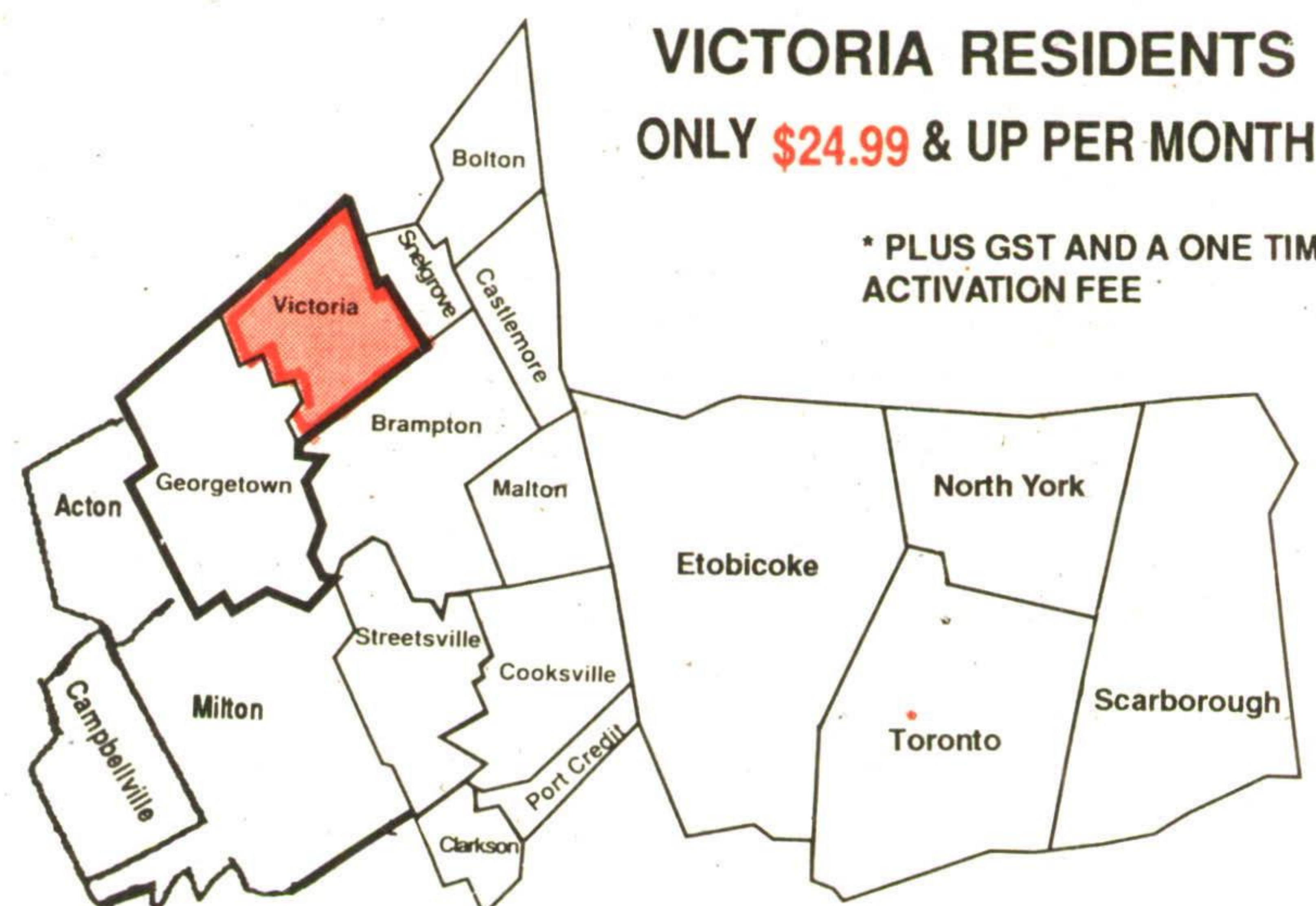
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