



## EBENEZER, TORONTO GORE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

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### *Farewell to the Rays*

On September 25, 2023 a farewell gathering was held at Ebenezer to honour long time volunteers and directors, Cecil and Dianne Ray who had moved from their home in Woodbridge to a Retirement Home in Pembroke to be closer to their family.

Cecil and Dianne were key volunteers in the renovation of the Chapel that began in 2000. They will be sorely missed by everyone and we wish them all the best in their new home. ( See picture on left.)

### *Ontario Volunteer Service Awards*

On September 26, 2023 Fred Julian and Lynn Codd attended the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards at the Embassy Grand Convention Centre on the Gore Road. Fred accepted his Certificate and lapel pin acknowledging his 15 years of volunteering at E,TGHF. Anna Sheardown, Cecil and Dianne Ray received certificates and pins for 20 years of service but unfortunately were unable to attend the ceremony. Fred is pictured bottom left with Cecil and Dianne's certificates. Picture below is of the Directors at Higlights on Heritage 2023.



## Highlights of the 2024 AGM

The Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation 2024 Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, March 9th in Ebenezer Chapel. President Fred Julian opened the meeting with the land acknowledgement statement. He followed this with names of the members and friends of E,TGHF who had passed away during 2023.

On Feb. 11, 2023, members of E,TGHF created posters to display at "Highlights on Heritage" at Bramalea City Centre. Many shoppers dropped by to view the interesting information and artifacts on display on our table.

President Fred has been in contact with the City of Brampton to ask them to repair the fence since the damage was caused by their snow removal tractor while cleaning the sidewalk. Special mention was made that the fence is a component of the historical designation of the Ebenezer building and grounds.

Improvements around the chapel are needed, particularly the kitchen cupboards which need to be more securely affixed to the kitchen walls. As well the heating and air conditioning systems are aging out and will need to be replaced.

A letter was read from Rev. Bill Sparling, a long time member of the foundation, who is having health issues and regretted that he could not attend the AGM this year.

Frances Johnston, Treasurer, reported on the finances over the year. The renters are now faithfully paying their rent and everything is going well. Rental Income for 2023 was \$22,640, donations were \$1,584.72 and memberships amounted to \$500. Expenses (such as insurance, building and property maintenance, gardening, office supplies, telephone heat and hydro) were \$23,923.41.

Frances thanked Jules Maule-Finch for her excellent work looking after the flower beds around the chapel.

President Fred thanked Frances Johnston for her work as treasurer and handling the facility rentals, Sandra Cation for her work as secretary and Lynn Codd for nominating members of the E,TGHF for the Ontario Volunteer Awards.

Frances presented Fred with pens bearing the name E,TGHF for all his work at the chapel.

The meeting was then moved downstairs to the Alma Room. In the absence of the scheduled speaker, Nathan Hillier made a very interesting and informative presentation about the history of the postal service in Toronto Gore. Thanks for stepping in Nathan! ( Photo below)

Fellowship and a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all following the meeting.

## Election of Officers

The election of officers for 2024 was conducted by Peter Peachey. The results are as follows:

Fred Julian, President,  
Lynn Codd, Vice-President & Newsletter,  
Frances Johnston, Treasurer & Rental Co-ordinator,  
Sandra Cation, Secretary,  
David Fieldhouse, Cemetery Co-ordinator  
Ann Price, Director,  
Diane McLeod, Director,  
Claire Johnston, Director  
Lynne Genova, Director  
Tracey Smale, Director



### Then and Now- Toronto Gore Version

Toronto Gore has changed dramatically over the last few decades. With your help we can track some of these changes. Please send us pictures of locations in Toronto Gore as they were then so we can publish them beside photos of those locations now. Please send electronic versions of the photos to [oldebenezerchapel@gmail.com](mailto:oldebenezerchapel@gmail.com) or bring photos to the next AGM for scanning there. Please don't mail any original photos though.

Ann Price kindly contributed the following look back at the past:

Ann's grandparents were Benjamin and Annie Fieldhouse. Ebenezer Church was built on a corner lot on their farm. Their house was about halfway between Ebenezer Church and Highway 50. When Benjamin and Annie died, they were buried in the Ebenezer Cemetery so they were close to the land they worked for so many years.

Annie died on December 7th 1943 and Benjamin died three days later. It is said that he died of a broken heart. So romantic!

Ann's Uncle George and Auntie Ted lived on the farm until 1948 when Joyce Sparks' parents, Earl and Bea Gardhouse bought the farm. At that time, there was no bathroom or water inside (except a hand pump in the kitchen) so the first thing they did after moving in was to have indoor plumbing installed.



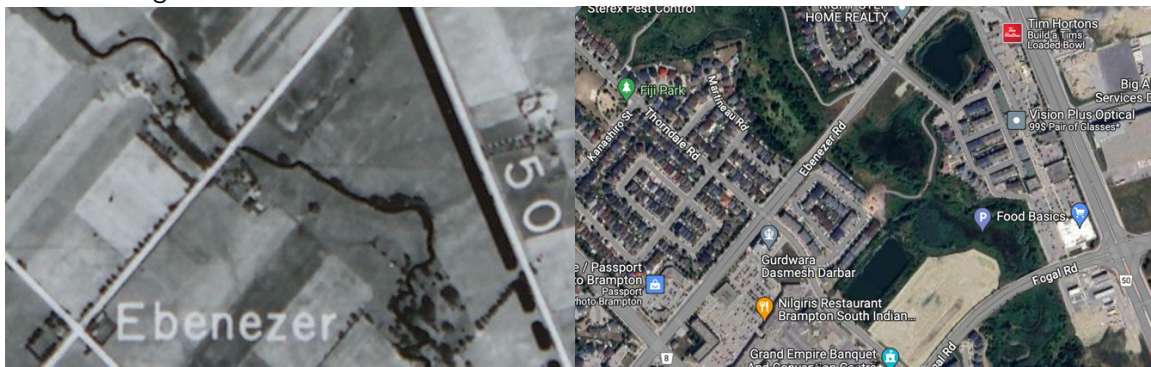
Pictures showing the house in the 1950s and a closeup aerial view of the farm building

Then:

@1960 Aerial photo showing location of farm buildings.

Now:

Current Aerial view from google maps



## Passages

The following members and friends of E, TGHF passed away in 2023 and early 2024. Our condolences to their families.

Helen (Parr) Goodfellow - 1937 - Feb.9,2023, aged 85

Ron Duncan - 1944 - Aug. 2023, age 79

Lenore Burton - 1937 - Oct. 2023, age 86

Charlie Peters - 1941 - Oct. 2023, age 83

Betty (Thomas) Ward - 1933 - Feb. 2024, age 91

Anna Sheardown - 1934 - March 2024, age 89

## Cemetery News

Fred reported at the AGM that Ebenezer Cemetery is officially closed for burials. Dick and Jean Julian were the last people to be interred there.

## Book Update

Information for the book "200 Years in the Gore" is still being gathered. The last formal meeting was on May 27, 2023 but since then Anna Sheardown suffered a fall and has since passed away. Her research material was given to Dan O'Reilly and the "book group" is going through the material to find information that will be relevant for the book.

## Picture From the Past

### Ebenezer School Wins Junior Red Cross Award



Pupils were awarded the Badge of Merit from the Ontario Junior Red Cross Mrs. M. Foote, left, made the presentation to the young president, Diane Ewin. Other members, from left, Donald Fines, treasurer; Dawn Leyden, secretary; Dave Hillock, vice-president. In costume for a short Easter play were Carol Newman and Lynn Hickman as birds; Terry McBride, a tree; Dan Hanson and Donna Fieldhouse, rabbits; Billie Leydon, Sharlene Robbins, tree

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If you would like to become a member of Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation the cost is \$20 for an individual or family and you can mail a cheque to Ebenezer, Toronto Gore Historical Foundation, 8999 The Gore Rd, Brampton, ON, L6P 2P7