



EBENEZER, TORONTO GORE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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NEWSLETTER August, 2011

FOUNDATION NEWS

The annual meeting, held on Saturday, March 12, 2011 in the Alma Room, was well attended by current members and some new people who signed up as members. Following a review of events in 2010, two open director positions were filled. David Fieldhouse was nominated and elected and will assume responsibility for the management of the cemetery replacing his late Uncle Bruce Fieldhouse. Frances Johnston was also elected and we are happy to have her back on the board after a one year absence.

The 2011 Officers and Directors were decided at a subsequent meeting on March 26, 2011
Judy (Gardhouse) Hyde - President/Treasurer
Fred Julian - Vice President/Cemetery Trustee
Dianne Ray - Membership Secretary
David Fieldhouse - Cemetery Chairman
Anna (Burton) Sheardown - Historical Librarian
Norm Boasie - Director
Ken Henry - Director
Peter Hyde - Director
Richard Julian - Director
Cecil Ray - Director/Cemetery Trustee
Isabel (Wiley) Risebrough - Director
Frances Johnston - Director
Ann (Fieldhouse) Price - Associate Director/Secretary

In the months of 2011, we are planning to complete the installation of the fence along the north side of the site, as soon as the Bell Telephone connector box, currently located on the property line, can be removed. We are also investigating the requirements for a replacement sign to identify the site and to advertise events and to redecorate the Alma Room including replacing or refurbishing the chairs. This is in addition to the regular day-to-day management and maintenance of the Chapel and Cemetery grounds.

RENTAL ACTIVITIES

The City of Brampton Seniors Group, that had been renting the Alma Room, afternoons Monday to Friday since April 1, 2010, has now moved back to the renovated Community Centre (formerly Ebenezer School). They were with us until the end of April, one month longer than planned due to delays in finishing the renovations.

We continue to host regular renters on Sunday mornings and afternoons for church services and Wednesday and Friday evenings for fellowship meetings.

Another of our regular renters booked the chapel during school's March break and again for two weeks in July for children's classes.

Occasional renters this year to date have been for a group's annual meeting in March, the Coleraine School Reunion in April and two weddings, one in June and the other upcoming in September.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE FOR A SPECIAL EVENT?

If you are planning a special celebration such as a wedding, birthday, anniversary or a reunion, contact us at 905-867-3101 or email old.ebenezer.chapel@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHANGES

Renovation of Community Centre

The City of Brampton has completed the renovations to the Community Hall (formerly Ebenezer School S.S. #10). Although the building resembles the old one, the surrounding grounds have a very different look. They now consider this their "newest" old building. It has a basement with an elevator to access it, new windows, new cedar roof and geothermal heating. A new gazebo was built behind the existing building, a fence, similar to the one at the Chapel, was installed along the east side of the property, a parking lot added and the surrounding grounds landscaped.

Recognizing Ebenezer Corners

In April, 2010, a letter from the Foundation was sent to the City of Brampton to consider some form of recognition of the Ebenezer Community. This request was referred to the Brampton Heritage Board but as of June, 2011 no recommendation or decision had been made. We will continue to follow up on this initiative.

A TRIP BACK IN TIME

The Township Hall at Ebenezer From Ann (Fieldhouse) Price

The Hall was built about 1860, owned by the Grangers and known as Grange Hall. It was situated on the west side of the Gore Road just south of the Ebenezer Side Road. The timbers were cut from the neighbouring bush and the work done voluntarily by the men of the neighbourhood with Mr. Dan Hewgill as head carpenter.

The Grangers were members of a secret society which carried out its installation of officers with a great deal of pomp and ceremony. One concrete advantage gained by its members was that farm supplies could be obtained more economically through co-operative buying. This proved quite profitable for a time but political differences crept in and finally the society disbanded.

In 1894 the Township Council purchased the hall from the Grangers to use as a council chamber. From that time on, the Township officials allowed the public to use the hall for meetings and social functions free of charge.

In 1941 the township hall was re-decorated inside and out and with the church and school in good repair, the small village of Ebenezer presented a respectable and well kept appearance. All three buildings were heated with wood burning stoves inside the front doors. The Hall had a small room to the right of the front door to store wood and hang coats.

The St. John's Anglican Church at Castlemore and Ebenezer United Church Christmas concerts were both held in the hall as there was a stage at the west end of the room. On these occasions, a wire would be strung from one side of the hall to the other, a curtain put up, and the concert was ready to go. Many Junior Farmer theatre group competitions were staged there. The joint Ebenezer and Castlemore Anglican Young People's Union meetings were held in the Town hall every Friday night through the 1940's and 1950's. The Young People's Union disbanded in the early 1960's due to the changing demographics.

In the 1960's, the hall was torn down with not a trace of it around now.

Ed's. Note: Today a For Sale sign sits in a spot just behind where the hall was situated.

BOOK COMMITTEE

Toronto Gore-200 years in the making From Dan O'Reilly

In 1818 the McVean family became the first European settlers in what became Toronto Gore Township, now part of the City of Brampton. The 200th anniversary of that watershed historic event is not that far away and to commemorate it a special history book committee has been established. The committee's goal is to compile and write a book that covers the township's history in a broad overview context from the time of the McVean family's arrival to the present. This is an extremely important endeavour considering the changes that have occurred in the Gore in the past 30 to 35 years. The committee is looking for ideas, suggestions, and personal/family recollections that shaped the Gore's history.

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The committee members for this project are:

Author - Dan O'Reilly

Editor - Win Mellor-Hay

Scanner - Ken Henry

Researched (in addition to the above) -

Lynn Codd, Ross Clarkson, Lynne Genova, Helen Goodfellow, Judy Hyde, Frances & James Johnston, Fred Julian, Richard MacFarlane, Guylaine Petrin, Ann Price, Randall Reid, Isabel Risebrough, Anna Sheardown.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Area Fall Fairs

Brampton Fall Fair- September 15,16,17,18, 2011

~~Bottom Fall Fair~~ – September 23, 24, 25, 2011

Woodbridge Fall Fair – October 8,9,10, 2011

St. Philips Church Cemetery Tour

A Heritage Toronto Walk – September 18, 2011
1:30 pm

A "Church of England" burial ground, dating back to ~~1828~~, for the early settlers of the area's farming community. Meet at the roofed gate to the cemetery at St. Philip's Anglican Church, 31 St. Philips Rd. and Dixon Rd. More information at:

<http://www.heritagetoronto.org/discover-toronto/map/walk/st-philips-church-cemetery>
