



EBENEZER, TORONTO GORE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

8999 The Gore Rd., Brampton ON L6P 2P7
☎ 905 867-3101

www.oldebenezerchapel.com
old.ebenezer.chapel@gmail.com

Newsletter February 2016

Notice of Annual Meeting

The annual meeting
of the
Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation
to be held at
Ebenezer Chapel
8999 The Gore Road
Brampton, Ontario

Saturday, March 5, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Guest Speakers: Sandra Cation, Frances and James Johnston
Relating stories about the Johnston farm from 1842

Everyone welcome

A light lunch will be served after the meeting

Upcoming Events – Please Join us!

Again this year the *Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation* has been invited to display our many artifacts from our Archives at the “Highlights on Heritage Day” at Bramalea City Centre. You will find us in the Old Navy Court in the City Centre. This year the event will be held on Saturday February 13th and will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is an annual event and is held to celebrate Canada’s Heritage Day. Please come and check the display from our archives. We hope you will be amazed.

The Book Committee – “Two Hundred Years in the Gore”

There is still time to send photographs of any historical event that you may have stashed away. Now is the time to bring them out for all to see in the book about to be published.

We Have Space to Rent!

The Ebenezer Chapel is available to rent. So far we have rented to weddings, bridal showers, baby showers, anniversaries, business meetings, family reunions, school reunions, church services, Youth gatherings and Childrens Vacation School. To find out more, contact us at 905-867-3101 or emails us at oldebenezerchapel@gmail.com.

From the Archives **Ebenezer School-1914 - 1921**

Written by Rita Robinson Peters
copied from her book of poems
Along The Road of Life
published September 1983

I've wondered back in memory
Some sixty years ago –
When I walked to public school
In sunshine, rain and snow.

I would walk through the fields
To shorten the long, long way,
But the grass was long and wet
As I hurried along each day.

In winter the snow was deep,
And up to my knees some days.
Oh, so cold, were my hands and feet
As I trudged along the way.

I remembered my first day of school –
How I walked to The Gore Road,
Where I met other pupils going too.
And together we walked down the road.

When Ebenezer School opened at nine,
The bell rang loud and clear,
There were six of us beginners on time,
Full of excitement and nothing to fear.

Percy, Arthur, Jack, Grace, Evelyn and I
Were beginners our first day of school.
We were all dressed up and likely shy
Meeting our teacher and other pupils too.

We loved our teacher Miss Baxendale,
As she taught us to read and write,
She read to us lovely Fairy Tales
We were happy in school all right.

The years then quickly passed
As she taught us our lessons each day,
Then a new teacher Miss Fieldhouse
Came and taught us our higher grades.

She too, read us stories some days.
Evangeline, and Anne of Green Gables.
I can still hear her reading today,
And yes we learned our arithmetic tables.

She prepared us to write our “entrance”
As we struggled along in grade eight,
She thoroughly drilled us in spelling –
And taught us after “four” till late.

Soon the big days arrived
When we wrote our “entrance exams”.
Then we patiently waited a letter by mail
To say we had passed those exams.

Our Ebenezer school days were over –
And the debt that we owe those teachers
Who patiently taught us each day –
Can never be fully appreciated.

Ebenezer Public School



ronto Gore Township.

Melville Robinson in front of the Toronto Gore Municipal Offices, formerly Ebenezer Public School

Even after many years away, former students of the Ebenezer Public School still have fond memories of their years attending there. The school had one room with two entrance doors, one for the girls and one for the boys. Donna Fieldhouse remembers lining up in two lines outside the school waiting to go inside after the bell had rung to signify that lunchtime or recess was over. John George Hodgins, Deputy Minister of Education at the time the school was built believed it was necessary to have two separate doors in order to prevent the possibility of improper communications between boys and girls passing in and out of the school!

Ebenezer Public School was built in 1891 and was located on the N/W corner of Ebenezer Road and The Gore Road in To-

The school closed in June of 1962 when country schools amalgamated to save money on operating costs. Ebenezer, Tullamore and Castlemore students were then bussed to the new school in Castlemore.

Dick Julian remembers that when he went to school in the mid 1930's, the stove pipe ran the length of the class room. Near the back of the room there was a wood-burning stove about 4 feet long with a door at the front. This was the only source of heat for the entire room.

The rear wall had no windows or doors for two reasons; one, as a protection against the cold north winds and two, to provide an unobstructed large blank space to have a blackboard and a pull-down a map case. The inside of the School featured a tongue-and-groove ceiling with bracketed crossed beams and wainscoting where the teacher used to thumbtack the classes' special drawings and verses

One characteristic about bricks kilned in the late 1800s was that they were soft and could easily be inscribed with the simplest of instruments like a hair pin or preferably something sharper, like a pocket knife. No one knows when it started but the students began inscribing their names, school year and date of attendance on the bricks along the rear outside wall. Unfortunately because of the nature of 'soft' bricks they did not weather well and many of the older inscriptions are now illegible.

Both Olive Maltby Carrick and Dick Julian remember that instead of playing baseball games, the students would play 'anti-banty over the shanty'. They also remember when the chemical toilets in the cloakrooms were installed which were a nice change from using the outdoor shanty located under the trees at the north of the school yard.

There was a small library and a table where the drinking water was kept. The boys were responsible for bringing in a bucket of water every day and enough wood to keep the stove going in the cold weather. Everyone had chores, someone would clean the brushes, someone else would wash the black board and someone else would be responsible for sweeping the floors at the end of the day.

Donna Fieldhouse also remembers the teacher's desk being on a platform and how frightening it was to be called to the front of the room to recite memory work and looking down at all of the students staring back. The piano was also on the platform and it all became a stage with curtains and props for Christmas pageants. Ann (Fieldhouse) Price attended the Lower Nine School on Highway #27 but remembers attending the Christmas Concerts at Ebenezer School when Miss Eddie Wilson was the teacher in the 1940s. Parents, friends and relatives came from miles around to attend the Ebenezer School Concerts.

Donna said that even though it was a small one room school with children in all eight grades, and of different religions, everyone related well to each other in the classroom and on the playground. "There was a real feeling of community at Ebenezer Public School and every student knew the other student's mother, father, sisters and brothers, and also everyone knew the families in the community who did not have children coming to the school" Donna said.

Dick Julian remembers that the schoolyard had a wood board fence and there were two cow gates, and that on Arbor Day the students cleaned the yard in the morning and went fishing in the afternoon. Dick remembers that there was a school fair and one year he showed a sheep!

After the school closed, it was used for many years as the Toronto Gore Municipal Offices. Since then the building has been physically picked up and moved to near the back of the original property line to make way for road widening. The building has been extensively renovated inside with a new basement added, wide stairs and an elevator. The building is now called Ebenezer Community Centre.

References:

*-Robert Hulley, Historian and Photo-journalis, Acorn Magazine
Personal stories of former students*

Sunset Corners

At Highways #50 and #7



We have received a request to include an article in our newsletter about Sunset Service Station. It was, many years ago, located at the corner of No. 7 highway and the Bolton Road. The station was built in the 1930's by Sunny (Eric) and Winnie Adcock as a Texaco Service Station. Those were the "good old days" when the owner pumped your gas and you didn't even have to turn off the car ignition!



The lunch menu at Sunset Service Station included desserts of home made pies, cakes and puddings. Afternoon and evening treats were banana splits, milk shakes, sodas and ice cream cones along with pop, tea and coffee. In the early days, Friday and Saturdays nights were special when customers would drop by to put a dime in the juke box and jitterbug to the popular tunes of the day on the very small dance floor.

When the Adcocks were no longer able to operate the lunch counter, they sold the station to William Bowden, Charles Jones and Len Marriner, three army veterans of WWII. At the same time, "Wilds Butcher Shoppe" was sold in Woodbridge and the three "Wild" sisters

Gab Kovacs was came to Sunset and operated the lunch counter.

the car mechanic at Sunset.

Later the Station was bought by Lewis and Chris Gleisure and son Jack and wife Chris Gleisure who operated the Station until it was expropriated by the Highways Department in the early 1960's. Ann Fieldhouse Price who was a dish washer at the popular lunch counter during breakfast and lunch in 1953 remembers that some employees of Avro and Orenda Engines would stop in for breakfast or a morning coffee on their way to work. Gerald Livingston remembers that because the water in the Service Station well was not good, the Gleisures came to the Livingston farm for four cans of water every day to make the coffee for their customers.

After the expropriation of the Sunset Service Station, Fred Nicely pumped gas there until it was torn down. We tried many avenues trying to find the year the four gas stations on the four corners disappeared. Even a request for the date on Face Book was fruitless. We have received one clue, Gladys Fieldhouse said that the four stations were there in 1970 when she and Bruce were married.

Thanks to Lois and Gerald Livingston for the pictures from Sunset Service Station.

For information,

three other gas stations operated at Sunset Corners and they were,

Esso on the south east corner built by Harold Lunny and later sold to Tom and Monica Martin.

BA on the north east corner built by Bill McDowell.

FINA on the north west corner was operated by Bev White.
