



EBENEZER, TORONTO GORE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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FALL NEWSLETTER 2016

Annual Meeting 2016



At the Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation Annual Meeting, President Fred Julian gave a detailed report of the important activities that took place at the Chapel in 2015.

Report of 2015 Activities: by Fred Julian

The Foundation had an interesting display at the "Highlights on Heritage" day at the Bramalea City Centre on February 13th 2015. This was a good venue to make more people aware of the Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation. President Fred thanked the Ebenezer members who turned out to help him with the booth.

At the March 7, 2015 Annual Meeting it was reaffirmed our focus should be on maintaining and managing our Chapel and events.

At the Directors meeting on Saturday April 11th 2015 Jean Julian chaired the election of officers from the current directors. Fred Julian was elected President and Lynn Codd was elected Vice-President. Sandra Cation and Diane McLeod were elected as Directors,

filling the vacancies left by the deaths of Norm Boasie and Judy Hyde.

The Budget was prepared with no major expenses being anticipated.

At the Directors meeting on Saturday October 24th, there was a discussion about the possibility of paying part of the loan held by the late Don Fieldhouse's family.

Most of our weekend tenants have remained the same and there are occasional rentals through the week.

There has been no damage to the heritage fence in the 2015/2016 winter so far, unlike the 2014/2015 winter when there were two traffic accidents which involved the fence and extensive repairs and costs.



The attendees at the Annual Meeting were treated to an interesting presentation on the history of farming in the Gore by Sandra Cation, Frances and James Johnston.

Above Right: Frances Johnston points out an interesting location on the photo of the GTA taken by astronaut Chris Hadfield.

Above Left: Interesting pictures and artifacts were displayed around the room

From the Archives

As 2017 is the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, we thought it would be appropriate for our upcoming newsletters to focus on veterans from Toronto Gore who fought in both World Wars.



The letter below was written by Frank Burton who, although he did not actually live in the Gore, his mother, Margaret Ann Lawrence grew up in Toronto Gore so we felt that was close enough to count. This letter was written during World War I, in the fall of 1918 just before Nov. 11, when the German forces were crumbling and the Allies were advancing

“I am going to tell you I’ve had an experience this last trip that surpasses anything I’ve had since joining the army. You know there is a belt of ground about 10 miles wide running from the coast to Switzerland that consists of nothing but shell holes, trenches, wire, wrecked towns, and about everything that spells waste. Well, you can add from five to fifteen miles to that that lies between the civilians on each side of the line. When we used to be doing the trips in the line, there would be a week we wouldn’t see a civilian. Now, of course, Fritz is going back to Germany and we had to pass all that war-torn ground. As we were going over some good territory we could see a boy running toward us and then heard children shouting. Soon we noticed the outskirts of a town. We went through that town and four others and words will never describe the royal welcome we received.

People who had been under German rule for four years, and until a few hours before, showed joy

that had no bounds. “Vive La France,” “Vive la Oughtaire,” and as soon as they saw we were Canadians, it was “Vive la Canada.”

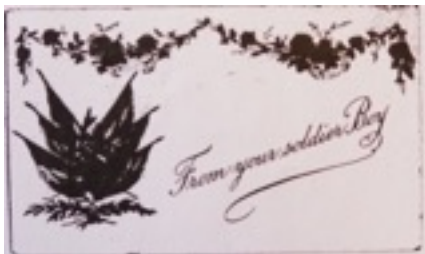
Coffee! Every house had it ready to give to us, along with bread, pancakes, bouquets, and cigars and there wasn't a one would take a cent for anything. Honestly, I had never before felt so sorry for the French people and had never realized so fully why we were fighting. The older people seemed to realize what was really happening better than the younger ones. Four or five men, along with me, were the first in one town, and while drinking coffee, one old lady clapped me on the back and cried like a child. I was the first to go through that town. Bouquets were given from every side - from little girls, big girls, and real old ladies. My left arm was lip full and I feel sure I refused three times as many. Of course I took them in true French style - kissed them all. I tell you, they weren't long getting out their flags.

Once we were billeted in a private house. One old lady seemed to be the only occupant. She was a dear old soul. The Germans had left her merely enough to live on - no meat for months and months. Just as soon as we got there she cooked potatoes and gave us coffee. She seemed to want to give us anything and everything she had. We could go anywhere in the house and make ourselves at home. They go nearly crazy over our white bread.

They thought it strange if we asked for anything. Fritz takes anything he wants. This old lady remarked about how we shaved. Guess Fritz isn't very particular that way.

We found some of them had ample potatoes, bread sugar and a few other foods. In one home, I noticed a can of milk from the U.S. A good deal of their food came from the U.S. to the Belgium and France Relief Fund.

One of our chaps is reading an article titled “Rules of Etiquette,” on eating dressing etc. I don't see how I can live up to half of them, if I ever get home. Feel sure we break all the rules over here. Etiquette hasn't much place when somebody shouts, “Dixie's up.”



Frank Burton

Property Updates

Due to the road salt and other debris, our resident volunteer maintenance man, Cecil Ray, refurbished the front doors of the Chapel again this year. As we wrote in September 2015 newsletter, keeping these wooden doors cleaned, oiled and in good shape, is an ongoing challenge.

We would like to thank Ebenezer Chapel's volunteer gardener, Anna Sheardown, for keeping the flower beds looking neat and tidy all summer. Also thanks to Anna who, this Fall, planted 50 tulip bulbs in honour of the 150th Birthday of Canada, to be celebrated next year across our nation. This sesquicentennial bulb was designed and engineered by Dutch growers and has been distributed throughout Canada by Home Hardware. Next Spring, we look forward to seeing in the Chapel's flower beds, the elegant white bloom with red flames, chosen to resemble the Canadian flag.

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 Vacation School for children. To find out more, contact us at 905-867-3101 or email us at oldebenezer-chapel@gmail.com

The Ebenezer Toronto Gore Historical Foundation newsletter: If you are receiving this newsletter by Canada Post and wish to receive future newsletters, please consider sending us your email address, oldebenezerchapel@gmail.com. The cost to mail out a newsletter is approximately \$2 whereas the cost is zero when emailed.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please email Ann Price or Lynn Codd

Newsletter prepared by:

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