

# Scanning the history of Trafalgar

BY BERNADETTE WARD

There is nothing quite as evocative as an old sepia toned photograph. It reaches out to us, drawing us back into the past, encouraging a connection between what is and what was.

Creating a link to and celebrating Trafalgar Township's past is just what a group of local historians, librarians, genealogists, writers and others are hoping to accomplish by setting up a historical photo archive as part of the Trafalgar 200 Committee's plans to document, educate, celebrate and preserve.

"The only historical society in Oakville is very much about the south. We wanted to capture the history of the more rural and agricultural areas in the north," said Liz Benneian, a local writer and vol-

unteer with the Trafalgar 200 Committee.

Trafalgar Township originally extended to the lake on both the east (Winston Churchill) and the west (Burloak Drive) and then stretched over the farmland to the north all the way to Steeles Ave.

"It's a different, special and unique history," said Benneian. "As the land becomes urbanized, we're losing that history."

The archive is one of the first steps in forming what the committee hopes will eventually become Trafalgar Township Historical Society. The photos will also become part of a National Archive of historical photos accessible to everyone.

The concept for the historical society sprang from the idea for a 200th year celebration - Trafalgar 200 that will take place

in 2006 and was the work of Michelle Knoll, a north Oakville resident who was researching Veterans history for the Trafalgar Memorial.

With urban development about to take place on the formerly agricultural land north of Dundas, the committee is working to ensuring the past is not forgotten.

"It's just so important. Some homesteads have been sold and the photos along with them," said Benneian.

In order to create the archive, the committee has been holding a series of scanning days at the Oakville Public Library. The scanning days offer an opportunity for the community to bring their historical photographs to the library and then bring them right home again. If preferred, residents can leave them at the library and come back and pick them up

later. There are also writers on hand to record oral histories for the preservation of future generations.

"We're looking for photos of social events, history, family photos - anything that captures life from the past," said Benneian.

The first scanning day took place in September and the next sessions will be Wednesday, November 16 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. and Tuesday, November 29 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. and Thursday, December 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 120 Navy St. in Oakville.

For those who would prefer not to drive, rides can be arranged.

For more information about Trafalgar 200, please contact Liz Benneian at 905-257-0250; e-mail: lizcdn@yahoo.com or Michelle Knoll at 905-257-9080; e-mail: michelle@trafalgar200.ca.

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Coyne School, August 9, 1925

SUBMITTED PHOTO

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**NOTICE OF MEETING**  
**HALTON HILLS AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY MEETING**

DATE/TIME: NOVEMBER 17TH, 2005 AT 7:00 PM

PLACE: PINEVIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL, 1074 No. 5 Side Road, Georgetown  
(South East corner of Trafalgar Road and 5 Side Road)

The Town of Halton Hills Economic Development Committee invites the **agricultural community** to a meeting on November 17th, 2005 at 7:00 PM at the Pineview Public School. The purpose of the meeting is to exchange information and for members of Council and staff to learn what you are thinking.

Guest Speaker, David Lyons, Chair of the GTA Agricultural Action Plan Committee, will give a brief overview of the action plan.

Planning Department staff will provide a short overview of the Halton Hills Official Plan and how the Official Plan impacts agriculture and rural areas.

The meeting will then be open for questions and discussion.

Present at the meeting will be: Mayor Rick Bonnette, Economic Development Committee Members Councillors Mike O'Leary and Jane Fogal, Regional Councillor Clark Somerville, and Ward 2 Councillors Bryan Lewis and Joan Robson. Other Councillors may also be available at the meeting.

Senior Town of Halton Hills Staff from Planning, Economic Development, Engineering and Finance as well as Region of Halton staff will be in attendance.

Please attend. We hope to see you there!

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