

64 years Young

Georgetown pharmacy boasts nearly 150 years of history

by Kathy Holding



On Wednesday, May 9, the father and son team of Stuart and Neil Young entertained the Esquesing Historical Society with delightful reminiscences of Georgetown in days gone by.

Neil Young set the stage with a slide presentation of photos and postcards of the Georgetown Main Street as it evolved from the 1930s. There were shots of churches that appeared so imposing in the sparsely built surroundings, of the hardware stores that abounded (three of them on Main Street alone), a photo of the Poisons Record, dating back to 1907 in which all pur-

chases of poison were recorded and signed by the purchaser. This document can still be examined today. There was also a photo of the first site of what is now Young's Pharmacy. The drug store, built in 1857, passed through several ownerships before 1933, at which time Wes Robb purchased and operated it under the name of Robb's Drug Store.

Stuart (Stu) Young apprenticed with Mr. Robb from 1938 until 1941. The Second World War interrupted his pharmaceutical career. Stu enlisted and served with the RCAF in England, where he met and married his wife, Dorothy, but it would appear he had been bit-

ten by the drug-bug. After the war, Stu studied Pharmacy at the University of Toronto and graduated with honours. He purchased Robb's Drug Store in 1958 and Young's Pharmacy was born, or rather reincarnated!

At the May 9 session, Stuart Young fleshed out Neil's photo presentation with humorous and sometimes whimsical anecdotes about patrons of the drug store and the characters who enlivened the seemingly stern Georgetown Main Street of the 30s and 40s. As he talked, the drug store took on a life of its own. It was a place where children sat on the floor reading adored comic books, while Eleanor Inglis, a long-time employee, stepped around them. Since the banks closed at 3 p.m., the drug store served as an after-hours bank where factory workers cashed their pay cheques. Stu remembers keeping lots of cash on hand to accommodate the many workers who lined up through the pharmacy after the factories closed. The drug store remained open until 1 a.m. on Saturday night, and midnight on Wednesday night to accommodate the working hours for the farming community.

His father's stories sparked happy childhood memories on Neil Young's part. He spoke of feeding apples to the horses where they were stabled in what is now the Carpet Barn basement level location, and of squeezing through holes in fences to "help" Bill Latimer, the grounds keeper at the Harley Kay Factory on Water Street (now the location of #60 Park Avenue Apartment Tower). The audience, well-steeped in Georgetown history,

supplied details and added their comments. One gentleman reminded the Youngs that the drug store was responsible for the sale of school textbooks up until the early 60s, which further reminded Stu that they even sold wallpaper.

Eleanor Inglis provided colourful details of living and working through the pharmacy's many renovations. Photos showed Young's Pharmacy changing store fronts and interiors several times, each a move to meet the requirements of the time - a process which continues today. Now the Young's Pharmacy location provides a ramp and special entrance for wheelchair access.

Halton Hills is home to the Young family and the pharmacy proves itself a responsible corporate citizen by sponsoring and encouraging all types of

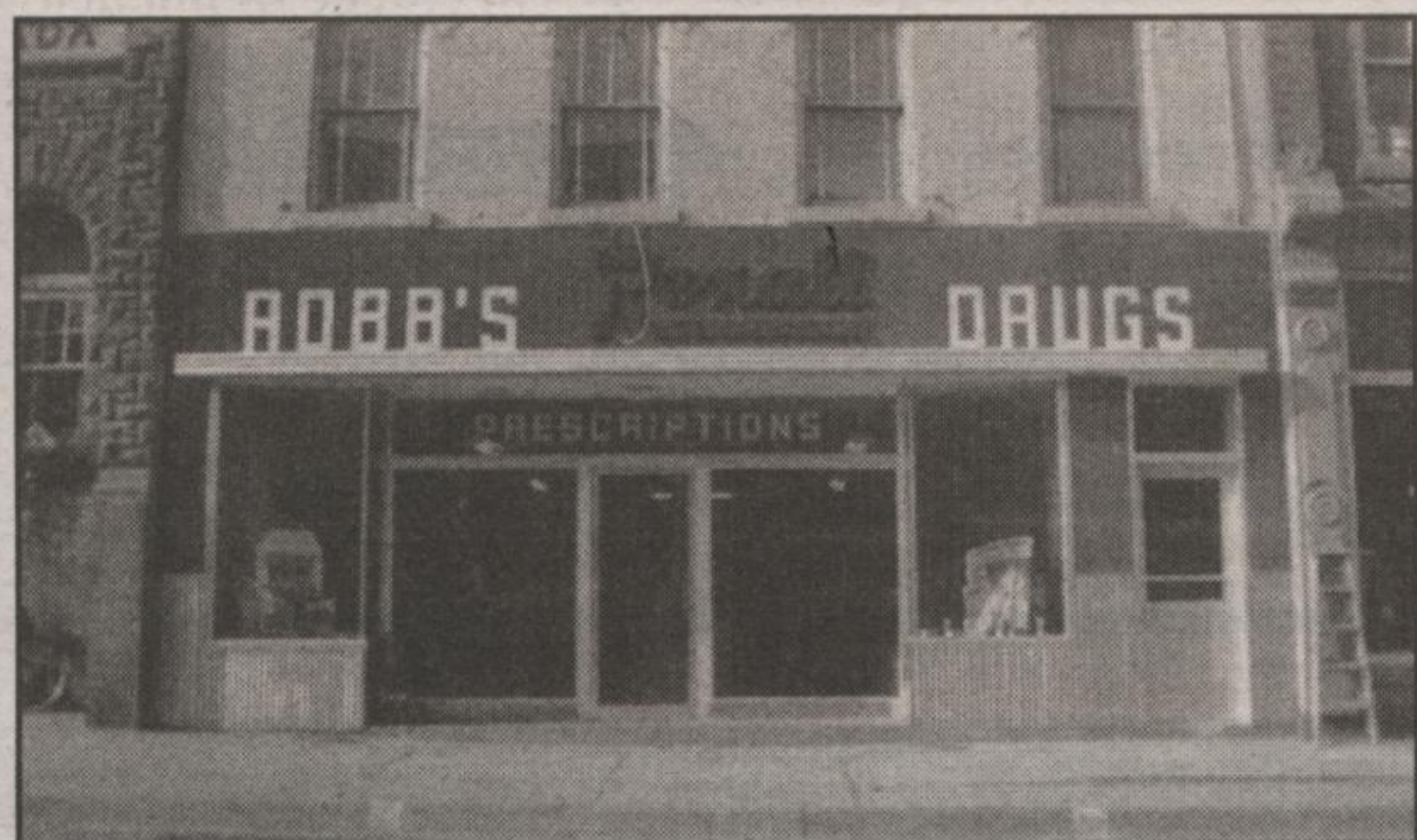
community events.

"Over the top" customer service and health promotion are the keystones for the "modern day" Young's Pharmacy & Homecare. Their latest endeavour, providing comprehensive health risk screening through their "Know Risk Health Services"



department, complements their award-winning *Improving Health Outcomes* seminar series. Old fashioned, friendly, personal service is what they are all about. That's something members of the Young family have been providing since 1937, and their predecessors since 1857!

Drop in for a visit. You may not find Stu Young - even though he knows all the interesting stories - but Neil will be more than pleased to welcome you.



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