

Fascinating facades of Halton Hills heritage buildings

While the face of Halton Hills is constantly changing, there is no denying that our town is rich in history.

From Stewarttown to Acton to Glen Williams to Georgetown, each village, town, or hamlet has a fascinating and rich history.

Did you know that Stewarttown was the first community to be established because it was on a major road. Norval was another early settlement and Acton and Georgetown were settled in 1823. In 1825 the community later known as Glen Williams was settled.

Perhaps the most famous resident of the quaint village of Norval was Lucy Maud Montgomery, author of the Anne of Green Gables series of books. Montgomery lived in Norval with her husband from 1926-35. The historic high points of the village include Norval Presbyterian Church located at 499 Guelph St., which features gothic-style architecture and is surrounded by a heritage fence, circa 1878.

Montgomery and her husband, Reverend Ewan Macdonald, lived in the church's manse. The Lucy Maud Montgomery Garden, featuring heritage plants, is located on Mary St.

Norval Anglican Church, on Adamson St. (Winston Churchill Blvd. S.) was built in 1845 and Montgomery participated in many concerts in the parish hall. Lilac Lawns, at 475 Guelph St. is the Empire-style home built in 1854 by Arthur Little. The lilac trees on the property were planted about 1867.

Glen Williams is also home to several historical buildings. The town was originally known as Williamsburgh but when the post office was established in 1852 the name was changed to Glen Williams because there was already a Williamsburgh in Canada.

In 1854 Timothy Eaton worked as the clerk/bookkeeper at the firm Sutcliffe and Webster which is now the village store, at 523 Main St. in Glen Williams. Eaton lived with his sister on a nearby farm before he moved to Toronto and opened the first department store in 1883. The property where St. Joseph's Church on Main St. sits was sold by Glen Williams' founder Benajah Williams to the Episcopal



Lilac Lawns— an Empire-style home built in 1854 by Arthur Little still stands today in the village of Norval.

Methodist congregation which built a wood frame church. The building was bricked in 1903 and later a two-storey addition was added.

One of the first buildings in the Glen to be designated a historic site was the original Williams saw mill, at 515 Main St. The mill is now home to creative arts studios. Beaumont Mill, at 566 Main St. was built in 1878 by Sam Beaumont to replace the

original Beaumont Knitting Mill that was destroyed by fire.

Acton, originally called Danville, was settled in 1825 by the Adams brothers and many of the town's streets are named after their family members. Among the many old buildings in town is the olde Hide House at 49 Eastern Ave. which was built by the Beardmore Tannery in 1899. The Shoemaker Funeral Home at 55 Mill St. E. was built in 1879 by W. H. Storey of Storey Glove Factory and was named Sunderland Villa. After the First World War, the building became a home for veterans, was later run as a hotel and was vacant during the Depression until it was turned into a funeral home. The Acton Town Hall at 19 Willow St. N., now the home of Halton Hills Community Support and Information centre, was built in 1882 as a town hall and police station. A lock-up cell remains on the first floor of the building. In 1897 Henry Moore, owner of the *Acton Free Press*, built Moorecroft at 98 Church St. E.

Historic buildings in Georgetown include the Baptist Church at 14 Main St. S. which was built in 1869 by the Baptist congregation. It was last used as a church in 1984.

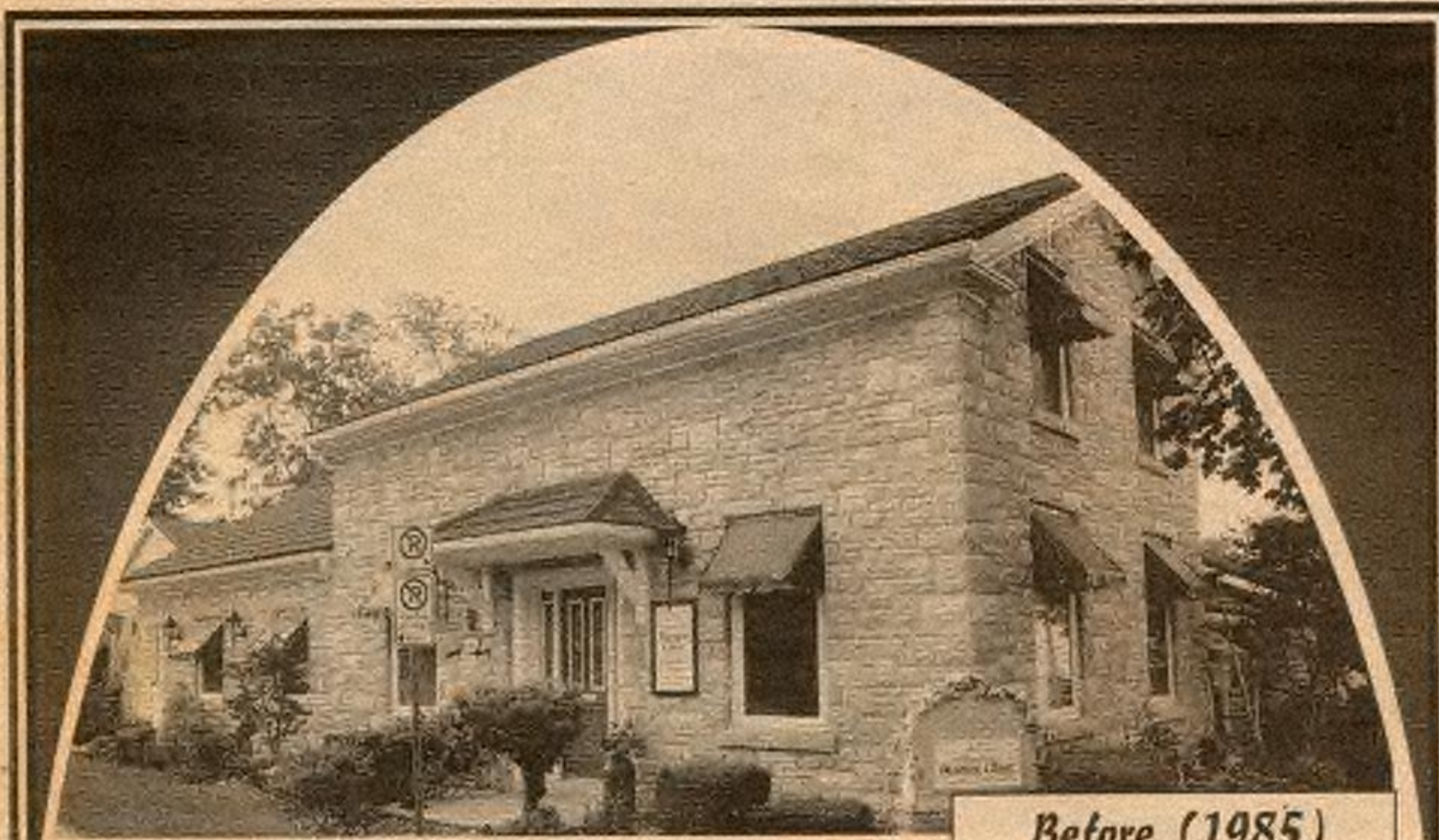
Goodlets at 86 Main St. S. was built in 1879 as a hardware store. In its long history it has only be owned and operated by two families. Berwick Hall at 139 Main St. S. was designed by Toronto architect Edward J. Lennox as the home of John Roaf Barber, owner of the Georgetown Paper Mills and Barber and Ellis, and now houses several apartments.

The home of John Stewart, one of Georgetown's earliest settlers and a town warden in 1821 was designated a heritage property in 1987. The house, named Craiglea, is located on Ninth Line just north of 5 Sideroad. The gracious clapboard house has Doric columns framing the doorway and bubble-glazed original multi-pane windows. Two owners later, around the turn of the century, the farm was named Craiglea by Isabella Stark, who converted the home to a guest house. The name Craiglea was given to the house by Stark in memory of her mother's family, the Craigs.

As you can see Halton Hills has a rich and colorful history and nowhere is this more evident than in the many historic buildings that have withstood the ravages of time and weather. On the following page we feature a number of those historic buildings.



Goodlets, a downtown Georgetown landmark for many years was built in 1879. It is now the Shepherd's Crook Pub.



The house with originally built in 1862 by Dr. James Freeman, who lived with his family and practiced medicine from this location for many years. As time went by, the house changed owners only 5 times, with the longest occupants being the "Sykes" family. The house was purchased in 1985 by Alex and Kelly Trenton, and like the original owner, they live there and also run their DENTURE CLINIC practice. So this charming old building with lots of character, whose roots began in healing, over 142 years ago, will continue as a health care facility well into the new millennium.



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ACTON FREE PRESS **The Independent & Free Press**
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is published twice weekly for 52 weeks per year from 280 Guelph St., Unit 29, Georgetown, Ontario • L7G 4B1
 905-873-0301 www.independentfreepress.com

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