

Society News & Updates

Passing of William Cook

This past month we said goodbye to one of our long time members, William Cook. Veteran WWII R.C.O.C., Volunteer with the Trafalgar and Oakville Fire Department and past Mechanic for McDermit's Garage and Oakville Dodge Chrysler and husband of Chris. He will be missed.

June Joint Meeting with Esquesing Historical Society

The joint meeting was notable for the very friendly welcome we received by the minister and our friends of the Esquesing Historical Society, for the tour of the old sanctuary by the Reverend Michael Clarke and the lively presentation by John Mark Rowe about the village of Hornby.

Many photographs accompanied Mr. Rowe's presentation and we also received a pamphlet specially prepared for this meeting with the presentation highlights of Hornby's history.

Hornby was unofficially centered around the intersection of Trafalgar Road and Steeles but in reality, it is so widespread, people refer to "Hornby East" and "Hornby West". It spread into both Esquesing and Trafalgar Townships. The village was named for Hornby Castle in England because of a family connection. We heard stories about the churches, hotels, general stores and several businesses. Brain Brothers Brewery was a well-known employer and Mr. Rowe mentioned that since the founding Mr. Brain thought that anything less than 30% proof beer was not worth drinking, it is no wonder that the temperance movement in the area was so big! Of course, the family of our own TTHS member, Irene Saunders, had a part in the presentation.

Mention was made of the unique "union" school shared by both townships, S.S. #AE. Also of the Orange Lodge, #165 and of the Bell repeater station that was guarded and camouflaged during the war, as well of the first 50,000kw CBC tower built in Canada because Hornby's soil was excellent for conductivity - it was one of the local sights when out for a drive. Today, the Toronto Premium Outlet Mall, opened in 2013, is in Hornby East.

We had to laugh when we heard that an 1850 article by William Glass Stewart in the Hamilton Spectator called the people of Hornby "Hornbergers".

Thank you, Esquesing Historical Society.

Palermo United Church 150th

TTHS provided the Oakville Public Library with photos of the Palermo United Church. Taylor Moore, the digital heritage assistant at the OPL, is creating a video highlighting the Palermo United Church to celebrate their recent 150th anniversary.